

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD  
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
February 27, 2025**

**FOR ACTION**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 4727

**SUBJECT:** Approve [New/Revised Courses](#)

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** The Board is being asked to adopt the following new courses:

New Course Name	Department
AP Seminar	ELA K-12

**Background Information**

**AP Seminar**

This course brings an innovative approach that utilizes student-centered learning and project-based assessments to the existing English 10 course. The course framework emphasizes 21<sup>st</sup>-century workforce skills, making AP Seminar a crucial part of preparing students for their futures

New Course Name	Department
Fibers 2	Fine Arts K-12

**Background Information**

**Fibers 2**

Fibers 2 builds on Fibers 1, expanding skills in fiber arts. Topics include fashion, garment construction, and historical influences. Students conduct a sustained investigation in their specialty, developing a design plan for a custom garment using new techniques. The course emphasizes advanced skills, creativity, and refined craftsmanship through two long-term projects.

New Course Name	Department
Human Behavior HN	Social Studies K-12

**Background Information**

**Human Behavior HN**

The curriculum is identical to the current, Introduction to Psychology (HN). Only the title is changing.

New Course Name	Department
Anatomy & Physiology HN	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Anatomy & Physiology HN**

As interest in healthcare careers continues to rise among our students, it is essential to provide them with rigorous, in-depth learning experiences that align with their aspirations. Expanding Anatomy and Physiology from a semester course to a full-year offering allows students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the structure and function of the human body while better preparing them for postsecondary studies and careers in health and medical fields.

New Course Name	Department
Organic Medical Chemistry HN	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Organic Medical Chemistry HN**

Expanding the existing one-semester Organic Chemistry course into a full-year Medical Organic Chemistry Honors (HN) course will provide students with a more in-depth, rigorous, and engaging learning experience while increasing enrollment and interest in the class. This change will better support students by allowing for more comprehensive coverage of content, additional hands-on laboratory experiences, and stronger connections to real-world applications in medicine and healthcare.

New Course Name	Department
Science Research I HN	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Science Research I HN**

The decision to transition the Science Research Program from a three-year sequence to a two-year honors-level program is based on several key factors that enhance student engagement, maintain rigor, and improve overall program effectiveness.

New Course Name	Department
Science Research 2 HN	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Science Research 2 HN**

The decision to transition the Science Research Program from a three-year sequence to a two-year honors-level program is based on several key factors that enhance student engagement, maintain rigor, and improve overall program effectiveness.

New Course Name	Department
AP Cybersecurity	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **AP Cybersecurity**

In an increasingly digital world, cybersecurity has become a critical field with growing career opportunities and a pressing need for skilled professionals. By introducing AP Cybersecurity: Networking, we aim to provide students with a rigorous, industry-aligned course that prepares them for both college-level coursework and real-world career pathways in cybersecurity and information technology.

New Course Name	Department
Algebra 2/Data Science	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Algebra 2/Data Science**

The Integrated Algebra 2/Data Science course is designed to support students who have successfully completed Algebra 1 and Geometry but may struggle with the traditional Algebra 2 curriculum. Many students find Algebra 2 to be a significant challenge due to its abstract nature and the level of algebraic manipulation required. This course provides a more accessible, applicable, and engaging alternative that allows students to continue developing essential mathematical skills while integrating real-world applications through data science.

New Course Name	Department
Calculus 3 & Linear Algebra	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Calculus 3 & Linear Algebra**

The integration of Multivariable Calculus (Calculus 3) and Introductory Linear Algebra into a single, year-long course provides a more cohesive and structured approach to advanced mathematics education at the high school level. This change is designed to enhance student learning, improve pacing, and create a more interconnected understanding of key mathematical concepts that are foundational in higher education and STEM fields.

New Course Name	Department
Environmental Earth Science	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Environmental Earth Science**

The Environmental Earth Science course is designed to provide an accessible and engaging third-year science option for students who may struggle with or are not interested in traditional lab-based courses such as Chemistry or Physics. This course aligns with the New Jersey Next Generation Science Standards (NJ NGSS) while offering a curriculum that is both rigorous and adaptable to diverse learning needs

New Course Name	Department
Forensics	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Forensics**

The dual enrollment Forensic Science course will provide students with a unique and rigorous academic experience that bridges the gap between science, technology, and criminal justice. By partnering with NJIT, this course will offer students the opportunity to earn college credits while gaining hands-on experience in forensic investigations, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving.

New Course Name	Department
Environmental Science HN	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Environmental Science HN**

Offering Environmental Science as a full-year dual enrollment course provides students with a more comprehensive and immersive learning experience than a half-year option. Environmental science is a multidisciplinary field that requires a strong foundation in scientific principles, data analysis, and real-world application.

New Course Name	Department
Physics HN	STEM 9-12

### **Background Information**

#### **Physics HN**

The revision of the Honors Physics curriculum aims to enhance the rigor, depth, and engagement of the course, ensuring that it better prepares students for advanced STEM studies and careers. By refining the curriculum to align more closely with college-level expectations, industry advancements, and modern pedagogical approaches, this course will challenge students to think critically, solve complex problems, and apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios.