

# **WELCOME**

to

## **LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL!**

Dear Parents and Students,

We welcome you to the home of the Liberty Lions! We want the next two years with us to be an exciting learning time in preparation for high school. This booklet includes descriptions of both seventh and eighth grade courses as well as general information about Liberty Middle school and the high school program to assist with long-term planning.

Liberty Middle School students will be part of a team comprised of 125 to 135 students, along with four or five team teachers. Each team has an administrator and counselor assigned to support the student's educational process. The middle school team concept provides the core teachers with a common period to plan, organize instructional activities, and conference with students and parents.

Each student is required to take a full year of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Health and Physical Education. Seventh and eighth grade students choose two periods of electives that can be divided between full year and semester classes.

Students should consider current interests and future goals when selecting courses. Elective courses offer opportunities for enrichment, specialization, and exploration. Plan carefully. Talk with counselors and teachers who can help you make wise decisions about courses to take in middle school.

Parental involvement is essential in achieving and maintaining student success. We encourage and appreciate parents participating in the PTA and volunteering to assist with the many initiatives we plan together for our Liberty students.

We look forward to working with you. Should you have any questions regarding the information presented in this booklet or any other questions regarding school, please call the Student Services department at 703-988-8200. We wish you a successful school year!

Peggy Kelly  
Principal

Renee Pete  
Director of Student Services

Visit Liberty Middle School on the web @ [www.fcps.edu/LibertyMS/](http://www.fcps.edu/LibertyMS/)  
Visit the Liberty PTA at their website @ [www.LibertyPTA.net](http://www.LibertyPTA.net)

## **Middle School Promotion Policy 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 or four core courses are retained.**

**CORE SUBJECTS: YEAR-LONG COURSES**

NOTE: Students must pass each of four core classes (English, Math, History, and Science) in order to be promoted.

- **English 7**

Students read and study a variety of literature, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and comprehending texts. 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. They use writing to develop ideas and learn new concepts. Students also learn discussion skills and oral communication skills, and learn to adapt speaking and listening 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.**

- **Mathematics 7**

Prerequisite: Grade 6 Mathematics

Students examine 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.**

- **Investigations in Environmental Science**

Investigations in Environmental Science builds upon the experiences in the life sciences introduced to students in upper-elementary grades. Cellular structure and function, heredity, diversity, populations and ecosystems 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.

- **United States History, 1877 to the Present**

The grade seven program provides a survey of American history since 1877. This course incorporates the four strands of history, geography, civics, and economics. Important trends in American history are identified by the analysis of the role of ideas, individuals, and important events. Students develop historical-thinking skills and extend their understanding of how geography shapes history. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

- **Health & Physical Education 7**

Students strengthen and/or master basic skills developed at the elementary level. Emphasis is on highly organized lead-up activities, modified games, and fitness and wellness activities. Content areas include tumbling, rhythmic activities and dance, physical fitness, wellness-related testing, fitness planning, and application of skills in selected games and sports. Students study health units on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention, disease and the human body, personal safety, injury prevention, lifetime health habits, emotional and social health, and human growth and development.

## YEAR—LONG ELECTIVES

- **Beginning Band**

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 class. 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 Ensemble**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

This course is designed to meet specific needs and/or interests for percussion instruments. Content includes study of 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. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Intermediate Band (*Concert, Cadet*)**

**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. Students at this level will be split into either Cadet or Concert Band. 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.**

- **Advanced Band (*Symphonic*)**

**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.**

- **Beginning Mixed Chorus (*Intermediate Mixed*)**

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**

**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 will be required as a part of this course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Advanced Men's Chorus**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

This course offers advanced instruction in men's 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 will be required as a part of this course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

## YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES CONTINUED

- **Beginning String Orchestra**

Beginning level string class introduces students to the violin, viola, cello, and double bass, 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. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Intermediate Orchestra (*String Ensemble*)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

This class offers the opportunity to participate in string orchestra ensembles. 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. 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.**

- **Advanced Orchestra (*Concert*)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

Advanced Orchestra offers instruction to the experienced player through in-depth study and performance of challenging string orchestra literature, with an emphasis on upper level skills. 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.**

## SEMESTER ELECTIVES

- **Theatre Arts Appreciation**

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.**

- **Family and Consumer Sciences 7**

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

- **Music Participation Lab I**

This course provides students with an opportunity to examine many kinds of music. Students will be actively involved in music through singing, listening, playing instruments, moving, and improvising. Other experiences may include vocal and instrumental ensembles, musical dramatizations, contemporary music, computer music, guitar, piano, and/or recorder. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

## SEMESTER ELECTIVES CONTINUED

# SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVE PROGRAMS

- **Introduction to Foreign Language**

Students are introduced to one or more foreign languages and cultures. The languages most often studied are French, German, Latin, and Spanish, but 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 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 options of career goals. The 18-week course can include as many as four languages. **This course does not count as a foreign language credit.**

- **Introductory Art 7**

Students develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills as they observe the world around them. They will explore and produce artwork including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. A study of artists and their work will assist students in understanding the techniques, skill, and diverse intentions of artists from many cultures and times. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Technology Exploration 7 (formerly Inventions and Innovations)**

Students are provided active learning situations and higher-order thinking skill development through practical problem-solving experiences; experience with technology; and exploration of personal interests, aptitudes, and abilities. The goal of the course is to prepare students to be technologically literate through the study of resources, processes, systems, and impacts of technology. The modular "synergistic" labs provide active learning situations that allow students to explore technology and related careers.

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

- **Computer Solutions (formerly Technology Tools)**

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 use these computer skills to complete cross-curricular activities.

- **Career Search and Investigation**

Students will explore the 16 Career Clusters and develop an understanding of career pathways. In addition, students will use approved career exploration resources to investigate the world of work in order to make informed career decisions. An emphasis will be placed on helping students to create an academic and career portfolio and learn to use a career plan of study. Upon completion of the course, students will recognize connections between education and work; demonstrate the career decision-making process; apply knowledge of self and career interests to education planning; identify personal characteristics for job success; and recognize that career planning is a life-long process.



**CORE SUBJECTS: YEAR-LONG COURSES**

NOTE: Students must pass each of four core classes (English, Math, History, and Science) in order to be promoted.

- **English 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.**

- **Investigating Matter and Energy**

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.**

- **Civics and Economics**

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, and 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.**

- **Health & Physical Education 8**

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, person safety, injury prevention, lifetime health habits, emotional and social health, and human growth and development.

NOTE: CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR MATH CLASSES:

- **Mathematics 8**

Prerequisite: Mathematics 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**

Prerequisite: Mathematics 7

High School Credit: 1

This course extends students' knowledge and understanding of the real number system and its properties through the study of variables, expressions, equations, 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 wherever 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.**

Note: Students who have mastered the standards of Mathematics 7 and 8 in grade 7 are eligible to take Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors in grade 8. When taken in grade 8, Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors become a part of the high school transcript record, are included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and count as one of the required mathematics credits for high school graduation. Parents may request that the Algebra 1 and 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 and Algebra 1 Honors in grade 8 must pass the course to be promoted to grade 9.

- **Algebra 1 Honors**

Prerequisite: Mathematics 7

High School Credit: 1

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

Note: Students who have mastered the standards of Mathematics 7 and 8 in grade 7 are eligible to take Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors in grade 8. When taken in grade 8, Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors become a part of the high school transcript record, are included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and count as one of the required mathematics credits for high school graduation. Parents may request that the Algebra 1 and 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 and Algebra 1 Honors in grade 8 must pass the course to be promoted to grade 9.

- **Geometry Honors**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

High School Credit: 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.**

## YEAR—LONG ELECTIVES

- **Advanced Art**

**Prerequisite:** Above average grade in 7th grade Introductory Art and teacher recommendation or portfolio review. Advanced art offers an opportunity to eighth grade students with above average interest and ability in art to refine their artistic skills and techniques. 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.**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- German 1
- Spanish 1
- French 1

**High School Credit:** 1

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 Program of Studies (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.

- **Beginning Band**

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 class. 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.**



## YEAR—LONG ELECTIVES CONTINUED

# EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE PROGRAMS

- **Percussion Ensemble**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

This course is designed to meet specific needs and/or interests for percussion instruments. Content includes study of 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. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Intermediate Band (*Concert, Cadet*)**

**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. Students at this level will be split into either Cadet or Concert Band. 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**

- **Advanced Band (*Symphonic*)**

**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.**

- **Beginning Mixed Chorus (*Intermediate Mixed*)**

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**

**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 will be required as a part of this course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Advanced Men's Chorus**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

This course offers advanced instruction in men's 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 will be required as a part of this course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

## YEAR—LONG ELECTIVES CONTINUED

- **Beginning String Orchestra**

Beginning level string class introduces students to the violin, viola, cello, and double bass, 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. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Intermediate Orchestra (*String Ensemble*)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

This class offers the opportunity to participate in string orchestra ensembles. 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. 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.**

- **Advanced Orchestra (*Concert*)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful audition

Advanced Orchestra offers instruction to the experienced player through in-depth study and performance of challenging string orchestra literature, with an emphasis on upper level skills. 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.**

## SEMESTER ELECTIVES

- **Technology Exploration 8 (formerly Technological Systems)**

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. The 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.**

- **Advanced Computer Solutions (formerly Advanced Technology Tools)**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Computer Solutions (formerly Technology Tools) 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.

- **Theatre Arts Appreciation**

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.**

## SEMESTER ELECTIVES CONTINUED

- **Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation**

**Prerequisite:** Theatre Arts in Grade 7 or 8 and/or recommendation of the Instructor

Students who are continuing the study of theatre arts for the second year will be able to apply and expand the skills developed in the introductory 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.**

- **Music Participation Lab I**

This course provides students with an opportunity to examine many kinds of music. Students will be actively involved in music through singing, listening, playing instruments, moving, and improvising. Other experiences may include vocal and instrumental ensembles, musical dramatizations, contemporary music, computer music, guitar, piano, and/or recorder. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Introduction to Computers in Art**

**Prerequisite:** Introductory Art

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 use of technology, students explore themes introduced 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.**

- **Intermediate Art 8**

Students refine their ability to communicate visually; to manage a wide range of tools and materials; to achieve quality, style, and craftsmanship in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. Students will have opportunities for evaluating and critiquing their own and other students' artwork as well as studying artists and their works from many cultures and many times. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

- **Peer Helping I**

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

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, and decision-making and problem-solving techniques. Student activities include friendly support to peers, orientation of new students, elementary outreach, and community service programs.

- **Family and Consumer Sciences 8**

This semester course uses higher order thinking skills and simulated life experiences that enable the student to meet challenges in clothing and food management, career awareness, fitness and wellness, personal development, and relationships with others. Career exploration activities assist students with high school course selection. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

## 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 students take a minimum of three hours of ESOL; Level 2 students take a minimum of two hours of ESOL; and Level 3 students take one hour of ESOL. These classes are all year-long programs.

### ESOL: LEVEL 1

- **ESOL Level 1 Literature (Two Class Periods)**

**Grade: 7—8**

All level 1 students take two English language classes. Level 1 students' language and vocabulary needs necessitate a two-period language class. These classes are literature-based and help students develop language skills, which enable them to function socially and academically, while preparing them for later SOL achievement. They may be tied to FOCUS Science and ESOL Social Studies, and draw 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 these courses. Students are placed by staff at Student Registration and an ESOL instructor. These classes may be repeated. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

- **ESOL Level 1 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 in both 7th and 8th grades. It is designed to keep beginning ESOL students at a 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 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 1 US History 7**

**Grade: 7**

This course is the social studies course for level 1 7th graders. It is aligned with the 7th grade Standards of Learning and FCPS Program of Studies (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 US History SOL exam. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

- **ESOL Level 1 Civics**

**Grade: 8**

This course is the social studies course for level 1 8th graders. It is aligned with the 8th grade Standards of Learning and FCPS Program of Studies (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.**

## ESOL: LEVEL 2

- **ESOL Level 2 Literature**

**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. Fiction and non-fiction literature serve as the foundation for vocabulary and grammar development, and literature selections may be tied to topics in 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 instructor. 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.**

- **ESOL Level 2 U.S. History 7**

**Grade: 7**

This course is the social studies course for level 2 7th graders. It is aligned with the 7th grade Standards of Learning and FCPS Program of Studies (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 US History SOL exam. This course earns one foreign language elective credit. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

- **ESOL Level 2 Civics**

**Grade: 8**

This course is the social studies course for level 2 8th graders. It is aligned with the 8th grade Standards of Learning and FCPS Program of Studies (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. This course earns one foreign language elective credit. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

## ESOL: LEVEL 3 /4

- **ESOL Level 3 and 4 Literature**

**Grade: 7—8**

This is the last course in the middle school ESOL sequence. Level 3 and 4 students have considerable language proficiency and take this course while enrolled in mainstream grade 7 or grade 8 English. Students read a variety of literary genres and use technology as they work with the writing process to extend and refine their English skills. Course themes are designed to complement the learning that takes place in mainstream English classes and to serve as a foundation for future SOL achievement. Placement is made by Student Registration and an ESOL instructor. This course may be repeated.

## ADDITIONAL ESOL COURSES

- **FAST Math**

Grade: 7—8

This course provides instruction in elementary math skills to level 1 and 2 ESOL students who are two or more years below grade level. It presents the elementary math program of studies (grades 1—6) in a compacted format using manipulatives, adapted materials, and ESOL strategies for teaching the language of math. This course may be repeated and is the first step in preparing students to take the math SOL. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

- **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 (POS) 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 Level 2, 3, 4 Targeted Writing**

Grade: 7—8

This course is designed to meet the specific writing needs of ESOL students at level 2, 3, and 4 who need targeted writing support. It may be taken in addition to or in place of the level 2 or level 3,4 literature classes. It teaches students to apply the six traits of writing to a variety of writing forms and prepares them for the writing portion of the Standards of Learning Test. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

## READING

Students who are identified as needing additional reading instruction may be offered the opportunity to take **Read 180**.

- **Read 180**

This course is an individualized reading program which assesses and develops essential decoding and comprehension skills. The program increases reading fluency through supported and varied reading experiences of fiction and nonfiction materials. Daily student-teacher interaction is accomplished through whole-group, small-group and one-on-one reading instruction.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Liberty Middle school offers a continuum of special education services through programs specifically designed to meet the needs of students with autism, emotional disabilities, specific learning disabilities, and/or speech and language impairment. Students with disabilities are eligible to participate in courses expressly designed to meet their needs as determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Special Education students may be fully mainstreamed in their academic classes or may receive special education services through a team-taught or self-contained class.

- **Team-Taught Classes**

These are general education classes in math, English, science and social studies taught by both a general education and a special education teacher. Team-taught classes are the same size as general education classes.

- **Self-Contained Classes**

Self-contained classes are designed for special education students who require more individualized attention and reinforcement in order to make academic progress. These classes are taught by special education teachers and have a lower teacher to student ratio.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

- **Basic Skills**

Grade: 7—8

This elective course is designed to provide support to students 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 Program (IEP). While students may receive assistance on core curricular assignments, this course is not designed to serve as a study hall. The course may be taught as an elective in both 7th and 8th grades, as appropriate.

- **Reading**

Grade: 7—8

Reading classes are taught by special education teachers and address a variety of reading issues such as decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Students taking this course are currently reading significantly below grade level.

- **Work Awareness and Transition (WAT)**

This year-long course is designed to explore possible careers to help students plan for high school courses. Students learn work-related skills and behaviors such as attitude towards work and appropriate interpersonal/co-worker relationships.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES CONTINUED**

- **Personal Development**

**Grade: 7, 8**

This special education course is designed for students who need additional social/emotional support in order to progress in the general education curriculum because their social/emotional needs affect their school performance. Course topics include: understanding yourself, goal-setting, communication, building relationships, dealing with emotions, stress management, wellness, problem-solving, decision-making, self-advocacy, and career and transition. This course is appropriate for students who have documented social/emotional needs on their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

- **Speech and Language Services**

Speech and language clinicians identify, assess, and diagnose specific communication deficits; provide rehabilitation for communication deficits in accordance with the Individualized Education Program (IEP); and counsel and guide teachers, children, and parents regarding communication impairments.



# HONORS PROGRAMS

Liberty Middle school offers honors courses in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Instructors in these classes spend less time on the introduction of concepts and more time on the conceptualization and processing of content. The program provides educational opportunities designed and coordinated to meet the needs, abilities, and interests of academically advanced students. GT center students who choose to attend Liberty Middle school automatically qualify for honors courses in English, social studies, and science. Rising seventh grade non-GT center students, rising eighth grade students not formerly enrolled in honors, and students new to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will be evaluated by the principal and staff for placement in honors classes using the following information:

- Test data
- Grades in the core subject areas
- Gifted Behavior Rating Scale (GBRS)
- Elementary school recommendation

- **Honors Math 7**

Rising seventh grade GT center and non-GT center students who have completed a sixth grade Compacted Mathematics curriculum or equivalent coursework will automatically be placed in Mathematics 7 Honors. Rising seventh grade students new to FCPS, or who have not completed the sixth grade Compacted Mathematics curriculum will be evaluated for placement in Honors Math 7 based upon the following information:

1. Test data
2. Mathematics grades
3. Gifted Behavior Rating Scale (GBRS)
4. Elementary School Recommendation
5. Sixth grade Standards of Learning Test

- **Algebra 1 Honors**

**Grade: 7**

Rising seventh grade students will be placed in Algebra 1 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 91st percentile or better on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) in grade 6
3. A score of 500 or better (pass advanced) on the Virginia Standards of Learning grade 8 mathematics test

**Note: All applicants to the freshman class of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology must be enrolled in Algebra 1 or a higher level mathematics course in grade eight to be eligible to apply.**



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION SHEET 2009-2010

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary School Attended 2008-2009: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Student has an IEP

\_\_\_\_ Student has a 504 Plan

### REQUIRED COURSES:

English 7                      Science 7  
Math 7                         Health and PE 7  
History 7

### ESOL REQUIRED COURSES:

\_\_\_\_ ESOL Level I

Literature  
Literature  
US History 7  
Focus Science

\_\_\_\_ ESOL Level II

Literature  
US History 7

\_\_\_\_ ESOL Level III

Literature & Language

\_\_\_\_ Fast Math\*

\_\_\_\_ Fast Math 3\*

The remaining two classes in the student's schedule are to be filled from the following elective choices: two (2) full year electives; one (1) full year and two (2) semester electives; or four (4) semester electives.

**Electives: Inadequate staffing and/or enrollment may cause course cancellation.**

\* Teacher recommendation required.

\*\* Placement by Liberty Middle School Music teachers.

### Full Year Electives:

\_\_\_\_ Band\*\*

\_\_\_\_ Orchestra\*\*

\_\_\_\_ Chorus\*\*

\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Mixed Chorus

### Semester Electives:

If you are choosing semester electives, please number them in the order of preference, 1-8. Due to space limitations in each class, it may be necessary to assign an elective other than your first choice(s).

\_\_\_\_ Family and Consumer Sciences  
\_\_\_\_ Introduction to Foreign Language (IFL)  
\_\_\_\_ Technology Exploration 7  
\_\_\_\_ Introductory Art

\_\_\_\_ Music Participation Lab (MPL)  
\_\_\_\_ Theatre Arts Appreciation  
\_\_\_\_ Computer Solutions  
\_\_\_\_ Career Search and Investigation

**Parent/Guardian and Student: Parents are requested to discuss these offerings with their children and consider selections to be a firm commitment as staffing and course offerings are planned on course requests. Your signature indicates approval of this schedule.**

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:** All graduation requirements documented in the 2008-09 Standard Course Offerings Guide reflect Virginia Department of Education and Fairfax County Public Schools' expectations at the time of publication.

**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 or 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)**

<u>Discipline Area</u>	<u>Standard Credit</u>	<u>Verified Credit Effective for Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond</u>
English	4	2
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3	1
Laboratory Science <sup>2, 6</sup>	3	1
History and Social Sciences <sup>3, 6</sup>	4	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Electives <sup>4</sup>	5	
Student Selected Tests		1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6: 2 English; 1 mathematics; 1 science; 1 history/social science; 1 student selected</b>

<sup>1</sup>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.

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

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two year long sequential electives.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

# 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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.**

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

# **MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA**

## **20 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION**

Effective For Those Students Entering 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade class of 2000-01, students pursuing the modified standard diploma are required to meet literacy and numeracy requirements on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade English reading and mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.** Students may substitute a higher level high school SOL test for the 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

<b>Modified Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.D)</b>	
<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Standard Credits</b>
English	4
Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3
Science <sup>2</sup>	2
History and Social Sciences <sup>3</sup>	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1
Electives <sup>4</sup>	6
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>20</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

# Parent Information about High School Advanced Academic Programs

Advanced Academic Programs at the high school level are comprised of Gifted and Talented (GT), Honors, or Pre-IB courses at the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade levels, and the Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs at the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Advanced Academic Programs are open to all students committed to rigorous academic work.

AP and IB courses are considered college-level courses with external exams. Students who take AP and IB courses are required to sit for these external exams and receive an additional 1.0 quality point to the quality-point value assigned to the final passing grade. For example, a final grade of A receives 5.0 quality points for purposes of calculating the grade point average. Students in AP and IB courses must take the end-of-course exams to receive the 1.0 weighted grades.

## Advanced Placement

Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Hayfield, Herndon, Lake Braddock, Langley, Madison, McLean, Oakton, West Potomac, West Springfield, Westfield, and Woodson High Schools offer the Advanced Placement (AP) Diploma program. Individual AP courses are offered at all other high schools. All students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the end-of-course AP exam. AP exams are graded on a scale of 1-5; a score of 3 or above may qualify for college credit.

The AP program is offered in English, social studies, math, science, foreign languages, and fine arts. AP courses are open enrollment to all students committed to rigorous, academic, college-level work. Students may earn the full AP Diploma or take individual AP courses of their choice. Further information about the AP program may be obtained by contacting the guidance counselor or AP coordinator at the participating school.

## International Baccalaureate

Annandale, Edison, Lee, Marshall, Mount Vernon, Robinson, South Lakes, and Stuart High Schools have been granted membership by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) in Geneva, Switzerland and offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. To qualify for the IB Diploma, students must select at least one subject from each of six IB subject groups including two languages, math, sciences, social studies, and an elective area. Students take at least 3 and not more than 4 of these subjects at higher level (HL), the others at standard level (SL). All students enrolled in an IB course are required to take the end-of-course IB exams. IB exams are graded on a scale of 1-7; a score of 4 or above may qualify for college credit. In addition, students must complete 150 hours of extracurricular activities and community service, take the Theory of Knowledge course, and write a 4000 word research essay on a topic of their choice.

The IB program is offered in English, social studies, math, science, foreign languages, fine arts, and other electives. IB courses are open enrollment to all students committed to rigorous, academic, college-level work. Students may earn the full IB Diploma or take individual IB courses of their choice. Further information about the IB program may be obtained by contacting the guidance counselor or IB coordinator at the participating school.

## Application Procedures for IB Program

**Step #1** Call the school and set up an appointment with the IB Coordinator or the principal or the Director of Student Services.

**Step #2** For pupil placement, complete the *Student Transfer Application* and *Letter of Understanding* (available on-line or from your school) and send it to your base school between January 1 and April 15, 2009. Transportation is not provided.

See: **Regulation 2230.2** <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/Directives/R2230.pdf>

**Please Note:** Student Transfers are only available to those students who enroll in the **FULL** IB diploma program.

## FCPS ONLINE COURSES

FCPS Online Campus is a program designed to provide students with an online option for earning credits toward high school graduation.

Students registered in any Fairfax County public school or alternative high school are eligible to apply to take a course through the FCPS Online Campus. These courses are for students who have scheduling conflicts or have special needs requiring Homebound Instruction. Tuition will be charged when a student is already scheduled to receive seven credits during the academic year or when a student enrolls in an FCPS online summer course. Students must meet all regular eligibility requirements to enroll in an FCPS online course. Students interested in enrolling in an FCPS Online Campus course should consult their guidance counselor for information regarding the registration process.

For more information go to [www.fcps.edu/DIS/onlinecampus](http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/onlinecampus).

## DECLARATION OF NONDISCRIMINATION

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, 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 Director, Office of Design and Construction Services (703-246-6270),  
when it concerns access to facilities.

The Director, Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050), when it concerns personal  
matters.

The Coordinator, Office of Monitoring and Compliance (571-423-4210), when it concerns pro-  
grams and activities for students with disabilities.

Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices in care of :

10640 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22030

(Design and Construction)

or

8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

(Equity & Compliance and Monitoring and Compliance)

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