

Program of Studies

Capstone - Sherri Witherell 2025

Polaris Overview

The Polaris Center serves students in grades kindergarten through grade 12 who struggle with emotional regulation in the school environment.

Polaris provides a small, supportive community where the educational and clinical needs of students can be met. Using a trauma informed care approach to student behavior, we focus on the unique strengths and needs of each student.

Students are referred to Polaris by school districts through the PPT process.

Program of Studies

This capstone project was focused on creating an organized Program of Studies for our high school.

It lays out the courses we offer and how credits are earned, giving teachers a solid guide for what to teach.

Over time it will include instructional sequencing.

It also helps our partner districts understand our program's goals and the opportunities available to students.

Problem

High school program has no formal curriculum.

Teachers are struggling with developing their curriculum and making appropriate alterations to meet the needs of all students.

Year to year, course titles change, teachers are confused, repetition of units due to lack of awareness of other classes.

With CT- SEDs alignment of goals to standards, teachers are struggling with how to ensure high expectations and high quality instruction in a specialized setting.

Solution

Development of Program of Studies

- Working document to be built on yearly

Create an outline for high school program

- For teachers - provide a guide on what we represent as a program, and what courses are offered for credits
- For districts - provide an overview of our program and how we address the unique needs of our students
- For families/students - provide a snapshot of the program and the progression of courses as they progress through the program and head towards graduation

Method for Development

Create an action plan to break down the steps of research and development throughout the school year

Determine in the action plan who will be available to assist me and what resources I will need in order to complete the Program of Studies

Review district Program of Studies to gather information such as formatting, outlines, content included

Review Program of Studies from a similar program - FVDC they just created their Program of Studies last year so using this as a guide to determine what to include

Review state credit requirements to ensure alignment

Program of Studies Overview

Who we are

Mision/Vision

Overview of the Program of Studies

- Framework, types of courses (core/extension/CAVE), grading practices, credits, transcripts

Core Courses

- ELA, math, science, social studies, PE/health, art, world language

Extension Courses

- Self-management, STEM, career work experience, CAPSTONE

Assessments

- PSATs, SATs, NGSS

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/liYa95OJJt4e3WG-PrvTQ0wc65sg0Iily/view?usp=sharing>

Next Steps

The Program of Studies will be a working document.

In my new role, I will be continuously working on building the curriculum for our high school and adding to the course details.

We will build on the courses and develop our scope and sequences.

We will continue to add or adjust to meet credit requirements for districts.

Questions

Does anyone have any questions?