

Ballard Staff and Community Members,

I wanted to give everyone an update on the changes coming to the Ballard science sequence for the 2018-19 school year. I know that there is a community meeting tonight on this topic at Ingraham, but I am hoping that the results of our collaboration with the SPS Curriculum and Instruction Department will be enough to convince you to attend our 7:00 PTSA Meeting in the Ballard High School Library tonight to hear an important presentation on Suicide Prevention for parents to work with teenagers in their lives. Depression and Suicide are serious issues that touch many of our students and I hope that you can join us to learn more.

Thank you to MaryMargaret Welch, Science Manager, and Kyle Kinoshita, Chief of Curriculum and Instruction, for their willingness to listen to our concerns and find a solution that preserves yearlong classes for teachers, that gives time for the new courses to be fully developed and vetted and that allows the Biotech Academy to continue with largely the same format. I believe that the mutually developed solution is truly the "radical middle." It preserves the work of the alignment committee and meets the needs of our teachers and students.

Additional details of the plan are in the attachment that is linked below, but the key ideas include:

- 9th graders will start in Biology starting in 2018-19 and progress into Physics 1/Chemistry 1 in their 10th grade year.
- The Biotech Academy will continue largely as it is now, but Juniors in the program will be required to take Physics at the same time they take Genetics to make sure they are prepared for the NGSS exam as a Junior.
- This allows us to continue to offer yearlong Chemistry and Physics classes.
- HCC students who have taken Biology in middle school, will take Chemistry as a 9th grader and Physics as a 10th grader. They are free to take any Science classes they would like after passing these classes.
- All science electives are likely still to be offered, but the number of sections offered will fluctuate based upon student interest and space in their schedule.

There will inevitably be some continued evolution of the plan over the years, but this is a good plan that the Ballard Science Department has reached consensus of in their support. If you have questions, I would be happy to try and answer them.

[Science Compromise.xlsx](#)

Keven Wynkoop

It's Always Great To Be a Beaver!