




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, Instruction, and Personnel 

Date: December 12, 2007

Subject: New Courses for Grades 6-8

Agenda Item: I-3

Board Priority/
District Goal: Priority B: Goals 1 and 2

BACKGROUND

The State board passed the new recommended graduation plan of 26 credits in November of last year. As a result, the new Recommended Plan prescribed 26 of the 28 possible credits, leaving very little-to-no flexibility in student schedules. At that time, the district implemented two immediate steps: (a) night-school options for high school students were expanded and (b) the Principles of Science and Math course was added to reinforce math and science skills necessary for success in Algebra 1 and Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC).

Over the past summer and the fall semester, the option of awarding high school credit to select courses at the middle school level was studied in depth. The focus of the recommended courses is to reach middle school students during the school day rather than add coursework during the summer or before/after school. This approach offers advantages to students in areas of credits, transportation, scheduling, cost, and access. The credits earned in the recommended courses would count toward high school graduation requirements, but would not count for or against a student's grade point average (GPA). It is expected that most middle school students will earn 1-to-2 high school credits before entering the 9th grade.

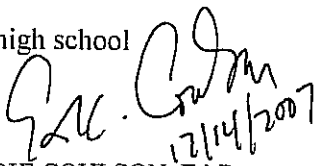
The following courses were unanimously approved by the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) for high school credit at grades 7 and 8:

New Middle School Courses for High School Credit

- **Keyboarding (1/2 credit elective, required course)**
All 7th graders take Keyboarding for ½ high school elective credit.
- **Communications Applications (1/2 credit Speech)**
Convert middle school speech course to Communications Applications course for ½ high school Speech credit.

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of Curriculum, Instruction
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EDDIE COULSON, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

- **PE Foundations (1/2 credit PE)**
Offer ½ high school credit for PE Foundations in 8th grade for students not in athletics.
- **Career Connections (1/2 credit elective)**
Convert middle school Career Investigations course to Career Connections course for ½ high school elective credit.
- **Spanish 1 (1 credit foreign language)**
Offer Spanish 1 course over 7th and 8th grade years for 1 high school foreign language credit - Spanish 1A and 1B. The course will be accessible to all students (open enrollment).

AVID for Grades 6-8

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a college-preparatory program designed to aid economically disadvantaged, and academically average first-generation students of both elementary and high schools into college. In CSISD, AVID has been very successful with approximately 40 ninth and tenth grade students at the high school and it is scheduled to expand to the eleventh grade next year. The CSISD Board of Trustees approved the AVID program last for grades 9-12.

Another key to the success of the AVID program is early intervention. The recommendation for AVID at grades 6-8 was unanimously approved by DEIC. It is expected that AVID classes will begin with 1 section per grade level with a maximum of 20 students.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the College Station Board of Trustees approve the new courses for grades 6-8 as presented.
