

Shrewsbury High School
64 Holden Street
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545
Office of the Principal

Memorandum

To: Dr. Joseph Sawyer
From: Todd Bazydlo
Date: December 23, 2021
Re: Proposed Changes to the 2022-2023 HS Program of Studies

I am pleased to present proposed changes and additions to the *Program of Studies* for the 2022-23 school year. The majority of the changes presented within this document are in response to the growing demands of our diverse school population and align with current educational research. I look forward to providing the School Committee with more detail regarding the revisions listed below at the January 5th meeting.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Family and Consumer Sciences Department

1. *Foods of the World* will be offered during the 2022-2023 school year; *Mediterranean Cuisine* will not be offered during the 2022-2023 school year.
2. *Baking and Pastry Arts* will be offered during the 2022-2023 school year; *Culinary Methods for Nutritious Foods* will not be offered during the 2022-2023 school year.

Instructional Technology and Media Services (ITAMS)

1. Add a new course: *Introduction to Business* (semester)
Do you want to learn more about business principles to become a more educated consumer or to become a future business owner? Do you have an interest in business but don't know what field of business to pursue? If so, this course is for you! This course will provide a basic introduction to the business world and the various areas in this field. In this course, you will learn about various business concentrations including business ownership and management, finance, accounting, digital marketing, e-commerce, business ethics, entrepreneurship, branding, and business ethics. This course will focus on the practical application of business techniques. This course will provide students with a solid foundation to pursue other business classes in high school and beyond.
2. Add a new course: *Marketing* (semester)

Are you interested in learning more about the diverse world of marketing? Marketing continually evolves to capture the attention of consumers so organizations can deliver on their business plans. This course will dive deeper into various marketing strategies including promotional strategies, marketing research, brand management, merchandising, and influencer marketing. You will learn about primary marketing concepts including the marketing environment, consumer behavior, social responsibility, global considerations, ethics, and the impact of technology and social media platforms. You will analyze marketing strategies and utilize your learnings to develop your own marketing plans.

Performing Arts

1. Add a new course: *Songwriting* (semester)
This course, for beginning songwriters, focuses on basic songwriting styles and techniques. Over the course of the semester, different songwriting basic methods will be presented and students will be shown easy-to-understand methods to develop the necessary skills to compose well-crafted lyrics and music. Students will focus on melody and lyric structure as well as analyze popular songs from many different time periods. Students will work with the songwriting and recording features of Logic software to help realize their work. Students will complete songwriting projects and will perform or arrange a performance of their songs.
2. *AP Music Theory* and *Techniques of Music Theory I* will not be offered during the 2022-2023 school year.
3. *Theater Arts I* and *Theatrical Design* will be offered during the 2022-2023 school year.
4. *Voice in Acting* and *Theater Arts II* will not be offered during the 2022-2023 school year.
5. Course Title Changes and prerequisite adjustments.
 - a. Change *Orchestra* to *Concert Orchestra* to be more consistent with *Concert Band* language.
 - b. Make *Concert Orchestra* a prerequisite for *Chamber Orchestra* and *Concert Band* a prerequisite for *Wind Ensemble* and *Jazz Band*.
 - c. Change *A Cappella Choir Honors* to *Chamber Choir Honors* to provide more opportunities to study a variety of literature.
 - d. Change *Jazz Band Honors* to *Jazz Band Rhythm Section Honors*. This title change helps better articulate who this course is intended for since wind players must concurrently be enrolled in *Wind Ensemble Honors* or *Concert band*.
 - e. Change *Honors Chamber Orchestra* to *Chamber Orchestra Honors* to be more consistent with the naming practices of all of the ensembles in the department.

6. Below are the course prerequisites and description language changes that align with the proposed title changes:

a. *Concert Orchestra*

Prerequisite: This course is available for all students who have had experience with a middle school or high school orchestra or equivalent, private instruction, or by special permission of the instructor.

Concert Orchestra is a performance course available for violinists, violists, cellists, and bassists. This class explores concepts in musicianship, ear training, theory, music literacy, musical terminology, and music history as well as leadership qualities. String-specific skills such as bow management, shifting, vibrato, tone production will also be explored. Students in *Concert Orchestra* will rehearse and perform quality orchestra literature from a variety of genres. *Concert Orchestra* performs for school concerts throughout the year. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA festivals. Performances are an important component of this course and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

b. *Chamber Orchestra Honors*

Prerequisite: Placement by audition. A student must have taken *Concert Orchestra* to be eligible for *Chamber Orchestra Honors*, have had previous experience with a high school honors orchestra, or been given special permission from the instructor.

Chamber Orchestra Honors is designed to develop a student's highest musical potential through performing advanced quality orchestra literature from a variety of genres. Students are selected for participation by audition held in the previous spring to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. Advanced concepts in ear training, theory, music literacy, musical terminology, music history, and leadership will be explored. Advanced string-specific skills such as bow management, shifting, vibrato, tone production will also be explored. The organization performs for school concerts throughout the year and often prepares for other venues. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA festivals. Performances are an important component of this course and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation. Additional performances/rehearsals and assignments are important components of this course level and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

c. *Concert Band*

Prerequisite: This course is available for all students who have had experience with a middle school or high school band or equivalent, private instruction, or by special permission of the instructor.

Concert Band is a performance course available for percussionists, brass, and woodwind players. This class explores concepts in musicianship, ear training, theory, music literacy, musical terminology, and music history as well as teaching leadership qualities. Students in *Concert Band* will rehearse and perform quality wind band literature. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA Festivals. Performances are an important component of this course and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

d. *Wind Ensemble Honors*

Prerequisite: Placement by audition. A student must have taken *Concert Band* to be eligible for *Wind Ensemble Honors*, have had previous experience with a high school honors band, or been given special permission from the instructor.

Honors Wind Ensemble is designed to develop a student's highest musical potential through performing advanced quality literature in the wind band repertoire. Students are selected for participation by audition held the previous spring to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. Advanced concepts in ear training, theory, music literacy, musical terminology, and music history will be explored. The organization performs for school concerts throughout the year and often prepares for other venues. Students are encouraged to audition for Central District and All-State Music Festivals. This course meets four days per cycle. Additional performances/rehearsals and assignments are important components of this course level and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

e. *Jazz Band Rhythm Section Honors*

Placement by audition. A student must have had previous experience with a jazz band or been given special permission from the instructor.

This section of *Jazz Band Honors* is for guitarists, pianists, bassists, vibraphonists, and jazz drummers only (all wind players should choose between

Jazz Band Honors/Wind Ensemble Honors and Jazz Band Honors/Concert Band Honors). Students participating in *Jazz Band* will play the music of studio, dance, jazz and rock bands. Pop-ballads, Latin, jazz, and rock concert arrangements are rehearsed and performed. Activities include reading from sheet music, analyzing melodic lines, jazz rhythms and chord progressions, and improvisation. This is a course intended primarily for band members. Any interested guitar, bass, and keyboard players must audition for the instructor prior to acceptance. All rhythm, (including percussion), are limited to two per instrument. The organization performs for school concerts throughout the year and often prepares for other venues. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA Festivals. Additional performances/rehearsals and assignments are important components of this course level and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation. This course meets two days per cycle.

f. *Jazz Band Honors/Wind Ensemble Honors*

Placement by audition. A student must have taken *Concert Band* to be eligible for *Jazz Band Honors/Wind Ensemble Honors*, have had previous experience with a high school honors band or jazz band, or been given special permission from the instructor.

This section of *Jazz Band Honors/Wind Ensemble Honors* is for wind players only (all rhythm section players should choose *Jazz Band Rhythm Section Honors*). Students participating in this accelerated course will rehearse and prepare quality literature for the full year, meeting 6 days per cycle. *All content and requirements previously described for *Honors Jazz Band and Honors Wind Ensemble* apply.

g. *Jazz Band Honors/Concert Band Honors*

Placement by audition. This course is available for all students who have had experience with a middle school or high school band and/or jazz band or equivalent, private instruction, or by special permission of the instructor.

This section of *Jazz Band Honors/Concert Band Honors* is for wind players only (all rhythm section players should choose *Jazz Band Rhythm Section Honors*). Students participating in this accelerated course will rehearse and play quality literature for the full year, meeting 6 days per cycle. *All content and requirements previously described for *Honors Jazz Band and Concert Band* apply. Independent work will be monitored and assessed.

h. *Mixed Choir*

Students are selected for participation by audition to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. The music is of an advanced level for SATB harmony and will include both accompanied and unaccompanied music. Advanced concepts of tone, ear training, and a cappella skills will be explored. Students encounter music of many styles and genres. This group performs for school concerts throughout the year. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA festivals. Performances are an important component of this course and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

i. *Mixed Choir Honors*

Prerequisite: Placement by audition. A student must have taken *Freshman Choir* to be eligible for sophomore year, one year of an SHS choir, or by special permission of the instructor. All are accepted to a vocal ensemble.

Students are selected for participation by audition to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. The music is of an advanced level for SATB harmony and will include both accompanied and unaccompanied music. Advanced concepts of tone, ear training, and a cappella skills will be explored. Students encounter music of many styles and genres. This group performs for school concerts throughout the year. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA festivals. Additional performances/rehearsals, small group assessments, and classwork/assignments are important components of this course level and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

j. *Treble Choir Honors*

Prerequisite: Placement by audition. A student must have taken *Freshman Choir* to be eligible for sophomore year, one year of an SHS choir, or by special permission of the instructor. All are accepted to a vocal ensemble.

Students are selected for participation by audition to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. The music is of an advanced level for treble harmony and will include both accompanied and unaccompanied music. Advanced concepts of tone, ear training, and a cappella skills will be explored. Students encounter music of many styles from early as well as modern composers. This group performs for school concerts throughout the year, and often prepares for other venues. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA festivals. Additional performances/rehearsals, small group assessments, and classwork/assignments are important components of

this course level and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

k. *Chamber Choir Honors*

Prerequisite: Placement by audition. A student must have taken *Freshman Choir* to be eligible for sophomore year, one year of an SHS choir, or by special permission of the instructor. All are accepted to a vocal ensemble.

Students are selected for participation by audition to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. The music is of an advanced level for SATB and divisi harmony and will include both accompanied and unaccompanied music. Advanced concepts of tone, ear training, and a cappella skills will be explored. Students encounter music of many styles from early as well as modern composers, including vocal jazz. This group performs for numerous community events throughout the school year, in addition to scheduled concerts and home football games. Students are encouraged to audition for MMEA festivals. Additional performances/rehearsals, small group assessments, and classwork/assignments are important components of this course level and students are required to participate as part of their commitment to this group and part of their evaluation.

Science & Engineering

1. Add a new course: *Human Body Systems*

This is the 2nd of 3 courses that will need to be introduced as a result of receiving a \$50,000 grant from the One8Foundation to implement the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Biomedical pathway at SHS. For the last 2 years, the One8 Foundation has approved the postponement of implementing this course.

NOTE: summer course training required (grant funding) and re-structure of course enrollment and staffing will need to be reviewed

Social Sciences

1. Course title and description change: *Global Studies* to *Local & Global Studies* to more accurately represent course content.

Local & Global Studies This course will provide students opportunities to explore their role in as well as issues facing local, national, and global communities. Some topics students will research and propose action steps for are the experiences of indigenous peoples, the process of urbanization, the impact of climate change as well as issues related to poverty and inequality. As part of their learning, students will engage with StoryCorps, the UNSDG, elected officials, as well as the Beal History Wall. Throughout the semester, students will be expected to demonstrate growth as critical thinkers, readers, and writers as well as their ability to take personal responsibility for their learning when

engaged in aspects of Project-Based Learning especially student choice and a public product. Honors students will be expected to do extensive and sustained independent research and analysis outside of class and present their findings in written, visual and oral formats.

2. Add AP Comparative Government & Politics with the following description to continue to diversify elective offerings.

Advanced Placement Comparative Government & Politics

Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher's recommendation and past academic performance.

AP Comparative Government & Politics will introduce students to the diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students compare the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues by examining how different governments solve similar problems. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence based arguments. The reading, writing, and discussions are aligned with those of a college Social Science course. Students will read extensively and take responsibility for their own learning. Students are expected to successfully complete the summer work and take the AP exam in May.

Visual Arts

1. Course title change - Drop the word Sculpture from *Ceramics II and III*. While students in those ceramics courses will still be exposed to the elements of three-dimensional design, there is a separate *Sculpture and Installation* course for those interested in exploring other sculptural materials.
2. Add a new course *Darkroom Photography II* offered Semester II during the 2021/2022 school year adding the following description:

Prerequisite: *Traditional & Digital Photography* *Teacher signature required

Do you love to take photos and want to learn even more about film photography? This class will expand on your use of the 35mm film camera. Students will be using the darkroom to create traditional black and white prints and will be experimenting with a variety of techniques to enhance images. Students will shoot a variety of subjects including portraits, landscapes, still life, candid, close-ups, and will work towards developing a cohesive body of work in their own distinct style. Students will continue to learn about composition and the history of photography. *A materials fee of \$35.00 is assessed for paper and film. Offered Semester 2 only.*

World Languages

1. Add a new course: *Heritage Portuguese 2*.

Prerequisite: *Heritage Portuguese 1* and teacher recommendation.

This course is designed specifically for students whose first language is Portuguese or who are bilingual. The course will explore literature, history, and art through a Lusophone lense. Students will be assessed on points of view in spoken and written Portuguese.

2. Add a new course: *Heritage Spanish 2*.

Prerequisite: *Heritage Spanish 1* and teacher recommendation.

This course is designed specifically for students whose first language may be Spanish or who are bilingual. The course will explore literature, history, and art through a Hispanic lens. Students will be assessed on points of view in spoken and written Spanish.

3. Add a new course: *Introduction to Linguistics 2*.

Prerequisite: *Introduction to Linguistics 1* and teacher recommendation.

This course will continue to explore the methods and findings in the field of modern linguistics, the study of language. The curriculum will address further aspects of linguistics, particularly morphosyntax, syntax, and semantics. Students will gain and demonstrate knowledge in each of these disciplines, read and explore the relevant body of research in each field, and design and complete a project or experiment that demonstrates an understanding of the material and its relevance.