AHS Program Overview

Thoughts About Current and Future Programming

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• What is it most important for the design team to know about what you do and what you value?
• What are your most pressing academic goals and priorities, both now and in the future, for your program and for Arlington High School?
• How would you like to see your program and Arlington High School evolve and grow over the coming years?
English Department

All students take four years of English, a subject that is offered at the honors and A levels. Courses are built around the concept of discourse: discussion involving students, teachers, writers, readers, and critical ideas. Operative words: think, create, grow, imagine.

Key Program Features

- Whole group instruction
- Small group work
- Individual
- Work focuses on application, analysis, synthesis
- Integration of language and ideas

Looking Forward

English classes have traditionally involved reading and writing as the means by which ideas are expressed, discussed and communicated. That won’t change, but the means by which communication occurs has expanded beyond pen and paper; the world of ideas has similarly expanded and teaching along with it. We will always need places to talk and exchange ideas, but technology will help us use and find new audiences.

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Arlington Public Schools
Mathematics Department

The AHS Mathematics Department values the importance of analytic thinking, collaboration, problem solving, and integration among other disciplines.

Key Program Features

• Collaborative Based Department and Classrooms
• Aligned to State Process and Content Standards
• Learning Enhanced with Technology
• Focus on Reasoning and Sense Making
• Belief That All Students can Learn Math

Looking Forward

We are looking forward to more flexible classrooms that support student engagement through collaboration, presentation, and exploration of rich tasks.

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History and Social Studies Department

The AHS history department seeks to engage students in the study of history and social studies through authentic instruction: having students experience history through interactive, real-life based activities, perspective-taking, and a critical analysis of history that makes connections to today’s society. As part of the study of history, we also look to develop students' research, critical thinking, and writing skills as well as modeling and cultivating their ability to engage in civil discourse, leading students to be prepared to become active members of the society they live in.

Mission & Key Values

• Valuing authentic, real world experiences where students can 'do history.'
• Emphasizing historical thinking skills and mindsets
• Promoting civil discourse and collaboration among students
• Allowing students to demonstrate, synthesize, and apply their knowledge of history in line with 21st century media skills

Looking Forward

• Multimedia, interdisciplinary projects which ask students to tap into a variety of skill sets
• Revised MA History Frameworks 2019-2020 with MCAS assessment
• Focus on civics
• Original student research based upon inquiry questions

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Science Program Goals

◆ Knowledge of Core Disciplinary Concepts
  ◆ Science practices
  ◆ Science for Informed Citizenry

Key Program Features

• **Core Courses:** Physics, Biology, Chemistry
• **Lab Component**
• **Electives:** AP courses (Physics I & II, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science), Anatomy/Physiology
• **Capstone Courses (Applied, Multidisciplinary):** Environmental Science, Astronomy, Oceanography, Engineering
• **Continued addition of relevant courses** (considering: Neurobiology, Weather and Climate Change, Pharmacology, Writing in Science, History of Science)

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Looking Forward

• Connecting with applications in the real world, especially the local community
• Increased collaboration between science classes (increased common project rooms, presentation rooms, and equipment rooms)
• Interdisciplinary coursework, projects
• Increased Digital / Virtual connections (guest speakers, collaborative groups, etc.)
• Increasing lab components (engaging in the Scientific Practices – in the school and in the community)
• Heavier use of modeling scientific systems and applications
World Languages

In the World Languages Department of Arlington Public Schools, our goal is to develop in students the ability to communicate effectively, think critically, and participate actively and responsibly in a multilingual global society.

Key Program Features

- Follow ACTFL recommendation that language educators and their students use the target language as exclusively as possible (90% plus) at all levels of instruction
- Include culture as an integral component of communication
- Develop 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking & creativity by exploring other cultures and imagining the world from a different perspective

Looking Forward

World language learning will be increasingly impacted by technological advances, allowing learners to collaborate with peers throughout the world to address global challenges and issues of social justice.
Physical Education and Health

Students will demonstrate integrity, persistence, and the ability to work independently and cooperatively to attain their Physical and Mental Health Needs.

Key Program Features

- 2 classrooms. One will be used as a multi-purpose room (i.e. yoga / dance) and the other for a classroom.
- Gymnasium Space - A field house with 2 gyms, one to include climbing apparatus. Storage Closets in each.
- Fitness Room- with Storage Closets
- Locker Rooms- with Storage Closets

Looking Forward

Students will make informed responsible judgments regarding their personal, emotional and physical well-being. Ability to engage and participate in PE is the beginning of lifetime health. Healthy eating and stress relieving techniques is key to Mental and Physical Health. Students will need to develop the tools and strategies needed to attain this.

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Arlington Public Schools
Visual Arts Department

Offers a wide variety of media and techniques that encourage students to explore and strengthen their creativity and problem solving skills. The project-based curriculum is designed to develop studio thinking habits that make expressive, personal and original work possible.

Key Program Features
• Educate the whole student 🧠➕.hand➕❤️
• Emphasize reflection, critique, and exhibition
• Collaborate with other disciplines
• Foster connections to the greater Arlington community
• Build awareness of contemporary and historical artists and social issues
• Support students’ social and emotional needs

Looking Forward... Improved arts facility that supports curriculum and instruction and an overall building design that promotes integrated studies and connections with other departments (STEAM). Close proximity to a Makerspace will support collaborative teaching. “Open studios” rather than “classrooms” provide the space and equipment for students and teachers to work effectively in a choice-based program. We envision a high school that is a visual place with a large student gallery to share work.

Arlington Public Schools
Performing Arts

The Department of Performing Arts is comprised of performance programs and academic studies in music and the theatre arts. Students are engaged in hands-on authentic experiences in performing, creating, responding, and making connections between the arts and with other disciplines.

Key Program Features

• Four instrumental music ensembles focusing on band, orchestral, and jazz music
• Four choral ensembles focusing on a varied repertoire of choral and vocal music for men’s, women’s and mixed choirs
• Digital Music Technology
• Sequential courses in theatre and film studies
• Extensive co-curricular drama and musical theatre opportunities
• Multiple music and drama performance opportunities

Looking Forward

Arlington High School students have access to high quality educational programs in the performing arts that can be supported and enhanced by state-of-the-art facilities. Students learn in and experience music, drama, theatre technology, and dance in a connected and collaborative environment, are immersed in the arts, and can make connections with other disciplines.
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Students learn skills and obtain information that assists “individuals, families, and communities to make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life.”

Mission Statement from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, www.aafcs.org

Key Program Features

- FACS offers Elective opportunities in Culinary Arts, Interior and Fashion Design, and Early Childhood Education – Full and Semester courses, 1 of which meets the Fine Arts Requirement
- Student requests during registration exceed available space.
- 2 Culinary Labs, 1 Multi-purpose classroom, and students observing and collaborating with onsite daycare and preschool.
- Culinary provides opportunities for inquiry, personalization, STEAM, and hands-on application of health and living skills through guided practice and “real world” simulations.
- Have built several district and community partnerships, including internship opportunities.

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Looking Forward

Will continue to address all school and district goals for academics, as well as health and social emotional learning. We would like to expand our offerings to include more FACS content areas, as well as more sections in order to accommodate enrollment requests. Planning to continue true to life experiences, by expanding our use of inquiry, STEAM, updated lab spaces and opportunities to practice hospitality skills. This will assist us in preparing students to manage current and future roles for home, career, and community.

Arlington Public Schools
House System and Advisory

In order to create smaller communities and build relationships, the school is divided into 3 houses. Each is supervised by a House Dean. Students homerooms, advisories, and lockers are based in their house for 4 years.

Key Program Features

• 3 House Dean’s - attendance, discipline, support teachers
• House Offices
• Advisory/Homeroom by house (alphabetical)
• Weekly advisory activities (connections, communication, climate, culture)

Looking Forward

The future school should allow the school to be grouped into communities and to support small group activities. Specifically we would like 3-4 houses, homerooms, and advisory/small group activities. House Offices that are central to the houses, but not remote from each other.
Key Guidance Program Features

• Social Emotional/Post Secondary/Transition/Academic/Personal individual and group Counseling
• Collaboration with Deans, Special Education, Nurse, Teachers, Social Workers, Parents, Community Members, outside agencies, students, colleges and universities
• Individual student counseling-est. 280 students for each of 5 GC
• Developmental Guidance Curriculum - group seminars by grade level utilizing web based program (Naviance)
• Evening Parent programs to correspond with Dev. Guid. Curr.
• Host college representatives during school day and at annual college fair
• Support course selection/course change/ scheduling process
• Coordinate meetings, write and manage Section 504 Accommodation Plans
• Referrals for internal crisis intervention/social work support

Key Social Work Program Features

These clinicians meet with upwards of 200 students per year. They also supervise and oversee the Harbor and Shortstop Programs which support students with short and longer term medical and mental health issues. These programs are staffed in addition by 3 full-time staff members. Social workers work in close daily contact with the guidance counselors, nurses, deans and teachers to support students in need. Our social workers also engage in wellness programming for our student body at large in the hopes of raising awareness around mental health issues and decreasing the stigma associated with asking for help.

Looking Forward

We envision supporting all students to find balance and self care during adolescence, and to approach teens from a non-judgmental and caring place.

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Arlington Public Schools
Special Education Department

Special education services are designed to meet the individual and diverse learning, social, and emotional needs of students who require specialized instruction, and/or related services, in order to access the general education curriculum, take part in the life of a high school student, and meet the local/state graduation requirements.

Key Program Features
* Instruction and service delivery, through the use of research- and evidence-based best practices and collaboration, with general education colleagues in development of rigorous lessons, monitoring of student progress, and adjustments made to instruction.
* Emphasis on students learning alongside of non-disabled peers through a co-teaching model when appropriate.
* Coordinated and individualized secondary transition services in preparation for post-secondary education, competitive employment, independent living, and community participation.

Looking Forward
* Classroom instruction and facilities designed to enable educators to amplify the learning experience and reach the variability of all learners using a framework of Universal Design for Learning (UDL).
* Programming and facilities to provide instruction in areas of Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and transition planning to meet the needs of students through the age of twenty two within their neighborhood school.
* Emphasis on student self-actualization and advocacy through ownership of their individual learning needs.
English Learner Education Program

The ELL program is an educational program for English language learners to ensure that students demonstrate consistent progression and growth towards English language development while also learning content area knowledge.

Key Program Features

• English language instruction that is tailored to the individual linguistic, cultural, and educational needs of the student.
• Specific teaching and learning strategies that assist students in learning English while also learning mainstream content curriculum.

Looking Forward

The ELE program at Arlington High School will continue to build on students’ backgrounds with high academic rigor and expectations, while simultaneously developing English language proficiency, content knowledge, and positive self-concept in students.

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Interdisciplinary Makerspace

A maker community can best thrive with facilities that nurture its growth. The makerspace is a “library”, a shared resource center for building things.

Key Program Features

• Open Workshop
• Traditional Woodworking Tools
• Digital Tools (Laser cutter, 3d Printer, Plotter, Vinyl Cutter)
• Specialty Labs (CADD, Digital Media, Digital Music, Fashion Design, Culinary Labs, Ceramics, Art rooms)
• STEAM Design Thinking Certificate

Looking Forward

The makerspaces should allow students to work with contemporary tools and technologies that help realize their ideas and support forward thinking pedagogy and project based learning. Specific needs include adjacencies to specialty labs, a central makerspace, and a library project room.

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Arlington Public Schools
Instructional Technology

We believe in a style of learning that acknowledges that technology is always with us and so our new building must go “Beyond 1 to 1”.

Beyond 1 to 1 means:

- Students often use more than one device
- A vastly robust wireless infrastructure, always
- Mobile and flexible access to technology
- Adaptable and flexible learning spaces
- A variety of devices for a variety of purposes

Looking Forward, We Believe:

- The value of information technology far outweighs potential risks.
- In solid citizenship and solid learning in a digital age.
- Students must leverage existing and emerging technologies to thrive in the 21st century.
- In a style of learning that acknowledges technology is always with us.
METCO (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) Program:

Provide students with educational opportunities designed to enrich their academic, personal and interpersonal experiences. It’s the program’s belief that the METCO experience should provide a strong academic foundation, as well as an academic environment rich in cultural, educational, ethnic and racial diversity.

2017-18 school year, we have 76 student district-wide. Arlington Public School was one of the first seven districts, which participated in the METCO Program in 1966.
Extra Curricular
Library Learning Commons

Our mission is to empower students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information. The library is the heart of the school, with space, resources, and services to support the intellectual and social life of AHS.

Key Program Features

• Multi-use spaces meet a wide range of simultaneous learning activities
• Student-centered and accessible with comfortable seating, social/quiet zones, display space, and student involvement
• Print, online, media, and tech resources support research, reading, and making

Looking Forward

While printed books still play a role, the library has evolved as a hub for project-based learning and interdisciplinary inquiry. It is flexible, open, and inclusive. Future learners actively construct new information; they come to read, research, socialize, tinker, collaborate, and create. The library is a point of pride for the entire school community.
Support Staff
Arlington Community Education

ACE is a program of the APS that is completely supported by tuition received from our courses. We offer enrichment programs for children and adults after school and in the evenings at AHS. Our offices and the majority of our programs are at AHS.

Key Program Features
- 450+ Adult programs/year,
- 270+ Youth programs/year
- 4000+ youth/adults served annually
- Classes in business, technology, arts, culinary, fitness, music, languages, wellness, writing
- College and test prep/Driver’s Ed/HiSet prep
- 80+ APS teachers hired as instructors for youth and adult programming; hire AHS teen assistants

Looking Forward
Our vision is to expand opportunities to learn and connect for ALL members of our community. The growth of our thriving programs is only limited by access to space within the school buildings.

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Preschool