

Business Education Board Report

January 4, 2017

Multi-cultural Aspect

Multicultural opportunities are provided throughout each class through projects and case studies. There is an emphasis on global business and its effects on our economy.

Curriculum

New textbooks were purchased for this school year. Faculty reviewed materials and made selections based upon the standards for each course.

All students are required to take a personal finance/economics course as a graduation requirement. This is in response to preparing our students to be college and career ready. Students may choose to take the one semester course or they may choose to take a semester of Wealth Building Fundamentals and a semester of Macroeconomics for college credit in order to meet the graduation requirement.

Accounting has been modified to be a semester class. This gives more scheduling flexibility. The Arlington Yearbook has expanded with an elementary yearbook. In the first year, over 150 were sold.

Student Learning

W!SE Financial Literacy Certification Program grants personal finance certifications to be administered at Arlington High School. The program provides high school students with access to financial education and the opportunity to become certified financially literate. Topics mastered include money, budgeting, cost of money, banking, credit, insurance, housing, retirement planning, regulatory agencies and financial planning and management. Students who pass the CFL Test are Certified Financially Literate.

W!SE recognized Arlington High School as a Blue Star School for performance of the students 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Financial Literacy Certification Test. To earn the Blue Star, a school must achieve a 75 percent passing rate on the Certification Test and have either a majority of students on a given grade level take the test or have the students who took it achieve an average score of 80 percent or higher. Of the 26 students tested during the 2016 fall semester, 25 passed with proficiency. The certification tests are set to be administered to all students in personal finance courses.

The Nebraska State Legislature has appropriated funds to support the implementation of the Microsoft Information Technology Initiative in Nebraska. These funds have allowed the Information Technology I and II courses to receive Certiport Microsoft Office Specialist exams for the students. This program will help bridge the skills gap by providing the training foundation and the validation of information technology skills.

Information Technology I and II courses participated in the Nebraska Microsoft Information Technology Initiative. The Initiative is a partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Career and Technical Education, Microsoft, and Certiport. Through this Initiative Current Information Technology, I and II students are given the opportunity to earn certification in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access at the specialist and expert levels. Becoming certified validates that student have the information technology skills they will need for college and career in today's technology-centered job market. This has provided a great opportunity for student in a small school to be able to obtain an industry certification.

Response to Students Not Learning

Lunch ESP and GRIP are utilized for students who are not turning in homework or who need extra attention to be successful. Additional time before and/or after school is provided by individual teachers in the business department.

Enrichment

Arlington FBLA has a current paid membership of 84 members, with 108 students participating this year. Students are engaged in community service and competitions as an extension of their learning. During the 2015-2016 school year, FBLA members contributed over 1,000 hours of community service. Students also continue to perform well at a variety of business competitions, placing as individuals and as an overall team. In 2015, fourteen students represented Arlington at the National Leadership Conference with three teams placing first, seventh, and tenth nationally. In 2016, nine students attended the National Leadership Conference. Students continue to take on leadership roles at both the local and state.

Other Information

Currently four courses (Macroeconomics, Business Law, Personal Finance, and Information Technology II) are being offered as dual-enrolled classes through Metropolitan Community College. Students are able to pay reduced tuition and acquire both Arlington High School and college credit.