

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Weston, CT

Meeting Date: December 17, 2018

Information Only

Action Requested

Agenda Item Subject: WMS Visual Art new course proposal

Submitted by: Kenneth Crow

Document Summary/Purpose and/or Recommended Action:

New course proposal for Board approval, Visual Art, grade 7 and grade 8

For more Board of Education Meeting and Committee Meeting Information, visit:
<https://meeting.cabe.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=47&AgencyTypeID=1>

Weston Public Schools
Weston, CT
Office of the Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum, Staff Development and Technology

New Course Proposal for 2019-2020

This proposal should be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent by the principal of the school on behalf of the department chair and/or staff involved. All proposals are due to the building principal *one week* prior to this date. *All proposals must be approved first by the building principal. Requests will be reviewed with the principal, Curriculum Instructional Leader and Assistant Superintendent prior to presentation to the Curriculum Committee.*

School: Weston Middle School

Proposal Submitted by: Sydney Girardi

Department: Visual Art

Name of course or program:

Second trimester of art for 7th and 8th grade. The course title is still under consideration as the 2 trimesters will not be sequential (for scheduling reasons). Therefore, “Art 1” and “Art 2” would not be appropriate.

Population to be served:

This will affect the entire 7th and 8th grade. Students in 7th and 8th grade will double their visual art instructional time. (More in next section.)

Identify and discuss the need:

In March of 2017, art instructional time was reviewed and presented to Curriculum Committee. At that time, students at all levels were receiving less than 50% of the state and nationally recommended instructional time in art after a significant decrease in art instructional time in 2012. (see page 3). In addition, middle school students who needed to be pulled out of classes were being pulled out of visual art resulting in only 75% (6th grade), 80% (7th grade) and 80% (8th grade) of students receiving any visual art at all.

The newly redesigned schedule at the middle school has addressed the problem of pulling students out of their scheduled classes so that all (or almost all) students now receive one trimester of visual art as of this school year (2018-19).

This has not, however, addressed the fact that students are receiving a much lower amount of visual art instruction than what is recommended at the state and national levels.

This proposal seeks to add a second trimester of visual art for 7th and 8th grade students. This second trimester will include curricular units that will be designed over the summer. The added time will ensure that the extensive Visual Arts Standards can be met for each grade level.

A study by the College Board showed that students who took four years of art scored 91 points better on the SAT exams. At-risk students who take art are significantly more likely to stay in school and ultimately to get college degrees (1). Art also teaches students the creative process – the means with which to solve problems, use tools, collaborate, express ideas clearly, be entrepreneurial and resourceful. These are crucial skills needed today that are learned and honed in the visual art classroom.

November 14, 2018

Weston Public Schools
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Tom Horne, the state superintendent of public education in Arizona said “When you think about the purposes of education, there are three. We're preparing kids for jobs. We're preparing them to be citizens. And we're teaching them to be human beings who can enjoy the deeper forms of beauty. The third is as important as the other two.”
(2) Art education teaches and nurtures all three of these.

Impact on other courses/schedules:

Two trimesters of art will be created during the PFA Trimester cycle. As a result, Passion Project (PP) and Science Discovery Workshop (SDW) will be moved from the PFA Trimester cycle to the Extension block. The PP and SDW will no longer be core courses for 7th and 8th graders. Students may choose to participate in these enrichment opportunities during the extended learning time.

Budget related items MATERIALS ALREADY IN PLACE:

Staffing (FTE needed): .4 Visual Arts teacher: this FTE coming from Science Discovery Workshop and Passion Project is being reallocated to art. This is effectively a cost-neutral proposal.

Supplies: approximately 25% more art materials per year (about \$ 3,000)

Equipment (description and \$): NA

Other (software): NA

Estimated overall cost of proposal: (I don't know what the FTE amount would be so I can't answer this question)

Evaluation for program success or continuation:

Both increased enthusiasm and involvement in the arts is anticipated at the middle school level. Students will have the opportunity to develop greater creativity skills used in art and other courses. In addition, we expect an increase in art enrollment at the high school as a result because we have seen a decrease directly coinciding with the loss of K-8 art time from 2012 (see page 3). Although it has been proven that art education increases academic proficiency, it would be very hard to quantify that.

Other information for consideration (optional):

Please see page 3.

Please attach a description of the course including the units of study.

The courses will include units of study designed around the National Visual Arts Standards. Units will include learning and assessments involving a variety of creative processes, responding and reflecting, and presenting of art. I have attached the current 7th and 8th grade curriculum overviews. The new curriculum will follow a similar construct, with additional content.

(1) Hawkins, Tyleah. “Will Less Art and Music in the Classroom Really Help Students Soar Academically?” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 28 Dec. 2012, www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/therootdc/post/will-less-art-and-music-in-the-classroom-really-help-students-soar-academically/2012/12/28/e18a2da0-4e02-11e2-839d-d54cc6e49b63_blog.html?utm_term=.9f51dd61159e.

(2) Edutopia. (2018). *Why Arts Education Is Crucial, and Who's Doing It Best* | *Edutopia*. [online] Available at: <https://www.edutopia.org/arts-music-curriculum-child-development> [Accessed 7 Nov. 2018].

VISUAL ART INSTRUCTIONAL TIME LOW

Connecticut Recommendations

- K-5: 60 to 100 minutes per week
- 6-8: 1 semester (90 classes)
- 9-12: at least 2 years of study of specific arts form (art, music, etc)

National Recommendations

- K-5: 90 minutes per week
- 6-8: 1 semester (90 classes)
- 9-12: at least 2 years of study of specific arts form (art, music, etc)

Weston Visual Art Instructional Time

- K-5: 45-50 minutes per week
- 6-8: 1 trimester every other day (30 classes)- those pulled for enrichment or SPED get less
- 9-12: at least 1 year of study of specific arts form (art, music, etc)



CHANGE IN VISUAL ARTS INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Prior to 2012

- Grades 1-2: 45 minutes per week
- Grades 3-4: 60 minutes per week
- Grade 5: 2 45 minutes classes per week (total 90 minutes per week)
- Grades 6-8: 30 classes in 1 trimester (roughly equivalent to 41 minutes per week per year) plus 1 additional elective course for 8th gr
- Grades 9-12: 1 full credit (1 year) fine arts required for graduation

As of 2016-17 School Year

- Grades K-2: 45 minutes per week
- Grades 3-4: 50 minutes per week
- Grade 5: 50 minutes per week
- Grades 6-8: 30 classes in 1 trimester (roughly equivalent to 41 minutes per week per year)
- Grades 9-12: 1 full credit (1 year) fine arts required for graduation

VISUAL ART ENROLLMENT – WHS & WMS

WHS Visual Arts 2016-17	
Requests by Students	Actually Scheduled or Enrolled
854	661

WMS Visual Arts 2016-17	
Grade 6	82% (152 out of 185 enrolled)
Grade 7	79% (153 out of 193 enrolled)
Grade 8	80% (163 out of 203 enrolled)