



January 30, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on some exciting new opportunities regarding next year’s course offerings and scheduling options at the high school level. We are hoping this information helps to clarify questions that parents and students may have.

A. New pathways to meet the Computer Applications Proficiency Graduation Requirement

Starting in the school year 2018-19, students will have a number of options to meet this graduation requirement. The following is an excerpt from the Program of Studies, page 7:

Students may meet this requirement in one of four ways:

- 1) Successful completion of one of the following courses:
 Computer Information Systems; Digital Illustration and Graphic Design; Intro, Intermediate, or Advanced Digital Photography; Web Design; Computer Games Design/Programming; AP Computer Science; Robotic Programming; Computing Science Principles; CAD (all); Computer Technology 30 and 40; Graphic Communications (all); Music Technology I or II.
- 2) Successful completion of one year of enrollment in the Aquaculture Program
- 3) Successful completion of Computer Information Systems summer school course (4 weeks)
- 4) Successful performance on the proficiency exam

These new pathways will also be **retroactive**. That means that any current freshmen, sophomore or junior who took one of these courses or has already completed a year of Aquaculture will be considered to have met the Computer Applications Proficiency graduation requirement. This will begin to apply in the 2018-19 school year for all students. Any student currently in the CIS course of the current school year will remain enrolled in the class.

B. How Health and Physical Education are scheduled

Starting next year, PE and Health will be scheduled for students as back-to-back mini periods to make up a full block. Health will remain scheduled for one marking period, and PE will remain as a semester. This arrangement creates a wonderful new opportunity for students to take an additional elective in the semester in which they do not have PE and Health. Here is a sample of what this could look like:

	MP1	MP2	MP 3	MP4
Per 1a	Phys Ed		Open for an ELECTIVE	
Per 1b	Study/Free	Health		

C. How Science is scheduled

- Level 1, Level 2, or Level 0 courses in science will no longer have an additional time block (mini period). They will meet for a full block every other day, or twice in a four-day rotation. This will allow an opportunity for students to access additional courses in their schedule.
- AP level science courses will continue to have two mini periods in addition to a full block every other day. As in the past, the extra time is necessary to meet the lab and content requirements of the College Board curriculum leading up to the AP test. Students enrolled in AP science will also be scheduled in PE and Health as described above. Students choosing three full-year electives will be scheduled for PE and Health opposite the mini periods allowing access to all three full-year electives.

D. New Offerings in the Science Department

Our science department has designed some exciting new electives based on the Next Generation Science Standards. The changes highlighted above will allow students to access these great offerings in their regular schedule. We encourage students to take advantage of the schedule improvements and the opportunities listed below. For a full description of these courses, please see the Program of Studies.

Semester-Length Science Offerings:

E=Earth Science; L=Life Science; P=Physical Science

- Dangerous Planet (E)
- Cosmos (E)
- Dynamic Environment (E)
- Earth's Waters (E/L)
- Marine Science (E/L)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAP)– Blood, Guts, Senses & Defenses (L)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAP) – Brains, Bones & Brawn (L)
- Forensics I: Without a Trace (L/P)
- Forensics II: Fake the Prints (L/P)
- Chemistry of Nutrition (P)
- Chemistry of Medicine (P)

Full-year courses:

- Biology 21 and 22 (L)
- Chemistry 31 and 32 (P)
- Physics 40 (P)
- AP Physics I and II (P)
- AP Chemistry (P)
- AP Biology (L)
- AP Environmental Science (E)

We look forward to working with our students as they develop their schedule for next year and take advantage of these new changes.

David M. Ebling, Fairfield Warde High School
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