Last year, LaGuardia’s CFI Team and a group of teachers from the English and Social Studies Departments studied a possible alignment of the U.S. History and American Literature curricula. The Committee included Mr. Dale Hawrylczak, Ms. Kim Washburn, and Mr. Matthew Weiler. These teachers worked out details regarding curricular changes necessary to align chronologically American Literature and U.S. History. We believe that paralleling these courses would benefit our students by helping them develop a deeper understanding of the topics, readings, and activities to which they are exposed.

We invite both departments to consider the possibility of such a change, evaluate its benefits, and plan for its possible implementation in the 2011-12 school year.

We look forward to receiving input from all those affected, including students, parents, and educators. Please review the topics, readings, and possible cross-curricular projects that were proposed. Texts and activities are organized by month. We present this pacing calendar with the hope that it will be the focus of conversations between members of the two departments involved in the change. At the same time, we invite all teachers to review these examples and propose future cross-curricular collaboration among other departments; for example, these may include the integration of work of the studios into academic projects.

### Proposal of the Cross-curricular Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Social Studies Topics</th>
<th>English Readings</th>
<th>Cross-Curricular Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Native Americans and Columbus</td>
<td>Native American poetry and speeches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Puritans</td>
<td>Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God, Jonathan Edwards; The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne; The Crucible, Arthur Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>The Constitutional Convention</td>
<td>The Constitution</td>
<td>Reenactment of the 1787 Convention (55 delegates, debating issues: representation, slavery, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>The Mexican War</td>
<td>“Civil Disobedience” by Henry David Thoreau</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Slavery</td>
<td>Slave Narratives (Douglass, Jacobs); Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>The Civil War</td>
<td>The Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Western Frontier</td>
<td>American Legends and Mythology; The Searchers, Alan LeMay</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>The Gilded Age</td>
<td>Horatio Alger stories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Industrialization</td>
<td>The Jungle, Upton Sinclair</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Progressivism</td>
<td>Kate Chopin’s stories; The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman; Booker T. Washington’s speeches; W.E.B. Du Bois’ writings</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>WWI</td>
<td>A Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway, U.S.A., John Dos Passos</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Harlem Renaissance</td>
<td>poems by Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen; Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Great Depression</td>
<td>The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>Hiroshima, John Hersey; Farewell to Manzanar, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston</td>
<td></td>
<td>Propaganda Film/ Cartoon Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1950’s Domestic and Pop Culture</td>
<td>The Beat Generation: poetry by Allen Ginsberg and On The Road, Jack Kerouac; The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath</td>
<td>Poetry Slam!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions regarding information on this page, please contact a member of the CFI Team. You may call Ms. van Keulen, AP of Data and Technology, at (212) 496-0700 X 2261.
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1. Will the CFI Team exist next year?

The DOE says the following: “The Children First Initiative (CFI) is a professional development program that supports school leaders and teachers to thrive in the Department of Education’s new environment of empowerment and data-driven accountability” (Strategic IT Plan 12).

The mission of CFI is to support each school in closing the achievement gap and expanding its sphere of success. Please review the representative picture below that illustrates the idea behind the CFI:

2. Is Children First Initiative only about SMART goals?

No. The Children First Initiative was designed by the DOE to disseminate knowledge about the concepts behind the Children First Reform, which started in 2003 after Mayor Bloomberg took control over the New York City public schools. This professional development for teachers is supposed to familiarize the teachers with the following Accountability Tools:

- Progress Report
- Quality Review
- Periodic Assessments
- ARIS

and integrate the Accountability Tools into school planning (Strategic IT Plan 16).

3. Do CFI and Inquiry Team mean the same thing?

The Inquiry Team is part of the CFI. In 2007 the DOE supported the creation of an Inquiry Team in every school as a core component of its school improvement strategy. Each inquiry team is charged with becoming expert in using data to identify a change in instructional practice that will accelerate learning for a specific group of underperforming students. Based on what is learned from that experience, teams work with school staff to implement and monitor system-level change to benefit all students (Inquiry Team Handbook 4).

Therefore, Inquiry Teams are created to support and promote the CFI, and the vision of the DOE.

4. How can I learn more?

CFI Members Laura van Keulen, Alex Moore, Erik Sudduth, and Annie Pace would be happy to respond to questions about Inquiry Teams.

Expect more information in future Yellow Sheet articles.

You may also consult documents pertaining to the creation of SMART Goals, the Inquiry Process, and a sample CFI Team project involving note taking at LaProgram.org. You will find the following information on our Web site:

- The mission of the CFI Team
- An explanation of SMART Goals
- An overview of the Inquiry Process
- Meeting presentations, agendas, and minutes
- A sample Inquiry Team project pertaining to note taking. This includes four lesson plans, assessments, data, a rubric, and a presentation


Note: If you would like to know more about the additional DOE documents that were consulted during the writing of this article, please see Ms. van Keulen in Room 261.

COMMAND OF LANGUAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>initiative</td>
<td>n. an introductory act or step</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sphere</td>
<td>n. an area of power, control, or influence; domain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disseminate</td>
<td>v. to spread or become spread; diffuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>component</td>
<td>n. an element of a system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>implement</td>
<td>v. to put into effect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Floor Scoop

Final Examinations Approach

STUDENTS: Begin to prepare for Upcoming Final Examinations.

Tue., June 1: Foreign Language Mathematics
Wed., June 2: English Science
Thu., June 3: Social Studies Phys ed Health
Fri., June 4: Studios

AP Examination Make-up Schedule

STUDENTS: Please Note the Times When You Can Make Up AP Examinations.

AP Make-Up Exams:

Wednesday, May 19: Statistics and United State History (AM) Environmental Science: (PM)
Thursday, May 20: Calculus AB (AM)
Friday, May 21: English Literature (AM)

The exams will take place in the Library. Be prepared to come to school at 7:45 for the AM exams and at 11:45 for the PM exams.

Daedalus is Closed

STUDENTS: Daedalus Closed on Wednesday, May 12.

You have selected honors, AP, and elective classes using Daedalus. Now the first step in the programming process is done.

In June, you will receive a draft of the courses you requested as well as those for which we automatically programmed you.

If you would like to make changes, please meet with your counselor in June.

Continue to regularly check the Program Office Web Site at LaProgram.org for updates on the programming process and information about additional classes that may be offered to seniors.

Summerschool

TEACHERS: Apply to Teach Summer School at http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/SummerSchool/default.htm

Upcoming Spring Festival

STUDENTS, PARENTS, and TEACHERS: Celebrate LaGuardia’s 25th Anniversary at Our Spring Festival!

The Festival will run from Tuesday, May 25, until Friday, May 28. Visit LaProgram.org to learn more.

Faculty Conference

TEACHERS: A Faculty Conference Will Be Held on Mon., May 17, Instead of Department Conferences.

Fire Drills

STUDENTS and TEACHERS: Anticipate Fire Drills on the Dates Below. The following are the remainder of the fire drills for the 2009-2010 school year. There will also be one fire drill held during PM school on a date yet to be determined.

5-14 Rapid Dismissal @ 3:55 pm
5-24 Full Fire Drill period 3 (weather permitting)
5-28 Rapid Dismissal @ 3:55pm

During the full fire drill, we will be following the same fire drill route as in the past. Those exiting on the north side of the building will make their way up towards Amsterdam avenue, cross at the corner of 65th st., go north 1 block to 66th st. and then head west to West End avenue. Those exiting on the south side of the building will make their way up to Amsterdam avenue, cross at 64th st., and then continue heading directly south on Amsterdam avenue to 62nd st.

Upon returning to the building, all classes should be instructed to cross over only at Amsterdam avenue. Students should not be allowed to cross in the middle of 64th or 65th streets, regardless of which exit they used to leave the building. After crossing the street, classes will be instructed as to whether to use the front or back lobby entrance in order to re-enter the building.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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