

# OYSTER BAY – EAST NORWICH CSD



## High School Electives Update

*Board of Education Meeting: November 3, 2015*

*Presented by Dr. Dennis O'Hara*



# **Board of Education Goal**

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- **Ensure that the instructional program is rigorous and relevant in order to increase student engagement, participation, and recognition across offerings including courses, academic competitions, and co-curricular activities**



# Goals of this Presentation

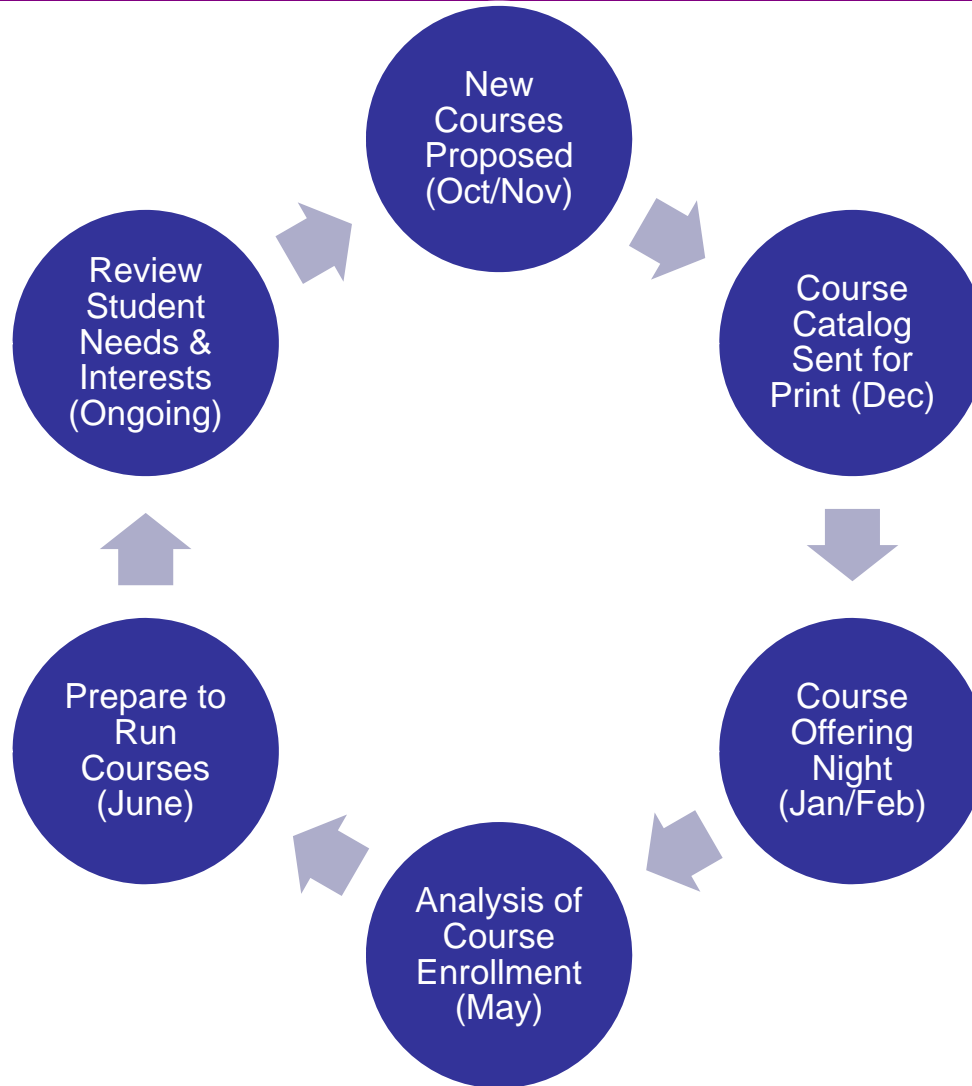
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- **Quickly explain timeline for making changes to the course catalog and creating the master schedule**
- **Review where we have been (2011 and 2013 presentations)**
- **List new courses that were offered and new courses that are running this year**
- **Share what we are currently investigating**



# Process of Adding New Courses

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# Elective Offerings



# Previous and New Steps

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- **Continually review offerings in our school and make inquiries with surrounding districts and schools like us (comparable in size and grade configuration)**
- **Surveyed students in the past (we and will do so again in the coming weeks)**
- **Network with Universities and industry representatives**
- **Invite returning graduates to participate in a focus group**
- **Make revisions and additions**



# Past Survey of Seniors:

(Refresher)

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- Which elective was your favorite? Please explain why.
- Which elective was the most valuable? Why?
- Which electives would you recommend to classmates? Why?
- Which electives do you think we should remove from the course offerings? Why?
- Do you know of any electives or courses that should be added? Why do you think they should be added?



# Update on Electives

(Refresher)

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- **Additions**
  - **International Business**
  - **E-Commerce**
  - **AP Psychology**
  - **Accounting**
  - **Sport and Fitness Training**
- **Updates/Replacements**
  - **Computer Essentials for College (Computer Essentials)**
  - **Sociology: Contemporary Social and Political Issues (Sociology)**





# Do You know of Any Courses or Electives You Would Like Added?

(Refresher)

- Engineering (2)
  - Dream Analysis
- ~~Business Law~~ (Constitutional Law)
  - Woodworking
  - Film Making (3)
- Something in math (math research)
  - Foreign language (3)
  - Business Management
  - Cooking
- More Phys. Ed.
  - International Relations
  - Art History
  - Life Situations
    - Mortgage, insurance, taxes
- Typing
- Auto Shop
- AP Economics
- AP Comparative Politics
- Fashion Design (2)
- More AP courses (more to come)
  - Public Speaking & Debate
  - More ASL opportunities
- AP Psychology
  - Anatomy
  - An elective for potential teachers
- LGBTO
- First Aid or medical class
- Technology (Updates to Cisco Curriculum)



# Currently Investigating in 2013

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- Adding more college-level courses
- Advanced Placement Offerings
  - Environmental Science
  - Calculus BC
  - Other math offerings
- Physical Education Curriculum (life-long activities)
  - Yoga
  - Cross Fit
  - Mountain biking
  - Exercise Science (College Level)
  - Kayaking (Stand-up Paddle Board)
  - Engineering Program (*added elective last year and college engineering this year*)



# What Are We Working on Now?

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- **Working to increase courses which offer college credit**
  - **Astronomy, Environmental Science, Forensic Science**
  - **Economics, Sociology, Intro to Legal Studies**
- **Adding to our pool of elective offerings**
  - **ELA**
    - **Finding Your Voice: The Digital Portfolio**
  - **Computer Science and Programming**
    - **Robotics and Arduinos, 3-D Unity Game Design**
  - **Geography**
- **Embarking on the Advanced Placement Capstone Program**



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AP Capstone™



# What is AP Capstone?

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- Innovative diploma program
- Two courses designed to complement discipline-specific study in AP content courses
  - AP Seminar
  - AP Research
- Focus on independent research, collaborative teamwork and communication skills





# Proposed Offering @ OBHS

## AP Seminar

- Grade 10
- English Department
- Satisfies English 10 requirement

## AP Research

- Grade 12
- English Department
  - Combination of Mr. Weber and others
- Stand-Alone course
- Pre-requisite: AP Seminar

Students who earn a 3 or greater on the AP Seminar and AP Research exams AND earn scores of 3 or greater on four additional AP exams will receive a **CAPSTONE DIPLOMA.**



# AP Seminar

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- Foundational course
  - Cross curricular conversations
  - Academic and real-world topics
  - Analysis of divergent perspectives
- Framework for exploring issues/topics
  - **Q**uestion and explore
  - **U**nderstand and analyze arguments
  - **E**valuate multiple perspectives
  - **S**ynthesize ideas
  - **T**eam, transform and transmit



# AP Research

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- Allows deep exploration of an academic topic, problem or issue of individual interest
- Students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research based investigation to address a research question
- Builds and furthers skills acquired in AP Seminar
- Utilizes appropriate discipline-specific research methods (ie: qualitative, quantitative, mixed)
- Course culminates in a 4,000 – 5,000 word paper and a presentation and defense





# AP Capstone Benefits

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- Limited program offering with a rigorous selection process
- Distinction for students in college application process
- Distinction for Oyster Bay HS
- Increased analytic, research, problem-solving and communication skills which colleges seek in applicants and are necessary in today's world
- Alignment with Common Core Learning Standards