




College Station Independent School District

Success...each life...each day... each hour

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Eddie Coulson, Superintendent

From: Greg McIntyre, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction 

Date: November 11, 2009

Subject: New Courses at AMC High School

Agenda Item: H-3

Board Priority/
District Goal: Priorities A, B and C: Goals 1 and 2

BACKGROUND

The consideration of new courses at the high school is the result of input based on meeting student needs and interests. Three courses are recommended for Board approval: Mariachi I-IV, Leadership in Agriculture, and Practicum in Ag Mechanics. Mariachi is designed is for students interested in learning how to play a Mariachi instrument such as a Vihuela, Guitarron, Classic Guitar, Violins or Trumpet; students will learn fundamental skills of playing an instrument, music reading and History. Leadership in Agriculture will be offered under the Professional Communications TEA course which allows a student to earn speech credit for this class. Practicum in Ag Mechanics has been offered as Advanced Ag Mechanics II for several years, but with new TEA Career Tech requirements, a different course title (PEIMS number) must now be used.

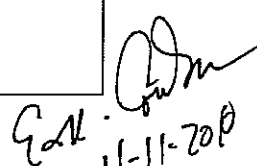
The following courses were unanimously approved by the AMCHS School Improvement Planning team and the District Educational Improvement Council.

Fine Arts

MARIACHI I, II, III, IV			4.0
Prerequisite(s): Placement by Audition/Teacher recommendation.	Credit	Grade Level	Course Length
		1 credit	9-12
This course is designed to teach students about traditional Mariachi. Students will study the History, Costuming, Stage presentation, and musical performance of the Mariachi. Standard instrumentation includes; Violins, Guitar, Vihuela, Guitarron & Trumpets. Students must be enrolled Congruently in Orchestra, Band or Choir. Exception; Guitar, Vihuela & Guitarron students. These students must audition. See instructor for approval. The Mariachi Troupe actively performs and students must be able to commit to schedule.			
Fee: none	Fine Arts / Elective Credit		
TEA Course Title	TEA Course Abbrev.	TEA/PIEMS number	
Music I Instrumental Ensemble	MUS1INEN	03151700	
Music II Instrumental Ensemble	MUS2INEN	03151800	
Music III Instrumental Ensemble	MUS3INEN	03151900	
Music IV Instrumental Ensemble	MUS4INEN	03152000	

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Superintendent of Schools

MARIACHI

Rationale: The course will provide students a chance to explore Hispanic culture through The Mariachi. The history of Mexican Folk music will be explored through instruction in Mariachi Music; especially the use of song forms as polkas, rancheros, sons, boleros and waltzs. Currently the students meet each Monday after school for one hour.

Description: This course is for students interested in learning how to play a Mariachi instrument, such as a Vihuela, Guitarron, Classic Guitar, Violins or Trumpet. Mexican Culture will be studied through Mariachi music. Students will learn fundamental skills of playing an instrument, music reading and History. Music listening and performance practices will be emphasized. The standard Mariachi instrumentation includes, Spanish/classical guitar, Guitarrón, Vihuela, Violins, and Trumpets.

In accordance with UIL Guidelines, rehearsals and performances outside of school are considered an extension of the classroom and therefore required by the teacher. Both semesters will be required. If a student drops a semester, no credit will be awarded for the class. Students are required to participate in concert performances and class trips. Students will be admitted through audition only. Fine Arts Credit, Elective Credit will be awarded. The class will be taught by Mr. Hill the Orchestra Director.

Text: *Mariachi Mastery* by Jeff Nevin, PhD, San Diego State University

Career and Technology

LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE			4.0
Prerequisite(s): None	Credit	Grade Level	Course Length
	.5 credit	9-12	Semester
Want to impact the world like JFK, FDR or MLK? Students in this course will develop skills in various areas of leadership including the Seven Habits®, time management, communication, public speaking, and teamwork. The course will focus on hands-on activities and a semester-long leadership action project.			
Fee: none		Speech Credit/Elective Credit	
TEA Course Title	TEA Course Abbrev.	TEA/PIEMS number	
Professional Communications	PROFCOMM	13009900	

LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE

Rationale: This has been offered as Leadership in Ag for several years, but under the Professional Standards in Agribusiness TEA Course. Due to the nature of the course, we would like to offer it under the Professional Communications TEA course which allows a student to earn speech credit for this class.

PRACTICUM IN AG MECHANICS			4.0
Prerequisite(s): Advanced Ag Mechanics, application/interview process	Credit	Grade Level	Course Length
	2 credits	12	Year
Students with a genuine career interest in ag mechanics will enjoy this advanced course. Instruction will focus on managing large projects and working with others in a laboratory setting.			
Fee: none		Elective Credit	
TEA Course Title	TEA Course Abbrev.	TEA/PIEMS number	
Practicum in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	PRACAFNR	13002500	

PRACTICUM IN AG MECHANICS

Rationale: This has been offered as Advanced Ag Mechanics II for several years, but with new TEA CTE requirements, a different course title (PEIMS number) must be used. The Practicum will benefit students who wish to continue their studies in Ag Mechanics.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the College Station Board of Trustees approve the new high school level courses as presented.