

Syringa Mountain School

INSTRUCTION

2000

Goals: Syringa Mountain School's educational program will seek to provide an opportunity for each child to develop to his or her maximum potential. The educational program offers Waldorf-inspired, liberal arts and arts-integrated education, incorporating sustainable living practices and experiential learning in a K-8 public school setting.

Design elements: Teacher looping such that cohorts of students move through multiple grades together with the same classroom teacher; • Application of curriculum designed to be developmentally appropriate and therapeutic for students; • Implementation of a schedule organized to include Main Lesson, Practice Periods, and Specialty Subjects; • Balance of academic studies with artistic and social activities; • Alignment with the Idaho Common Core State Standards and Idaho State Standards; • Fostering of strong parent involvement in the school, including provision of parent educational opportunities; and • Creation of a safe learning environment through a positive but firm disciplinary approach.

Syringa Mountain School personnel are responsible for apprising the Board of the educational program's current and future status. The Principal should prepare periodic reports that include:

- A review and evaluation of the present curriculum;
- A projection of curriculum and resource needs;
- An evaluation of, and plan to eliminate any sexual, cultural, ethnic, or religious bias that may be present in the curriculum or instructional materials and methods;
- A plan for new or revised instructional program implementations; and
- A review of present and future facility needs.

Policy History:

Adopted on: 11-7-13

Revised on:

Syringa Mountain School

INSTRUCTION

2100

Curriculum Development and Assessment

The Board is responsible for curriculum adoption and must approve all significant changes, including the adoption of new textbooks and new courses, before such changes are made. The Principal is responsible for making curriculum recommendations. The Principal and Board shall design the curriculum to accomplish the learning objectives and goals for excellence consistent with Syringa Mountain School's charter, educational philosophy, mission statement, objectives and goals.

Development and Assessment

Syringa Mountain School shall develop written sequential curricula for each subject area. The curricula shall address learner goals, content and program area performance standards and Syringa Mountain School's education goals, and shall be constructed to include such parts of education as content, skills, and thinking. A curriculum review cycle and time lines for curriculum development and evaluations shall be developed.

The staff and administration will suggest materials and resources, to include supplies, books, materials and equipment necessary for development and implementation of the curriculum and assessment that are consistent with the goals of the education program.

In all program areas and at all levels, Syringa Mountain School shall assess student progress toward achieving learner goals and program area performance standards. Syringa Mountain School will use assessment results to improve the education program, and use effective and appropriate tools for assessing such progress. This may include, but is not limited to: standardized tests; criterion-referenced tests; teacher-made tests; ongoing classroom evaluation; actual communication assessments such as writing, speaking, and listening assessments; samples of student work and/or narrative reports passed from grade to grade; samples of students' creative and/or performance work; and surveys of carry-over skills to other program areas and outside of school.

All courses of instruction shall comply with state statutes and the rules of the State Board of Education.

Cross Reference: 2000 Goals
2800 Objectives

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512A District curricular materials adoption committees
I.C. § 33-1601 et seq. Courses of Instruction
IDAPA 08.02.01 et seq. Rules of the State Board of Education

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INSTRUCTION

2110

Lesson Plan

To insure proper planning and continuity of instruction, the Board requires that each teacher prepare lesson plans for daily instruction. Lesson plans must be readily available when a substitute teacher is needed or when requested by the principal.

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Syringa Mountain School

INSTRUCTION

2120

Program Evaluation and Diagnostic Tests

The Board strives to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in all facets of its operations. In order to achieve this goal, the Board shall strive to set forth:

1. A clear statement of expectations and purposes for Syringa Mountain School's instructional program;
2. A provision for staff, resources and support to achieve the stated expectations and purposes; and
3. A plan for evaluating instructional programs and services to determine how well expectations and purposes are being met.

Parent Approval for Testing

Parents who wish to examine any assessment materials may do so by contacting the Principal. Parental approval is necessary before administering an individual intelligence test or a diagnostic personality test. No tests or measurement devices containing any questions about a student's or the student's family's personal beliefs and practices in family life, morality and religion shall be administered unless the parent gives written permission for the student to take such test, questionnaire or examination.

Legal Reference:20 U.S.C § 1232h
I.C. § 1601 et seq.

Protection of Pupil Rights
Courses of Instruction

Policy History:

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INSTRUCTION

2130

Research Studies

The Board recognizes the value of participation in educational research. Studies using observation, surveys, and experimentation can aid in the improvement of the instructional program in the school system as well as growth in the profession and growth for individual teachers and researchers.

Simultaneously, the Board recognizes that the amount of time available for student learning is limited and must be handled carefully. It is, therefore, important that only those research studies that are of the greatest value to the Board should be allowed to be conducted in the school system.

All research proposals from outside sources will be submitted in prospective form, with the instruments attached, to the Principal at least three (3) weeks prior to the date on which the research study is to be conducted. The prospectus will include the researcher's name, address and phone number, as well as a description of the purpose of the study, the procedures to be used, the treatment of the data and the distribution of the study. The Principal will approve or disapprove all research studies. Approval will be based on educational significance, project design, and disruption to the regular school process. The primary criteria in approving research studies will be the value to the Board. A final copy of the study will be provided free of charge to the Board.

No test, questionnaire, survey, or enumeration containing questions about a pupil's or his parent's personal beliefs, practices in sex, family life, morality and religion will be administered without Board approval.

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INSTRUCTION

2140

Student and Family Privacy Rights

Surveys - General

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the Board's educational objectives as identified in Board Policy. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified and regardless of who created the survey.

Surveys Created by a Third Party

Before the Board administers or distributes a survey created by a third party to a student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may inspect the survey upon request and within a reasonable time of their request.

This section applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a Board official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes ANY survey containing one (1) or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Behavior or attitudes about sex;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may:

1. Inspect the survey within a reasonable time of the request, and/or

2. Refuse to allow their child to participate in any survey requesting personal information. The school shall not penalize any student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) exercise this option.

Instructional Material

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may, within a reasonable time of the request, inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum.

The term "instructional material," for purposes of this policy, means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Collection of Personal Information from Students for Marketing Prohibited

The term "personal information," for purposes of this section only, means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student's or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (4) telephone number, or (5) a Social Security identification number.

The Board will not collect, disclose, or use student personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose.

The Board, however, is not prohibited from collecting, disclosing, or using personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions such as the following:

1. College or other post-secondary education recruitment or military recruitment;
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products;
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools;
4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities;
6. Student recognition programs.

Notification of Rights and Procedures

The Principal or designee shall notify students' parents/guardians of:

1. This policy as well as its availability from the administration office upon request;
2. How to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided in this policy;
3. The approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information, as described above, is scheduled or expected to be scheduled;
4. How to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.

This notification shall be given parents/guardians at least annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

The rights provided to parents/guardians in this policy transfer to the student, when the student turn 18 years of age or is an emancipated minor.

NOTE: This policy must be adopted in consultation with parents. 20 U.S.C. § 1232h(c) (1). Therefore, ISBA recommends that, at a minimum, Boards specifically note this on their meeting agendas and request public comment prior to adoption.

Cross Reference:3500 Student Health
2520 Instructional Materials
3200 Student Rights and Responsibilities

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. 1232h Protection of Pupil Rights

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