Curriculum & Instruction

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Content Area: Cycles
Course: 21st Century Skills
Grade(s): 6th

Course Overview

Provide a written summary of the goals and learning experiences included in this course. Include any prerequisite courses required.

This six-week cycle course focuses on equipping students with vital life skills to foster success and personal development. It starts with establishing personalized organizational techniques and strategies, progressing to effective communication, self-advocacy, and active listening. Study skills are honed through a variety of methods, including visual and auditory approaches, and students learn essential test-taking strategies. The importance of productivity is emphasized, helping students identify their strengths, manage time effectively, and prioritize tasks. The curriculum culminates in nurturing critical thinking skills, teaching students to troubleshoot problems and find solutions.

New Jersey State Learning Standards

Summit Public Schools curriculum aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Content Area Standards:

List content specific standards here.

Interdisciplinary Standards:

List other relevant content standards here (at least one).

Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills Standards:

List any CKLA standards here (at least one)

9.4.8.TL.3: Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.
9.4.8.CI.2: Repurpose an existing resource in an innovative way (e.g., 8.2.8.NT.3).
9.4.8.CI.3: Examine challenges that may exist in the adoption of new ideas (e.g., 2.1.8.SSH, 6.1.8.CivicsPD.2).

9.4.8.CT.2: Develop multiple solutions to a problem and evaluate short- and long-term effects to determine the most plausible option (e.g., MS-ETS1-4, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.1).
9.4.8.CT.3: Compare past problem-solving solutions to local, national, or global issues and analyze the factors that led to a positive or negative outcome.
9.4.8.GCA.2: Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.
9.4.8.IML.4: Ask insightful questions to organize different types of data and create meaningful visualizations.
9.4.8.IML.12: Use relevant tools to produce, publish, and deliver information supported with evidence for an authentic audience.
9.4.8.TL.3: Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.
9.4.12.CI.1: Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas (e.g., 1.1.12prof.CR3a).
9.4.12.CI.3: Investigate new challenges and opportunities for personal growth, advancement, and transition (e.g., 2.1.12.PGD.1).

Computer Science and Design Thinking Standards:

List any CSDT standards here, if relevant.

Career Ready Practices (list if relevant)
CRP 1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP 2. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP 3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP 4. Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP 5. Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP 6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP 7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP 8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP 9. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP 10. Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP 11. Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP 12. Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

New Jersey Curriculum Mandates: (list only relevant ones)

This curriculum integrates lessons that address the following interdisciplinary New Jersey Curriculum Mandates:

- Diversity and Inclusion (Grades K - 12)

Learning Objectives

Learning objectives are clear, specific statements that define what students should know, understand, and be able to do by the end of a lesson or course.

Students will be able to:

- Understand what it means to be a successful student through the development of foundational skills and habits for academic success (effective organization, study strategies, decision-making, teamwork, situational adaptability, and personal growth).
- Understand that strategic organization involves prioritizing tasks, creating schedules, and utilizing tools such as planners or digital apps to manage time effectively.
- Comprehend the importance of breaking down large tasks into smaller manageable steps to prevent stress and ensure progress.
- Grasp the significance of employing active learning techniques such as summarization, self-testing, and concept mapping to deepen understanding and retention.
- Tailor study approaches to different subjects and types of content, recognizing the efficacy of varied methods such as flashcards, practice problems, and collaborative study groups.
- Evaluate decisions by considering factors such as potential consequences, gathering relevant information, weighing alternatives, and seeking advice or input from trusted sources when making choices.
- Demonstrate active listening, clear expression of ideas, and respectful feedback to facilitate effective collaboration within group settings.
- Understand the significance of establishing common goals, roles, and expectations to foster cohesion and accountability among team members.
- Understand that adaptability involves flexibility, problem-solving, and the ability to adjust to changing circumstances or unexpected challenges.
- Recognize the importance of maintaining a growth mindset, viewing setbacks as opportunities for learning and growth rather than insurmountable obstacles.
- Understand the importance of professionalism, encompassing respectful behavior, effective communication in various academic and social settings.
- Understand the necessity of adaptability and continuous self-improvement in presenting themselves professionally, including the ability to adjust communication styles and behaviors to diverse contexts and audiences.
- Identify key attributes such as responsibility, self-discipline, perseverance, and a positive attitude as essential for academic achievement and personal growth.

Units of Study

Units of study are organized collections of lessons and learning experiences focused on a specific topic and set of skills within a course. Each unit is guided by a set of essential questions.

Unit: Being a 21st Century Student (3 Weeks)

- What strategies can you employ to effectively organize your academic tasks and responsibilities?
- What methods and techniques can enhance your study habits and optimize learning outcomes?
- What criteria and processes guide you in making effective choices?
- What key attributes and behaviors contribute to becoming a successful student in the 21st century?

Unit: Applying Skills (3 Weeks)

- How can you foster collaboration within group settings to achieve shared objectives?
- What approaches enable you to navigate various situations with resilience and adaptability?

- What strategies can you employ to effectively present yourself professionally in various academic and social contexts?

Instructional Resources and Materials

Instructional resources are the information sources teachers utilize to guide their teaching and assessing. Instructional materials are the texts students read or review. The instructional resources and materials may vary in order to meet the learning needs of students.

- Presentation tools including, but not limited to, WeVideo, Canva, Google Slides, Google Sites, etc.

Assessment Strategies

Assessment measures a student's mastery of a course standard and learning objective. Assessment can be used for both instructional purposes and for evaluative purposes. Teachers may choose one or more of the following ideas to assess learners. They may also modify these ideas to make the assessment more responsive to students' interests and needs.

Formative:

- Weekly Calendar Reviews
- Role Play Scenarios
- Task Mapping Challenges
- Digital Challenges

Summative:

- Task Breakdown Report
- Digital Organization Portfolio
- Study Skills Reflection
- Presentation Portfolio
- Group Project

Benchmark:

Alternative:

- Projects can be completed in any format (Video, Slides, Written, Oral)

Suggested Strategies for Modification & Differentiation

Modifications Chart (update for your content area)