From: Walsh, William

To:

Subject: RE: FW: Resolving Parent Concerns About the New Science Curriculum

Date: Friday, January 17, 2020 12:35:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image003.png</u>

Thank you for your follow-up email. As reported there are many reasons that support D86 creating a single science sequence versus an open enrollment program. If someone misspoke or it was misinterpreted that increasing AP scores was a reason, I apologize.

Questions

- 1. Ms. May's email response may imply that the administration no longer stands behind its representation that with this new science curriculum "AP and SAT subject test scores will rise at both schools, and there is no risk." Is that the case?
 - 1. Two of the goals in a single D86 Science Sequence are to increase access to AP courses and increase student opportunities to exempt out of science courses in college by scoring a 3, 4, or 5 (passing score) on the AP assessment. The goal is not necessarily to move a student from a 3 to a 4 or 4 to a 5, but move students to a passing score of 3, 4 or 5.
- 2. If so, why did the administration's initial assessment indicate that the new curriculum would improve science AP and SAT test scores, and what has happened subsequently to cause the administration to no longer believe that that is correct?
 - 1. If someone said, "... improve science AP scores..." they may have misspoken. We definitely want to increase access to AP courses, particularly AP Biology & AP Physics C. In increasing access, we would anticipate more students with a passing score on an AP exam.

I hope this helps clarify your questions.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS

Y

Hinsdale Central Facebook

<u>k</u>

From:

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:56 PM **To:** Walsh,William <wwalsh@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Re: FW: Resolving Parent Concerns About the New Science Curriculum

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Walsh:

Thank you for responding.

I am writing to ask about what appears to be a change in the administration's representations regarding the new science curriculum.

From my perspective, a significant aspect of obtaining support and approval for the science curriculum was the representation that this curriculum will raise science AP and SAT Subject Test scores at both schools and do so with no risk. During the public question segment of the November 11th Information Session at HS, you may recall that I questioned this representation, and the administration reassured everyone in attendance that this would be achieved.

As a further followup to that confirmation, I sent the November 20th email to the Science Chairpersons, asking them to share any research or analytical support that this conclusion/representation was based on. Ms. May's December 26th email response said, "Our goal is not to increase AP scores for students..."

Questions

- 1. Ms. May's email response may imply that the administration no longer stands behind its representation that with this new science curriculum "AP and SAT subject test scores will rise at both schools, and there is no risk." Is that the case?
- 2. If so, why did the administration's initial assessment indicate that the new curriculum would improve science AP and SAT test scores, and what has happened subsequently to cause the administration to no longer believe that that is correct?

Thank you for helping families understand what is happening.



On Fri, Dec 27, 2019 at 8:09 AM Walsh, William < wwalsh@hinsdale86.org > wrote:

The below email, from you, was forwarded to me. I appreciate your engagement in the curriculum and instructional practices at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South. As principal, it is important to me that the voices of our staff, students and parents is heard and considered in our curriculum decisions. In the first email of yours, you speak to "'. . . claims which were presented and accepted by the BOE and the public as objective facts, could, in reality, be overstated,

misleading, and not objectively supported . . ." as well as ". . . I greatly appreciate your patience in sharing your research and expertise with us. . ."

District Administration and Building Leaders provided several presentations to address the "... concerns about the representations that have been made to the BOE an taxpayers of D86 regarding the new science curriculum..." that you speak to. Our presentations varied; information sessions, a Transition from Middle School to High School presentation and a D86 BOE Academic Report on Science Sequence. At these presentations, the linked <u>D86 BOE Science</u>

Program was made and the linked <u>District 86 Science Sequence Memo</u> was available along with a <u>D86 Science Program FAQ's</u> that can be found on the D86 web site under <u>Science Sequence FAQ</u>.

If there are specific concerns or representations made that need further clarification, please let me know. I would be more than happy to gather the answers to your questions.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook



Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: December 22, 2019 at 11:07:22 PM CST

To: "Gaubatz,Julie" < <u>igaubatz@hinsdale86.org</u>>, "May,Julie"

<may@hinsdale86.org>

Cc: BOE < boe@hinsdale86.org >

Subject: Re: Resolving Parent Concerns About the New Science

Curriculum

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Just wanted to follow up on this request since it has been over a month. I would like to resolve concerns about the representations that have been made to the BOE and the taxpayers of D86 regarding the new science curriculum. Once we

review the research and analysis that provided a reasonable basis for the representations made to the BOE and the taxpayers to obtain approval for the new science curriculum, I anticipate that the concerned parents will become supportive. The sooner we can resolve these concerns, the better for everyone.

Thank you for sharing your expertise.

On Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 4:10 PM wrote:

Dear D86 Science Chairpeople:

As you know, D86 has recommended a new science curriculum. In presenting their recommendation to the BOE and the public, administrators say their research demonstrates that the approved curriculum will increase AP and SAT subject test numbers and scores in all science subjects for students at both schools. They also highlight that there is no risk to students. They have assured parents that this conclusion was reached based on evidence that the recommended curriculum works in a district like ours.

In spite of administration and BOE assurances, some parents are concerned about the validity of the administration's claims. Parents worry that there could be a chance that claims which were presented and accepted by the BOE and the public as objective facts, could, in reality, be overstated, misleading, and not objectively supported. If so, that overstatement may have misled the BOE and the public to approve and support a significant curriculum change that potentially could be risky and possibly even result in damage to some students' educations, the district, and/or property values. Additionally, it is possible that a false belief in certain and risk-free improvement in student outcomes could result in future failures by the BOE and the administrators to respond appropriately to signs of risk and danger, and instead to exhibit behavior consistent with utter indifference for the safety of our children's educations.

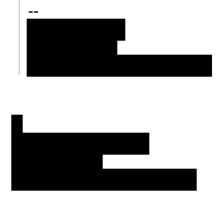
In response to parents expressing these concerns, the administration and BOE members are assuring parents that these concerns are unwarranted. They explained that these claims/conclusions are the results of research and objective assessments by science and education experts, and there is no risk to student outcomes. They have expressed confidence that we can rely on your expertise in validating these conclusions. For parents who continue to express concern, administrators and BOE members have suggested parents contact you to address those concerns and provide support.

Concerned parents, and I greatly appreciate your patience in sharing your research and expertise with us. If you could please email your detailed research and the analysis that supports the administration's claims/conclusions that the recommended curriculum will significantly

improve outcomes with no risk to students, I will share it with other parents. That will allow us to validate your conclusions and end needless worrying that overstated, misleading, and unsupported claims may be putting the educations of the students of our district at risk.

As you know, most concerned parents are not experts in science or education. Accordingly, we will rely on the review and feedback from scientists, educators, experienced researchers, and STEM practitioners with appropriate and topical expertise to evaluate your research and the support for the claims in question. If your validation of these claims uses the accepted Scientific Method, beginning with a claim/hypothesis and confirming it in a generally accepted way, that will make it easier for independent experts to review your work and expediently confirm the validity of your assessments and conclusions. Once the independent evaluation is complete, concerned parents can stop worrying needlessly about potential harm to their students' education and move forward with confidence. Resolving this concern will allow parents to put these concerns behind us and focus on make D86 the best district it can be.

Thank you very much for your assistance in resolving this issue. I look forward to hearing from you.



From: Walsh, William

Cc: Levi Brown

Subject:

RE: Math/Science Curriculum Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:38:00 PM

Attachments: image002.png



To:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today regarding curriculum at Hinsdale Central and District 86. Per our conversation, you can find information on the D86 Strategic Plan and the Science Sequence on the D86 Web Site. There are tabs titled Strategic Plan and Science Sequence FAQ. Both offer much info on the mission and vision of the work we are doing.

Regarding a communication plan, I do anticipate a Science Sequence Physics presentation at the January 23 Board of Education Meeting. I believe we will be presenting a snapshot of the curriculum work our teachers have begun with the Physics courses. As we begin our Curriculum Alignment work in other departments and initiate a communication plan associated with this, I will be sure to reach out to you so as to update you on where and when this forthcoming information can be found.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook



From: Walsh, William < wwalsh@hinsdale86.org> Sent: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 1:20 PM

Subject: Re: Math/Science Curriculum



I will be in the office on Friday, January 3 from 8 am-2 pm. When would a good time be for me to call you? If Friday does not work for you, let me know a time for Monday or Tuesday.

Thank you

William Walsh Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

@ThisIsHCHS

From:

Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 5:14 PM

To: Walsh, William **Cc:** Levi Brown

Subject: Math/Science Curriculum

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Hi Bill,

I spoke with Levi about the upcoming changes to Physics, Chemistry and Biology. We have kids in currently. of our kids will be going to Central as soon as

He suggested I reach out to you to discuss these upcoming changes.

Please let me know when you would have some time for a call.

My cell is

Thanks,

From: <u>Walsh, William</u>

To:

Subject: RE: Slow down the science curriculum

Date: Friday, December 20, 2019 8:20:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>



Thank you for reaching out to us. Ms. Hurt, Assistant Principal for Instruction, and / or I can meet with you over winter break or on Monday, January 6. Please let me know what works for you. Thursday, December 26 with Ms. Hurt, after 9:00 a.m. but before 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 27 with Mr. Walsh, after 9:00 a.m. but before 1:00 p.m. Thursday, January 2 with Ms. Hurt, after 9:00 a.m. but before 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 3 with Mr. Walsh, after 9:00 a.m. but before 1:00 p.m. Monday, January 6 with Mr. Walsh & Ms. Hurt 12:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m.

Please let us know what will work for you.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook

From: Prentiss, Tamara < tprentis@hinsdale86.org> Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 10:31 PM

To: Camden,Kevin <kcamden@hinsdale86.org>;

Cc: Walsh, William < wwalsh@hinsdale86.org> **Subject:** RE: Slow down the science curriculum

Thank you for reaching out. I want to clarify your second comment. The new science sequence (PCB) has nothing to do with Huntley High School. A team from the district went to view their blending learning instructional model. I have included a link about their work below.

http://www.district158.org/hhs/2019/04/17/huntley-high-school-ranked-1-in-u-s-for-blended-learning-by-study-com/

Principal Walsh is more than happy to address your specific student concerns.

Sincerely,

Tammy

From: Camden, Kevin < kcamden@hinsdale86.org> **Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2019 11:24 AM **Cc:** Prentiss, Tamara < tprentis@hinsdale86.org > Subject: Re: Slow down the science curriculum Thank you. I have included Supt Prentiss so admin is aware of your concern and what D181 science teachers are telling parents. Kevin P. Camden Hinsdale Township High School District 86 From: **Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2019 11:21:24 AM **To:** Camden, Kevin < <u>kcamden@hinsdale86.org</u>> **Subject:** Re: Slow down the science curriculum CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe. A few concerns: grade middle school parent teacher conferences, science teachers are 1. At mv concerned they have not yet prepared the kids adequately for the new curriculum. This was sprung on them and they need time to change and align their curriculums as well. 2. Why are you using Huntley as a model? Seems the board should look to high schools ranked above HC and model after them. In addition, it took Huntley a few years to roll it out. Please justify the hastiness of the roll out. Why not slow it down? I'm not saying I'm against it, just want to take it slowly and find out more facts to justify this change. 3. When I was at the 3. When I was at the night a few weeks ago, the science department couldn't tell us if there were enough physics teachers to handle the new curriculum. They weren't even sure if night a few weeks ago, the science department couldn't tell us the specifics of the new curriculum. This is concerning as I have to register my few weeks. I am an alum of HC and I have had attend HC. All I ask is that we slow down the process.

On Dec 15, 2019, at 10:20 AM, Camden, Kevin < <u>kcamden@hinsdale86.org</u>> wrote:

Thank you for your communication.

Thank you,

This will undoubtedly shock you to learn, but many community members support the change.

Kevin P. Camden Hinsdale Township High School District 86

From:

Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2019 7:59:11 AM

To: BOE < boe@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Slow down the science curriculum

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Slow down the process! You were elected by community members and you have an obligation to listen,

Thanks

From: <u>Walsh, William</u>

To:

RE: Carol Baker concerns

Subject: Date:

Monday, December 9, 2019 9:15:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>



If you would like to sit down with Jess Hurt & me, let me know. We are happy to walk through the collaboration that has taken place between the Science Departments regarding Curriculum Alignment. You are correct, 100% buy-in from a team is not expected, all work teams will have members who do not agree with the direction of the collective team. But we can work towards an understanding and provide the a world class education.

I hope I am not wrong in believing each and everyone of our science teachers can talk to me and share their perspective as well as their opinions. I am confident that were we land regarding a science sequence over time will provide students opportunities to explore their interest and pursue a path beyond high school.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook



From:

Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2019 8:51 AM

To: Pollak,Nancy <npollak@hinsdale86.org>; Camden,Kevin <kcamden@hinsdale86.org>; Hirsman,Kathleen <khirsman@hinsdale86.org>; Chval,Keith <kchval@hinsdale86.org>; Hanson,Cynthia <chanson@hinsdale86.org>; Held,Erik <eheld@hinsdale86.org>; Turek,Marty <mturek@hinsdale86.org>; Walsh,William <wwalsh@hinsdale86.org>; Hurt,Jessica <jhurt@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Re: Carol Baker concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

You should also know I just received this via Facebook messenger. I do not know the person who sent it to me This is real. We are not making this up. And when the board president and superintendent attend a department meeting to ask for opinions that's not called discussion.

It's called "intimidation"

Thank you for your post just now on fb. You are right that people do not want to speak out for fear that their children will be targeted.

I wanted to tell you that my oldest child, who is currently in xxxxxx (took out course name for privacy reasons) told me that they discussed the impending science changes in class. The teacher announced that he/she will arrange fo retire before this new track is entirely phased in, that is how disastrous he/she views it.

So no, they do not have 100% teacher support.



On Dec 7, 2019, at 4:58 PM,

> wrote:

Dear members of the Board of Education:

Let me preface this by saying I am terrified to send this letter to you. I know that you are elected officials and certainly hope that no repercussions should occur to my children or family because of this email, but I fear that we could be targeted by members of the administration. I am not alone in feeling this way. There are many in the community that feel as strongly about what is going on, but refuse to voice their positions for fear of repercussions or fear that they or their children will be reprimanded and dismissed by you. This is reality. Please listen to us.

I want to make you aware of a letter I received over the Thanksgiving holiday (attached). Our community keeps hearing from you and the administration that parents are on board with these changes, and that all the teachers are 100% behind the changes happening. That is not what I and many others in the community are hearing from many different and varied sources, including this correspondence.

Hearing from current and former D86 teachers, as well as current and former teachers from other school districts in Illinois and around the country, provides a much different story than what has been communicated by building and district administrators, and some Board members, at BOE meetings and other public events such as the 8th grade transition meeting at Central.

As someone who has been very critical of these changes, I realize you may not want to take what I am saying seriously. That is your choice. However, like many of you, my ultimate goal in being involved is to assure the best opportunities for all D86 students, I would be remiss if I did not share with you all this information. I usually do not pay attention to anonymous letters and communications, however, some activities of Dr Baker at her previous district have been sent to me and are being circulated in the community (links below), and it is worthwhile to bring them to your attention.

My main concern is that Dr. Baker has circumvented established process and taken steps to quash the recommendations of respected and experienced faculty who have worked in this district far longer than she has. Dr. Baker was hired less than 18 months ago, and in that short period of time has pushed radical changes through by failing to follow the required three year process for creating new courses documented on the district website and in the faculty handbook. The attached letter raises serious concerns about the steps

that Dr. Baker went to in order to have the Science Department Chairs change course from the multiple strand science sequence alignment plan that they submitted to her last December and which was included in documents that were provided to you at the January 7, 2019 board meeting. At that meeting, President Pollak indicated that she liked the proposed science plan, but wanted to know what it would cost. Others on the board agreed and the administration was asked to bring that information forward. That did not happen, and the next time she presented the science alignment plan, it bore no resemblance to what the Department Chairs had recommended, yet none of you ever publicly asked why the plan had so radically changed, or ask why Dr. Baker had not provided you with the requested financial information on the multiple strand sequence. Very few questions about this change were asked in public at all - something else that completely mystifies people who are trying to understand the logic and reasons behind the rapid and incomplete implementation of this plan.

In addition to the attached letter, I have also been informed that at the 8th grade transition meeting (with over 800 people in attendance) there was over an hour of questions about the new Science curriculum and that 90% of the parents asking questions were parents who have not been publicly involved in these discussions to date. According to other parents who were there, there was not one positive comment about this new sequence and there was significant concern and questioning about these rapid changes and the ability of parents to make a decision about their children's science path.

I am wondering if any of the building or district administrators who were present at the 8th grade meeting communicated to the BOE about the number of questions and the significant concern of parents with incoming students? If not, I believe that they should have as this is just one more data point of many that point to the fact that this new Science sequence roll out at Central should be delayed for at least a year. No one is ready for it, including, most importantly, teachers and parents.

Further, at the last board meeting, both Ms. Pollak and Mr. Chval referenced a survey that apparently you gave to the science faculty regarding the proposed plan and Mr. Chval indicated that there was full support by the teachers. I have FOIA'd the survey results and my FOIA was declined, however, I believe that you are required to produce the survey results since they were mentioned during the meeting and therefore the exception that you are relying on to deny the response does not apply. However, even if you don't produce the results to me, I would urge you all to look at the results, as I have been advised that the results do not show 100% support by the science teachers. Also worth noting, while the survey was dubbed as "anonymous", I was told that teachers were asked to put down what subject they taught - so it wasn't quite the anonymous poll that you were led to believe.

I hope that you will read this email and the four attachments with an open mind and understand that the concern that I and hundreds of others have with this plan stems only from the desire to ensure that all of our students have the best possible educational experience in Science next year and in the future.

These documents have been circulating around the community for a few weeks. This is why people do not believe the teachers are 100% behind this.

see public item VI Citizen
Statements https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?
mk=50236634&fn=minutes.pdf

https://chronicleillinois.com/news/cook-county-news/lyons-school-board-member-claims-intimidation-gains-supporters/

<letter.jpg>

<envelope.jpg>

From: <u>Walsh, William</u>

To:

Subject: RE: science program

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 9:02:00 PM
Attachments: To the District 86 Board of Education.docx

As I said in my earlier email, I want to assure you that Hinsdale Central staff and administration is here to support, educate and guide students though their high school tenure. Our vision is to inspire passion, confidence and excellence in our students, your children.

Again, thank you for your email, please see our responses, in red, in the attached document.

Thank you

William C. Walsh,
Principal, Hinsdale Central High School
630.570.8210
wwalsh@hinsdale86.org
@ThisIsHCHS
Hinsdale Central Facebook

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:21 PM

To: BOE <boe@hinsdale86.org>; Walsh,William <wwalsh@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: science program

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Please see attached. thank you.

From: <u>Walsh, William</u>

To: Subject: Date:

RE: Science at HC-2020-Freshman Thursday, November 14, 2019 7:32:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>

Thank you for reaching out to me on this topic. The extent of tutors for students enrolled in Science at Hinsdale Central came to light last year during an academic audit of our Science curriculum. While the impetus for the 2020-21 Science Sequence is the Strategic Plan, Goal 1, Curriculum Alignment we are cognizant of the many instructional strategies that need to change in our science courses.

I am confident in our new Science Department Chair, Ms. Julie May. Ms. May, Ms. Hurt & I will lead our science teachers through instructional practices that teach science, have students engaged in science and support their academic growth. I am confident your child will enjoy science at Hinsdale Central and experience an education that will prepare him for college, career and life readiness.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook

From:

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 3:01 PM **To:** Walsh, William <wwalsh@hinsdale86.org> **Subject:** Science at HC-2020-Freshman

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Walsh,

I was at the meeting today at 11am to hear about the new science track. I am hoping you can make me feel better about this change. I have an so he will be going to Central that graduated from Central,

We have had a great experiencer at Central, we never had any issues. With that being said I have to say in my opinion the Science Department is the weakest Department. There are tutors making a fortune tutoring students from Central in Science. Tutors hold weekly sessions with large classes to teach the students what they are not being taught at school. If the teachers are not teaching in the classroom I feel they are not interested or motivated. So, why would

these teachers be interested in having to start all over again with a new curriculum? Could you please give me your thoughts on this? Did you know that for years there are huge groups of students from Central being tutored in science?

Thank you for your time,

From: <u>Walsh, William</u>

To:

Subject: RE: HC Science Sequence FAQ

Date: Monday, November 11, 2019 9:25:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>



So much happening! I will have a principal update. Tammy is coming, but ARCON will be presenting the MFP. We will defer Science discussion to 11:00 a.m. when we are repeating tonight's presentation again on Wednesday.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook



From:

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 8:46 AM **To:** Walsh, William < wwalsh@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Re: HC Science Sequence FAQ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Thanks, Bill

Regarding the Regarding: I assume you will want to provide a Principal's Update during the business meeting? Will you be providing the Construction Update? Also, FYI, Tammy Prentiss will be attending. I'm not sure, but the Physics First Discussion might come up Wednesday as well ...

Thanks,



On Nov 11, 2019, at 8:12 AM, Walsh, William < wwalsh@hinsdale86.org > wrote:



Wednesday's presentation. For your knowledge & when people ask. I really appreciate you taking the time to review the FAQ! See you on

- Will students have to take biology their senior year? So, if a student has taken or is taking Calc BC junior year, could he or she opt to take Physics C junior year?
 - Biology / AP Bio Junior Year
 - Physics C is an option for students Senior Year
- Will the Physics in the Universe course be paced the same as the current Traditional Physics course? So... cover mechanics (forces, motion, acceleration, energy) the first semester and electro-magnetism (waves, circuits, magnetism, etc) second semester? Part of the reason I'm asking is that all of the experiments described seemed to related to mechanical physics.
 - The curriculum is being discussed this year, but you are spot on with the concepts in Physics In the Universe & Honors Physics in the Universe; forces, motions, wave acceleration, circuits magnetism; all algebra based physics. Enrollment in Regular Physics or Honors Physics will be based on the students recommended Math course.
- How much math will be involved in biology junior year? Will the course change any (relative to the way it is taught now to freshmen)?
 - Most Central students will enroll in AP Bio junior year. For regular ed students it will be Biology. This is 3-years out, so the discussions on curriculum have been limited.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS <image001.jpg>

<u>Hinsdale Central Facebook</u> <image002.png>

From

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 5:53 AM **To:** Walsh, William < <u>wwalsh@hinsdale86.org</u>>

Subject: Re: HC Science Sequence FAQ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Hi Bill,

Just a couple of questions to add:

Will students have to take biology their senior year? So, if a student has taken or is taking Calc BC junior year, could he or she opt to take Physics C junior year?

- Will the Physics in the Universe course be paced the same as the current Traditional Physics course? So... cover mechanics (forces, motion, acceleration, energy) the first semester and electro-magnetism (waves, circuits, magnetism, etc) second semester? Part of the reason I'm asking is that all of the experiments described seemed to related to mechanical physics.
- How much math will be involved in biology junior year? Will the course change any (relative to the way it is taught now to freshmen)?

That's all I have! In addition, I'm sure you know that you will get questions that might not belong in an FAQ document like:

- Why do we have to align our curriculum with South anyway? *I realize you covered the agreed-upon strategic plan and curriculum alignment, but it will still probably come up anyway*.
- Given that New Trier offers multiple sequences, what type of student outcomes do they see with each sequence?'
- Given placement criteria for Physics in the Universe Honors, won't 60-70% of the freshmen class place into honors (assuming 60-70% of students place into Geometry or higher)? How does that compare to the percentage of students placing into Biology Honors?

People are certain that this is like the D181 'Learning for All' program which failed miserably.

Just so you understand my biases, as someone with an	, I
have gotten LOTS of questions about the sequence. It's really hard to form a	
perspective without knowing exactly what the course content will cover. As a	n
, I have always considered biology to be a lot less	
analytical than physics and chemistry (at least the way I learned it), because (a	apart
from a bit of data analysis) there was really no math involved in biology. My	
questions are aimed at really helping me to understand what this might look li	ike
for the student.	

Feel free to reach out if this is unclear.

Best,

On Nov 8, 2019, at 9:09 AM, Walsh, William < wwalsh@hinsdale86.org > wrote:

Per our conversation or voicemail, I truly appreciate your perspective on the attached document. As we prepare for the Informational Meeting on Monday night, I would like to get a perspective on the FAQ, feel free to type in the document, add comments or email me back with thoughts. Again, thank you, thank you, and thank you.

Until the document goes live, I do ask that you keep the document between us.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

<u>@ThisIsHCHS</u> <image004.jpg>

<u>Hinsdale Central Facebook</u> <image003.png>

<Draft FAQs - D86 Science Program.docx>

From: <u>Walsh, William</u>

To:

Subject: RE: HC Science Sequence FAQ

Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 3:41:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>



I so appreciate you taking the time to read through the document. Your feedback is helpful and will prepare us better.

Hope all is well and thank you!

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS



Hinsdale Central Facebook

From:

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2019 8:22 AM **To:** Walsh, William <wwalsh@hinsdale86.org> **Subject:** Re: HC Science Sequence FAQ

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Bill-I think this is very clearly laid out and well written. The reasoning behind all the changes is there and explanations for implementation are openly stated.

Glad to see that you are listing the other schools in the state offering this science program. If our community knows that New Trier, Loyola, Walter Payton, etc. are using this structure successfully, more will likely support it.

I think the questions you are still going to get from HC parents are:

Why must the 2 D86 schools have their science sequences aligned? Why can't they be different?

If what we were doing at HC for all these years was working, why should we change it?

That is my two cents! Hope the meeting goes well.



Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 8, 2019, at 9:09 AM, Walsh, William < www.alsh@hinsdale86.org> wrote:

Per our conversation or voicemail, I truly appreciate your perspective on the attached document. As we prepare for the Informational Meeting on Monday night, I would like to get a parent perspective on the FAQ, feel free to type in the document, add comments or email me back with thoughts. Again, thank you, thank you, and thank you.

Until the document goes live, I do ask that you keep the document between us.

Thank you

William C. Walsh, Principal, Hinsdale Central High School 630.570.8210

wwalsh@hinsdale86.org

@ThisIsHCHS <image004.jpg>

<u>Hinsdale Central Facebook</u> <image003.png>

<Draft FAQs - D86 Science Program.docx>

From: Baker, Carol

To:

 Subject:
 FW: 2020-01-09 BOE Public Comments

 Date:
 Sunday, January 12, 2020 10:00:00 PM

From:

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 6:47 AM

To: BOE <boe@hinsdale86.org>

Cc: Prentiss, Tamara < tprentis@hinsdale86.org>; Baker, Carol < cbaker@hinsdale86.org>; Pokorny

Lyp,Arwen <apokorny@hinsdale86.org>; Walsh,William <wwalsh@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: 2020-01-09 BOE Public Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

D86 Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the Board meeting last night. Embedded below is a copy of my public comments.



Physics seems to be a difficult topic for our community. AP Physics C is a rigorous course, covering three topics: mechanics, electricity, and magnetism. It's equivalent to one full-year of physics in an engineering school. Only Calculus BC students qualify to take AP Physics C. We have 123 Calculus BC students at Central and only 44 of them are enrolled in AP Physics C. For the rest, their only AP Physics alternative is AP Physics 1 which will not be recognized by engineering schools, no matter how well they do on the AP exam, because it is algebra-based physics.

Lost in the rhetoric over the new science sequence is the recognition of a new AP Physics course added to the curriculum this school year, at Hinsdale South. It's called AP Physics CM. Described in the Program of Studies, CM focuses an entire year on the mechanics portion of AP Physics. It's open to students concurrent with Honors Precalculus or Calculus AB.

Under the new curriculum, AP Physics CM offers more students an opportunity to acquire AP Physics credit, credit recognized by engineering schools because it is calculus-based, not algebra-based. At Central, we have 218 students enrolled in Pre-Calculus Honors and another 204 students in Calculus AB. That's 422 students currently enrolled at Central who, under the new science curriculum could have a shot at AP credit in Physics at an engineering school, an opportunity they do not have today. District 86 may finally be catching up to the many forward-thinking schools throughout the country,

already offering AP Physics CM. Slowing the rollout of the new science sequence means more students will miss out.

I am very disappointed to read misinformation and half-truths about the new science curriculum on multiple Facebook pages. I don't think I've read a single post from the self-appointed science education experts in our community, on the addition of AP Physics CM and the strong value it provides pre-engineering students in the middle of the spectrum. Dr. Baker, worked to uncover and fix curriculum problems like this in District 86. Not renewing her contract is a huge mistake. Dr. Baker has focused on curriculum review, alignment, and renewal in line with the most current standards, which District 86 desperately needs. I hope there is a clear plan to stay the course and bring equal opportunities to all students in the District. Equity is the right thing to do, and I expect this Board knows it's a legal requirement in Illinois. Thank you.

From: Baker,Carol

To: Subject: RE: Science Plan

Date: Friday, October 25, 2019 3:35:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>



Thank you so much for your kind remarks, it is wonderful to get positive feedback- so often we receive the complaints and the negative comments. We have worked hard not only on creating a process to determine what changes need to be made to our science sequencing, but also on how this change will positively impact our students. I am honored to work with a talented team that genuinely cares about doing what's best for all kids. Curriculum, instruction and assessments are my passion and I feel fortunate to be a part of this important work.

Thank you again for reaching out, have a wonderful weekend!

Best, Carol

Dr. Carol K. Baker

Chief Academic Officer
Assistant Superintendent for Academics
Hinsdale Township High School District 86
cbaker@hinsdale86.org



From:

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 11:26 AM **To:** Baker,Carol <cbaker@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Science Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

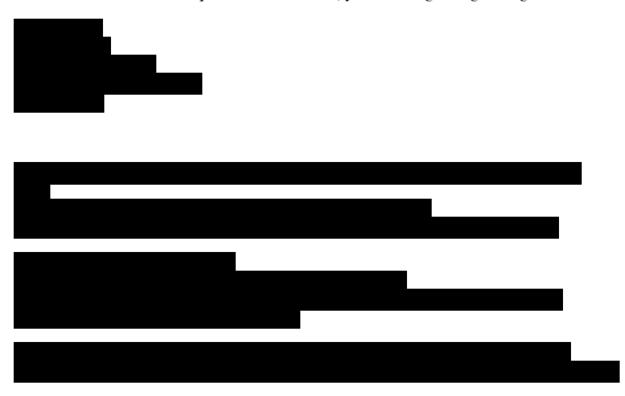
Dear Dr. Baker:

My attended the board meeting last night and was extremely impressed with your

presentation and leadership in implementing the new science curriculum at Central. I was			
present at several meetings at	decades ago, when	, explained the	
rationale for his physical first curriculum. I attempted at that time to implement the same			
curriculum at the , but, i	it was just not the right tir	ne or place for suc <u>h</u>	
"radical" ideas in curriculum and instruction to gain traction. Having been a former			
and		(see below) I	
understand the deep cultural and institutional barriers to he kinds of reforms you are			
proposing. My	ext year,		
	irectly addresses the obsta		
educational reform initiatives—one of which are a school communities belief that how they			
experienced school is how their children should experience school.			

I will admit that in the last three years of attending District 86 board meetings and interacting with the former Superintendent, I was always taken back by the amateurish responses at board meetings with all matters related to curriculum and instruction. Based on the comments from my wife, your professionalism is a welcomed addition to the District 86 staff.

From my own experience I imagine you are getting quite a lot of blow back on the new science curriculum. But as a professional educator, you are doing the right thing.



-

From: Baker, Carol

To:

Subject: RE: Science Sequence

Date: Friday, October 25, 2019 3:24:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Thank you!! I appreciate that you took a moment to send this comment; so often we only hear the negative ones.

Have a great weekend!

Best,

Dr. Carol K. Baker

Chief Academic Officer
Assistant Superintendent for Academics
Hinsdale Township High School District 86
cbaker@hinsdale86.org



From:

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2019 12:08 PM **To:** Baker, Carol < cbaker@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Science Sequence

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Impressive, well-done presentation Wednesday night. Sincerely,

From: Hurt,Jessica

Subject: Fwo: Message regarding the changes to the D86 science program

Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 6:10:13 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Board President Nancy Pollak and Superintendent Tammy Prentiss <d86-

info@hinsdale86.org>

Date: November 22, 2019 at 4:44:57 PM CST **To:** "Hurt,Jessica" <jhurt@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Message regarding the changes to the D86 science program

Reply-To: d86-info@hinsdale86.org



Dear District 86 Community,

During the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of discussion about the changes to our science program that we will be implementing next year. We have appreciated the conversations that have been had and comments that have been made because they reflect the strong commitment to education and passionate advocacy for students that are the hallmarks of this community.

As a reminder, the recommendation from the administration and chairs for the science department is to implement a vertically-aligned sequence of courses at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South that follows the ESS-integrated PCB sequence (ESS stands for Earth and Space Science; PCB stands for Physics, Chemistry and Biology). This sequence will be fully aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, and will have earth science serving as a common thread that is woven throughout it. It will also help advance the first strategy listed under Goal 1 (Student Growth and Achievement) of the district's strategic plan, which is aimed at ensuring that "course and instructional units include common critical competencies, aligned assessments between the two high schools and multiple measures of success."

The recommendation was reached following the completion of hundreds of hours of work by highly trained and qualified educators who have decades of professional experience. It was based on months of research into nine different sequences that were thoroughly studied, assessed and evaluated using the following goals of the science program as a guide:

Align courses – fees, texts, objectives, semester exams and assessments

Increase student exposure to and interest in core sciences

- Align courses with college and career opportunities
- · Create a strategic and coherent science program
- · Provide informed student choice in coursework junior and senior year
- Increase SEL considerations for students and parents

It was influenced by feedback provided by science teachers, students and parents/guardians from both of our high schools. It was also decided upon based on the benefits for students, which include:

- Giving them the opportunity to experience four core sciences (earth science, physics, chemistry, and biology) over a three-year period
- Helping them prepare for Advanced Placement courses and electives
- Challenging them with core courses that are designed to offer depth and rigor
- Enhancing their understanding of science via courses that are aligned with a coherence in content and skills, and that build upon each other
- Strengthening their understanding and use of key math concepts that are aligned with what they are learning in science

What has emerged from the conversations we referenced above is a clear difference of opinion among some members of the community regarding the direction we have chosen for the future of our program. While many people support the move to the PCB model, others believe we should keep the existing sequence, offer multiple options at both schools or hold off on making any changes until they can be studied in greater detail. The lack of consensus regarding the changes is not surprising. Frankly, very few decisions made by school districts receive universal support. However, what does surprise us is the intimation by some that the in-depth process we began during the 2018-19 school year that led to the decision was "rushed" and "lacked accountability and transparency." What confuses us is the perception that the model is unfounded and untested despite its effective implementation at South, which has produced results that have rivaled or exceeded those at Central (there are five tabs of data in the spreadsheet that is found at this link). And, what truly disappoints us is the insinuation that we would suggest a change or make a decision that is not in the best interest of all District 86 students.

We recognize that people have misgivings about the changes, and respect that the concerns and opinions they have expressed are based on their desire to help our young adults succeed. That is a desire we share and have used as the singular focus and guiding principle for the work we have done to reach this decision. We also understand and fully accept the responsibility we have for ensuring that the changes will continue to help our students learn, grow, achieve and excel. More importantly, we greatly appreciate all of the time, effort and energy that the members of our staff have invested in this work, and completely and unequivocally support the implementation of the PCB model at both buildings.

Thank you to everyone who has weighed in on this matter. We will work with our science department and administration to keep the community updated on the implementation of the changes. In the meantime, you can access the frequently asked questions document we created regarding the changes, as well as the details about science sequencing that have been shared during recent board meetings and information sessions, by visiting http://bit.ly/2qyzJzO.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pollak Board President

Tammy Prentiss Superintendent Hinsdale Township High School District 86 | 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

<u>Unsubscribe jhurt@hinsdale86.org</u>

<u>Update Profile</u> | <u>About Constant Contact</u>

Sent by d86-info@hinsdale86.org

From: Pokerny Lyp, Arwen
To:
Subject: RE: Internship program for students
Date: Thursday January 16, 2020 7:58:00 AM

Good morning!

Here is our D86 Science Program FAQ that should answer most of your questions. An example of how we've enhanced our Physics curriculum by infusing Earth Science into it would be when we teach waves. Starting next year, instead of just teaching waves, we will spend a day or two teaching how earthquakes do their most damage through waves and how earth scientists use that information to study layers of the earth. It offers a more comprehensive understanding of how the sciences work together to make our world work and also creates an even stronger background to prepare students for Chemistry and Biology. At the board meeting on Thursday, January 23 the D86 Physics curriculum writing team will be presenting an update of their work so if you can attend or watch, that would be great.

The Program of Studies will be fully aligned into one D86 Program of Studies by the 2024-2025 school year. This will be published in the fall of 2023. In the meantime, each department will be doing the work to align every course offering in the district. For now, I encourage to reach out to Ms. Fichter to discuss elective choices so that we can make sure that we create a course schedule that fits with wants and needs.

Stay warm today! Arwen

From: Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 8:43 PM

To: Pokorny Lyp,Arwen <apokorny@hinsdale86 org>
Subject: Re: Internship program for students

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the Hinsdale D86 System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email and know the content is safe.

Thank you Arwen,

In regards to curriculum alignment, it is just so dam confusing for the general public to understand why the person who was charged with alignment is suddenly not being allowed to follow through with the commitment 1 worry now that and perhaps will miss out on some electives they wanted If you recall, wanted and I can foresee electing electing I know that with some creativity, our district can think outside of the box to offer a wide array of core curriculum and electives for our district. Has the district ever asked the students via a survey what they want to take? I would imagine if the curriculum book was merged, that many would request classes and electives that were offered at both schools, not just their assigned school

Also, I do not understand what the new blended Science curriculum with earth science means Can you point me to an exemplar? I am not assuming the court of public opinion is the best resource, so I would prefer to have that information come from someone in administration

Thank you for your follow up email!

Regards

On Wed, Jan 15, 2020 at 7:06 PM Pokorny Lyp, Arwen apokorny@hinsdale86.org wrote:

Hi

I am so glad you emailed me. I had been meaning to reach out to you since last week's board meeting.

In regards to your comments made at the Board meeting, I am so glad you are happy with experience at experience at experience at experience at ensure things will be ready for your . We are committed to the process of never-ending improvement for our school so I can assure you that everything will remain as is or be enhanced to better meet our students where they are based on current student data trends.

In regards to your comments concerning our ongoing curriculum alignment work, our Strategic Plan Goal 1-Strategy 1 mandates for us to complete this work by the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. I am confident that we will meet this goal to bring this strategy to fruition. This year we are starting by aligning grading and reporting practices and preparing to launch the science sequence in the fall of 2020. We are also beginning the math alignment process later this month. You can view this document to see the detail: Goal 1. Strategy 1

<u>Update 11.14.19.pdf</u> As you know, I am always happy to answer any questions that you have. I love seeing your

thrive as a Hornet and I look forward to getting to know your as well.

Please reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely, Arwen From: Pokorny Lyp,Arwen
To:

o: Subject:

Fwg: Message regarding the changes to the D86 science program

Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 5:09:13 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Board President Nancy Pollak and Superintendent Tammy Prentiss <d86-

info@hinsdale86.org>

Date: November 22, 2019 at 4:44:54 PM CST

To: "Pokorny Lyp,Arwen" <apokorny@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Message regarding the changes to the D86 science program

Reply-To: d86-info@hinsdale86.org



Dear District 86 Community,

During the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of discussion about the changes to our science program that we will be implementing next year. We have appreciated the conversations that have been had and comments that have been made because they reflect the strong commitment to education and passionate advocacy for students that are the hallmarks of this community.

As a reminder, the recommendation from the administration and chairs for the science department is to implement a vertically-aligned sequence of courses at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South that follows the ESS-integrated PCB sequence (ESS stands for Earth and Space Science; PCB stands for Physics, Chemistry and Biology). This sequence will be fully aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, and will have earth science serving as a common thread that is woven throughout it. It will also help advance the first strategy listed under Goal 1 (Student Growth and Achievement) of the district's strategic plan, which is aimed at ensuring that "course and instructional units include common critical competencies, aligned assessments between the two high schools and multiple measures of success."

The recommendation was reached following the completion of hundreds of hours of work by highly trained and qualified educators who have decades of professional experience. It was based on months of research into nine different sequences that were thoroughly studied, assessed and evaluated using the following goals of the science program as a guide:

Align courses – fees, texts, objectives, semester exams and assessments

- Increase student exposure to and interest in core sciences
- Align courses with college and career opportunities
- Create a strategic and coherent science program
- Provide informed student choice in coursework junior and senior year
- Increase SEL considerations for students and parents

It was influenced by feedback provided by science teachers, students and parents/guardians from both of our high schools. It was also decided upon based on the benefits for students, which include:

- Giving them the opportunity to experience four core sciences (earth science, physics, chemistry, and biology) over a three-year period
- Helping them prepare for Advanced Placement courses and electives
- Challenging them with core courses that are designed to offer depth and rigor
- Enhancing their understanding of science via courses that are aligned with a coherence in content and skills, and that build upon each other
- Strengthening their understanding and use of key math concepts that are aligned with what they are learning in science

What has emerged from the conversations we referenced above is a clear difference of opinion among some members of the community regarding the direction we have chosen for the future of our program. While many people support the move to the PCB model, others believe we should keep the existing sequence, offer multiple options at both schools or hold off on making any changes until they can be studied in greater detail. The lack of consensus regarding the changes is not surprising. Frankly, very few decisions made by school districts receive universal support. However, what does surprise us is the intimation by some that the in-depth process we began during the 2018-19 school year that led to the decision was "rushed" and "lacked accountability and transparency." What confuses us is the perception that the model is unfounded and untested despite its effective implementation at South, which has produced results that have rivaled or exceeded those at Central (there are five tabs of data in the spreadsheet that is found at this link). And, what truly disappoints us is the insinuation that we would suggest a change or make a decision that is not in the best interest of all District 86 students.

We recognize that people have misgivings about the changes, and respect that the concerns and opinions they have expressed are based on their desire to help our young adults succeed. That is a desire we share and have used as the singular focus and guiding principle for the work we have done to reach this decision. We also understand and fully accept the responsibility we have for ensuring that the changes will continue to help our students learn, grow, achieve and excel. More importantly, we greatly appreciate all of the time, effort and energy that the members of our staff have invested in this work, and completely and unequivocally support the implementation of the PCB model at both buildings.

Thank you to everyone who has weighed in on this matter. We will work with our science department and administration to keep the community updated on the implementation of the changes. In the meantime, you can access the frequently asked questions document we created regarding the changes, as well as the details about science sequencing that have been shared during recent board meetings and information sessions, by visiting http://bit.ly/2qyzJzO.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pollak Board President

Tammy Prentiss Superintendent Hinsdale Township High School District 86 | 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

<u>Unsubscribe alyp@hinsdale86.org</u>

<u>Update Profile | About Constant Contact</u>

Sent by d86-info@hinsdale86.org

From: Pokorny Lyp, Arwen

To: Subject:

Fwg: Message regarding the changes to the D86 science program

Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 5:09:03 PM

Fyi

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Board President Nancy Pollak and Superintendent Tammy Prentiss <d86-

info@hinsdale86.org>

Date: November 22, 2019 at 4:44:54 PM CST

To: "Pokorny Lyp,Arwen" <apokorny@hinsdale86.org>

Subject: Message regarding the changes to the D86 science program

Reply-To: d86-info@hinsdale86.org



Dear District 86 Community,

During the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of discussion about the changes to our science program that we will be implementing next year. We have appreciated the conversations that have been had and comments that have been made because they reflect the strong commitment to education and passionate advocacy for students that are the hallmarks of this community.

As a reminder, the recommendation from the administration and chairs for the science department is to implement a vertically-aligned sequence of courses at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South that follows the ESS-integrated PCB sequence (ESS stands for Earth and Space Science; PCB stands for Physics, Chemistry and Biology). This sequence will be fully aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, and will have earth science serving as a common thread that is woven throughout it. It will also help advance the first strategy listed under Goal 1 (Student Growth and Achievement) of the district's strategic plan, which is aimed at ensuring that "course and instructional units include common critical competencies, aligned assessments between the two high schools and multiple measures of success."

The recommendation was reached following the completion of hundreds of hours of work by highly trained and qualified educators who have decades of professional experience. It was based on months of research into nine different sequences that were thoroughly studied, assessed and evaluated using the following goals of the science program as a guide:

Align courses – fees, texts, objectives, semester exams and assessments

- Increase student exposure to and interest in core sciences
- Align courses with college and career opportunities
- Create a strategic and coherent science program
- Provide informed student choice in coursework junior and senior year
- Increase SEL considerations for students and parents

It was influenced by feedback provided by science teachers, students and parents/guardians from both of our high schools. It was also decided upon based on the benefits for students, which include:

- Giving them the opportunity to experience four core sciences (earth science, physics, chemistry, and biology) over a three-year period
- Helping them prepare for Advanced Placement courses and electives
- Challenging them with core courses that are designed to offer depth and rigor
- Enhancing their understanding of science via courses that are aligned with a coherence in content and skills, and that build upon each other
- Strengthening their understanding and use of key math concepts that are aligned with what they are learning in science

What has emerged from the conversations we referenced above is a clear difference of opinion among some members of the community regarding the direction we have chosen for the future of our program. While many people support the move to the PCB model, others believe we should keep the existing sequence, offer multiple options at both schools or hold off on making any changes until they can be studied in greater detail. The lack of consensus regarding the changes is not surprising. Frankly, very few decisions made by school districts receive universal support. However, what does surprise us is the intimation by some that the in-depth process we began during the 2018-19 school year that led to the decision was "rushed" and "lacked accountability and transparency." What confuses us is the perception that the model is unfounded and untested despite its effective implementation at South, which has produced results that have rivaled or exceeded those at Central (there are five tabs of data in the spreadsheet that is found at this link). And, what truly disappoints us is the insinuation that we would suggest a change or make a decision that is not in the best interest of all District 86 students.

We recognize that people have misgivings about the changes, and respect that the concerns and opinions they have expressed are based on their desire to help our young adults succeed. That is a desire we share and have used as the singular focus and guiding principle for the work we have done to reach this decision. We also understand and fully accept the responsibility we have for ensuring that the changes will continue to help our students learn, grow, achieve and excel. More importantly, we greatly appreciate all of the time, effort and energy that the members of our staff have invested in this work, and completely and unequivocally support the implementation of the PCB model at both buildings.

Thank you to everyone who has weighed in on this matter. We will work with our science department and administration to keep the community updated on the implementation of the changes. In the meantime, you can access the frequently asked questions document we created regarding the changes, as well as the details about science sequencing that have been shared during recent board meetings and information sessions, by visiting http://bit.ly/2qyzJzO.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pollak Board President

Tammy Prentiss Superintendent Hinsdale Township High School District 86 | 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

<u>Unsubscribe alyp@hinsdale86.org</u>

<u>Update Profile | About Constant Contact</u>

Sent by d86-info@hinsdale86.org

From: Pokorny Lyp, Arwen

To: Subject:

Fwa: Science sequencing information sessions and FAQ

Date: Friday, November 8, 2019 4:00:58 PM

Thank you for your help!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Superintendent Tammy Prentiss tprentis@hinsdale86.org>

Date: November 8, 2019 at 3:43:18 PM CST

To: "Pokorny Lyp,Arwen" <apokorny@hinsdale86.org>
Subject: Science sequencing information sessions and FAQ

Reply-To: d86-info@hinsdale86.org



Dear Current and Future District 86 Families:

On Oct. 23, we presented the District 86 Board of Education with a report about science sequencing, which is part of the curriculum alignment work that is being conducted in conjunction with Goal 1 (Student Growth and Achievement) of our strategic plan. This report, which you can access by visiting http://bit.ly/2pSJQ1S, was the culmination of several months of work by a team of teachers, department chairs and administrators from Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South that was tasked with developing a science program and sequence of courses that would provide coherence across our two high schools.

In the days following the board meeting, several of you shared comments, questions and input about the changes we will be making to our science program at the start of the 2020-21 school year. These changes include moving to a sequence of courses that will begin freshman year with algebra-based physics, after which students will move to chemistry sophomore year, biology junior year, and a capstone course or Advanced Placement class senior year. Given the increased conversation the community has had regarding the changes, and the interest some of you have expressed in learning more about what they mean for your child, we have scheduled a pair of information sessions about our science program and sequencing. The dates, times and locations of these sessions are below.

- . Monday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Hinsdale South's Little Theatre
- Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. Hinsdale Central Community Room

During the sessions, members of the team who led the work described above will provide an overview of the process we used to arrive at our decision. They will discuss how the Next Generation Science Standards, various data points and stakeholder feedback were

utilized to help guide our efforts. They will also highlight how the program and sequence will support and advance the college and career readiness goals of our students. After the presentation, our department chairs, administrators and board members will be available to answer questions.

While we are hosting sessions at each high school, people are welcome to attend either one of them - i.e., current and future families from Central can attend the session at South, and current and future families from South can attend the session at Central.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this message. We hope to see you at one of the sessions next week. In the meantime, we encourage you to check out the detailed frequently asked questions (FAQ) document we created about the changes to our science program. You can access this FAQ by visiting http://bit.ly/2oZnqvW. If there are questions you would like to recommend for inclusion in the document, please email them to d86-info@hinsdale86.org.

Sincerely,

Tammy Prentiss Superintendent Hinsdale Township High School District 86

Hinsdale Township High School District 86 | 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

<u>Unsubscribe alyp@hinsdale86.org</u>

<u>Update Profile | About Constant Contact</u>

Sent by tprentis@hinsdale86.org

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2019 3:17:49 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image002.png image005.png image007.png

Informational Meeting Regarding the D86 Science Sequence

- Review of process that was used to determine the new sequence based on the Next Generation Science Standards and current data
- Highlight the goals of this new sequence will bring to all D86 students
- Board members, administrators and department chairs will be available for Q and A

Ms. Arwen Pokorny Lyp Principal, Hinsdale South High School T: 630.468.4210 #southpride Hinsdale South High School @Hinsdale South HS From: Pokorny Lyp,Arwen
To:
Subject: RE: Please review :)

Date: Friday, November 8, 2019 7:38:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image005.png</u>

 $\underline{https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KUJsmEe5Y6paxmJAlWorj8C2_5DZrfsn6iicgBuQoIo/edit?usp=sharing}$

From: Pokorny Lyp, Arwen

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 7:35 AM

To:

Subject: Please review :)

Hi

Thank you!!!!

DRAFT D86 Science Sequence FAQ

Please let us know any feedback and thank you!

Arwen

Ms. Arwen Pokorny Lyp Principal, Hinsdale South High School T: 630.468.4210 #southpride



Hinsdale South High School

Minsdale South HS