

Digital Literacy and Computer Science & Library/Media Curriculum Review Update

Westwood School Committee
February 8, 2024



The Review Team

Allison Borchers, Assistant Superintendent

Mary Comer, Instructional Technology Coach

Theresa Fisher, WHS Librarian

Lisa Freedman, Preschool Director and Special
Education Dept. Head

David Girard, Student

Mark Goguen, Instructional Technology Coach

Jennie Goossen, Elementary Science Specialist

Martyn James, Parent

Meg Kara, Pine Hill Librarian

Judy Kress, Instructional Technology Coach

David Lamb, TMS Computer Science Teacher

James Looney, WHS Computer Science Teacher

Meaghan McNutt, Student

Jesse Murphy, TMS Instructional Technology Coach

Steve Ouellette, Director of Technology

Dori Parmelee, Westwood School Committee
Representative

Caitie Peterson, TMS English Language Arts Teacher

Katherine Stewart, TMS Humanities Dept Head

Beth Swinning, Martha Jones Librarian

Canice Thynne, Downey Librarian

This reality isn't going to reverse itself; the channels for consuming and creating content will only become more abundant and easier to access, so our job now, instead of trying to control what stuff reaches our students or restrict their ability to contribute to that growing body of stuff, is to teach them how to participate in the system effectively: arm them with finely tuned critical thinking skills and a clear understanding of the ethics of content creation.

In other words, we need to build our students' media and news literacy.

-Jennifer Gonzalez, Lessons that Build Students' Media and News Literacy (2022)

VISION STATEMENTS

DLCS Vision

Students of the Westwood Public Schools will develop the confidence, technical skills, and ethical framework to thrive in a rapidly-changing digital world. They will use technology for collaboration, productivity, creativity, personal growth and civic engagement.



Library/Media Vision

The Westwood Public Schools libraries are welcoming, inclusive spaces where educators, students and their families find resources, ideas and inspiration.

Our librarians help our students grow as lifelong learners, creative producers, critical consumers, independent thinkers, problem solvers, knowledge chasers, and curious, kind members of the global community.



REVIEW CYCLE & PROCESS HIGHLIGHTS

Westwood Public Schools Curriculum Review Cycle, 2018-2025

	Review	Recommend/Develop	Implement
2018-2019	English Language Arts & Literacy	SEL	Science & Engineering
2019-2020	Social Studies Wellness	English Language Arts & Literacy	SEL
2020-2021	Social Studies Wellness	n/a	English Language Arts & Literacy
2022-2023	Spring: Mathematics Fall: Library Media/ Digital Literacy and Computer Science	Social Studies/ Wellness	n/a
2023-2024	Library Media/ Digital Literacy and Computer Science & World Languages	Mathematics Library Media/ Digital Literacy and Computer Science	Social Studies/ Wellness
2024-2025	Visual & Performing Arts	Library Media/ Digital Literacy and Computer Science & World Languages	Mathematics Library Media/ Digital Literacy and Computer Science

- AASL National School Library Standards
- Digital Literacy & Computer Science Standards (DLCS)
- Survey feedback (staff, students, families)
- Outreach to other districts
- Research

MAJOR THEMES – DLCS

Equitable access to **high-quality curriculum** that will allow students to thrive in a complex digital environment

Ethical online engagement, an awareness of being **safe** online, and a **healthy balance** between online and offline activities

More consistent/expanded opportunities for students to learn **computer science/coding** concepts

Foundational **skill development** that fosters productive, efficient, and impactful student learning

MAJOR THEMES – Library/Media

Equitable access to **high-quality curriculum and programming** that will support students' academic, social and emotional growth

Revitalization of the **middle school library**

Continued **expansion of library collections** to include resources that better represent the diversity within the community and the wider world.

Restoration of the **library director** role

RECOMMENDATIONS: District-Wide

1. Develop a scope and sequence for PreK - 12 Digital Literacy and Computer Science and Library/Media skills by grade level
2. Restore director position to provide dedicated leadership for the library media department.
3. Assemble AI Literacy task force
4. Update Westwood's Guiding Principles for Instructional Technology
5. Provide additional library-based programming to support student mental health
6. Implement programs and practices that encourage underrepresented students to engage in computer science activities and electives.
7. Continue to update and diversify library collections to better represent the diversity within the community and wider world.

RECOMMENDATIONS: PreK – Grade 5

1. Expand direct instruction of DLCS standards at elementary level.
2. Develop curriculum and acquire resources for new DLCS specials in grades 2 - 5.
3. Expand opportunities for elementary libraries/librarians to support project-based learning in later grades.
4. Pilot typing program and gather data to determine the efficacy of providing this systemically to all students.
5. Continue to expand elementary programing beyond library classes.
6. Explore options for supporting the PreK library collection and PreK library specials time.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Middle School

1. Restore middle school librarian and rebuild the middle school library program
2. Audit and update the middle school library collection
3. Shift model for instructional technology coaching to facilitate the embedding of DLCS standards in the content areas.
4. Review/revise computer science curriculum to align with DLCS standards
5. Develop DLCS learning targets and specific lessons for each grade level at the middle school to be implemented during advisory blocks or integrated into class instruction.

RECOMMENDATIONS: High School

1. Develop an approach to teaching and learning at the high school in the age of generative AI.
2. Expand library-based programming to support student career development.
3. Expand high school CS course offerings--Computer Science Principles for juniors and Computer Science A (Java Programming) for seniors--and offer both courses at the AP and college prep levels.

NEXT STEPS: Spring 2024 – June 2025

Spring/Summer 2024

- Recruit and hire a middle school librarian
- Develop scope and sequence for K-12 DLCS and library standards
- Write curriculum for new elementary DLCS elementary specials
- Review and revise Thurston computer science curriculum
- Purchase materials for elementary DLCS specials
- Hire Technology Facilitators at Thurston
- Assemble AI Task Force

School Year 2024-2025

- Pilot elementary typing program
- Launch new DLCS elementary specials
- Embed DLCS standards in middle school content areas and advisory blocks
- AI Task Force work with specific focus on high school teaching and learning
- Implement new high school CS course offerings
- Audit and rebuild middle school library collection
- Recruit and hire a library director

Up Next for Reviews

<i>2024 - 2025</i>	Visual & Performing Arts
<i>2025-2026</i>	Science & Engineering
<i>2026-2027</i>	English Language Arts/Literacy
<i>2027 - 2028</i>	Social Emotional Learning

Thank you!

