

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th GRADE

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

2009 - 2010



977 BALLS HILL ROAD
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA
22101

COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Mr. Anthony Terrell	Assistant Principal, 7 th grade
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Ms. Terri O'Banion	Admin. Assistant / Registrar
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JAMES F. COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

2009-2010 COURSE GUIDE

This course guide includes descriptions of both seventh and eighth grade courses offered at Cooper Middle School. It is a valuable resource to students and parents for planning each year's program. It also contains information regarding the high school program to assist with long-term planning.

Middle school students are required to demonstrate knowledge and competency based upon identified standards of achievement in four core areas that include language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students complete their programs by selecting yearlong or semester electives. Electives offer opportunities for enrichment, specialization, and interest exploration. Elective choices should be made only after careful consideration of individual goals and interests. Often it is necessary to make a tentative plan for elective choices in both years.

All course offerings are subject to sufficient enrollment as well as availability of staff. It is essential that students give alternate elective choices. Courses offered at Cooper meet requirements for the Fairfax County Public Schools Program of Studies and the Virginia State Department of Education. ***No student shall, on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, physical handicap, marital or parental status, be denied enrollment in any course or activity.*** Compliance is coordinated through various county departments. For specific information, contact the guidance department.

Students earn high school credit for enrollment in the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, French I, Spanish I, German I, and Japanese Immersion. Final grades in these courses are included in the computation of high school rank and grade point average and are included in the total number of units required for graduation.

Planning a middle school program can be challenging, exciting, and frustrating. Making elective choices is sometimes difficult and choices are limited. Electives provide the opportunity for new experiences. The

Middle School Promotion Guidelines 2009 – 2010

To qualify for promotion, seventh and eighth grade middle school students must demonstrate knowledge and competency based upon identified standards of achievement in the four core areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. To guarantee promotion, students must master the foundational knowledge and skills in each of the four core subject areas and earn a passing final grade based on grade level expectations.

Students who earn an “F” as a final grade in one or two core subjects are retained and encouraged to attend a summer program. Based upon the extent to which a student demonstrates knowledge and competency of identified standards of achievement in a summer program, he/she is promoted or retained. Students who are promoted will receive continued intervention throughout the following school year. If students do not attend a summer program, they are retained at the discretion of the principal.

Students who earn an “F” in three of four core courses are retained.

Reminder to parents of students in High School credit classes:

Parents of students in grade 8 who wish to have their student’s grades for high school credit courses expunged from their record must make that request to the high school Director of Student Services in writing prior to the end of the first nine weeks of school.

EIGHTH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH

English 8

36 Weeks

Grade: 8

Students read and study a variety of literature, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and interpreting the text. Language study includes vocabulary building, learning about grammar, and spelling. Through varied and frequent writing assignments, students build on their understanding of writing as a process that includes drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, and publishing. Students practice a variety of writing forms including informational/technical and essay writing. All students learn to adapt speaking and writing skills to the audience, topic, purpose, and situation. Reading and writing competencies addressed in the Virginia Standards of Learning are incorporated into the course objectives. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics and Economics

36 Weeks

Grade: 8

The grade eight program is designed to prepare students to be responsible, productive citizens in a democratic republic and an interconnected world. Basic knowledge and understanding of the concepts and processes of democratic government and the American economic system are stressed. Students are helped to understand the meaning of individual rights and responsibilities; the ideals of liberty, justice, equality; and the rule of law. Students learn about making choices and recognizing the consequences of decisions, including personal, political, and economic decisions. Students also learn that citizens must value individual and group expression, appreciate diversity, and develop moral values. A service learning component helps students personalize citizenship education. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

SCIENCE

Investigating Matter and Energy

36 Weeks

Grade: 8

Investigating Matter and Energy builds upon the experiences in the physical sciences introduced to students in the upper-elementary grades. Properties of matter, energy forms and their transformations, and forces and motion are content strands developed through a sequence of hands-on investigations. To augment the inquiry-based investigations, computer technologies including graphing calculators, Vernier probeware, CD-ROMs, and streaming videos are used to build background knowledge and enhance student understanding. Process skills related to scientific investigation, reasoning, and logic are integrated throughout the course as students carry out investigations, collect and analyze data, and formulate conclusions.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

MATHEMATICS

Eighth grade students have four options in math. Teachers will recommend one of the following courses:

Mathematics 8

36 Weeks

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Math 7

Students extend their study of algebra and geometry preparatory concepts and skills; strategies for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data; and number concepts and skills especially proportional reasoning. Reasoning, problem solving, communication, concept representation, and connections among mathematical ideas are emphasized in a hands-on learning environment. Graphing calculators and computers are integrated with instruction. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

Algebra 1

36 Weeks

Credit : 1 High School

Prerequisite: Middle School Mathematics

This course extends students' knowledge and understanding of the real number system and its properties through the study of variables, expressions, inequalities, and analysis of data derived from real-world phenomena. Emphasis is placed on making connections in algebra to geometry and statistics. Calculator and computer technologies will be used as tools whenever appropriate. Use of a graphing calculator is considered essential to provide a graphical and numerical approach to topics in addition to a symbolic approach. Topics include linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations, relations, functions and polynomials. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

Algebra 1, Honors

36 Weeks

Credit: 1 High School

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Mathematics 7 and/or Mathematics 8

The depth and level of understanding expected in Algebra I Honors is beyond the scope of Algebra I. Students are expected to master algebraic mechanics and understand the underlying theory, as well as apply the concepts to real-world situations in a meaningful way. Students extend knowledge and understanding of the real number system and its properties through the study of variables, expressions, equations, inequalities, and the analysis of data from real world phenomena. Emphasis is placed on algebraic connections to arithmetic, geometry, and statistics. Calculators and computer technologies are integral tools. Graphing calculators are an essential tool for every student to explore graphical, numerical, and symbolic relationships. This course has an end-of-course Standards of Learning test. Students who have mastered the standards of Mathematics 7 and 8 in grade 7 are eligible to take Algebra 1 Honors in grade 8. When taken in grade 8, Algebra 1 Honors becomes a part of the high school transcript record, is included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and counts as one of the required mathematics credits for high school graduation. Parents may request that the Algebra 1 Honors grade be omitted from the student's transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. Students taking Algebra 1 Honors in grade 8 must pass the course to be promoted to grade 9.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

Note: Admission to the Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology requires the completion of Algebra 1 prior to grade 9.

Rising 7th grade students will be placed in Algebra I Honors by meeting the following division-wide requirements:

1. Participation in sixth grade Compacted Mathematics or a full year's advanced mathematics program in grade 6.
2. A score at the 92nd percentile or better on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IATT) in grade 6.
3. A score of 500 or better (pass advanced) on the Virginia Standards of Learning Grade 8 mathematics test at the end of grade 6.

Geometry, Honors

36 Weeks

Credit: 1 High School

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

The depth and level of understanding expected in Geometry Honors is beyond the scope of Geometry. This course emphasizes two- and three-dimensional reasoning skills, coordinate and transformational geometry, and the use of geometric models to solve problems. A variety of applications and some general problem-solving techniques, including algebraic skills, will be used to explore geometric relationships. Conjectures about properties and relationships are developed inductively and then verified deductively. Students investigate non-Euclidean geometries, formal logic, and use deductive proofs to verify theorems. Calculators, computers, graphing utilities, dynamic geometry software, and other appropriate technology tools will be used to assist in teaching and learning. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Physical Education 8

36 Weeks

Students continue to strengthen and/or master basic skills, and participate in wellness activities and wellness-related testing and fitness planning. Content areas include tumbling, rhythmic activities and dance, and application of skills in selected games and sports. Students begin to review lifetime sports and activities for lifetime wellness planning.

Students study health units on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention, safety and first aid, lifetime health habits, mental health, and human growth and development.

Adapted Physical Education

36 Weeks

Prerequisite: Student's I.E.P. designates Adapted Physical Education

Adapted physical education is a developmental course for general education and/or special education students. This course serves students who are temporarily or permanently physically disabled or have deficiencies in motor coordination and/or physical fitness. This program is individualized and is directed toward improvement of deficiencies. The program includes specifically selected activities that are suited for the student's level of performance that will improve deficiencies, and maximize participation. Students in adapted physical education will participate in all health education units required on their grade level.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Students in the ESOL program possess moderate, limited, or no proficiency in English and need varying degrees of English instruction. They are divided into three levels; Level 1, who take a minimum of four classes of ESOL; Level 2, who take a minimum of two classes of ESOL; and Advanced Level 3 and 4, who take one class of ESOL and regular English.

ESOL LEVEL 1 LIT

Grade: 7, 8

This is the first of two English language classes that all Level 1 students take. Level 1 students' language and vocabulary needs necessitate a two-period language class. It is a literature-based class that helps students develop language skills, which enable them to function socially and academically, while preparing them for later SOL achievement. It may be tied to FOCUS Science and ESOL Social Studies and draws on content-related readings and a variety of genres for language development. Students work on developing vocabulary, reading comprehension and the writing process as well as strategies that will enable them to succeed in mainstream classes. Opportunities to use technology for research and publishing are essential in this course. Students are placed by staff at Student Registration and an ESOL teacher. This course may be repeated. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

ESOL LEVEL 1 LIT

Grade: 7, 8

This is the second part of two English language classes that all Level 1 students take. Level 1 students' language and vocabulary needs necessitate a two-period language class. It is a literature-based class that helps students develop language skills, which enable them to function socially and academically, while preparing them for later SOL achievement. It may be tied to FOCUS Science and ESOL Social Studies and draws on content-related readings and a variety of genres for language development. Students work on developing vocabulary, reading comprehension and the writing process as well as strategies that will enable them to succeed in mainstream classes. Opportunities to use technology for research and publishing are essential in this course. Students are placed by staff at Student Registration and an ESOL teacher. This course may be repeated.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

ESOL SS 7TH GR

Grade: 7

This course is the social studies course for Levels 1 and 2 seventh graders when the levels are combined. It is aligned with the 7th grade Standards of Learning and FCPS POS. It is designed to give students a chance to develop language skills while studying content that will be relevant should the student need to take the U.S. History SOL exam.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test

ESOL SS 8TH GR

ESOL (levels 1 and 2 combined) Civics 8

Grade: 8

This course is the social studies course for Level 1 and 2 students when the levels are combined. It is aligned with the 8th grade Standards of Learning and FCPS POS. It is designed to give students a chance to develop language skills while studying content that will be relevant should the student need to take the Civics and Economics SOL exam.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

FAST MATH 3

ESOL FAST Math 3

Grade: 7, 8

This course provides instruction in 7th and 8th grade math skills to Level 1 and 2 ESOL students, who are one year below grade level or have gaps in math and language which would impact success in mainstream math classes. It presents the 7th and 8th grade program of studies in a compacted format using manipulatives, adapted materials and ESOL strategies for teaching the language of math. This class prepares students to take the math SOL.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

ESOL LVL 1 SCIENCE

ESOL A Science

Grade: 7, 8

This course is the science course for Level 1 students. It is an alternating year curriculum taking into account that some students may be Level 1 at both 7th and 8th grade. It is designed to keep beginning ESOL students at pace academically while they are learning English. Students learn the basics of scientific process along with key vocabulary and concepts through exploration and experimentation with science kits. In even years students learn biology, physics and earth science through the study of these science kits: Plant Growth, Microworlds, Light and Sound, and Electricity and Magnetism. In odd years, students learn biology, chemistry, physics and earth science based on these kits: Weather, Simple Machines, Mystery Powders and Caterpillars and Butterflies. This curriculum provides a foundation for future SOL achievement.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

ESOL LEVEL 2 LIT

ESOL Level 2 Literature and Language

Grade: 7, 8

This course is taken concurrently with a Level 2 ESOL social studies class. It draws on a variety of literature through which students continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing and is preparing students who will need to take the SOL. Fiction and non-fiction literature serve as the foundation for vocabulary and grammar development, and literature selections may be tied to topics in ESOL social studies. The course relies heavily on reading strategies and the writing process along with opportunities to use technology for research and desktop publishing. Students are placed by staff at Student Registration and an ESOL teacher. This course may be repeated. This course earns one foreign language elective credit.

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

GENERAL

Action Literacy 8

18 Weeks

Prerequisite: None

The Action Literacy class is designed to strengthen students' language arts skills using a variety of materials, strategies, and activities. Students will progress toward achievement of the following Standards of Learning and Promotion Benchmarks: 1) expanding and enhancing vocabulary through language and literature, 2) planning, composing, revising, and editing expository and creative writing, 3) understanding elements of literature, and 4) using print/electronic sources to locate information. The low student/teacher ratio will allow for instructional interventions, daily one-on-one assistance, and individualized assignments as needed. This elective course offers students an opportunity to improve reading and study skills. A wide range of materials is used to improve vocabulary and comprehension. **This course is designed for underachieving students in English, Science, or Social Studies.**

Power Math 8

18 Weeks

Prerequisite: None

This elective course offers students an opportunity for improvement of basic math skills. Math competencies addressed in the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) are incorporated into the objectives. **This course is designed for underachieving students in Math.**

Reading

36 Weeks

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

A wide range of materials, both fiction and nonfiction, is used to improve vocabulary and comprehension. Students concentrate on reading for meaning through a variety of literature and content materials. This elective course offers students opportunities for reading improvement. Instruction is based on diagnosis of each student's needs. Reading competencies addressed in the Virginia Standards of Learning are incorporated into the course objectives. **This course is designed for students who are experiencing difficulty in reading. (READ 180)**

Literary Arts: Journalism/Newspaper

18 Weeks

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: None

Students learn basic publication and journalism skills focusing on writing articles and designing layouts for sample pages of a newspaper, yearbook, and literary magazine. Students explore the role of the school journalist and careers in journalism.

Literary Arts: (Advanced) Journalism Yearbook

36 Weeks

Grade 8 ONLY

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the selection procedures including recommendations.
Successful completion of a journalism class in grade 7.

Students are introduced to basic publication skills as they oversee the yearbook from start to finish. Components of this course include designing the sales campaigns, managing accounts, computer planning/designing/copy writing, layout design, photography, developing skills and organization. Each student has personal input and responsibility. Analysis of publications and the study of journalism as a career are incorporated. Activities will also include assisting with the planning, writing, and layout of the school newspaper and literary magazine.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French 1

German 1

Spanish 1

36 Weeks

Credit: 1 High School

Open to 8th grade students only

Students develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic language structures. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - with emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing. Students begin to explore and study the POS themes of Personal and Family Life, School Life, Social Life, and Community Life. For middle school students, this credit becomes a part of the high school transcript, is included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and counts toward fulfilling the foreign language requirements of the high school diploma. It also counts toward the total number of credits required for graduation.

Japanese Immersion 2

36 Weeks

Credit: 1 High School

Prerequisite: Seventh grade Immersion 1 or permission from the instructor

This course is designed to meet the needs of the immersion students in regard to their second language development. Students continue their development of language proficiency in all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They read material on familiar topics and produce short writing samples while studying the themes and topics of Home Life, Student Life, Leisure Time, and Vacation and Travel. The content of this course is aligned with the Level 2 POS. Credit becomes part of the high school transcript, is included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and counts towards fulfilling the foreign language requirements of the Advanced Studies diploma. This course counts toward the number of credits required for graduation.

Introduction to Foreign Language (IFL)

18 Weeks

Grade: 7 and 8th

Students are introduced to two or more foreign languages and cultures, which are, in turn, contrasted with English. The languages most often studied are French, German, Latin, and Spanish – Chinese, Japanese and Russian may also be included. Students learn the most basic structures, vocabulary, and expressions in each language and study the culture of the people who speak them. They are also exposed to the basic steps and study habits necessary to learn a foreign language. Students are made aware of how knowledge of a foreign language enriches a person's life and expands the option in terms of career goals. The 18-week course can include at least four languages. This course does not count as a foreign language credit.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family and Consumer Sciences 8

18 Weeks

Grade: 8

This course uses higher order thinking skills that will help students develop responsible and positive attitudes toward their societal roles. Through lab experiences and simulated activities with peers, students will develop basic skills in sewing, clothing care, food management, care of others, and management of space and self. Nutrition activities will assist students to make wise food choices. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

MUSIC

Beginning Band

36 Weeks

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: None

Beginning level band classes develop skills on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Guidance will be given by the instructor in the selection of an instrument. Simple duets, rounds and other ensemble literature will be performed in the class. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

Intermediate Band

36 Weeks

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: Successful audition

Intermediate level band students will continue to develop skills on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. A variety of musical styles will be studied through the playing of band literature. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

Advanced Band

36 Weeks

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: Successful audition

Advanced level band offers instruction to the advanced player. In-depth study of musical styles will be realized through challenging band literature. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours will be required as a part of this course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Percussion

36 Weeks

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: Successful audition

Percussion class is not for beginners. A student must already play percussion or piano to enroll in percussion class. This course is designed to meet specific needs and/or interests for percussion instruments. Content includes study of the appropriate ensemble literature and rehearsal and performance techniques from the various areas of musical composition. Performances and rehearsals both in and out of school will be required. Instrumentation of the group is at the discretion of the instructor.

Men's Chorus

36 Weeks

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course provides instruction in proper vocal techniques, music fundamentals, and rehearsal practices. Through a variety of choral literature, students will experience two and/or three-part singing. Types of performances may include concert choral performances, choral choreography, and/or musical dramas. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Women's Chorus

36 Weeks

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This course provides instruction in proper vocal techniques, music fundamentals, and rehearsal practices. Through a variety of choral literature, students will experience two and/or three-part singing. Types of performances may include

concert choral performances, choral choreography, and/or musical dramas. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Advanced Women's Chorus **36 Weeks**

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Successful audition

This course offers advanced instruction in vocal techniques, music fundamentals, and sight-reading. Through a variety of choral literature, students will experience three and/or four-part singing. Types of performances may include concert choral performances, choral choreography, and/or musical dramas. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Beginning Orchestra **36 Weeks**

Prerequisite: None

Beginning level string class introduces students to instruments of the string orchestra and develops beginning skills. Guidance will be given by the instructor in the selection of an instrument. Simple duets, rounds, and other literature will be performed in class. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course.

Intermediate Orchestra (Concert) **36 Weeks**

Prerequisite: Successful audition

This course offers the opportunity to participate in string orchestra ensemble. Additionally, intermediate level orchestra students will continue to develop skills on violin, viola, cello, and double bass. A variety of musical styles will be studied through the playing of appropriate string orchestra literature. The students will build upon their instrumental skills by learning shifting and vibrato. This group performs orchestral material of a grade 2, 3, and 4 and often competes in festivals and also at an amusement park. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as a part of this course.

Advanced Orchestra **36 Weeks**

Prerequisite: Successful audition

Advanced Orchestra offers instruction to the advanced level player through in-depth study and performance of challenging string orchestra literature, with the emphasis on upper level skills. String orchestra literature will be studied and performed. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours will be required as a part of this course.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Beginning Guitar **18 Weeks**

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: None

Students learn the fundamentals of guitar. Guitar instruction emphasizes music theory and chordal progressions as well as fingerings for chord patterns. Instructional literature is selected from classical and contemporary repertoire. Guest artists and field trips to performances and/or seminars may also be part of the curriculum.

ART

Intermediate Art

18 Weeks

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Students refine their ability to communicate visually. Emphasis is placed on making interdisciplinary connections based on the Virginia Standards of learning for all disciplines. Students work with a wide range of tools and materials to achieve quality, style, and craftsmanship in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. Students study art history and culture and they evaluate and critique their own artwork and the work of others.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Advanced Art

36 Weeks

Prerequisite: Above average grade in Introductory Art and teacher recommendation or portfolio review

Open to 8th Grade Students Only

Advanced art offers an opportunity to eighth grade students with interest and above average performance in art to refine their artistic skills and techniques. Emphasis is placed on making interdisciplinary connections based on the Virginia Standards of Learning for all disciplines. Students interpret and express personal feelings, experiences, and observations in advanced level art projects. They work with a variety of media and tools including technological applications in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture and they evaluate and critique their own and other students' artwork. Students study art history and culture and analyze the works of great artists.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Introduction to Computers in Art

18 Weeks

Prerequisite: Introductory Art

Open to 8th Grade Students Only Semester 1

Students are introduced to the use of the computer as a production tool for creating original artwork. Emphasis is placed on making interdisciplinary connections based on the standards of learning for all disciplines. Through the use of technology, students explore themes included in the intermediate and advanced art program. Software applications include Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator or other available software. Ethical issues concerning computer generated imagery are addressed. No prior computer knowledge is required. **This course requires a student materials fee.**

Computers in Art

36 Weeks

Grade: 7 & 8

Prerequisite: Introductory Art and Recommendation of Teacher

Students are introduced to the use of the computer as a production tool for creating original artwork. Emphasis is placed on making interdisciplinary connections based on the standards of learning for all disciplines. Through the use of technology, students explore themes included in the intermediate and advanced art program. Software applications include Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator or other available software. Ethical issues concerning computer generated imagery are addressed. No prior computer knowledge is required.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Animation and possible web design will be explored.

Above average grade in Introductory Art and teacher recommendation or portfolio review.

FINE ARTS

Theatre Arts Appreciation

18 Weeks

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

Students develop an appreciation of theatre and the ability to perform through an introduction to the basic concepts and skills of acting. Through viewing and participating in a variety of performance activities, students will enhance imagination, poise, and confidence. Students will use the skills and knowledge obtained to appreciate and understand the purpose of theatre arts in school and other activities.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation

36 Weeks

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts course in grade 7 and/or recommendation of the theatre or speech arts teacher

Students who are continuing the study of theatre arts for a second year will be able to apply and expand the skills developed in the preceding class. They will participate in a variety of dramatic activities and perform for various audiences. This course is designed for students who are interested in an expanded study of theatre arts and oral communication.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**Technology Exploration**

18 Weeks

Formerly Technological Systems

Prerequisite: None

Open to 8th grade students only.

Technology Exploration is the concluding technology education experience at the middle school level. By simulating technological systems and assessing their impacts as well as applying and expanding what they have learned in academic subjects and previous technology education courses, students acquire a global view of technology. Schools with modular "synergistic" labs provide active learning situations that allow students to explore technology and related careers. The content covered in all modular labs is designed to reinforce the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) in math, science, language arts, social studies, and technology.

This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Computer Solutions

18 Weeks

Formerly Technology Tools

Grade: 7,8

Prerequisite: None

Computer Solutions provides students with the skills necessary to use the computer as a problem-solving tool to complete a variety of projects. Students participate in team building activities that include both academic and business competencies. Basic touch keyboarding instruction is provided in the course as well as an introduction to software applications. Students will then use these computer skills to complete cross-curricular activities.

Advanced Computer Solutions

18 Weeks

Business and Information Technology

Grade 7,8

Prerequisite: Computer Solutions or equivalent skill/instructor approval

Advanced Computer Solutions reinforces the concepts taught in Computer Solutions and advances the database, spreadsheet, presentation, publishing, and Internet skills of students. The Advanced Computer Solutions course

extends student expertise in a project-based curriculum. Students need the prerequisite of successful completion of Computer Solutions or teacher approval. The Advanced Computer Solutions course is intended to serve as a bridge to the high school business department curriculum.

PEER HELPING

Peer Helping I

18 Weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the selection procedures including application, recommendations, and interview. Approval by the peer helper instructors and the Director of Student Services.

Open to 8th grade students only.

This is an elective course designed to train and facilitate a peer helper program in the middle school. The course provides an opportunity for students to develop their support and leadership skills in assisting others. Students are taught to help peers by learning to be more effective listeners, developing friendship skills, becoming group leaders, and being positive role models. Course topics include self-esteem and self-exploration, communication skills, peer refusal skills, substance abuse prevention, decision-making, and problem solving techniques. Student activities include friendly support to peers, orientation of new students, elementary outreach, and community service programs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The objective of the special education program is to offer a continuum of services to meet the needs of individual students. Students who require more individual attention and reinforcement are enrolled in the LD self-contained program. Emphasis of the program is remediation and reinforcement. Students may have experiences in mainstream classes in a teaming situation with the assistance of a special education teacher. They may also be fully mainstreamed as their skills are strengthened.

Basic Skills

36 Weeks

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Student's I.E.P. designates Basic Skills

This elective course is designed to provide support to a student in core curricular areas and to provide direct instruction in specific learning strategies, study skills, time management, organization and coping skills. Time is also allotted to address individual areas of need as identified in a student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP). While students may receive assistance on core curricular assignments, the course is not designed to serve as a study hall. The course may be taught as an elective both years, as appropriate.

Reading

36 Weeks

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Special Education Department

This elective course is designed to help students build basic reading skills. Students enrolled in the course receive one period of instruction each day. The course may cover phonemic awareness, comprehension skills, and inferential thinking.

COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eighth Grade Course Selection Sheet: 2009-2010

				School Attended in 7 th Grade
Last Name	First	Middle	Male/Female	
Parent's/Guardian's Name			Home Telephone	
Street Address			Father's Work And Cell Number	
City		Zip Code		Mother's Work And Cell Number
Parent's E-Mail:				

Cooper students will participate in a seven-class block schedule. Eighth grade students must take five required courses and **two** elective classes. The elective classes will be filled with **either two full year OR four semester electives OR one full year and two semester electives**. A complete description of all courses can be found in the Course Description Guide.

REQUIRED COURSES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English 8 (112000)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & P.E. 8 (720000)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science 8 (412500)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civics (235700)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math (311200)

<input type="checkbox"/> ESOL Level I (A) ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ESOL Level II (B1) ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ESOL Level III (B2) ¹
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ELECTIVES COURSES

Select either two full year OR four semester OR one full year and two semester electives from the following list. Because of elective conflicts or inadequate course enrollment, it is necessary to **RANK YOUR TOP 6 CHOICES #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6.** **Every effort will be made to honor requests, however elective choices are not guaranteed.**

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

- Family and Consumer Sciences (820832) _____
- Intermediate Art (910632) _____
- Beginning Guitar (924562) _____
- Literary Arts: Journalism (116168) _____
- Theatre Arts Appreciation (139067) _____
- Technology Exploration (shop) (846332) _____
- Computer Solutions (keyboarding) (615032) _____
- Advanced Computer Solutions¹ (660932) _____
- Introduction to Foreign Language (570032) _____
- Introduction to Computers in Art (911562) _____

Peer Helping¹ (980718) _____

Power Math 8¹ (011066) _____
 Action Literacy 8¹ (011048) _____

YEAR ELECTIVES

- Advanced Literary Arts: Journalism-Yearbook/Newspaper¹ (116160) _____
- Advanced Art¹ (911500) _____
- Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation¹ (139568) _____
- Technology Exploration (846200) _____
- Computers in Art¹ (911560) _____

MUSIC:

- Beginning Band (923210) _____
- Intermediate Band¹ (923310) _____
- Advanced Band¹ (923410) _____
- Percussion¹ (925010) _____
- Men's Chorus (926012) _____
- Women's Chorus¹ (926011) _____
- Beginning Orchestra (923710) _____
- Intermediate Orchestra¹ (923810) _____
- Advanced Orchestra¹ (923910) _____

FOREIGN LANGUAGE:

- French 1³ (511000) _____
- German 1³ (521000) _____
- Spanish 1³ (551000) _____
- Japanese Immersion^{2,3} (591000) _____

Basic Skills¹ (781980) _____
 Reading¹ (110832) _____

¹ Teacher recommendation/placement required.
² Available only to students previously enrolled in the Japanese Immersion Program.

³ One high school credit.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature	Student's Signature	Date
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If your child will not attend Cooper in 2009-10, please indicate where he/she will attend _____

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Secondary Mathematics

Sample Course Sequences

Recommended for students who demonstrate mastery of Mathematics 6-8 by the end of grade 8.

Mathematics 7

Grade 7

Mathematics 8

Grade 8

Algebra 1*

Grade 9

Geometry*

Grade 10

Algebra II

Grade 11

**Trigonometry/
Math Analysis**

Grade 12

Recommended for students who demonstrate mastery of Mathematics 6-8 by the end of grade 7.

Mathematics 7

Grade 7

Algebra 1 Honors

Grade 8

Geometry (Honors)

Grade 9

Algebra 2 (Honors)

Grade 10

**Trigonometry/
Math Analysis**

Grade 11

AP Calculus AB

IB Mathematical Studies

Grade 12

Recommended for students who demonstrate mastery of Mathematics 6-8 by the end of grade 7 and need a very enriched mathematics program in grade 7.

Mathematics 7 Honors

Grade 7

Algebra 1 Honors

Grade 8

Geometry Honors

Grade 9

Algebra 2 Honors

Grade 10

Precalculus Honors

IB Standard Level

Mathematics I

Pre-IB Pre-Calculus

Grade 11

AP Calculus BC

IB Standard Level

Mathematics II

IB Higher Level

Mathematics I

Grade 12

Recommended for students who have demonstrated exceptional mastery of Mathematics 6-8 in elementary school and have demonstrated the abstract reasoning skills required for Algebra I (a high-school credit course) in grade 7.

Algebra 1 Honors

Grade 7

Geometry Honors

Grade 8

Algebra 2 Honors

Grade 9

Precalculus Honors

Pre-IB Precalculus

Grade 10

AP Calculus BC

IB Higher Level

Mathematics I

Grade 11

**Multi-Variable Calculus
Matrix Algebra**

IB Higher Level

Mathematics II

Grade 12

STANDARD DIPLOMA

22 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

To graduate from high school, students shall meet the minimum requirements for the standard diploma as outlined below, including 22 standard credits, 6 of which must be verified credits. A **standard** credit is earned when a student passes a course. A **verified** credit is earned when a student passes a course and the associated end-of-course SOL test. In some cases, students may utilize substitute tests, certifications, or the appeal process to earn verified credits. State guidelines prescribe the number of verified credits required for graduation for students entering a Virginia public high school for the first time during the tenth grade or after. Consult your school counselor for specific information.

Students in grades 7-12 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken in middle school. These courses count toward credits in the required sequences as well as toward the total number of credits required for graduation and calculation of the grade point average (GPA). **Middle school parents may request that grades for any high school credit-bearing course taken in the middle school be removed from the student's high school transcript, and therefore the student will not earn high school credit for the course.** In addition, the student will not be eligible for a verified credit in any course which has been removed from the transcript. **The request to remove a course from the transcript must be made in writing to the middle or high school the student will attend the following year, prior to the end of the first nine weeks.**

Standard Diploma: 22 Units of Credit

Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.B)		
Discipline Area	Standard Credit	Verified Credit
		Effective for Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond
English	4	2
Mathematics ¹	3	1
Laboratory Science ^{2,6}	3	1
History and Social Sciences ^{3,6}	4	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Electives ⁴	5	
Student Selected Test ⁵		1
Total Credits	22	6: 2 English; 1 mathematics; 1 science; 1 history/social science; 1 student selected

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of algebra and shall include at least two course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra and geometry. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

² Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.

³ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement are U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and World History/Geography I and World History/Geography II. AP World History satisfies the requirement for World History/Geography II.

⁴ Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two year long sequential electives as required by the standards of quality.

⁵ A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education or other areas as prescribed by the Board of Education in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

⁶ Students who complete a career and technical [education] program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for (1) the student selected verified credit and (2) either a science or history or social science verified credit when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement.

MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA 20 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

Effective For Those Students Entering 9th Grade For The First Time In 2000-2001 And After

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

The modified standard diploma is intended for certain students who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a standard diploma. Eligibility and participation in the modified standard diploma program shall be determined by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team anytime after the student's eighth grade year. There are no verified credit requirements for the modified standard diploma. **Beginning with the 9th grade class of 2000-01, students pursuing the modified standard diploma are required to meet literacy and numeracy requirements on the 8th grade English reading and mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.** Students may substitute a higher level high school SOL test for the 8th grade SOL tests in English reading and mathematics or other substitute tests approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

A student who has chosen to pursue a modified standard Diploma shall also be allowed to pursue the standard or advanced studies diploma at any time throughout the high school career. The student may not be excluded from courses and tests required to earn a standard or advanced studies diploma.

Modified Standard Diploma: 20 Units of Credit

Modified Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.D)	
Discipline	Standard Credits
English	4
Mathematics ¹	3
Science ²	2
History and Social Science ³	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Fine or Practical Arts	1
Electives ⁴	6
Total Credits	20

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and statistics in courses that have been approved by the Board of Education.

² Courses completed shall include content from at least two of the following: applications of earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics in courses approved by the Board of Education.

³ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia History and one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia Government in courses approved by the Board of Education.

⁴ Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include a least two sequential electives in the same manner required for the standard diploma.

Declaration of Nondiscrimination

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, or age (under certain conditions), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following: Office of Design and Construction Services (located at 10640 Page Avenue Suite 400, Fairfax Virginia 22030, 703-246-3632) regarding access to facilities; Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050 or TTY 703-280-9833), regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues; Office of Monitoring and Compliance (571-423-4210), Department of Special Services, regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities. Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices and sent to 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.

ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA
24 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

To graduate from high school, students shall meet the minimum requirements for the advanced studies diploma as outlined below which include 24 credits, 9 of which must be verified credits. A **standard** credit is earned when a student passes a course. A **verified** credit is earned when a student passes a course and the associated end-of-course SOL test. In some cases, students may utilize substitute tests or certifications to earn verified credits. State guidelines prescribe the number of verified credits required for graduation for students entering a Virginia public high school for the first time during tenth grade or after. Consult your school counselor for specific information.

Students in grades 7-12 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken in middle school. These courses count toward credits in the required sequences as well as toward the total number of credits required for graduation and calculation of the grade point average (GPA). **Middle school parents may request that grades for any high school credit-bearing course taken in the middle school be removed from the student's high school transcript, and therefore the student will not earn high school credit for the course.** In addition, the student will not be eligible for a verified credit in any course which has been removed from the transcript. **The request to remove a course from the transcript must be made in writing to the middle or high school the student will attend the following year prior to the end of the first nine weeks.**

Advanced Studies Diploma: 24 Units of Credit

Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC 20-131-50.C)		
Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics ¹	4	2
Laboratory Science ²	4	2
History and Social Science ³	4	2
Foreign Languages ⁴	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Electives	2	
Student Selected Test ⁵		1
Total Credits	24	9: 2 English; 2 mathematics; 2 science; 2 history/social science; 1 student selected

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of algebra and shall include at least three different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

² Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

³ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The Board of Education may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

⁴ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

⁵ A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education or other areas as prescribed by the Board of Education in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

NOTES