

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



## **Memorandum**

To: Dr. Joseph Sawyer  
From: Todd Bazydlo  
Date: December 23, 2020  
Re: Proposed Changes to the 2021-2022 HS Program of Studies

---

I am pleased to present proposed changes and additions to the *Program of Studies* for the 2021-22 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 more detail regarding the revisions listed below at the January meeting.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

### ***English Language Education Department***

1. Change the name of the courses *ELE American Culture & History I* and *II* to *ELE US Culture & History I* and *ELE US Culture & History II* to better align with the Social Science Department course offerings.

### ***Family and Consumer Sciences Department***

1. *Mediterranean Cuisine* will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year; *Foods of the World* will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year.
2. *Baking and Pastry Arts* will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year; *Culinary Methods for Nutritious Foods* will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year.

### ***Foreign Language to World Languages***

1. Change the name of the department from *Foreign* to *World Languages* as this terminology is more inclusive and preferred by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
2. Change Mission Statement to: The World Language Program at Shrewsbury High School believes that all students are capable of learning a language. Our goals are to move students along the proficiency ladder in Modern Languages and for our Classical Languages, students will be provided with the skills to interpret and develop an understanding and appreciation of Latin Literature while learning how this language connects to Modern English.

3. Add Course: *Foundations of Linguistics 1* This course will explore the methods and findings in the field of modern linguistics, the study of language. The curriculum will address each branch of linguistics: phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Students will gain and demonstrate knowledge of the precepts of 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.
4. Add course (aligns with district work on equity and diversity): *Heritage Spanish 1* This course is designed specifically for students whose first language may be Spanish or who are bilingual. The course will focus on contemporary issues in the US and Hispanic worlds and how one's language forms one's identity. Students will be assessed on points of view in spoken and written Spanish.
5. Add course (aligns with district work on equity and diversity): *Heritage Portuguese 1* This course is designed specifically for students whose first language is Portuguese or who are bilingual. The course will focus on contemporary issues in the US and Lusophone worlds and how one's language forms one's identity. Students will be assessed on points of view in spoken and written Portuguese.
6. Drop course: *Spanish 2 Language and Culture*
7. Change the name of *French 1* to *Introductory French 1* with the following description change: This course is designed for students at the novice level of language proficiency. Focus will be on the acquisition of thematic vocabulary and the incorporation of appropriate grammatical structures essential for basic communicative skills at the novice level. Students will learn to speak, read, and write at a beginning level on topics such as school, family, hobbies, etc. They will be able to produce and understand simple conversations. The target for this course is novice mid. The course will be taught 50-75% in the target language.
8. Change the name of *Accelerated French 1* to *Introductory French 2* with the following description change: Prerequisite: Introductory French 1 or Prior Course at Novice Level This course is the second year of the two year novice sequence and satisfies the second year of language study for college entry. It is designed specifically for students who need a modified pace but wish to complete two years of French. Focus will be on thematic vocabulary and reinforcement of novice grammatical structures. Students will continue to learn to speak, read, and write about topics pertinent to their lives and will reinforce their knowledge of the present tense from Intro 1 (or equivalent) and build on those skills. The target for this course is novice high. The Course will be taught 50-75% of the target language.
9. Change the name of *Spanish 1* to *Introductory Spanish 1* with the following description change: This course is designed for students at the novice level of language proficiency.

Focus will be on the acquisition of thematic vocabulary and the incorporation of appropriate grammatical structures essential for basic communicative skills at the novice level. Students will learn to speak, read, and write at a beginning level on topics such as school, family, hobbies, etc. They will be able to produce and understand simple conversations. The target for this course is novice mid. The course will be taught 50-75% in the target language.

10. Change the name of *Accelerated Spanish I* to *Introductory Spanish 2* with the following description change: Prerequisite: Introductory Spanish 1 or Prior Course at Novice Level and teacher recommendation. This course is the second year of the two year novice sequence and satisfies the second year of language study for college entry. It is designed specifically for students who need a modified pace but wish to complete two years of Spanish. Focus will be on thematic vocabulary and reinforcement of novice grammatical structures. Students will continue to learn to speak, read, and write about topics pertinent to their lives and will reinforce their knowledge of the present tense from Intro 1 (or equivalent) and build on those skills. The target for this course is novice high. The Course will be taught 50-75% of the target language.
11. Change the names of intermediate modern language courses (*French, Chinese, and Spanish Levels 2/2H through 5/5H*) to include the intermediate level terminology used by American Council on Teaching the Foreign Languages (ACTFL):
  - i. *Chinese 2/2H to Intermediate Chinese 2/2H*
  - ii. *Chinese 3/3H to Intermediate Chinese 3/3H*
  - iii. *Chinese IV/IVH to Intermediate Chinese IV/H*
  - iv. *Chinese V/VH to Intermediate Chinese V/VH*
  - v. *French 2/2H to Intermediate French 2/2H*
  - vi. *French 3/3H to Intermediate French 3/3H*
  - vii. *French IV/IVH to Intermediate French IVH*
  - viii. *French V/VH to Intermediate French V/VH*
  - ix. *Spanish 2/2H to Intermediate Spanish 2/2H*
  - x. *Spanish 3/3H to Intermediate Spanish 3/3H*
  - xi. *Spanish IV/IVH to Intermediate Spanish IVH*
  - xii. *Spanish V/VH to Intermediate Spanish V/VH*

### ***Instructional Technology and Media Services (ITAMS)***

1. Add a new course: *Financial Literacy*. Do you want to feel more confident with your finances and learn how to plan for your financial success? Financial Literacy will provide students with an overview of financial concepts, focusing on skills and information needed to manage one's own finances. This course will enable students to make informed personal financial decisions by learning about topics such as budgeting and money management, savings and investment strategies, consumer credit, and types of loans. Students will develop and analyze financial plans and scenarios, enabling them to understand how to achieve short and long term financial goals. The understanding of financial literacy that students develop in this course will help them to become financially responsible individuals.

2. Adjust the titles of the Television Production courses by adding “and Film” to each course title. Introduction to Television Production will become *Introduction to Television Production and Film*. Television II will become *Television Production and Film II*. Advanced Television will become *Advanced Television Production and Film*.
3. Split the full-year Television Production II course into two semester courses, *Television Production and Film II* and *Television Production and Film III* to enable more students to take the courses.
4. *Computer Programming with JAVA* will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year to enable us to run our new *Financial Literacy* course.
5. *Multimedia Applications* will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year to enable us to offer more sections of our television production and film courses.
6. *Advanced Multimedia Design* will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year to enable us to offer more sections of our television production and film courses.

### ***Science & Engineering***

1. Postpone implementation of new course: *Human Body Systems* for a 2nd time  
NOTE: This is the 2nd of 3 courses that will need to be introduced as a result of receiving a \$50,000 grant related to implementing a PLTW Biomedical pathway. For a second time, The One8Foundation has agreed to allow us to postpone implementation of the grant and pathway as we navigate through our current situation. We have received \$30,000 of the \$50k, the remaining \$20k will be on hold for a second year with hopes of course implementation for the start of the 22-23 school year.

### ***Social Sciences***

1. Eliminate *Exploring Family History* as this course has historically been under-enrolled.
2. Minor language change to reflect current practice related to prerequisites for *AP Psychology*, *AP Human Geography* and *AP US History*.  
 Prerequisite: Course placement is based on the teacher’s recommendation and past academic performance.
3. Change the name of *Law & Order* to *Law* to more accurately reflect course content.
4. Update the units of study listed in the course description for *World Civilizations*, *US History I* and *US History II* to reflect curriculum shifts that will be implemented as a result of the revisions to the Massachusetts History and Social Science Frameworks.
  - a. *World Civilizations:* In the first semester, students will investigate world history from 1500 until 1900 through the following units of study: World Religions, Power & Wealth, Revolution, Nationalism, Industrialization, and Imperialism. The second semester will include an examination of world events from the 1900s

through the late 20th century through the following units of study: the Great War and its aftermath, Rise of Facism and World War II, the Cold War, and the Global Age.

- b. *US History I*: Students will study the causes and consequences of the American Revolution, as well as the development of the U.S. Constitution. Other units of study will include Federal vs. State power, Economic & Social Change, Civil War, Reconstruction, and the West.
  - c. *US History II*: Units of study will include US foreign policy, the 1920s and 1930s, the World War II Era, Cold War Abroad, Rebellion & Reaction including the Civil Rights Movement and Modern America.
5. Add language to *US History II*, *US History II: American Studies* and *AP US History* identifying where students will engage in the Civics Action Project required by the Massachusetts State Legislature.
- During the second semester of the course, students will engage in the six stages of a Civics Action Project as identified by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

### ***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, candids, 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.*