

Memo

To: Rochester Board of Education
From: Mrs. Suzanne Keller, Director of Educational Services
cc: Mr. Dan W. Cox, Superintendent
Date: December 11, 2024
Re: Curriculum and Instruction Council

The Curriculum and Instruction Council approved three curriculum proposals on October 24, 2024. They included two proposals from the RJHS English Department to adopt two new novels and to implement a new dual credit Psychology course at RHS. An additional proposal from RHS was approved by the Curriculum and Instruction Council on November 19, 2024. This proposal was to implement the MC3 Pre-Apprenticeship course opportunities for students.

The English proposals were to adopt the following novels. The first is, *Notes from the Midnight Driver*, written by Jordan Sonnenblick. The novel would allow 7th grade students the opportunity to connect the main character's life story and lessons aligned with the Leader in Me work being done. The RJHS team also highlighted that the addition to the curriculum would allow for community and service learning to grow and evolve.

The second English proposal is also to enhance the 7th grade curriculum by adopting *The Crossover* (in verse and graphic novel), written by Kwame Alexander. This novel will allow students to experience two different genres. The story is about a teenage boy working to be the best on his sports team. He is faced with different challenges and life experiences that he navigates. Students will be able to relate to the concepts and ideas throughout the novel.

The novels both support the Illinois Literacy Plan, as well as the Common Core State Standards. The books will be available to the district through the Illinois Public Library System. RJHS would like to implement both novels after the new year (2025).

The Council also approved the implementation of a dual credit Psychology course at RHS. This course would provide students with the chance to earn college credit while taking the course in-district. The course would be offered to juniors and seniors and it would be a 5 weight course, due to the rigor. RHS recommends that students who have taken American Studies or students who have taken a U.S. History course and have a teacher recommendation would have the opportunity to take the Psychology course. Currently Rochester offers a Psychology course that is 4 weight and one semester, as well as a College Now course at Lincoln Land Community College. Bringing a dual credit Psychology course to RHS would allow for a new course offering to be added through the College Now program. Finally, this course offering would allow students to explore another potential future career.

There is currently a dual credit course fee for the 2024-2025 school year is \$100.00 for families.

The final proposal was approved by the Curriculum and Instruction Council on November 19, 2024 and it includes the addition of the MC3 (Multi-Craft Core Curriculum) Pre-Apprenticeship Program. This program would allow senior students at Rochester the opportunity to apply for the program. Students will receive five College Now credits through Lincoln Land Community College and attend class at LLCC.

Areas of study include:

- General orientation to apprenticeship
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid
- OSHA (10 hour certification course)
- Blueprint Reading
- Applied mathematics for construction applications

- History of the construction industry and the heritage of the American worker

During the 4th nine weeks of the program students will be placed in building trade internships. These may be paid or unpaid experiences.