

CURRICULUM PLANNING

The courses offered at Fairview High School allow the student to choose from the following broad areas of study. They are listed in order from more fundamental to most challenging. The heaviest workload is with the Advanced Placement program.

THE APPLIED CURRICULUM

prepares students who intend to enter the workforce and/or a technical school directly from high school.

THE TECHNICAL CURRICULUM

requires students to spend a half day at the Erie County Technical School while in grades ten through twelve. Students also take two classes per day at Fairview High School.

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM

prepares students for advanced study at two or four year post-secondary institutions.

THE HONORS PROGRAM

is designed to meet the needs of high-achieving students of the secondary school.

THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

is designed to provide the high-achieving students an opportunity to enroll in a college-level course while still in high school. Students in this program may opt to take the appropriate AP exam at the end of the course, receiving college credits with a successful score.

An Honors or AP curriculum includes the following:

- Weighted grade point factor
- Greater academic peer cooperation
- Emphasis on higher level thinking skills
- Opportunity to take college-level courses
- Possibility of receiving college credit
- Enhancement of transcript
- Increased opportunity for scholarships and college admissions at competitive universities

SPECIAL CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

Distance Learning

Students at Fairview High School have the opportunity to participate in distance learning courses. These courses may be offered online, via videoconference, or a combination of both modalities. Students will have the opportunity to take courses that are not typically offered at FHS or are only offered on a limited basis. Course topics may include, but are not limited to, Criminology, U.S. Government, Anatomy, Mythology, Architecture, World Languages, and Geography.

Independent Study Contract A student may request to complete a course under the individual direction of a teacher if the course is already included in our Course of Studies. A written contract agreement will be completed between the student and the teacher with approval of the parents, counselor, and principal (A copy of this form is found at the end of this book). Students will not automatically be granted approval for an independent study. Students will not be permitted to

receive credit unless a detailed plan of action is outlined to the principal. Course credit will be received when the teacher designates that all contracted work is completed. Independent study will be granted by the principal in exceptional cases only. Credit will count toward graduation.

NOTE: The principal must approve all requests for independent study contracts. Students will not be permitted to exceed recommended credits per year to gain advantage in class rankings. **Only ONE AP or Honors level class may be taken via independent study per student per year. Required classes may not be waived to take Independent Study.**

The Teacher's Assistant Service Contract. Juniors or seniors who have a grade point average of a B (for all courses) and who do not have a negative disciplinary record (including attendance problems) may put their name on a list with the guidance department if they wish to be considered for an assistant's position. These positions may include helping in the operations of the school day, i.e. in the front office, library, audio visual department, science or art labs, etc. under the direction of an approved staff member. A written contract agreement will be completed between the student and the advisor with approval of the parents, counselor, and principal (A copy of this form is found at the end of this book). Course credit may be earned when the contract is completed, yet students may elect to serve the school without electing to receive credit or a grade. Service contract credit will count towards graduation credits. **Students grades will be pass or fail and will not affect GPA.**

Work Experience Opportunity

This program is for seniors who are employed during the school day and would like the opportunity to work during school hours. To be eligible they must be able to complete 29 credits by the end of their senior year and to have not had any attendance and/or disciplinary issues during the senior year.

In order to qualify for work experience, the student's employer must provide a letter requesting that the student be released during the school day. The parent must also provide a permission letter. Once granted permission for work release, proof of continued employment is required in the form of a paycheck stub shown to guidance every other week.

If a student's employment status changes either through being laid off or fired, or if the student decides s/he no longer wants to work, the student will be required to return to Fairview High School and complete the credits through cyber course(s).

The maximum number of periods the student can be on work release is two per day. Work experience is only available during the second semester. Although this experience can be very valuable for the student, no school credits are earned for it.

Regional Choice Initiative [RCI]

Juniors or seniors who meet the criteria to take AP classes at Fairview are eligible to take RCI classes which are college courses offered off-site at local universities.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REGIONAL CHOICE INITIATIVE
(RCI) (DUAL ENROLLMENT) 2010-11**

1) What is RCI? Why would I be interested? RCI is a program that enables Fairview juniors and seniors to earn college credits at a reduced cost. There are many reasons to take RCI classes. The classes are taught by college and university professors and are an excellent introduction to college level work. Some classes Fairview High School is unable to offer can be taken through RCI. All RCI classes will receive AP weight.

2) What are the criteria for attending RCI, and how do I enroll? The criteria for attending RCI classes are: 1) no more than five absences the previous semester 2) no grades lower than a B- in college prep classes or a B in honors classes the previous semester and all electives passed with a C or higher 3) no suspensions or disciplinary problems the previous semester.

Students who do meet the criteria may pick up an application in the guidance office, complete it and return it to the guidance office as soon as possible. Students who do not meet these requirements will not be permitted to enroll in the RCI classes or not be permitted to attend if their status changes during the semester prior to the beginning of the RCI classes.

3) What classes can I take, and will they replace required classes at Fairview? You are not permitted to take the same class at RCI and Fairview. These would include, but not be limited to, AP Language and Composition, and AP Calculus. Juniors are required to remain at Fairview for their communications, science and SAT prep/Computer Applications II, and wellness classes. RCI classes can be used to meet the senior math, communications, science, or social studies requirements or electives and junior electives.

If you have been in the honors and/or AP curriculum at Fairview, we recommend that you take the Fairview communications, science and math classes. If you are planning on majoring in a career that involves a lot of science or math (medicine, engineering) do NOT take RCI math and science classes because these MAY not transfer.

4) What colleges and universities are participating and how expensive is a class? What about books? Edinboro and Gannon offer classes at the Skill Center and on their campuses for \$375 per 3 credit course. Penn State-Behrend and Mercyhurst offer classes on their campuses for approximately \$350 per 3 credit course. Fairview School District applies for a grant each year that reduces the cost of tuition. For the past few years, the final cost of each class has ranged from nothing to \$300.00/class. It is unknown until each spring what the final cost will be. You will be responsible for purchasing your text books. This can be done either through the universities' bookstores or online. Please keep your receipts for the books since there may be some additional funding that will permit partial reimbursement.

5) *Where are the classes being held? How do I get there and can I drive?*

There are two sites for RCI classes: the Skill Center and local campuses. Most of our students are enrolled in the classes held at the Skill Center, which is on the campus of the Erie County Technical School. Other Fairview students take classes on the college/university campuses. If you attend classes at the Skill Center, you will be able to ride the tech school bus to your classes. You leave at approximately 7:25 AM and return around 11:15 AM. You are permitted to drive to the Skill Center if you have written permission from your parents. If you attend classes on a campus, you will be responsible for your own transportation.

6) *When do the classes meet? How long are they? Where will the students come from? How many Fairview students are going?*

At the Skill Center, the classes are either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday mornings. On campuses, the schedule will vary. The fall classes begin in the last week of August and end in the middle of December. The spring classes begin in the middle of January and end in early May. Each class is approximately 80 minutes. At the Skill Center, students come from all the county schools. There were approximately 33 Fairview students who attended the Skill Center and five who attended classes on the campuses during 2009-10.

7) *What do I do when I don't have a class?* With your parent's permission, you will not be required to come to school on the mornings of the days you don't have class. If you do come, you will be required to remain in the library until your third period class. In the past, some RCI students have been disruptive and "hanging out" in the library. If you are in the library, you must have work to do.

8) *Who is teaching the classes and how hard will they be?* The university professors will be teaching the classes. As with our faculty, some professors are more demanding than others. However, these are college level classes. You will be required to purchase college textbooks for the class and a great deal of independent reading will be required. For the most part, the curriculum followed in the RCI classes is the identical curriculum being taught on the campuses. Although there may be a few homework assignments or quizzes, term papers and tests will determine your grade. There is very little, if any, opportunity for "extra credit" or "make up" work.

9) *What happens if I don't like the class? Will I be reimbursed if I drop out?*

Each university has its own policy about dropping classes. Usually, you will have two sessions to decide if you want to remain in the class. If you decide you do not like the class you can either return to Fairview High School or try and take a different RCI class. If you drop out after the second session, you will be responsible for the full cost of the class.

10) *How do I get my transcripts to take to my college or university? Are you SURE the credits will transfer?*

It will be your responsibility to obtain your transcripts from the college or university that sponsored your class. This can usually

be done online. It is our recommendation that you obtain your transcripts the summer before your freshmen year at college.

The director of RCI and the Fairview guidance counselors have contacted dozens of universities to ask about the acceptance of transfer credits. We have found that the highly competitive colleges may not accept ANY transfer credits, but most of the RCI classes will transfer to the majority of colleges or universities. The classes that are the most difficult to transfer are the math and science classes. If you know what college you will be attending, the guidance counselor can call the admission office of your perspective college and discuss what classes would transfer.

11) Who should I contact if I have questions? General RCI questions should be addressed to Mrs. George, the Fairview High School guidance counselor who is in charge of the program. Her phone number is 474-2600 ext. 93113. The IU supervisor of the program is Carol Buckleitner and her phone number is 734-8429. Mary Jones at the IU is in charge of scheduling. Her number is 734-8442.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS / SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Fairview School District is committed to providing programs and services that meet individual student needs. The Pennsylvania Department of Education's policies and procedures define the process for accessing special education services. The law supports parent involvement in these procedures, and we require parent input in every phase of the educational process. These procedures include an initial referral to our building level Support Team with possible evaluation if needed. This evaluation may result in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Service Plan addressing recommendations for specially designed instruction.

The Fairview School District believes that students with special needs are best served in the general educational setting using special education resources (such as our Learning Support teachers) to supplement and support the regular education process. Special programs tailored to meet our students' educational needs include: Gifted Support, Autistic Support, Learning Support, Speech and Hearing support and Emotional Support. Other consultative services are contracted through the Intermediate Unit including: a physical therapist, occupational therapist, deaf and hard of hearing consultant, vision consultant, and assistive technology services.

SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Students will begin scheduling in late winter/early spring for the following school year. Guidance counselors will meet with the students in a group setting to explain the overall scheduling process including any requirements pertaining to their grade level. Special programs such as Technical education and RCI will be discussed. The counselors, having specific recommendations from the students' core course teachers as well as test scores, will meet individually with each student to formulate his/her schedule including any electives. Students will be asked to review the course requests with their parents, who will be required to sign the document. A draft of schedules will be distributed before students leave for summer vacation. Students and parents are free to subsequently discuss the schedule with guidance counselors, but there will be an effort to keep changes to a minimum. A final schedule will be given to every student on the first day of school in homeroom. After the classes begin, students have a period of 5 class days to request to add-drop classes. These requests may or may not be granted depending on the reasons, student academic and behavior history, and seat availability. When students are requesting a change from a weighted class to an unweighted class (or vice versa) parental completion of a change form is required. **NOTE: A**

student may not drop a course if it will result in fewer than the required four (4) credits minimum per semester unless there are extenuating circumstances and have the approval of an administrator.

Fairview has a four 80-minute period day. It is the type of Block Schedule in which students take these four classes everyday for an entire semester. At the change of the semester a student will move on to a new set of classes. It is required that a student schedule four (4) periods per day each semester to obtain necessary credits for graduation.

Study halls are not offered. A student who fails a required subject should include it on his/her course selection for the following semester or make plans to take it in summer school. For students enrolled in the college prep or honors curriculum a foreign language should be scheduled a minimum of two semesters but four semesters are recommended.

Summer School

Courses in math, communications, social studies, and science, (and possibly other subjects depending on need), will be offered as remedial and credit recovery classes for students in summer school. These courses will receive a pass/fail grade. Registration for these courses is done through the guidance department. Courses are taught via computer assisted learning site with in-class teacher facilitators.