COURSE GUIDE FOR LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Career Clusters description
See pages 12-13 for details

2019-2020 Programs of Study for Grades 9-12

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STEAMtastic

The district's new *STEAM* initiative **will get...**

- **Teachers** working together across subject areas K-12
- **Students** working together to **solve** problems
- **All of us** understanding **how** what we're teaching & learning **will matter** in life after high school.

Here's how:

Collaboration

STEAM gets teachers across subject areas working together.

They plan together on how to use common themes to let students understand how skills in each subject help them solve problems.

An example: A school's teachers of art, English, history, math and science decide to use *Star Wars* as a basis for a connected unit of study.

Art students look at famous space art and at how the movie's art directors created props and imagined locations. Students create art connected to space.

English students read and analyze famous science fiction, study themes of good versus evil and write their own stories/poems/scripts. Maybe even write and perform a scene.

Social studies students study the history of the movie or space travel, construct how future economies might look, compare governments in *Star Wars* to ours.

Math students learn formulas to measure distance and circumference and time travel.

Science students learn scientific processes for analyzing atmosphere and soil and radiation.

And in every assignment, students work together to solve problems they're given.

Critical Thinking

STEAM gets students focused on solving problems – the best way to master concepts and standards.

That focus on problem solving uses real world resources – the internet, apps, computers and *Discovery Education's* extensive data bank of learning resources.

And that focus forces students to build the critical-thinking skills today's jobs demand – in manufacturing, in offices, in the service sector – the same skills colleges demand. The same skills students will need when technology changes jobs they're hired for again and again and again.

Today's workforce must have problem-solving skills – critical-thinking skills – not just be good at the same repetitive tasks past jobs rewarded.

STEAM focuses on building those skills.

Creativity

STEAM gets students thinking outside the box to solve problems.

How? By having them tackle the same problem across subject areas.

STEAM encourages students to see how what seems to be a math problem can be solved through language skills, through art skills, through a look at history, through research, through understanding the psychology of the way people react.

STEAM focuses on building connections between subjects – focuses on getting students to see those connections as ways to solve problems.

Communication

STEAM places emphasizes getting teachers talking to each other to find ways to help students master concepts, and **STEAM** gets students communicating in lots of ways and gives them lots and lots of practice.

Students build communication skills as they work together to solve problems, as they teach their peers concepts while they work together, as they make presentations to share what they discover.

Caring

STEAM helps students care more because they see how the concepts they're learning and the skills they're developing will matter in life after high school.

And **STEAM** requires students to interact more – to work together, to communicate, to create. Those interactions help students build stronger relationships – relationships that help them understand and respect each other.

LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Putting our children first