

Ruffner Grades 3-8 School Academic Programming Proposal *Focus on Career Exploration and Pathways*



November 2, 2022

Presentation Overview

Overview of Ruffner Transition Plan

Timeline of Committee Work

Survey Responses by Zip Codes

Academic Programming Proposal

Next Steps

Questions and Discussion

Ruffner School for Grades 3-8

- 2023-2024 School Year
- Specialty Program for All Students Zoned for Ruffner
- 30% Choice Seats for Division-wide Enrollment

Timeline of Committee Work

- **April 21** – Initial meeting included brainstorming and sharing possible program ideas.
- **May 5** – Committee began developing survey format and questions.
- **June 2** – Committee completed survey development.
- **August 18** – Committee identified common topics and established themes for Academic Affairs to use to develop programming.
- **September 15** – Academic Affairs presented a program outline to the committee, and the committee provided questions and requests for deeper development.
- **October 20** – Academic Affairs presented a detailed academic program with sample schedules. Planning committee approved the plan to be shared for further consideration.

Survey Responses

Of 685 survey responses, 595 of the responses were from Norfolk zip codes. Those highlighted in green are Ruffner zip codes.

Zip code	Responses	Zip code	Responses
23501	2	23509	44
23502	42	23510	43
23503	56	23513	72
23504	153	23517	10
23505	45	23518	33
23507	13	23519	1
23508	48	23523	33

Academic Program: Focus on Career Exploration and Pathways

Grades 3 – 5

- ❖ Academic and Career Planning (ACP)
- ❖ Exposure to All Four Academic Communities Offered in Middle School

Middle School – Grades 6-8

- ❖ Four Academic Communities
 - ❖ Engineering and Sciences
 - ❖ Fine and Performing Arts
 - ❖ Technology
 - ❖ Service Leadership and Service

Academic Program: Grades 3 – 5

Daily Elementary Schedule

- ❖ 25 minutes - W.I.N. Block (What I Need: Daily intervention/enrichment)
- ❖ 60 minutes - Explicit Whole Group Literacy
- ❖ 15 minutes - Recess
- ❖ 60 minutes - Social Studies/Small Group Literacy
- ❖ 60 minutes - Math
- ❖ 60 minutes - Science/Small Group Literacy
- ❖ 30 minutes - Lunch
- ❖ 15 minutes - Recess
- ❖ 45 minutes - Resource: HPE/Art/Music/Exploratory
- ❖ 25 minutes - Pathways: Exploring the pathways, ACP Portfolio Work, “Hear, See, Do”

Academic Program: Grades 3 – 5

Hear, See, Do

❖ Grade 3 – Hear

- Career Interest Surveys
- Exploration Portfolio (revisited every year)
- **Career Explorers**
 - Infusion of Career Introductions into the “Pathways” Resource Blocks
 - Virtual Field Trips/Guest Career Speakers/Grade Appropriate Career Readiness and Introduction Activities

❖ Grade 4 – See

- Career Interest Surveys
- Exploration Portfolio (Revisited Every Year)
- **Career Explorers (See Above)**
- Community Partners
 - School Visits
 - Careers on Wheels

Academic Program: Grades 3 – 5

Hear, See, Do

❖ Grade 5 – Do

○ **Career Connections (College, Career, and Community/Family Connections)**

- 9 Week 'Flywheel' Introduction of Each of the Communities
- Introduction to Career Clusters via Virtual Job Shadow Jr.
- Exposure to the Academic Communities

○ **Curriculum Development**

- Curriculum will be written by each academic community to provide a robust introduction to each community to assist students in making an informed pathway choice.

Academic Program: Focus on Career Exploration and Pathways

Middle School – Grades 6-8

- ❖ Four Academic Communities
 - ❖ Engineering and Sciences
 - ❖ Fine and Performing Arts
 - ❖ Technology
 - ❖ Service Leadership and Service

Engineering and Science Community

- ❖ Core Classes: Honors or General English; CB Honors or General Math; CB Honors or General History; CB Honors or General Science
- ❖ Grade 6 Community Electives
 - Introduction to Engineering
 - Science Elective #1
- ❖ Grade 7 Community Electives
 - Engineering I
 - Design and Modeling
 - Science Elective #2
- ❖ Grade 8 Community Electives
 - Engineering II
 - Introduction to Architecture
 - Current Topics in Science/Mathematics
 - Physical Geography
- ❖ All Other Electives

Credit Bearing (CB)

Fine and Performing Arts Community

- ❖ Core Classes: Honors or General English; CB Honors or General Math; CB Honors or General History; CB Honors or General Science
- ❖ Electives (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced or Credit Bearing)
 - Art
 - Band
 - Chorus
 - Dance
 - Orchestra
 - Theater
 - Mixed Media (Grade 8)
 - World Languages
- ❖ Full Year courses
- ❖ Intense focus of two disciplines or exploration of up to six disciplines

Fine and Performing Arts Community

Sample Schedules

8th Grade Honors Student

Geometry (CB)
Honors English 8
World Geography (CB)
Earth Science (CB)
Health and Physical Education
Chorus
Introduction to Art (CB)
Problem Solving

6th Grade General Student

Math 6
English 6
United States History I
Science 6
Health and Physical Education
Support Block
Band
Theater

Service Leadership and Service

- ❖ Core Classes: Honors or General English; CB Honors or General Math; CB Honors or General History; CB Honors or General Science
- ❖ Grade 6 Electives:
 - ❖ Leadership and Conflict Resolution
- ❖ Grade 7 Electives:
 - Communication & Technology for Leaders
 - Civil Service I
 - Criminal Justice I
 - Business Leadership I
- ❖ Grade 8 Electives
 - Sociology and Multiculturalism
 - Civil Service II
 - Criminal Justice II
 - Business Leadership II

Service Leadership and Service Sample Schedules

7th Grade Honors Student

Algebra I (CB)
Honors English 7
Civics
Science 7 Advanced
Communication and Tech for Leaders
Health and Physical Education
Criminal Justice I
World Language I (CB)

8th Grade General Student

Pre-Algebra 8
English 8
World Geography (CB)
Science 8
Sociology and Multiculturalism
Civil Service II
Health and Physical Education
World Language I or II (CB)

Technology Community

- ❖ Core Classes: Honors or General English; CB Honors or General Math; CB Honors or General History; CB Honors or General Science

Grade 6 Electives (Each Course-18 Weeks)

- ❖ Information Technology & Computer Science Discoveries
- ❖ IT Career Pathways

Grade 7 Electives (Each course-18 Weeks)

- ❖ Information Technology Solutions (IT Investigators Program)
- ❖ Digital Technology (DigiTech)

Grade 8 Elective (36 Weeks)

- ❖ Information Technology Fundamentals (CB)

Technology Community

Sample Schedules

8th Grade Honors Student

Geometry (CB)
Honors English 8
World Geography (CB)
Earth Science (CB)
Health and Physical Education
Information Technology Fundamentals (CB)
Advanced Art (CB)
Intro to Architecture

7th Grade General Student

Algebra I (CB)
English 7
United States History II
Science 7
Health and Physical Education
Information Technology Solutions (18 Weeks)
Digital Technology (18 Weeks)
Orchestra (Intermediate)
World Languages (CB)

Community Partnerships

❖ Partners

- CHKD
- ODU School of Engineering
- NSU Mathematics Department
- Virginia Air & Space Museum
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Naval Information Warfare Center – Atlantic
- Nauticus
- EVMS
- UFC

❖ Continue to build partnerships...

Summary of Program Highlights

- ❖ Communities are based on interest and open to any student.
- ❖ Provide open enrollment for grades 3–8 for the 2023–24 school year to fill choice seats as part of school opening to support program development.
- ❖ Beginning 2024-2025 school year, entry points for enrollment will only be in grade 3 and grade 6.
- ❖ Currently enrolled Ruffner students (zoned and choice students) will have first choice for middle school academic community selection.
 - ❖ Division application will include choice rankings for applicants.
- ❖ All electives are available for all students.
- ❖ All students can earn multiple high school credits.
- ❖ Capstone projects for grade 8 will begin with the 2025-2026 cohort.

Next Steps

- ❖ Receive School Board members' approval to move forward to seek community input on the plan presented this evening.
- ❖ Receive School Board members' approval for a Public Hearing to be scheduled on December 7, 2022.
- ❖ Review input received from the community during Public Hearing and amend plan as needed.
- ❖ Return to present revised plan to include community's input and seek School Board members' approval of the academic plan.

Ruffner Grades 3-8 School
Academic Programming Proposal
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Questions and Discussion