



Curriculum

Purpose

The district believes the primary purpose of education is to impart the skills, knowledge and attitudes imperative for students to function successfully in school and society. The district is committed to the development of an exemplary districtwide curriculum that promotes high expectations and results in meaningful student learning.

Learning Standards

Required learning standards serve as the driving force in the development and selection of curriculum.

- National Learning Standards (AP, Project Lead The Way, etc.)
- NYS Learning Standards
- Program-Specific Learning Standards (college-level courses, etc.)

Curriculum

DEVELOPMENT/SELECTION

Curriculum outlines the specific skills that students will acquire as part of a course of study and ensures that all students will learn the same core of significant content at a specific instructional level, from teacher to teacher and school to school.

- In most cases, the curriculum is locally developed by Smithtown teachers and administrators to meet the required learning standards.
- In some cases, high-quality curriculum may be adopted or adapted from commercially published resources.

ALIGNMENT

- Vertical alignment reinforces and builds upon the knowledge and skills learned from one grade level to the next.
- Horizontal alignment provides an opportunity to apply skills and concepts across subjects.

COMPONENTS

The curriculum often includes both requirements and suggestions related to:

- Classroom learning activities.
- Electronic and physical resources for teacher and/or student use.
- Methods to assess skill acquisition and the enduring or long-term understandings.

Instructional Resources

The district provides teachers with required resources necessary to implement the written curriculum.

- Workbooks
- Textbooks
- Electronic tools

These resources serve as a support for teachers, students and families, but do not, on their own, serve as the sole decision maker on what and how students will learn.

Lesson Planning and Assessment

- Teachers use the district curriculum and resources to develop daily lesson plans and implement effective, engaging classroom instruction to meet the needs of their students.
- Formative and summative assessments serve as a means for identifying student mastery of skills and content.
- Teachers revise and adjust their lesson plans to meet the needs of their students each and every day.

Goals

The district's curriculum is intended to promote:

- Critical thinking and reasoning skills.
- Creative problem-solving abilities.
- Effective interpersonal communication and human relations intelligence.

Courses of study are designed to support students in completing their K-12 experience well equipped for college or the workforce and the ability to successfully thrive within the community they live.