

1. Course Title: Explor Academic Strategies 6	6. Prerequisite(s): N/A
2. Action: ___ New Course __x_ Course Revision ___ Title Change Only	7. Grade Level: 6
3. Transcript Title/Abbreviation: (For Educational Services)	8. Elective/Required: Elective: Part of the 6 th grade exploratory wheel
4. Transcript Course Code/Course Number: (For Educational Services)	9. Subject Area: Elective
5. CBEDS Code: (For Educational Services)	10. Department: Other
11. Length /Credits: 6 week exploratory ___ 0.5 (half year or semester equivalent) ___ 1.0 (one year equivalent) ___ 2.0 (two year equivalent) _x_ Component of Wheel	
12. Was this course previously approved by UC? ___ Yes ___x_ No If so, year removed from list: _____	
13. Meets the "_____" requirements in the a-g university/college entrance requirement. Approval date: _____	
14. School Contact Information Name: ___ Michael Hans _____ Title/Position: ___ Principal _____ Phone: ___ 510-748-4018 _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: ___ mhans@alameda.k12.ca.us _____	
16. Signatures: Department Chair: _____ Principal: <u>Michael Hans</u> Acknowledged by Other Principals: <u>Carmie Harris</u> <u>RH</u> Educational Services: <u>for SAs</u>	
16. Superintendent Signature: _____ Date Approved by Board of Education: _____	

SECTION B. COURSE CONTENT

17. **Course Description:** In this six week wheel class students will focus on the skills middle school students need for success, mainly organization. Students start off learning how to navigate School Loop the school's website. They learn how to use this electronic tool to keep them on top of their assignments. They brainstorm ways to stay organized and they will learn about organizing paper files, computer documents and even using their school locker. They explore Google Drive and learn how to use its free word processing tools such as google docs, slides, spreadsheets, making posters and presentations and exploring online resources.
18. **Course Goals and/or Major Student Outcomes:** The goal is to make a revision to the current Academic Strategies course, this would allow 6th graders to take an exploratory course that will introduce the skills necessary to be successful in middle school and beyond. This class would serve as one of the six classes on the 6th grade exploration wheel.
19. **Course Objectives (standards):** Students will learn the skills necessary to allow them to be successful academically at a middle school level and beyond. Same as the current Academic Strategies course, just at an introductory level.
20. **Course Outline:**
 - a. Students are expected to be reflective and construct their own understanding of what it means to be academic and successful.
 - b. Students familiarize themselves with School Loop and the ways in which it can support their learning. They explore using the School Loop to email teachers and other students, participate in online class discussions, check assignments and grades, store files in an electronic locker and how to turn-in work using a School Loop portal.
 - c. Students work in teams to collaborate in discussing and preparing presentations on a variety of strategies that they can use to succeed in school such as using a calendar or agenda to keep track of assignments, using an assignment sheet, budgeting their time (for both short and long term planning) and organizing their papers and workspace. They use these skills to check that their binders are organized, to create a schedule for using their lockers and to organize their online files.
 - d. Students discuss ways to juggle the workload of middle school and the proper etiquette for writing a professional sounding email. Time is spent discussing ways to organize thoughts and ideas and categorize information using charts or graphic organizers.
 - e. Students look at the importance of using credible sources and citing sources of information. Time is spent exploring online resources such as Citation Machine (which helps students create properly formatted citations),
 - f. Students engage in improving their keyboarding tools
 - g. Students to create review flashcards and study flashcards created and shared by others. Students find and share online resources that may help others grow as learners.
21. **Instructional Materials:** Chromebooks and Google Drive
Board approved required text: N/A
Supplementary materials: N/A
22. **Instructional Methods and/or Strategies:** Students engage in reflective writing as well and group discussions.
23. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Based on student participation and completion of assignments.
24. **Grading Policy:** Student graded pass/fail.

SECTION C. OPTIONAL INFORMATION

25. Context for offering the course: This successful course currently exists for the 2014-2015 school on our 6th grade wheel titled "Exploration 6". This is our effort to match the course title to the actual class.
26. History of Course Description: Middle schools have had a course approved Academic Strategies class for 7th and 8th graders. We had a need for incoming 6th graders to learn the strategies needed in order to be successful in the middle school setting. Students needed a class on how to do research, compose various types of academic writing, develop collaboration skills and fully utilized the technology that is available to them.