



**STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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To: Robert J. O'Donnell

From: Jacquelyn M. Martin

Date: November 19, 2013

RE: New Course Proposals for 2014-15

Dr. O'Donnell,

I am recommending the addition of three new courses for next school year. Please see the attached course descriptions and their respective rationale for:

- Ceramics 2
- Lifeguarding
- AP Physics 1+

Thank you,
Jacquelyn M. Martin
Director of Secondary Curriculum

Ceramics 2

.5 credits semester course

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ceramics 1

Suggested grade level: 10–12

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students may select either one or two semesters of Ceramics 2 each year. This course is designed for students who are interested in pursuing the mastery of advanced level skills involved in the production of wheel thrown and hand built clay objects.

RATIONALE: An increasing number of students are re-enrolling to Ceramics. Instructors are currently differentiating instruction for students who are re-enrolled in Ceramics. Students who are repeating the course would receive clear instructional goals through the advanced level curriculum and their transcripts would accurately reflect the increase of rigor in their coursework. There would be no additional costs to offer this course as it would be scheduled during the same class period and semester as Ceramics 1. The current enrollment capacity and resources would be maintained.

Lifeguarding

.5 credits semester course

Prerequisite: Swimming skills test

Suggested grade level: 10–12 (Age 15+)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Interested in a great summer job or challenging career as a professional lifeguard? Through videos, group discussion and hands-on practice, students will have the opportunity to obtain certification in First Aid, CPR, AED and American Red Cross Lifeguarding. This course will meet daily for a semester with a combination of classroom and water days. You must be at least 15 years of age and pass a prerequisite swim test. This course credit will fulfill your physical education requirement for that school year. There is a required fee for the certification and textbook.

RATIONALE: We currently offer lifeguarding certification to students as an after school activity that involves an average of 12 students. The Lifeguarding course content is aligned to Pennsylvania Health, Safety, and Physical Education Standards in the categories of Safety and Injury Prevention, Physical Activity, and Concepts, Principles & Strategies for Movement. Approval of this new course would increase student access to the course and certifications, as well as fulfill their physical education requirement for the school year. We believe that this is a valuable opportunity for students to obtain employment, promote citizenship, and support safety prevention in our community. Students will continue to be responsible for costs related to the book, CPR mask, first aid supplies and certification fee.

AP Physics 1+

1.0 Credit Year Long Course

Suggested Grade Level: 11–12

Pre-Requisites: Completion of two advanced science courses (ie. Advanced Earth Systems Science 1, Advanced Biology 1 or Advanced Chemistry 1)CP Algebra 2 (completed) and concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a systematic introduction to foundational physics; including translational and rotational mechanics, electrostatics, and elementary circuitry. Further topics will be introduced as time allows and may include: fluids, heat and thermodynamics, light and optics, sound, electromagnetism, quantum theory, nuclear physics, etc. Emphasis is on the development of conceptual understanding and problem-solving ability using algebra and trigonometry. Weekly laboratory work is coordinated with classroom work. Evaluation is based on tests, homework, and laboratory reports. Students are encouraged to use this course as preparation for the Advanced Placement Physics 1 Exam.

RATIONALE: The College Board's Advanced Placement Program for Physics B is undergoing a redesign from one course (AP Physics B) to two new year-long courses entitled AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2. The new courses will promote a conceptual reasoning and understanding in depth compared to breadth of content. Our intent is to capture the AP Physics 1 content in an effort to prepare students for the AP Physics 1 Exam in May. Additionally, this course will be designed to provide students with content from the Physics 2 course that will be differentiated for the various college and career interests of the students.