



Baldwin-Whitehall School District

Curriculum and Instruction Recommendations

February 2021

Curriculum Review Process

All approved recommendations are subject to budget constraints. Administrative approval of any recommendation should not be considered as implied approval for the related expenditures or summer curriculum writing. Workshops could include Differentiated Supervision Action Plans (DSAPs), paid curriculum writing hours, and/or Act 48 hours.

Curriculum Review Process

The first two stages of the curriculum review process include curriculum mapping, writing, and revisions. Curriculum writers are required to utilize a customized template, which is reflective of the Understanding by Design (UbD) process or “thinking with the end-mind.” During the curriculum writing process, teachers must complete following components of a curriculum map:

1. **UNITS:** The Units are reflective of the topics that will be taught throughout a school year. Each unit must be aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Eligible Content.
2. **BIG IDEAS:** The Big Ideas are reflective of what students should understand by the end of a unit. They help students to make sense of things that may be confusing.
3. **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** Essential Questions are questions that students should be able to answer by the end of a unit. These questions are often broadly written, so that answers may vary, and students are not limited to one way of thinking.
4. **OBJECTIVES/KNOWLEDGE:** The purpose of Objectives is to provide goals for what students should eventually be able to do because of the knowledge gained/learned through a unit. The Knowledge is what students will acquire because of the unit.
5. **LEARNING ACTIVITIES:** The Learning Activities are provided to help students work toward mastery of the desired outcomes or objectives.
6. **PERFORMANCE TASKS/ASSESSMENTS:** Performance Tasks and Assessments are created and used to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of what is being taught in a unit.
7. **VOCABULARY:** The unit’s Vocabulary are words that every student should be able to use.
8. **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (Including Technology):** Instructional Materials are resources that best support the learning in a unit.

English



**BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS (2021-2022)**

Names: Daniel Harrold

Grade-Level and/or Content Area: English (Senior)

Date: 12/7/2020

Recommendation: Horror and Suspense- New Senior English Semester Course

Reason(s) for Recommendation	Implementation Steps	Cost	Administrative Reaction
<p>-At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, the number of Senior English semester course offerings contracted from 6 to 4 due to teacher retirement. As a result, if Seniors wish to take semester courses, they can only choose between two options per semester, rather than three.</p> <p>-After three years of semester courses, it is clear that the book-club style Sci-Fi/Fantasy course remains very popular as it allows students select from several reading options each unit (rather than a single full-class novel) and study reading that is both academically appropriate but also commercially and socially engaging. These courses' objectives are a focus on Reading Writing Speaking and Listening standards and a strong effort to develop a habit of reading with students.</p> <p>-This new course, titled Horror and Suspense would serve as a new semester course option. The course would explore the origins of the horror and suspense genres with early 20th century novels like <i>Frankenstein</i> and/or <i>Dracula</i>, mid-century works such as <i>Strangers on a Train</i>, <i>Death on the Nile</i>, and <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>, and contemporary works such as <i>The Dead Zone</i>, <i>Pet Semetary</i> or <i>Gone Girl</i>. The course would also incorporate</p>	<p>-If approved, the initial outlining of the course would begin this Spring with a list of novels and stories to be purchased/submitted before the end of the school year.</p> <p>-Over the summer, both the syllabus and curriculum would be written using DSAP hours for the 2021-2022 school year (if applicable) and paid curriculum hours (if approved and necessary).</p>	<p>-Curriculum writing hours for those hours not covered by the DSAP.</p> <p>-Books/materials for the new curriculum</p>	<p>Approved. This approval is contingent on an exhibited alignment to appropriate, developmental standards as mentioned in the Reasons for Recommendation section.</p> <p>Any ELA certified teacher assigned to grades 9-12 may be assigned to teach the course.</p>

Short Stories ranging from Edgar Allen Poe to Stephen King, as well as continue film studies with works like *Rope* or *Vertigo* by Alfred Hitchcock. Content will be further vetted and selected over the coming weeks.



**BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS (2021-2022)**

Names: Cassidy C. Cooper

Grade-Level and/or Content Area: 12 / English

Date: 12/09/2020

Recommendation: *Challenging the Canon* - full year course

Reason(s) for Recommendation	Implementation Steps	Cost	Administrative Reaction
<p>-The British Literature 12 course was previously retired at the end of the 2017-2018 school year (replaced with semester courses). While a full year course is still a requested option by senior students, the department still wishes to include more diverse voices in the curriculum.</p> <p>-As a result, this new course entitled <i>Challenging the Canon</i> will allow for more diverse and contemporary literature for our seniors. The goal for this course is to provide more choice for students regarding what texts they are interested in reading. The course would incorporate both book-club style units (allowing students to select from several reading options) and full-class readings.</p> <p>-These course objectives encompass Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening standards to encourage student choice and promote an interest in reading, while remaining academically rigorous and engaging.</p> <p>-See second page for course overview information.</p>	<p>-If approved, the initial outlining and planning for the course in order to submit a list of novels/materials needed to be purchased before the end of the school year.</p> <p>-Over the summer, both the syllabus and curriculum would be written using DSAP hours for the 2021-2022 school year (if applicable) and paid curriculum hours (if approved and necessary).</p>	<p>-Curriculum writing hours for those hours not covered by the DSAP.</p> <p>-Books/materials for the new curriculum</p>	<p>Approved. This approval is contingent on an exhibited alignment to appropriate, developmental standards as mentioned in the Reasons for Recommendation section.</p> <p>Any ELA certified teacher assigned to grades 9-12 may be assigned to teach this course.</p> <p>Consider collegiate level analyses and critiques for the selected texts.</p>

Music



**BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS (2021-2022)**

Name(s): Kris Tranter

Grade-Level and/or Content Area: 9-12 Music/Fine and Practical Arts

Date: 1/29/2021

Recommendation: Baldwin Chorus is a non-auditioned choral group for students interested in the fundamentals of choral music and vocals performing Level 1-4 high school choral repertoire.

Reason(s) for Recommendation	Implementation Steps	Cost	Administrative Reaction
<p>Providing students with a concert choir level course (Baldwin Chorus) and an advanced curricular option (Highlander Choir) provides students with more options in their pursuit of appropriate engagement in music and the choral arts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write Course Description- Done. ● Acquire approval of the course. ● Notify Guidance of Curricular Changes for scheduling. Done. ● Provide Guidance with a list of those who qualified for the advanced group and those who did not. ● Begin curriculum-writing process with scope and sequence, assessments, and rubrics. ● Choose Level 1-4 repertoire. ● Implement the course while continuing the development of the curriculum process. 	<p>\$0</p>	<p>-Approved. This course supports students' interests in the fundamentals of choral music and vocal performance. No audition required for students to participate.</p>



**BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS (2021-2022)**

Name(s): Kris Tranter

Grade-Level and/or Content Area: 9-12 Music/Fine and Practical Arts

Date: 1/10/2021

Recommendation: To change Highlander Choir to an advanced choir with Honors Credit splitting the choir into two courses; one for students interested in the fundamentals of choral music (*Baldwin Chorus*) and the other for those students who wish to pursue a deeper level of the study of choral music (*Highlander Honors Choir*).

Reason(s) for Recommendation	Implementation Steps	Cost	Administrative Reaction
<p>Changing Highlander Choir to an advanced course would provide students with a more rigorous study of choral music fostering a deeper engagement for students who either already possess those skills or for those who have the drive and desire to pursue that level of excellence.</p> <p>Students enrolled in Highlander Honors Choir must complete an audition and/or application in order to qualify to be a member of the ensemble. We may consider and interview as an alternative to auditioning to avoid discouragement of participation. This audition process is highly rigorous, and requires students to perform advanced level music.</p> <p>Highlander Honors Choir: This course is designed for advanced singers who may be interested in pursuing a minor, major, or career in music. Students will audition for PMEA Festivals and will engage in a choral emphasis in music theory, vocal repertoire, and conducting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write Course Description- Done. ● Acquire approval of the course. ● Present Audition/Application Requirements to students. ● Set-up Auditions and Applications. ● Notify Guidance of Curricular Changes for scheduling. ● Provide Guidance with a list of those who qualified for the advanced group. ● Begin curriculum-writing process with scope and sequence, assessments, and rubrics. ● Choose advanced level repertoire. ● Implement the course while continuing the development of the curriculum process. 	<p style="text-align: center;">\$0</p>	<p>- Approved. This course supports students' interests ranging from those who are interested in the fundamentals of choral music to those who wish to pursue a deeper level of study.</p>

