

Glen Rock Curriculum Update August 2022

Greg Van Nest, Assistant Superintendent



Curriculum Work

REVISIONS

Revisions to meet 2020
New Jersey State Learning
Standards

NEW COURSES

- Middle School
Reimagined Plan
- High School Courses

Curriculum Process



Current New Jersey Student Learning Standards

2020 Career Readiness, Life
Literacies and Key Skills

2020 Science

2020 Social Studies

2020 Comprehensive Health &
Physical Education

2020 Visual and Performing Arts

2020 Computer Science and Design
Thinking

2020 World Languages

2016 English Language Arts*

2016 Mathematics*



**Currently under review by the New Jersey Department of Education.*

Physical Education and Health

- Align all curriculum to 2020 NJSLs
 - Competencies are now split into four grade bands (instead of six):
 - End of 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 12th grade
 - 3 Standards (instead of 6)
 - Personal and Mental Health
 - Physical Wellness
 - Safety
- Implementation is required by September of 2022
- Includes all Legislative Statutes enacted between 2014 and 2020



Physical Education and Health

- Focus: Age and developmental appropriateness
- Curriculum writing team included Health and Physical Education teachers, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education and the Assistant Superintendent
- Elementary lessons will be taught by:
 - Physical Education and Health Teachers
 - Nurses



Parents/Guardians have the option of excluding their child from any portion of instruction of health or family life if it is in conflict with their conscience, morals, or religiously held beliefs. (NJ Statute - Section 18A:35-4.7)

Click [here](#) to access enduring understandings, essential questions, content and skills for all Health Units.

Personal Growth and Development

Social Health

Emotional Health

Nutrition

Personal Safety

Health Conditions/Diseases

Kindergarten Health Topics

Personal Growth and Development

Social Health

Emotional Health

Community Health Services and Support

Nutrition

Personal Safety

Health Conditions/Diseases

First Grade Health Topics

Personal Growth and Development

Social Health

Reproduction

Emotional Health

Community Health Services and Support

Nutrition

Personal Safety

Health Conditions/Diseases

Second Grade Health Topics

Personal Growth and Development

Social/Sexual Health

Human Reproduction/Pregnancy

Emotional Health

Community Health Services and Support

Nutrition

Personal Safety

Health Conditions, Diseases, and Medicines

Intro to Tobacco/Alcohol

Third Grade Health Topics

Personal Growth and Development/Adolescence

Social and Sexual Health/Gender Identity

Human Reproduction/Pregnancy

Emotional Health

Community Health Services and Support

Nutrition

Personal Safety

Health Conditions, Diseases, and Medicines

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Dependency, Substances Disorder, and Treatment

Fourth Grade Health Topics

Personal Growth and Development/Adolescence

Social and Sexual Health/Gender Identity

Human Reproduction/Parenting

Emotional Health

Community Health Services and Support

Nutrition

Personal Safety

Health Conditions, Diseases, and Medicines

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Dependency, Substances Disorder, and Treatment

Fifth Grade Health Topics

First Aid Introduction

Yoga and Mindfulness

Respiratory, Heimlich Maneuver, CPR, Healthy Heart

Musculoskeletal System and Injuries

HIB

Character Education

The Family

Human Sexuality and Reproduction

Nutrition and Wellness

Sixth Grade Health Topics

Yoga and Mindfulness

Character Education

Nutrition

Eating Disorders

HIB

Abuse and Sexual Assault

Human Relationships and Sexuality

Substance Abuse

Body Systems

HIV/AIDS

Human Sexuality

Seventh Grade Health Topics

Nutrition

Yoga and Mindfulness

Drugs and Alcohol

Eating Disorders

HIB

Character Education

Substance Abuse

HIV/AIDS

Human Relationships and Sexuality

Abuse and Sexual Assault

Eighth Grade Health Topics

Teen Wellness

Integrated Skills (Teen Issues, HIB, etc.)

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

CPR/First Aid

Human Relationships and Sexuality

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Ninth Grade Health Topics

License System, Testing, Rules

Regulations and Defensive Driving

Alcohol, Drugs and Violations

Vehicle Info, Sharing Road, Safety

Tenth Grade Health Topics (Driver's Ed)

Wellness and Diseases

Mental Health and Wellness

Human Relationships and Sexuality

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Eleventh Grade Health Topics

Integrated Relationship Skills

Relationship Abuse/Violence

Healthy Life Skills

Community and Global Health Issues

Family Relationships, Pregnancy, Parenting

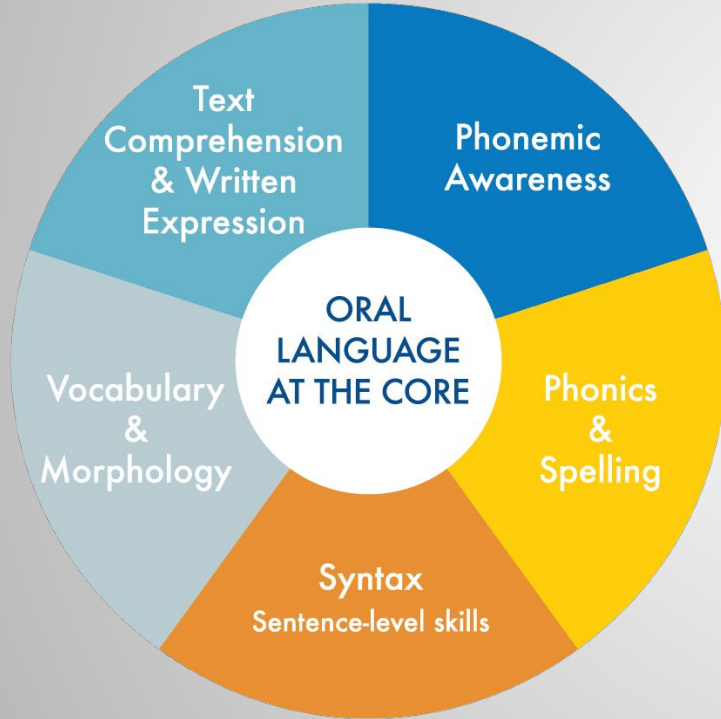
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Twelfth Grade Health Topics

Sample Health Topics Letter



World Languages



- Align all curriculum to 2020 NJSL
- Scope and sequence articulation between the middle school and high school language programs
- Outcomes and essential learnings aligned to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) with a focus on fluency assessments and oral language usage

Middle School Visual and Performing Arts

- Align all courses to 2020 NJSL Standards
 - Band 6
 - Band 7
 - Band 8
 - Choir 7
 - Choir 8
 - Music 6
 - Orchestra
- New courses as part of our Middle School Reimagined Plan
 - Music Legends
 - Guitar Academy
 - Songwriter's Workshop
 - Broadway Workshop
 - Dramatic Storytelling & Improvisation
 - Advanced Acting Techniques
 - Creative Dramatics
 - Foundations of Art
 - Drawing and Painting
 - Sculpture and Ceramics
 - Art and Design

High School Visual and Performing Arts

- Align to 2020 NJSL Standards

- Art & Design
- Art Major I
- Art Major II
- Art Major III H
- Media Arts
- Art History
- Interior Design
- Web Design
- Web Design II
- Web Design III
- Drawing and Painting
- Graphic Design
- Graphic Design Advanced
- Sculpture II



- Sculpture / Ceramics
- Sculpture / Ceramics Advanced
- Digital Photo I
- Digital Photo II
- Digital Photo III
- Digital Photo III Honors
- Music Theory I
- Music Theory II
- Music Theory III
- Music Theory IV
- Orchestra
- High School Concert Band
- Concert Choir
- Honors Concert Choir
- Music Production I

Language Arts

- Elementary Language Arts

- K-5 reading revision, done in conjunction with Social Studies; Interdisciplinary Committee of 20+ elem educators including classroom teachers, reading specialists, and special education teachers
 - Looked for opportunities for content overlap, as well as places to emphasize literacy skills across content areas
- Focus on aligning the scope and sequence to the recently revised writing curriculum; complementary units allow for opportunities to model writing in reading instruction
- Ongoing → first three units completed in each grade level

- Middle School Language Arts

- 6th grade → revisions to support the disaggregation of the block while maintaining alignment in reading and writing, refreshing text selection, and emphasizing skill development
- 7th grade → revisions to support Writer's Workshop as it moved from an elective to a fully supported course; focus on aligning curriculum with ELA to support growth in reading and writing skills

- High School English

- 9th grade → focus on creating a cohesive narrative and scope and sequence of skill-building throughout the year, while writing a curriculum that has flexibility for teachers to respond to students' needs
- 11th grade → units updated to reflect skill-building for benchmark assessments

Social Studies

- Align all courses to 2020 NJSL Standards to which the Social Studies Practices have been added as the throughlines for K-12 curriculum
 - Developing Questions and Planning Inquiry
 - Gathering and Evaluating Sources
 - Seeking Diverse Perspectives
 - Developing Claims and Using Evidence
 - Presenting Arguments and Explanations
 - Engaging in Civil Discourse and Critiquing Conclusions
 - Taking Informed Action
- Summer 2022 Revisions and Alignment
 - K-5
 - 6-8
 - World History (9th Grade)

Social Studies - Elementary

- Inquiry-based learning per the NJSLS Social Studies Practices
- TCI for K-2, InquirED for 3-5
- Emphasis on civic-mindedness and being an engaged and active citizen across K-5, with emphasis on taking informed action in 3-5
- Intentional connections made between reading and social studies
- 3 units for each grade level
 - One unit completed this summer, Interdisciplinary Reading and Social Studies Committee will continue to build out the units over the course of the 22-23 year
- Horizontal alignment of content across all four schools in line with new bands of standards

Social Studies - Middle and High School

- Middle School Social Studies

- Renewed focus on skills of argument construction and defense, per the NJSL Social Studies Practices
- Implementation of Laura Wooten's Law (mandate of one semester of civics in middle school)
 - Last marking period of 6th grade - foundational ideals and documents
 - First marking period of 7th grade - active citizenship and digital and media literacy
- Thematic instruction in World History (8th Grade)

- High School Social Studies

- Thematic instruction in World History (9th Grade)
 - Renewed focus on critical reading, writing, argumentation skills
- New courses:
 - Dictators, Human Rights and Social Justice
 - 20th century history, with emphasis on taking informed action as global citizens
 - Alternates every other year with AP European History
 - Introduction to Human Behavior
 - Psychology/Sociology
 - Replaces Introduction to Psychology
 - Students may take this course before taking AP Psychology, but not a prerequisite

Mathematics - Middle School

- New and revised curricula for Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8, and Algebra I.
- New curriculum support materials including *BIG IDEAS: Modeling in Real Life* and *Desmos Math Curriculum* implemented for the 22-23 SY.
- Goals for implementation of new curricula and curriculum support materials include:
 - Providing students with a supportive, comprehensive, and cohesive 6-8 mathematics experience.
 - Promoting consistently within and across grade levels in mathematics teaching and learning.
 - Building a bridge between K-5 and 9-12 mathematics.

BIG IDEAS: Modeling in Real Life

Rigor Through a Balanced Approach

Conceptual Understanding and Procedural Fluency

A truly rigorous program provides a balance of the three aspects of rigor: conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application. Every lesson in the *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life* program was intentionally written with the following elements to support this balance.



Desmos Curriculum Equity Principles:

- ★ Help every student learn math and love learning math.
- ★ Support the development of a more equitable math education system.

Special Education- High School Learning Strategies

- Revisions completed to reflect scaffolded instruction for 9th-12th grade students based upon feedback from teachers of the multi-graded learning strategies classes
- Units include:
 - Introductory Unit
 - Executive Functioning
 - Learning and Study Strategies
 - Social-Emotional Learning
 - IEP Awareness
- Creation of common assessments for all classes
 - Additional alignment of instructional strategies and resources
- Renewed focus on preparing students for success post-high school
 - When selecting resources and content, emphasis was placed on providing gradual supports to students to best prepare them for post-high school transitions and college and career readiness



MS Technology Electives

- **Align all courses to 2020 NJSLS Standards**
- **New Middle School Courses to align with Middle School Reimagined Plan**
- **Developed 3 new Middle School electives**
 - ***Technology and Innovation*** - 6th grade (quarter)
 - Replaces Computer Fundamentals 6
 - Focus on game design and development
 - Created activities on learning game design platforms, animation, sprites, movement, counters and logistics
 - ***Introduction to Coding*** - 7th grade (quarter)
 - Replaces Computer Fundamentals 7
 - Focus on different aspects of coding and an introduction to Python and JavaScript
 - Created activities on interactivity, variables, animation, and different languages
 - ***Creativity in a Digital World*** - 8th grade (semester)
 - Replaces Desktop Publishing
 - Focus on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
 - Created activities on AI/Machine learning, app design and web design

MS Family and Consumer Science Electives

- **Align all courses to 2020 NJSL Standards**
- **New Middle School Courses to align with Middle School Reimagined Plan**
- **Developed 3 new Middle School electives**
 - ***The Art of Baking*** - 6th grade (quarter)
 - Replaces Family and Consumer Science 6
 - Introduction to the kitchen and cooking through baking
 - Created activities on kitchen safety and making cookies, yeast breads and quick breads
 - ***Nutrition and Meal Planning*** - 7th grade (quarter)
 - Replaces Family and Consumer Science 7
 - Focus on balanced meals and cooking favorite foods with healthy techniques
 - Created activities on proper nutrition and healthy cooking
 - ***Exploration of Global Foods*** - 8th grade (semester)
 - Replaces Home Economics 8
 - Focus on the global community and how food ties us all together
 - Created activities cooking techniques, seasonings, dessert and dumplings from around the globe

MS Engineering Electives

- **Align all courses to 2020 NJSLS Standards**
- **New Middle School Courses to align with Middle School Reimagined Plan**
- Developed 2 new Middle School electives
 - ***Introduction to Engineering and Design*** - 7th grade (quarter)
 - Focus on the Engineering Design Process
 - Created activities on problem solving using 2D drawings in CAD and laser cutting those designs
 - ***Technology Applications*** - 8th grade (semester)
 - Replaces Middle School Pre-Engineering
 - Focus on 3D design/printing and Robotics
 - Developed activities on designing and building robots with custom 3D printed components to solve problems
 - The curriculum will prepare the students for the High School Engineering program

MSHS TV/Broadcast Media Electives

- **Align all courses to 2020 NJSL Standards**
- **New Middle School Course to align with Middle School Reimagined Plan**
 - ***Broadcast Media Production*** - a semester course that provide the students with an opportunity to experience what is offered in High School
 - Developed activities on the 3 phases of production, content creation, Social Media, ethics and editing techniques
- **New High School Courses**
 - Developed a new sequence of 3 courses ***Introduction to TV/Media Broadcast, TV/Media Broadcast II and TV/Media Broadcast III***
 - Prepare the students to produce content for the Glen Rock YouTube page
 - Provide media coverage and Live Streaming opportunities for district and community events



Gifted and Talented Program

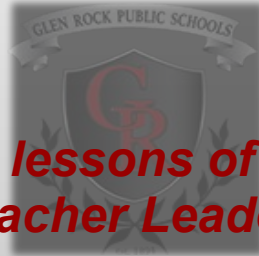
- **Reviewed and revised the K-8 identification process**
 - Developed new elementary and middle school identification matrices
 - Worked with Special Services Department to ensure the inclusion of twice exceptional students
 - Changed from the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) to the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- **Revised the Elementary push-in enrichment program**
 - Coordinated with new Inspire Science program STEM units
 - Focus on:
 - Coding
 - Programing
 - Robotics



Science

Align to 2020 NJSLS Standards and Maximize Focus on Inquiry and Science and Engineering Practices

Elementary Science



Built on successes and lessons of 2021-22 relaunch, leveraging expertise of Science Teacher Leader cohort

- Identified and addressed standards **gaps and redundancies**
- Revised teacher-friendly **module maps**
- Created **common assessments** to support student learning and program development

Science

Align to 2020 NJSLS Standards and Maximize Focus on Inquiry and Science and Engineering Practices

Middle School Science

Leveraged valuable PD work on NGSS to re-think content and practice priorities

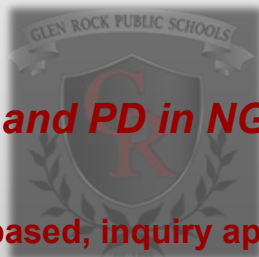
- ***6th Grade - Environmental Science and Physical Science***
Develops a strong foundation that reinforces K-5 science knowledge and prepares students for **more rigorous and frequent science investigation**
- ***7th Grade - Chemistry and Biology***
Maximizes the overlap between these topics so students can better **narrate the story of living things**
- ***8th Grade - Physics and Earth and Space Science***
Provides a strong and practical introduction to **mathematical physics** for all students in Glen Rock



Science

Align to 2020 NJSLS Standards and Maximize Focus on Inquiry and Science and Engineering Practices

High School Science



Capitalized on staff interest and PD in NGSS to refresh traditional curriculums

- ***Biology***
Developed a **five unit phenomena-based, inquiry approach curriculum** with common assessments for use with all CP Biology students
- ***Chemistry***
Refined scope and sequence to more closely align with **grade-level expectations for chemistry standards**
- ***Physics***
Revised CP curriculum maximizes **rigorous lab-based inquiry** and uses common assessments to support consistency and program development

Ongoing and Future Work

- Ongoing work from Summer 2022
 - Elementary Reading and Social Studies
 - K-5 Mathematics assessment practices which includes updating report card rubrics
- Review of scope and sequence in Middle School Social Studies, with the possibility of expanding Civics into a full year course
- Anticipated new Language Arts and Mathematics Standards
- Focus on high school curriculum changes to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students
- Additional new courses as necessary in middle school and high school
- Review High School Engineering and Computer Science programs
- Anticipated review of the Middle School Learning Strategies curriculum to align with High School curriculum