



SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS CROSSWINDS DESIGN MAGNET SCHOOL PROPOSAL TO MN STATE LEGISLATURE

April 17, 2017

OVERVIEW

1. Crosswinds Design Magnet School

As one of the central pillars of a Crosswinds Magnet Design School is Design Thinking which spans all curricular areas and increases the effectiveness of students in school and as they venture out into the world. Design Thinking encompasses the empathy and ethnography focus of the humanities, the idea generation and invention of the arts and engineering, and the hypothesis creation, prototyping, testing, and reflection methodology of the sciences. Armed with the mindsets and skills of Design Thinking, students are able to identify situations where they can better the world — and have the personal and collaborative tools and resolve to take action (*Nueva Upper School Concept Framework Modified for District 833, 2017*). An additional pillar is the suffusion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) with Arts including; performance, visual, design aspects with the goal of activating all learners by having them see and deepen their talents and passions. The power and balance of Art and Science integrating and living together.

Hallmark program features:

- STEM(x)Arts Suffusion
- Human-Centered Design Thinking Process
- Real-world problem-solving
- Design engineering
- Social-emotional learning
- In-depth exploration
- Critical questions

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2. Balanced and Flexible Schedule Design for Learning

Key Features:

- **Blended Delivery Model**
- **Removal of Traditional Bell Schedule Time Requirements**
- **Extended and flexible school hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

The daily schedule and annual calendar balance core academics with community and personal time for wellness in a blended learning model. With a flexible school calendar so students can better balance their commitments in and out of school and work more effectively each day on fewer— but more meaningful — complex projects and assignments. Our daily schedule’s regular inclusion of trips and off-site experiences and mentoring allows for travel and applied learning without disruption of core classes, also giving students time to explore and develop mastery in areas of personal interest as they design their projects.

Tailoring the flexible learning day to successfully integrate learning with other school districts is an important design element of our school. Some of the key features of this flexibility and personalization include:

- Book-end focused courses delivered in a blended format where the student may only be required to be on campus for 2 out the 5 days, allowing for the ability to stack multiple classes into the same time slot
- Flexibility to take a class of interest not only within South Washington County Schools but in conjunction with college and university faculty
- World-wide classroom connect-students may collaborate with fellow colleagues in classrooms around the world
- Non-traditional time frames either early in the morning or late at night to allow students to intern and develop a passion area or to work or connect in an apprentice role

3. Crosswinds Design Magnet School Centers Around Two Areas of Study

- **STEM**: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- **Arts**: Global Perspectives in Humanities and the Arts

STEM(x)Arts is illustrated this way because of our belief that integration of STEM and Arts has a multiplying factor to learning. Science needs art, just as art needs science.

Choosing from interdisciplinary classes, students explore areas of personal interest and develop new skills like Design Thinking, coding, robotics, international awareness and culture, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary thinking, and emotional intelligence.

STUDENT OUTCOMES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4. Self-efficacy through Community Service Learning

Community service learning is integral throughout learners 9-12th grade educational experience, woven into curricula and given special focus by service learning days, student council initiatives, guest speakers, performance projects, and Design Engineering & Service courses.

Crosswinds Design Magnet School values service learning as instrumental for community development and for experiential learning. As students learn by doing and learn by caring, they

- Cultivate an increased sense of self-efficacy by seeing they can impact real social challenges, problems, and needs.
- Enhance problem-solving skills and abilities to work in teams;
- Inspire in themselves and others civic engagement attitudes, and behaviors.

5. Integrated Learning Suffused with Technology

The school focuses on creating a curriculum to foster an appreciation of technology through creation, collaboration, knowledge acquisition, and an understanding of current and future technology issues. Teaching mental and physical skills, fostering experiences, and covering specific technologies are all parts of this effort.

Our goal is to integrate these resources and tools into projects and disciplines using the same hardware and software professionals use in the workplace.

6. Visible Learning Capstone Projects

Design Your Own Learning: As a senior capstone project, students pursue their own interests in depth throughout their four years with a culminating Capstone Project that demonstrates through visibility and action their learning that may impact not just locally, but also globally an area of interest. Students moving in after freshmen year would work on a personalized plan that would also require a senior capstone project, but adjusted to reflect the year they enrolled.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

7. Details of School Configuration

- Designed for learners in grades 9-12
- Learners would earn their diploma from the Crosswinds Design Magnet School
- Multi-media learning centers to connect and leverage learning opportunities with other schools within SoWashCo School District as well as beyond our state and country: Local/Global

8. Potential Partnerships

STEM(x)ARTS

- STEM Partnership with 3M Corporation utilizing PTLW and Design
- ARTS Partnership with University of Minnesota-Guthrie Program, McPhail, McNally Smith, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts-Visual Partnership, Perpich Arts Center

Crosswinds Design Magnet School would look to partner with several prominent and well regarded organizations that not only have significant local impact but also a global footprint and influence which aligns with our program hallmark features.

9. Foundational Research

The bibliography is not an exhaustive list, rather a glimpse into influences that are significant to the established effective practices and impact on achievement and learning that help guide the creation of this proposal.

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