

English Language Arts Board of Education Presentation

December 12, 2022

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ELA Course Development

Focus on Curriculum Standards



- All curricular resources are reviewed, piloted, and adopted following a district established rotating timeline spanning 5-7 years.
- In the spring of 2022, the English Language Arts department embarked on the journey to review, pilot, and eventually adopt a new curricular resource for 9th - 12th grade English courses.
- The resources selected for pilot were Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *Into Literature* and McGraw Hill's *Study Sync*. Current teachers began reviewing and utilizing the pilot resource in late spring 2022. Piloting continued in fall 2022, limited to 9th and 10th grades.

ELA Course Development

Focus on Curriculum Standards



- Intensive review of materials - student mastery, alignment, consistency, sustainability, supports for MLL/SE students.
- After spending time reviewing and utilizing the materials with their students, it became clear that bringing greater clarity, alignment and consistency for covering standards was needed.
- A decision was made to step back and take a deep dive into the ELA Standards, build out scope and sequence documents as well as [curriculum maps](#), to establish a solid foundation for students' needs.

ELA Course Development

Focus on Curriculum Standards



- Goals:
 - To develop a stronger ELA program for our students by building intentional vertical and horizontal alignment within the department.
 - Direct tie to developed pathways.
 - Commitment to common assessments across 9-12 by spring, 2023 to gauge student mastery and progress.

Expanded Offerings

New Upper Level Pathways



- Addressing student engagement at the 11th and 12th grade levels, the department created new course offerings for students focusing on teaching the standards through a more refined interest based option using writing or literature.
- The writing based courses include: Research Writing, Creative Writing, Practical Communications, and Journalism, while the reading based courses include: Creative Nonfiction Literature, World Literature, Contemporary Literature, and Performative Literature. Students will choose one of the courses in each category both years.
- AP English 11 and 12 continue to be offered.

Resource Evaluation

Multi-step Process



- Many resources are available that have been utilized in the past and continue to support student learning of the standards.
- Desire to update resources with current literature.
- Use of common sense media ratings to confirm age appropriateness of materials.
- Scope and sequence documents to confirm each text ensures the standard(s) can/will be met (example: [10th Grade Scope and Sequence](#)).
- [CHS ELA Instructional Material Evaluation Rubric](#).

Strategic Plan Link

Teaching and Learning - Goal C



- This decision and resulting investment by the high school ELA department directly addresses our Teaching and Learning goals in the district Strategic Plan.
- Goal C speaks to Curriculum & Program Alignment and states: *Develop curriculum maps for all content areas in all grades, including standards, pacing, resources, assessments, enrichment, and intervention supports by 2024.*
- This has occurred in our ELA department and will be used as an example for other content areas as we continue this work across all departments.

Alternative Assignments

Board Policy 2240



2240 - **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Excerpt: The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either content or activities that conflict with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from particular classes for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course or activities mandated by the State and will be provided alternative learning activities during times of parent requested absences.

- As with all curriculum, if a parent has concerns with content, we have a process consistent with policy which will allow students to still demonstrate mastery of the standards through an alternative assignment.



Thank You!

Special thanks to the Caledonia High School English Language Arts Department for their tireless efforts toward building a stronger, well aligned high school ELA curriculum for our students.