San Fernando High School
Smaller Learning Community Plan

Multimedia Academy

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Unifying Vision and Identity

The teachers and counselors for the San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) work together to create an environment where students prepare for the arts and entertainment industry. We are creating classes that utilize graphic design and video to enable students to create a video and electronic portfolio of their educational experience at the SFMA.

We will be creating business partnerships that allow students to intern at successful companies to give our students a more concrete understanding of the business environments they are interested in. These fields would include film and video production, post-production facilities, print and web advertising, package design, web design, and video game design.

We will be offering project based learning within elective courses as well as having an accompanying semester-end interdisciplinary project based on elements from core curricular classes.

Students graduating from the SFMA will have completed all requirements to enable them to enter college as well as prepare them to be computer literate in understanding of word processing, simple database skills, and video production or graphic design.

The SFMA is located on the Campus at San Fernando High School. Our student body is at around 400 students and we plan to stay below 500 in order to remain an institution that can stay focused on individual students needs more efficiently.

We will be sharing much of our budget with the entire school, but since our program is technology-based, we will need to have to have a stronger oversight into the type of graphically based programs that will help our students stay closely aligned with entertainment industry standards.
Our facilities are currently integrated with the entire school but we are in the process of planning differentiated areas for when we are on a traditional school calendar.

Working with the school administration, we currently create a master schedule for our students along side with the faculty of the other schools at San Fernando High School. We are currently offering a graphic arts class and new media classes and we are planning on integrating video production and computer graphic design classes that for all of our students.

The mission of the San Fernando High School Multimedia Academy is to prepare students to successfully meet and exceed high school graduation requirements and ready them for the challenges thereafter.
Rigorous Standards-Based Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The courses offered within the San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) align directly with the district graduation and university admission requirements. The coursework is taught using standards-based instruction intended to help our students achieve academic success.

Our curriculum and instruction is centered on the student-centered theory of learning. We offer rigorous coursework that all students can master with proficiency. Using a multimedia approach to learning will help us both reach students in a variety of modes as well as attract students who are more likely to be interested in learning using multiple mediums.

Intercurricular projects will be introduced in order to create a more cohesive learning environment that reinforces learning as well as concretely connects the interrelatedness of all classes.

Prospective students will be contacted while they are still in middle school and once entered in the SFMA we will offer an introduction to the concepts of multimedia. In their subsequent years, the core curriculum and elective courses will progress in complexity to provide students with the necessary experience to enable them to be successful in their post-secondary environment.

Periodic school, district, and state assessments will be administered to our students. In order to best meet the needs of our students we will be monitoring students’ progresses in these assessments within the SFMA. The faculty at the SFMA will be sharing the same students throughout their four years here. They will be seeing the students in more than one class and will be better able to track the students’ academic status as well as progress. As a faculty, we will review test results to see how to better mold our instruction to our students. To best meet the needs of our English Learners, we will utilize methods of instruction that incorporate multiple modalities in
order have students understand concepts taught in the classroom. Also all of our faculty will be trained and certified to teach students that are English Learners.

We currently have a literacy intervention program called Developing Readers and Writers (DRW). This DRW program is a one to two year program that is meant to help students who are reading well below grade level to achieve grade level literacy before the eleventh grade. We will be sharing this class with other small learning communities at our facility.

Also, our students who meet the criteria for the eligibility of having special needs will receive an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to consider the appropriate amount of time to deliver special education supports and services within the general program. Their resource teachers will work to help them learn within the framework of the SFMA.
Equity and Access

The San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) has an open enrollment policy. Students who are admitted to San Fernando High School are given a choice of small schools and based on interest choose to join our academy. Student interest is the one deciding factor on our student body.

Our students have access to curriculum that meets the needs of all of the students from our community. Counselors meet with the students to best design a course schedule that meets each student's needs.

Resource teachers support special education students. Special needs students meet with these teachers in resource rooms to enable them to meet the necessary standards to complete their core curriculum coursework. Resource teachers also team-teach with their general education counterparts. This helps our students by allowing them to fully integrate within the SFMA.

For students who qualify our students are also supported with a Special Day Program Resource. Those students would have their core curriculum classes taught within the special day program, but be mainstreamed for their elective coursework when possible.

We offer a coursework that is rigorous for students at all levels by also offering honors and advanced placement courses for students who qualify. We have high expectation for all of our students in both meeting the rigorous standards of our curriculum and a code of conduct that is defined the San Fernando High School policy handbook.
**Personalization**

To reinforce personalization at the San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) we are utilizing advisories. We have a daily advisory period with the objective of nourish a sense of collaboration, connection, and caring among students and staff. Through the advisory, groups of students will receive personalized guidance and support in school procedures, study skills, life skills, and career guidance. Our students will keep the same advisory teacher throughout their four years at the SFMA. Their advisor will be a personal resource to help guide them successfully though high school graduation. By keeping the same advisor, they will less likely feel anonymous at the SFMA.

The SFMA has less than five-hundred students and all of our students share the same teachers. This will have them feel a shared sense of community with other students at the SFMA since they will all be sharing the same teachers. Conversely, the faculty will have that same sense of community since they will be sharing the same students. Since we will be a smaller school, students will be having their core curriculum teachers and their elective teachers more than once throughout their four years in the SFMA. This consistency will also foster a sense of sense of security that will help our students feel that there are people who really do know them at the SFMA.

The SFMA offers a personalized educational experience that will meet the needs of our students by offering coursework that allows them to express themselves creatively through the means of computer graphics and video production.

The SFMA also has its own counselor that all of our students share. Since our counselor is only working with our students, our counselor can more easily meet the needs of our students because they will be more familiar with our specific coursework as well as with our teachers.

The SFMA meets with SLC representatives from all advisories in order to receive feedback from our students as to the progress and future direction of our program.
Our students will also have access to the college center at San Fernando High School as well as Project Grad®. Project Grad® offers a campus-based scholarship coordinator, together with social services/parent involvement staff, work to help students graduate and gain access to college. Early in the ninth grade year, all of our students are also asked to sign a learning contract that stipulates what is expected of both the student and parents, as well as what the high school and GRAD will provide during the high school years and beyond. These requirements include:

- Graduate with at least a 2.5 GPA
- Attend at least two summer/intersession institutes
- Successfully complete the courses designated as college preparatory by their state, district, and school
- Graduate in four or fewer years

Project Grad® also offers summer/intersession institutes and college visits as well college support once students have matriculated in college.

In an effort to reach out to the parents of our students we hold back to school nights that allow our teachers to meet with parents to help explain our current curriculum and educational goals. We also meet with parents at school conferences to personally meet with all of our students’ parents to give them individualized feedback in the performance of their children so their parents can best support them.

Working the school administration, we currently create a master schedule for our students along side with the faculty of the other schools at San Fernando High School. We are currently offering a graphic arts class and new media classes and we are planning on integrating video production and computer graphic design classes that for all of our students.
Distributed Leadership and Accountability

The leadership of the San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) will be headed by the lead teacher in coordination with the SFMA design team. The lead teacher will be voted on by the staff and serve a term of two years. The design team will be appointed by the lead teacher on a yearly basis. The lead teacher is the lead liaison to the school administration as well as a member of the school leadership committee and meet with the school. The lead teacher from the SFMA meets on a weekly basis with the lead teachers from the other schools to discuss shared projects and campus conflicts. The lead teacher and the design team will be in charge of planning and operating professional development meetings. The SFMA design team will also plan on future courses available at the SFMA as well as possible schedule changes.

There is also an SFMA advisory committee composed of the lead teacher and a representative from each advisory. This committee not only gives feedback but makes suggestions and proposals that are heavily considered by the design team. This group will make proposals to all aspects of the SFMA including but not limited to SFMA policies, class projects, classroom procedures, methods to increase parental involvement, and community outreach programs.

Back to school night and parent conferences will be used as recruitment events to get parents involved in the SFMA. There will be room for parents to come to SFMA meetings where policies and procedures are discussed and decided.

SFMA policies will be discussed in professional development meetings and decided on by design team members. The design team will also decide upon and plan theme based intercurricular and advisory projects. The design team will also guide and plan the pacing of the advisory schedule to personalize it to first, second, third and fourth year students of the SFMA.
The design team with the lead teacher will also be responsible to research school needs and apply for funds to purchase equipment, software and supplies specifically intended for the SFMA.
Collaboration, Parent and Community Engagement

The San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) will be expanding our efforts to reach out to create partnerships with professionals and business in the entertainment industry. We are also seeking out partnerships with local colleges that offer multimedia classes to best prepare our students to more easily segue into a post secondary program.

Parents of the students at the SFMA are full partners in the education of their children and it is a priority to find a way to get parents more involved. Parents will help plan activities and programs such as back to school night and parent conferences in order to create even more parental involvement. Teachers in the SFMA also have access to the Parent Center. The Parent Center provides translation services as well as services to reach out to parents. They make direct contact with parents. They also provide educational services and classes to parents of the SFMA.

We will be creating a presentation of student work that will allow the community to see the projects that our students are creating in the SFMA.

The SFMA will be creating relationships with businesses in the entertainment industry to allow our students to see what it is like to work in that type of organization.

Once a year the SFMA will present our program to all of the feeder schools in the area to approach students who are interested in computer graphics and video production. The representatives from the SFMA will explain what is meant by a multimedia program and list the careers to which our program would be helpful.

The counselor of the SFMA goes to the feeder middle schools to program the students into the SFMA academy.
**Professional Development**

We expect our students to learn the most current technology that is used within the entertainment industry. To that end, we are in the process of creating a computer lab for our students to have access to technology during class hours. This lab will have hardware and software that will have the current video graphics and video editing software in it.

The San Fernando Multimedia Academy (SFMA) meets on a monthly basis for professional development (PD). PD meetings are used to train our faculty in ways to integrate technology into the classroom. Up to date pedagogical methodology is an important tool to increase student connectivity. Meetings will be used to disseminate best practices.

We will also be discussing benchmark data results to best inform us of our success and current needs of our student population. At the end of our meetings we always get feedback from the faculty as to what we should do in our future PD meetings.

And since personalization is a key aspect of student learning, we will be using PD meetings to further discuss methods to increase personalization as well as use that time to plan lessons together.