

Description of educational programs:

Santa Fe Trail USD #434 is a 4A school district with approximately 1,050 students Pre K through 12th grade. Located approximately 15 miles from Topeka, Santa Fe Trail is made up of the communities of Carbondale, Overbrook and Scranton; predominantly a rural district. A district and community that has established high academic expectations and historically, the school district has achieved adequately on state assessments. Our ACT scores over the past 5 years have ranged from a low of 20.9 to a high of 23.6 with over 50% of seniors taking the test. Other academic testing includes the PSAT for both sophomores and juniors. In 2012 10 sophomores participated, scoring an average mean of 48.0 in critical reading; 51.1 in math; and 47.1 in writing skills. Eighteen juniors participated, scoring an average mean of 49.2 in critical reading; 48.7 in math; and 45.7 in writing skills. The district's free/reduced population is nearly 50%, qualifying the district as a high at-risk school district.

We are a district who has developed a partnership with Washburn Institute of Technology, which allows for students to explore technical education in twenty different career areas and earning certifications in their areas of interests for future careers. Our district has a long history of being involved with the Washburn Institute of Technology. Prior to 2005 when graduation requirements changed requiring an additional math and science course, the district sent as many as 40 students to vocational classes to the Institute. Since 2005, many of our students have elected to graduate high school and then attend Washburn Institute. This change has occurred, largely in part to students desiring to take as many electives as possible while attending Santa Fe Trail High School. At the current time, approximately 27 students attend Washburn Institute of Technology.

Washburn Institute of Technology is a nationally recognized innovator in career and technical education. The Institute of Technology's unique relationship with Washburn University gives students the added benefits of starting with technical courses and continuing to advanced degrees while preparing for today's career opportunities.

Dedicated faculty and staff serve adult and high school students as well as business and industry participants with career specific training in the areas of construction, health care, human services, technology, and transportation.

Santa Fe Trail Schools also has a long-standing, strong relationship with Allen County Community College, many Santa Fe Trail students earn 24-48 college credits prior to graduation through concurrent and on-line classes. Occasionally a student has earned an associate's degree concurrently while obtaining their high school diploma through Allen County.

Description of parental and community support

Business and Career readiness Partnerships

As a school district, there are few opportunities for business and career readiness partnerships due to the rural nature of the community, but neighboring Topeka provides numerous opportunities for students. One long-term, established relationship for career readiness and preparedness is our partnership with Brookside Manor. Brookside Manor is the only long term-nursing home in the district, which employs and assists with clinical experiences for our CNA students. Many of our former students also work for McElroy's Plumbing, Electrical, Heating and Air in Topeka. McElroy's takes a vested interest in our students after graduation because of their strong vocational skills.

Parental and Community Support

During the past school year (2012-2013) students grades 8-12 took either the PLAN or EXPLORE tests, depending on their grade level. The results of these tests were discussed with both the parents and students, at the same time, through meetings established at the convenience of the parents. From these discussions, the district forged better relationships with parents and students by having something concrete to address concerning the learning and interests of the students. Through this process, the district discovered there is considerable interest in vocational education in our district. Due to the positive results of these meetings, the decision was made to expand the program to 7th grade students. As the district continues to gather information and understood how interested our students are in vocational education, the district is offering scholarships and transportation for students entering grades 7-10 to attend Washburn Institute of Technology's one week Summer Camps. This was well-received and extremely popular with over 30 students attending camps during this past summer.

Specific Goals and Measurable Pupil Outcomes to Be Obtained

Santa Fe Trail: an innovative, experience rich district strives to achieve educational choice for each individual student to explore his/her interest and to develop hands-on experience rich skills that the student can utilize in his/her career beyond high school. This choice is made possible in part through growing and embracing a partnership with the school, parents, students and business community. Additionally, this choice is made possible because of continual conversations with the student, parent, counselors, teachers and administrator. Together all parties will work collaboratively together to help each individual student be prepared for life beyond high school. Allowing individual student choice guided by each student's support staff will allow for more students to leave Santa Fe Trail School District with associate degrees, college credits, hands-on

experiences in areas of interest and an education that will help the individual student be prepared for the student's future.

Students attending Santa Fe Trail High School will have the individual choice of three different educational plans. All three plans will meet graduation requirements and allow for movement from one plan to another if the individual student's interests change.

College and Career Ready – Essential Skills

Students studying in the essential skills plan will develop the skills essential for a student to be successful in a career immediately following graduation from high school. Students in this plan may choose to take college level courses. (Reference College and Career Ready – Essential Skills Plan in the Appendix)

College and Career Ready – Technical Skills

Students studying in this plan will attend Washburn Institute of Technology during the junior and senior year to receive instruction in a technical program. Students will have the opportunity to earn certifications and/ or an associate's degree from Washburn Institute of Technology while in high school. Many courses will be taken for dual high school and college credit. (Reference College and Career Ready – Technical Skills Plan in the Appendix)

College and Career Ready – Career Skills

Students studying in this plan will attend Allen County Community College during the junior and senior year to receive instruction at a college level in a college community to better prepare the student for further education after high school. Students in this plan will have the opportunity to earn an associate's degree from Allen County Community College while in high school. Many courses will be taken for dual high school and college credit. (Reference College and Career Ready – Career Skills Plan in the Appendix)

Within the three plans individual students will have three paths that may be selected to best meet the student's individual learning needs and future plans. These three paths will meet graduation requirements and allow for movement from one path to another if the individual student's interests change.

Traditional path

This path is for the student who would like to complete his/her high school career in four years. Instruction will be focused based on the plan that the

individual student has selected with the guidance of his/her parents and counselors.

Accelerated path

This path is for the student who would like to complete high school in three years or complete an associate's degree through Washburn Institute of Technology or Allen County Community College. This path will allow for students to have experience with taking course in the classroom setting and on-line. This on-line component allows for students to experience a different type of instruction, which potentially will benefit them in their continuing education. Many colleges are recommending that incoming students have taken at least one on-line course. Instruction will be focused based on the plan that the individual student has selected with the guidance of his/her parents and counselors.

Enriched path

This path is for the student who would like the opportunity to have work experience or on the job training in his/her career of interest related to the student's studies during the junior or senior year at either Washburn Institute of Technology or Allen County Community College. This path will allow for students to have experience with taking course in the classroom setting and on-line. This on-line component allows for students to experience a different type of instruction, which potentially will benefit them in their continuing education. Many colleges are recommending that incoming students have taken at least one on-line course. Instruction will be focused based on the plan that the individual student has selected with the guidance of his/her parents and counselors.

Individual student choice being successful is dependent upon meaningful conversations with all parties involved: students, parents, teachers and administrators on at least an annual basis. These conversations focus around individual student interests, college/ career aspirations and data. Beginning during conferences of the seventh grade year, the counselors facilitate a meeting with all key parties mentioned above to begin these individual student choice conversations. The Explorer assessment results are the vehicle used to begin these conversations and goal setting. The conversation is continued in the eighth grade year with each individual student and the feedback that is gained from the Explorer. In the ninth and tenth grade year the team will meet again to collaborate and discuss the student's chosen path and plan as well as the entrance requirements for Washburn Technical Institute and Allen County Community College if it applies to the student's path choice. Information gathered from the PLAN is also part of the conversation during these conferences. The dialogue during the junior and senior

year focuses on the path and plan the student is studying as well as planning and preparing for the next step in the student's future.

The outcomes resulting from implementing student choice and hands-on experience rich learning in education are truly student focused and student driven. The expected results are that an increased number of students will graduate from the Santa Fe Trail School District with both their high school diploma and an associate's degree; additionally, more students will be earning college credits during high school to help them be better prepared for their future. The dual enrollment numbers from Washburn Technical Institute and Allen County Community College can measure these goals. Providing students with the opportunity to have hands-on experience rich learning in the student's career area or skill interest during high school will be measured through the student's successful completion of a work/ career course and logs.

Explanation of how pupil performance in achieving the specified outcomes will be measured:

When implementing a new program it is essential to measure progress on a regular basis. This innovative school structure is based on building the student's skill set and experiences while in high school; just like the plans and paths are individualized to meet the needs of each student the tools to measure the success of the students will also be individualized. We will utilize testing data, enrollment numbers in each plan, path and dual enrollment program.

The skill based data that is gathered from the PLAN and Explorer assessments in the seventh through tenth grade are the vehicles for the yearly discussions regarding the individual student's path, plan and progress. This data will be analyzed yearly to measure student skill growth by grade, plan and path. Additionally, skill based data will be gathered at least once during high school through the assessments outlined below:

College and Career Ready – Essential Skills students will take the ASVAB
The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude test that measures aptitude in four domains: verbal, math, science and technical, and spatial. This assessment is designed to help predict future academic and occupational success in the military. <http://official-asvab.com/index.htm>

College and Career Ready – Technical Skills will take the ACT
The ACT® college readiness assessment is a curriculum- and standards-based educational and career planning tool that assesses students' academic readiness for college. www.act.org

College and Career Ready – Career Skills will take the WorkKeys
ACT WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system that helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain a high-performance workforce. This

series of tests measures foundational and soft skills and offers specialized assessments to target institutional needs. www.act.org

Annually we will longitudinally evaluate the number of students enrolled in each plan and path and cross reference that with the skill assessment to assure that the students are developing the skills necessary for them to be successful in their pursuits after high school. The data will be used to enrich, extend or revise plans and paths were needed.

Increasing the number of students enrolling in and completing certification programs and associate's degrees will be another piece of data analyzed yearly. This data will be obtained through dual enrollment figures as well as individual student transcripts. Data analysis of this information will include the number of students participating as a whole as well as by path and plan.

Description of what state laws, rules and regulations from which the district is requesting to be exempt

The innovative school that we want to create to maximize student choice focused around individual learning plans that will maximize each student's skills and experiences while in high school will require some flexibility in state laws and regulations. We would like the flexibility to waive courses required by the state for students pursuing associate or certificate programs in the student's area of interest. These students would be graduating high school with advanced courses, skills and experience well exceeding the minimum state required credits. The "high school credit recommendation" document in the appendix outlines the dual credit opportunities for our students enrolled in the varying technical programs offered through Washburn Technical Institute. Cross-referencing the "high school credit recommendations" with the required state curriculum assisted us in identifying that on occasion there may be a need to waive a third science credit, a third math credit and/or a third and fourth English credit. Our innovative school will be working closely with Washburn Technical Institute and Allen County Community College to maximize the dual credit offerings. These partnerships and dual credit opportunities will allow each student to apply the skills they acquire to his/her future career or learning. Research shows that if a student can see the relationship to the learning and his/her future the level of understanding will be deepened and longer lasting.

Along with the request to be exempted from specific graduation requirements, we would request we be exempted from a few of the Work Experience guideline. This would be an attempt in maximizing the experiences students are able to acquire while still in high school we would request specific wavier from the following:

The first guideline that we would need to be exempted from is below:

The Work Experience program is designed for regular education students that want to gain experience working in a job that is directly tied to a class that the student is enrolled. The academic and occupational skills that the student will be learning need to be at the same skill level as the course that the student is enrolled. KSDE Work Experience Guidelines

Our students enrolling in this course will have taken courses in the career area they will be participating in work experience with, but this is the next step and students may not be concurrently enrolled in a course.

We would also ask that we be exempted from the licensure requirement for work experience. Many of the students participating in this course will have completed or in the process of completing his/her course work through Washburn Technical Institute or Allen County Community College and this course will be offered through Santa Fe Trail High School, therefore the certification may not be in place, but this will not impact the integrity and educational benefits of this course.

The director of the work experience (OJT) program and the teacher coordinator shall hold valid licenses. Licensure shall not be required for persons responsible for training at the on-site location. KSDE Work Experience Guidelines

The last piece of the work experience course that we would like to be exempted from is the official job site visitation every nine weeks. We will require our students to keep logs and time sheets and correspond with the employer, but the manpower to have a site visitation every nine weeks is not in place. Santa Fe Trail School District will be working with the community and the employers to assure that students are getting the experience they need to develop their skills while being safe.

A school official will conduct a job site visitation every nine weeks. KSDE Work

Every student is different and we are excited about creating a school and a community where we can embrace the learning of each and every student while providing them with opportunities to develop skills and experiences that will develop our students into life long learners. Next school year as we make these changes we realize that we may need to make a few changes and for that reason we ask to be able to re-evaluate the state laws, regulations or guidelines which we may need to be exempted from.

College and Career Ready – Essential Skills



Traditional

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

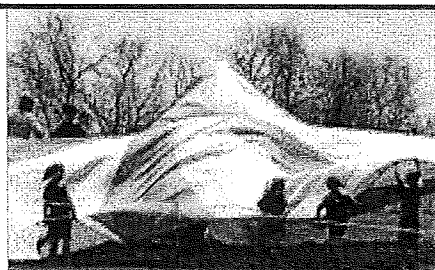
English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	Elective
Amer History	Elective
Math III	Elective
Elective	

12th grade Recommendations

English IV	Elective
Government .5	Elective
Science	



Accelerated

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Gov / Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	Elective
Amer History	Elective
Math III	Elective
Science	

On-Line / Extended Learning Courses to complete

English IV
4 elective credits



Experiential

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Gov / Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	Elective
Amer History	Elective
Math III	Elective
Science	

12th grade Recommendations

English IV	Work Exper
Work Exper	Work Exper
Work Exper	Work Exper
Work Exper	Work Exper

College and Career Ready – Technical Skills



Traditional

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

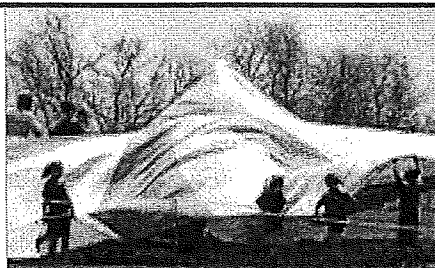
English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	Washburn Tech
Amer History	Washburn Tech
Math III	Washburn Tech
Elective	

12th grade Recommendations

English IV	Washburn Tech
Government .5	Washburn Tech
Science	Washburn Tech



Accelerated

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine Arts / Pract Arts
World Hist/ SS	

10th grade Recommendations

English II	Fine Arts / Gov .5
Math II	Elective
Science	Elective
Amer Hist	

11th grade Recommendations

Washburn Tech	Technical Math II
Washburn Tech	Comp App/College Skills
Washburn Tech	Tech Comm

12th grade Recommendations

Washburn Tech	Tech Writing
Washburn Tech	Intro to Econ
Washburn Tech	Applied Physics

Dual credit will be awarded for courses taken at Washburn Technical Institute

Students may also take on-line / extended learning courses to earn credits



Experiential

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine Arts
World Lang	

10th grade Recommendations

English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Gov .5
Science	Elective
World Lang	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	Elective
Amer History	Elective
Math III	Elective
Science	

12th grade Recommendations

Washburn Tech	Work Exper
Washburn Tech	Work Exper
Washburn Tech	Work Exper

Dual credit will be awarded for courses taken at Washburn Technical Institute

Students may also take on-line / extended learning courses to earn credits

College and Career Ready – Career Skills



Traditional

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

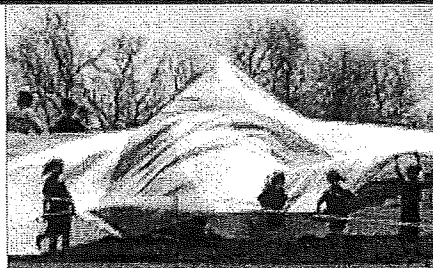
English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	Elective
ACC – Am Hist	Elective
ACC - Math	Elective
Elective	

12th grade Recommendations

ACC - English	Elective
ACC - Gov	Elective
ACC - Science	



Accelerated

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	ACC - English
ACC – Am Hist	ACC Gov / Elective
ACC - Math	Elective
ACC - Science	

12th grade Recommendations

ACC	ACC
ACC	ACC
ACC	ACC

Dual credit will be awarded for courses taken at ACC. Students may also take on-line / extended learning courses to earn credits



Experiential

9th Grade Recommendations

English I	Rotation
Math I	Basic PE
Biology	Fine / Practical Arts
Elective	

10th grade Recommendations

English II	World Hist / SS elective
Math II	Fine / Practical Arts
Science	Comp Apps
Elective	

11th grade Recommendations

English III	ACC - English
ACC - Am Hist	ACC Gov / Elective
ACC - Math	Elective
ACC - Science	

12th grade Recommendations

Work Exper	Work Exper
Work Exper	Work Exper
Work Exper	Work Exper

Dual credit will be awarded for courses taken at ACC. Students may also take on-line / extended learning courses to earn credits