

New Courses Prepare Students to Effectively Navigate Future Opportunities

Community Partners Inform and Support District Planning

New Berlin, Wis. – The School District of New Berlin added new courses in 2015-16 to support the district's Academic and Career Planning process in grades 6-12.

“Post-secondary education has become too expensive and complex for students to wait until after high school to be exposed to the options available to them,” Superintendent Joe Garza said. “Understanding what you want to get out of your post-secondary education and how that choice aligns to your personal, academic, social and career goals is a key part of being an informed consumer of that investment. We do not expect all of our students to know what they want to do, but we do want them to have a general idea of what they are interested in learning about in order to achieve the goals they set for themselves.”

Leveraging input from more than 60 participants, the district gathered information on what knowledge, skills, dispositions and opportunities a high school graduate would need to be successful. Some classes are offered at one middle-high school and transportation is provided to students between buildings to make sure all students have access to desired coursework.

“We continually have to strike a balance on how many courses we can offer with the resources we have available and still support rigorous and relevant learning experiences for all of our students,” Garza said. “There are fewer teachers available in specialized areas. In addition, some classes require equipment that we can't currently afford at both schools. I am really proud of the work of our administrators, counselors and teaching staff to make this all work on behalf of their students.”

The following courses are among those approved by the Board of Education for 2016-17 as a next step in the implementation of the community's recommendations in targeted areas:

- **Advanced Innovation and Design (iAID):** This interdisciplinary capstone course will challenge high ability students to apply what they have learned in other coursework to construct a problem statement, conduct research, and design and develop an original solution to an open ended problem using the systems design thinking process. Teams will be paired with industry and post-secondary mentors in one or more of the following areas: Tech Startup, Global Health Issues, Global Business, Public Policy in Education, and/or Automation Systems. Mentors define the problem to increase the relevance of the project to current and/or projected issues facing Waukesha County and/or the M7 Economic Development Region.
- **AP Capstone:** The new AP Capstone program includes AP Seminar and AP Research and is designed to develop and assess student attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students develop and strengthen analytic and inquiry skills, exploring two to four relevant issues chosen by the student and/or teacher. Students learn to consider an issue from multiple perspectives, evaluate the strength of an argument, and make logical, fact-based decisions. Successful students are eligible to earn an AP Seminar and Research Certificate and/or the AP Capstone Diploma.
- **Genetics and Genomics in Healthcare:** This Dual Enrollment course is provided through UW-Milwaukee, taught by a UWM professor and offers a unique background in the field of genetic research and counseling for students interested in healthcare professions (including, but not limited to, those in the District's nursing program launched last year). Students in this course would study the relationship

between the underlying science (genetics), the study of genomes (genomics) and the social, ethical and legal issues (genethics) in healthcare.

- **MSSC Certification - Quality:** This independent study course extends the work of the Manufacturing Foundations students who have already earned their Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Certification in Safety. This allows students to complete two of four portable credentials towards a Certified Production Technician designation. MSSC supports the development of the “industrial athletes of the future” and allows those with an interest in manufacturing the opportunity for higher wages.

In addition, the School District of New Berlin will be participating in the **Microsoft Imagine Academy** that provides digital curriculum, certifications and courses critical for students to be successful in today’s technologically evolving world.

“This program provides additional support for students interested in earning a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and/or Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) certification,” said Brandon Kolstoni, SDNB Director of Technology. “It also allows our staff to be certified as Microsoft Certified Educators (MCE). Many K12 organizations have adopted the use of Google Chromebooks for digital learning initiatives due to the cost advantages. However, we realize that some of these skills are not directly aligned to the school and work environments students may be transitioning to after high school. This will help to address that gap for interested students.”

The scope of the district’s Entrepreneurship course was expanded to include global business concepts and additional instructional resources to reflect input from community partners. Additional courses were also added in Latin, Chinese, Linear Math (dual enrollment through UW-Waukesha) and Economics to allow students who have demonstrated proficiency in the courses already offered by the District to move on to the next level in their study of these subjects.

The district also participates in WCTC’s Regional Dual Enrollment Academy Program, which provides high school seniors with 18-21 WTCS college credits upon high school graduation. In addition to existing programs in Welding and CNC, new programs have been added for the 2016-17 school year for IT Computer Support, Automated Systems (Robotics), and Hospitality Management.

The District has also expanded its “Summer Semester” offerings which support students by freeing up time for desired courses only offered during the school year, and by supporting students who wish to relearn core content and/or self-accelerate through desired course progressions.

“We are excited to make these options available for students,” said Kelli Kwiatkowski, SDNB Director of Curriculum. “Each is uniquely designed to help inform and support a student’s Academic and Career Plan. We continually look for ways to strengthen our alignment to our College In High School programs and connect students to opportunities for project and work based learning so that they can challenge themselves in their primary areas of interest and apply what they are learning in a meaningful way.”

In December, both New Berlin West and New Berlin Eisenhower Middle/High School hosted a ‘Course Carousel’ staffed by counselors and teachers to help students better understand how course selections might support their Academic and Career Plan. This week, students and their parents are invited to attend Academic and Career Planning Nights at both schools to engage parents in the discussion prior to selecting courses for next year. Registration opens later this month and continues through the beginning of February.

Related Information

- [College and Career Readiness in the SDNB](#)
- [#OurCollectiveWork campaign](#)

- [Business and Community Partnerships](#)
- [Course Carousel - Facebook gallery](#)
- [2015-16 Courses Created with Community Input](#)

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