



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Communication and Human Connections

Grade Level: 9-12

Approval Date: January 2025

Length of Time: 90 Days

Course Description:

In line with Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Curriculum, this course explores the role of communication in building human relationships and fostering understanding. Students will examine verbal and nonverbal communication, active listening, empathy, the role of modern technology, and cultural influences on interaction.

Through discussions, role-playing, and projects, students will develop skills in conflict resolution, public speaking, aspects of healthy relationships and effective collaboration. The course emphasizes the importance of human connection in personal, social, and professional settings, preparing students for real-world communication challenges.

Course Objectives:

Students will...

- Develop strong verbal and nonverbal communication skills.
- Understand the role of empathy and active listening in building connections.
- Explore the impact of cultural differences on communication.
- Strengthen public speaking and presentation abilities.
- Practice conflict resolution and problem-solving in interpersonal situations.
- Analyze how media and technology affect human interaction.
- Improve collaboration and teamwork through group activities.
- Foster emotional intelligence in communication contexts.

Related Standards:

National Family and Consumer Science Standards

- 1.0 Career, Community & Family Connections
- 13.0 Interpersonal Relationships

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work

- 13.1.11.B Analyze career options based on personal interests, abilities, aptitudes, achievements and goals.

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading in Science and Technology

- CC.3.5.11-12.C. Follow precisely a complex multi-step procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks; analyze the specific results based on explanations in the text.

Pennsylvania Standards for Writing in Science and Technology

- CC.3.6.11-12.F. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including the self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Units:

- Foundations of Communication
- Active Listening and Empathy
- Cultural and Social Influences on Communication
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation
- Public Speaking and Effective Presentation Skills
- Media, Technology, and Modern Communication
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Personal and Professional Communication Skills

Concepts:

- **Empathy as a Foundation for Connection:** Understanding others' perspectives to build meaningful relationships.
- **Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity:** Recognizing and respecting cultural differences in communication.
- **The Power of Active Listening:** Engaging fully in conversations to improve understanding and trust.
- **Conflict as Opportunity for Growth:** Viewing conflict resolution as a pathway to stronger relationships.
- **Technology's Influence on Human Interaction:** Examining how digital tools shape modern communication and relationships.

Competencies:

Students will be able to:

- Confidently convey ideas and emotions using both verbal and nonverbal cues.
- Demonstrate the ability to actively listen and respond with empathy to different perspectives.
- Apply techniques to manage and resolve interpersonal conflicts in various settings.
- Understand and adapt communication styles to be culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- Exhibit confidence, clarity, and audience engagement in public speaking situations.
- Work effectively in group settings, demonstrating strong interpersonal communication and cooperative problem-solving.
- Analyze the impact of media and technology on communication and human interaction, using critical thinking to assess its effects.
- Reflect on personal communication habits and continually improve through self-assessment and feedback from peers.

Learning Activities:

- Role-playing Scenarios: Students will simulate real-life communication challenges to practice empathy, conflict resolution, and cultural sensitivity.
- Group Discussions and Debates: Engage in structured conversations to develop active listening, public speaking, and critical thinking skills.

Performance Tasks:

- Independent classwork assignments
- Group classwork assignments
- Research Projects
- Group Projects
- Journal Reflections
- Presentations
- Knowledge Checks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Projects: Work in teams to solve problems or create presentations, focusing on effective collaboration and group communication dynamics. • Public Speaking Exercises: Deliver speeches or presentations to improve clarity, confidence, and audience engagement. • Communication Journals: Reflect on personal communication experiences, challenges, and growth through regular writing prompts. • Media Analysis: Analyze how media and technology influence communication by reviewing and discussing various forms of digital interaction. • Peer Feedback Sessions: Provide and receive constructive feedback on communication skills, focusing on both strengths and areas for improvement. • Interviews and Conversations: Conduct interviews or engage in structured conversations to practice asking meaningful questions and active listening. • Guest Speakers: Engage with professionals who specialize in communication and/or fostering healthy relationships Alternatively, students will research various professionals and their roles in this field. 	
Other Assessment Measures: In-class participation	
Textbook/Primary Resource: Title: Interpersonal Relationships, 2 nd edition 2023, Author: Leona Johnson, ISBN: 978-1-63776-853-2	
Supplemental Resource Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online articles • Online resources • Teacher generated notes and presentations • Teacher-generated activities • Multi-media resources 	