

GLOBAL COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP COURSE

Accomplishment related to Value #1, Indicators #9 and #11

Global Community Citizenship course (0.5 credit) mandated for all 9th graders beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the fall of 2019.

The Board of Education voted on December 5, 2018 to support the Superintendent's decision to include a 0.5 credit Global Community Citizenship course for all 9th graders beginning with the 9th grade class entering in the Fall of 2019. In response to an incident of racial bias in the 2016-17 school year and the impact of that incident on the community, Arundel High School initiated the design of a Global Community Citizenship course. This course, written through the school's Signature theme, supported student self-exploration and collaborative discussions of events, traditions, cultures, and circumstances that shape views, behaviors, and individual goals. A citizenship movement began with this course's approval for Arundel in April 2017. This course was developed to help students learn to build relationships and have constructive dialogue by understanding and appreciating differences between and among people while valuing the things we have in common. When you look at the Strategic Plan, approved by the Board, relationships are at the heart. This course fully aligns with that plan. We have seen significant positive results as the Global Community Citizenship Course has allowed students and staff alike to express their voices and feel valued. It has also enhanced relationships between and among students and staff, as well as promoted values of acceptance and inclusion.

Moving Forward from One High School to ALL High Schools

Arundel High School developed and piloted this course successfully from 2017 to 2019. Under the leadership of the Assistant Superintendent for Advanced Studies & Programs in collaboration with leaders from across the school system and community, this course was brought to life for all 9th graders for the 2019-2020 school year through each high school's Signature and/or Magnet-themed programs. In addition to the current content elements, the course will also be designed to support students to increase their active listening and conversation skills to become more effective communicators. Teachers for this course were chosen from each high school during spring 2019 and were offered professional development during the spring and summer months. In addition, all 64 GCC course teachers enrolled in a three-day professional development experience during the summer of 2019, prior to their teaching of the course in the fall of 2019.

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NOTE 1: Global Community Citizenship (GCC) Course will be a graduation requirement beginning with 2019-2020 school year's freshman class. More details can be found on at the [Global Citizenship website](#) and the [Press Release about the Global Citizenship Course](#).

NOTE 2: Our 9th grade students in magnet programs will not see a reduction in their programs of study due to the addition of this course; a unique GCC course will be designed to meet the themed program needs of students in each of our BMAH, IB, PVA, and STEM magnet programs.

NOTE 3: As of February 2020, approximately 2500 or 50% of all 9th graders have completed the one-semester Global Community Citizenship course. Any 9th grade students who were enrolled in the GCC course during the school year, but failed to earn credit, will have the opportunity to retake the course in summer school in order to earn this ½ credit which is mandatory for graduation.

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