



Curriculum Committee Agenda

September 7, 2023

8:00-9:00

Members Present:

Amy Larsen	Dan Ondich
Amea Wittbrodt	Erin Winchell
Alex Schulz	Gabra Lokken
Bonnie Jude	Hanna Coleman
Brenda Ritter	Heidi Kelbel
Carla Ahrenstroff	Kim Pike
Carla Anderson-Diekmann	Mandy Kasowicz
Cathy Parker	Matthew Schempp - Chair
Cayla Rother	Suzy Bordeaux

BlueSky Charter School Vision:

BlueSky is defining education for the 21st century by creating an individualized, dynamic education for all students. We are committed to empowering our community by facilitating relevant learning, skills, hopes and relationships.

BlueSky Charter School Mission:

Bringing quality online education and diverse learners together.

Curriculum Committee Primary Objective: The primary objective of the Curriculum Development Committee is to review and recommend to the BlueSky Charter School Board of Directors on matters pertaining to the content of the academic program, course materials, and method of delivery. This includes, but is not limited to, the review and selection of curriculum and educational materials, review of all class syllabi, common course outlines and learning objectives for use in the program.

Curriculum Vision:

Through high quality curriculum and instructional practices BlueSky will do the following:

- 1. Continue to implement and maintain standards-based and data-driven practices*
- 2. Ensure MTSS resources are available to all staff and students*
- 3. Foster academic and social emotional skills among students*
- 4. Provide college and career readiness resources to support student learning and prepare students for post-high school opportunities*
- 5. Empower teachers to tailor instruction that equitably meets the needs of a diverse student population that is inclusive of all students*
- 6. Develop consistent course design and format that ensures content accessibility for all students; and*
- 7. Offer both flexible and structured curricular options for students*

FY24 Annual Focus Areas:

1. MnMTSS Planning and preparation
2. Inquiry-based learning (and other strategies to engage students asynchronously)
3. Accounting for artificial intelligence in the classroom
4. Use of data to drive instruction and support (Renaissance Star)
5. Basic accessibility issues - highlighted text, fonts, etc.

STANDING BUSINESS:

1. [Course revision proposals](#) ([request form](#))
 - a. ASL 3 (parent request through supplemental program)
 - i. Will need to survey ASL 2 students to see if there is interest - goal is 50% interest
 - ii. What grade level? Varies
 - iii. Will bring results back to the November meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Review [Cognia Report](#) (summary p.29-30)
3. Civics Requirement Review (repealed!)
 - a. Waiting for guidance if past students still need to meet the requirement; appears no students will be required to meet the requirements
4. [EL Program Updates](#)
 - a. Draft is in progress
 - b. Suzy (EL coordinator) has coordinated with staff at Minneapolis Public Schools for additional input and guidance
 - c. Will be utilizing a new alert in PowerSchool
 - d. Goal is to have more specific leveled supports for each area including listening, speaking, reading, and writing
 - e. We will be trying out new curriculum this fall and hope to have the updated plan finalized by second semester
5. Competency-based education and student agency (will cover at the next meeting)
 - a. [Getting started with competency-based education](#)
 - b. [What is competency-based education](#)
 - c. [Student Agency for 2030](#)
6. Legislative Updates
 - a. [Academic Standards and Credits](#)
 - b. [Curriculum](#)
 - c. [Cannabis](#)
 - d. Employment in Healthcare Credit
 - i. Counselors will review
 - ii. Plan is to create a placeholder in PS
 - e. Ethnic Studies
 - f. Holocaust & Genocide Studies
 - g. We will need to update our graduation requirements and scope/sequence documentation after reviewing requirements and updating our plan
7. Curriculum Training Priorities
 - a. See the preliminary planning for next year section below

OLD BUSINESS:

3. New Course Requirements
 - a. Personal Finance Required (fall 2024)
 - i. Should it be removed from the career academy? Will review when we update our graduation requirements and sequencing
4. [Policy 6.3](#) Advancement of students to next grade level (gifted & talented)
 - a. A subcommittee will be formed to identify guidelines and procedures
 - b. Considerations the guidelines and procedures need to include are:
 - i. Enrichment vs acceleration
 - ii. Specific assessment criteria
 - iii. Curriculum needs
 - iv. Will the procedures and guidelines apply to students who want to accelerate their learning but aren't identified as gifted?
5. Preliminary planning for next year (second review)
 - a. MnMTSS Planning and preparation (may also dig into using [MEIRS 2.1](#) as a tool to support MnMTSS)
 - b. Inquiry-based learning (and other strategies to engage students asynchronously)
 - i. Is a research based instructional model
 - ii. Has been a struggle for extrinsically motivated students
 - iii. Is being widely utilized in science classes right now
 - iv. Students are less likely to utilize AI for cheating
 - v. Need to design learning experiences that have scaffolding built in
 - vi. Discussed pulling Biology A results to see how effective it has been
 - vii. In general the focus is finding learning experiences that will engage students
 - viii. Feedback was that seeing examples (before/after) were really helpful; training needs to be practical applications of strategies
 - ix. Staff would like time to actually implement this in their classrooms
 - c. ChatGPT/AI - could be a springboard into other training topics at the fall retreat; need to educate staff with the language to combat it
 - i. Will also incorporate this with inquiry based learning
 - d. Use of data (Renaissance Star); how do we compare this to student success on different activities, reading levels, etc.
 - i. Student reading level or GE
 - ii. How to know reading level in course
 - iii. Strand levels
 - iv. Do we load everyone into Renaissance Star? Can they even get access to all of their students
 - e. Basic accessibility issues - highlighted text, fonts, etc.
 - f. Topics will be incorporated into the PD schedule
6. Special Education Update
 - a. Created 15 new courses for this year to align with student IEPs
 - b. Need to work on English 1; will bring a proposal to this team next time
7. SEL and Next Steps (will review at the next meeting)
8. ELA Curriculum Advisory Committee Update (will review at the next meeting)
9. Social Studies Curriculum Advisory Committee Update (will review at the next meeting)

10. [Number of Assignment Review](#) (will review at the next meeting)
 - a. Continued needs
 - i. Consistency (scope and time)
 - ii. Lesson development (combining activities into coherent learning experiences)
 - iii. Course completion (or lack of completion)
 - iv. Training
11. Budget Review (will review at the next meeting)
12. Review of Annual Focus Areas
 - a. See above notes