

Proposed Changes to the 2023-2024 NBHS Course Guide

Throughout the fall, I invited every department to meet with me to discuss changes in the course guide as well as new course proposals. Below is a summary of the changes we are proposing for the course guide for the 2022-2023 school year. In addition to the changes in this document, I made some formatting adjustments and added a table of contents to make it a more usable document. This document will not be distributed in a written version, it will all be electronic.

English

We moved Journalism into the English section. We clearly stated that students receive elective credit for journalism and the course does not count toward a student's 4 credits of English required for graduation in Illinois.

We adjusted the course descriptions to more closely align with the department priority standards and the readings the students do in class.

Driver's Education

This was changed to reflect that the classroom portion of driver's education is only offered during the first and third quarters and that students will need to participate in two Saturday course sessions each quarter. We also added students are charged a fee for taking driver's education.

The reason for this change is because our provider has adjusted their process and we cannot find another provider. The certification requirements for driver's education have changed in the past couple of years. Through the Secretary of State Office, not ISBE.

Removal of the Word Vocational

The term vocational is a term stopped being used in the 1980s. The correct term is career and technical education.

Business Education

The course rotation was added to the course guide so students and parents could easily see the rotation and would be able to plan accordingly. We also updated the language in the course descriptions.

Mathematics

We have highlighted the Transitional Math course and clearly stated that students who take the course and receive a grade of "C" or better will automatically be placed in a credit bearing mathematics course at Rock Valley College. We also changed the course from a year long course to a semester. This has always been the recommendation by the state.

We are proposing to delete College Algebra from the course guide. The title of the course is misleading. Students do not receive college credit for taking the course. The course also does not fit well in any sequence in the mathematics course. Our goal is to get the course approved as Dual Credit through Rock Valley College for the 2023-2024 school year and reintroduce the course as another opportunity for students to earn Early College Credit while still in high school.

We are proposing to delete Introduction to Engineering from the course guide. We do not have the space to have an engineering program at North Boone High School. In the past this course was offered at the expense of mathematics courses. The math department believes, along with me, that our priority needs to be offering mathematics courses, especially Transitional Math.

We are proposing a new course, titled Honors Algebra I. The purpose of this course is for students with a high interest in mathematics but have not been accelerated chronologically to begin their high school math experience with peers who possess a similar mindset. Students will be recommended for this course by their 8th grade math teachers. Course grades and performance on standardized tests will also be considered.

Social Studies Department

The social studies department is proposing a semester long elective for interested students to take after the required US History course. It will allow students learning opportunities and reflection on current issues in the United States. The course will cover events in U.S. history from the Vietnam war through the modern era. It will cover such topics as the Civil Rights movement, women's/migrant/LGBTQ rights movement, The Aids crisis, Gulf War, 9/11, the Coronavirus pandemic, and many other events. Based on enrollment, we might be able to offer it in a co-taught environment with the English-Language Arts Department

World Languages

We made some adjustments to the wording to the course descriptions.

We are proposing to change French III from a non-honors course to an honors level course.

We are proposing to delete Spanish III and Spanish IV and only offer honors Spanish III and IV.

CEANCI Program

We added the Cosmetology program to the course guide. This is a program we have been offering for years.

We changed the location of the EMT program to the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department. This is the first year this will be an opportunity for our students.