

MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
4700 Franconia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22310

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MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

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MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vision Statement

Go Team Twain! As a professional learning community, Mark Twain Middle School empowers all children to become independent, responsible, and productive citizens. We ensure each child achieves the highest academic standards by providing open access to rigorous instruction in a supportive academic setting. Staff, parents, and community members will collaborate to provide and maintain a nurturing and differentiated learning environment.

Mission Statement

Diligent Excellence: Every Child, Every Day. By building and maintaining positive relationships with students, we collaboratively inspire students to achieve excellence through dynamic and engaging learning experiences.

Core Values/Beliefs

Mark Twain Middle School holds that each and every child is capable of learning when we provide the time, expert educators, and a variety of ways in which each child will acquire and demonstrate new knowledge.

Mark Twain Middle School believes in working collaboratively with our colleagues, parents, FCPS specialists and community members to create a healthy and supportive learning environment through data-informed decision making, consideration of educational research and evidence.

Mark Twain Middle School believes in holding high expectations for every child every day and by nurturing each student's sense of belonging and ownership in our school.

Mark Twain Middle School believes in celebrating the academic and behavioral successes of students as we lead them to be responsible citizens who will have a positive impact on the world.

THE HISTORY OF MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mark Twain Middle School was organized as an intermediate school fifty-one years ago to support a new concept in educating "betweeners." These adolescents were not yet ready for the high school scene, but they had outgrown their elementary peers. Prior to this reorganization in 1960, Fairfax County Public Schools traditionally housed grades 1 – 7 in elementary school and grades 8 – 12 in high school. Each of the eight original intermediate schools was named for an American writer. We are proud to bear the name of Mark Twain, a nineteenth century humorist and writer who contributed significantly to American culture and literature. Mark Twain was the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens who was born in 1835 and died in 1910. Raised in Hannibal, Missouri, Mark Twain's life was influenced by his adventures on the Mississippi River. After he worked as a pilot on a riverboat, he wrote Life on the Mississippi, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. From his experiences in the West, he wrote Roughing It. Subsequent to his travels overseas, he wrote Innocents Abroad, A Tramp Abroad and The Prince and the Pauper. Consequently, Mark Twain gained inspiration from his varied experiences and extensive travels to write his stories, jokes, descriptions and satirical comments on life at that time.

2011-2012 COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

The Mark Twain Course Description Guide is designed to provide information on course offerings and to assist students and their parents/guardians with course selections. The course offerings at Twain adhere to the guidelines and requirements of the Fairfax County School Board and the Virginia State Board of Education.

Required and elective courses are included in this course description guide. All students are required to register for a full instructional day. Students should consider their future goals and interests as course selections are made. Regular middle school courses do not earn credits. However, grades earned for Algebra, Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, Algebra 2, French 1, Spanish 1, Latin 1 and Spanish Immersion 1 and 2 are recorded as credits on the high school transcript. These credits are also included to determine the student's high school grade point average (GPA). Therefore, each credit counts as one of the required courses for high school graduation.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The middle school provides a bridge between the elementary program and the high school program. Beyond meeting the academic needs of all seventh and eighth graders, our middle school staff encourages students to develop responsible work habits and appropriate behavior with peers and adults. Students are placed on teams, and their teachers collaborate to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure academic success for all students
- Create an outstanding academic program and nurturing environment
- Provide positive recognition for all students
- Identify academically and emotionally at-risk students
- Communicate with parents on a regular basis

HONORS PROGRAM (7th and 8th grade based): Honors classes, aligned with national standards for gifted and talented (GT) education, are **open for all students** who have an interest in challenging themselves to reach their highest potential. Before enrolling in an Honors class, parents and students should consult the student's teachers and counselor. Once enrolled, the expectation is that the student will complete the Honors course. Honors classes are available in the middle school in the four core academic areas of English, mathematics, social studies and science. Honors classes use a Fairfax County Public Schools-developed middle school curriculum that extends the FCPS Program of Studies in depth and complexity. The curriculum is based on the Parallel Model, a national endorsed model of curriculum for high ability learners. Honors classes seek to provide opportunities to build on the individual strengths of identified achievers in core subjects in order to address their potential to progress to high levels of accomplishment through challenging inquiry and learning.

BLOCK SCHEDULE: Mark Twain runs under a three day rotation. On Mondays students will visit all seven of their classes (for about 45 minutes in each class). On Tuesdays and Thursdays students are in all their ODD period classes, and on Wednesday and Friday students go to all EVEN day classes. Each student attends his/her 5th period class daily, as that class is also tied to his/her lunch period.

LUNCH: Each lunch shift lasts 30 minutes. The student's schedule will determine the lunch shift assigned. Lunch takes place before, during, or after 5th period class.

LOCKERS: Each student is assigned a hall locker near her/his team classrooms. Students will also have a locker assigned in physical education class. Locker combinations should not be given to other students.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Teachers are available after school to help students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Other activities (club meetings, special events, intramural sports, etc.) are also scheduled after school each day of the week. For more information please contact our After School Specialist, Dominic Amato at (703)313-3770 or Dominic.Amato@fcps.edu.

Monday- 3:10-4:45 (Late Bus Day)
Tuesday- 3:10-6:00 (Parent Pick-up only at 6:00pm)
Wednesday- 3:10-4:45 (Late Bus Day)
Thursday- 3:10-4:45 (Late Bus Day)
Friday- 3:10-6:00 (Parent pick-up only at 6:00pm)

LATE BUSES: Late buses are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The late bus dismissal time is 4:45 p.m.

STUDENT SERVICES: Each student is assigned a counselor who provides student support in the areas of academic achievement, career awareness, and social/emotional development. The counselors also serve as referral resource persons and arrange parent conferences.

ELT: Extended learning time (ELT) takes place Tuesday through Friday of each week. It is used as an intervention time for our teachers to provide additional academic support for our students.

GRADES: The Fairfax County Public Schools' grading scale is as follows:

A (93-100) = 4.0	B- (80-82) = 2.7	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
A- (90-92) = 3.7	C+ (77-79) = 2.3	D (64-66) = 1.0
B+ (87-89) = 3.3	C (73-76) = 2.0	F (below 64) = 0.0
B (83-86) = 3.0	C- (70-72) = 1.7	

Report cards are distributed every nine weeks. In addition, interim reports are issued at the halfway point of each grading period.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION GUIDELINES

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 demonstrate proficiency in 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, at the discretion of the principal, and encouraged to participate in an intervention program. Based upon the extent to which a student demonstrates knowledge and competency of identified standards of achievement in an intervention program, he/she is promoted or retained. Students who are promoted may receive continued intervention throughout the following school year. If students do not participate in an intervention program, they are retained at the discretion of the principal. Students who earn an “F” in three or four core courses are retained, at the discretion of the principal. To be placed in grade 9, the student must be promoted from the 8th grade.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If a student drops a course during the:

1st quarter	No penalty--nothing is recorded.
2nd quarter	WP (withdrawn passing) or WF (withdrawn failing) is recorded. Exception: For semester courses a WP or F for failure is recorded.*
3rd quarter	WP or WF is recorded.
4th quarter	WP or F for failure is recorded.*

* Unless the principal approves an exception, a student may not withdraw during the final quarter if the student is passing the course.

SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM

REQUIRED COURSES

English 7

United States History, 1865 to Present

Investigations in Environmental Science

Mathematics (Mathematics 7, Mathematics 7 Honors, or Algebra 1 Honors **)

Health and Physical Education 7

ELECTIVE COURSES

As per anticipated budget cuts, Mark Twain Middle School is committed to meeting the elective course preference of our students to the best of our ability; yet we cannot guarantee placement in courses beyond the required offerings.

FULL YEAR

Beginning Band
Intermediate Band*
Advanced Band*
Advanced Mixed Chorus
Women's Chorus
Beginning Orchestra
Intermediate Orchestra*
Advanced Orchestra*
Spanish Immersion 1* **
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)*

HALF YEAR

Family and Consumer Sciences 7
Technology Exploration 7
Computer Solutions
Digital Input Tech*
Art Foundations*
Computers in Art*
3 D Art Exploration*
Speech and Theatre Arts Appreciation
Advanced Speech and Theatre Arts*

Elective Choice Options:

1	2	3
<u>TWO</u> Full-Year Courses	<u>ONE</u> Full-Year Course and <u>TWO</u> Half-Year Courses	<u>FOUR</u> Half-Year Courses

*See course description for prerequisite information

**High school credit course



REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



ENGLISH

Full Year Grade: 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.

UNITED STATES HISTORY, 1865 TO THE PRESENT

Full Year Grade: 7

The grade seven program provides a survey of American history since 1865. 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 economics and geography shape history.

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

INVESTIGATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Full Year Grade: 7

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.

MATHEMATICS 7

Full Year Grade: 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. This Course provides students the opportunity to acquire the concept and skills necessary for success in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors.

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





HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

Full Year Grade: 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 rhythmic activities and dance, physical fitness, wellness-related testing, fitness planning, and application of skills in selected games and sports. Health units include 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.

ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Full Year Grade: 7

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 designed for the student's level of performance and designed to improve deficiencies, and maximize participation. Students in adapted physical education will participate in health education units required of their grade level.

EIGHTH GRADE PROGRAM

REQUIRED COURSES

English 8

Civics and Economics

Mathematics (Mathematics 8, Algebra 1**, Algebra 1 Honors**, Geometry Honors**)

Investigating Matter and Energy

Health and Physical Education 8

ELECTIVE COURSES

As per anticipated budget cuts, Mark Twain Middle School is committed to meeting the elective course preferences of our students to the best of our ability. While we cannot guarantee placement in courses beyond the required offerings, Mark Twain Middle Schools will work to honor the preferences of students as designated on course preference sheets received in February of 2011.

FULL YEAR

Beginning Band
 Intermediate Band*
 Advanced Band*
 Advanced Mixed Chorus
 Women’s Chorus
 Beginning Orchestra
 Intermediate Orchestra*
 Advanced Orchestra*
 French 1**
 Spanish 1**
 Spanish Immersion 2* **
 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)*

HALF YEAR

Technology Exploration 8
 Art Foundations*
 Computers in Art*
 3 D Art Exploration*
 Computer Solutions
 Digital Input Tech*
 Speech and Theatre Arts Appreciation
 Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation*

Elective Choice Options:

1	2	3
<u>TWO</u> Full-Year Courses	<u>ONE</u> Full-Year Course and <u>TWO</u> Half-Year Courses	<u>FOUR</u> Half-Year Courses

*See course description for prerequisite information

**High school credit course



REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



ENGLISH 8

Full Year

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.

MATHEMATICS 8

Full Year

Grade: 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. This Course provides students the opportunity to acquire the concept and skills necessary for success in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors.

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

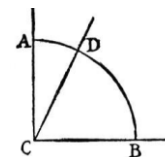
CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

Full Year

Grade: 8

The grade eight program is designed to prepare students to be responsible, productive citizens in a democratic republic and an interconnected world. Students will gain an understanding of the concepts and processes of democratic government and the American economic system. Students examine the role that citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students will acquire knowledge of the structure and operation of these systems at the national, state and local levels. A service learning component helps students personalize citizenship education.

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



ALGEBRA 1

Full Year

Grade: 8

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, 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.

ALGEBRA 1 HONORS

Full Year

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.

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

GEOMETRY HONORS

Full Year

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.



INVESTIGATING MATTER AND ENERGY

Full Year

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. End of Course test covers content from grades 6, 7 and 8.

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

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Full Year

Grade: 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 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. Health units include alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention, personal safety, injury prevention, lifetime health habits, emotional and social health, and human growth and development.

ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Full Year

Grade: 8

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 designed for the student's level of performance and designed to improve deficiencies, and maximize participation. Students in adapted physical education will participate in health education units required of their grade level.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)



BEGINNING ESOL ENGLISH

Full Year

Grade: 7- 8

WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2

This is one of two English classes in which WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2 students may be enrolled. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through alignment with the grade level Language Arts standards. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills and the writing process. This course may be repeated.

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

ESOL LEVEL 1 U.S. HISTORY 7

Full Year

Grade: 7

WIDA ELP LEVEL 1 & 2

This is the Social Studies class in which grade 7 WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2 students are enrolled. It is aligned with the grade 7 Standards of Learning and the FCPS POS. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through alignment with the grade level Social Studies Standards. It supports content vocabulary development as well as academic discourse of Social Studies.

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

ESOL LEVEL 1 CIVICS 8

Full Year

Grade: 8

WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2

This is the Social Studies class in which grade 8 WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2 students are enrolled. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through alignment with the grade 8 Civics and Economics standards. It supports the development of vocabulary and academic discourse of Social Studies.

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

DEVELOPING ESOL ENGLISH

Full Year

Grade: 7 – 8

WIDA ELP LEVEL 2 & 3

This is the English language class in which WIDA ELP Levels 2 & 3 students may be enrolled. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through alignment with the grade level Language Arts standards. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills and the writing process. When appropriate, Level 3 ESOL students should be enrolled in grade level English. This course may be repeated.

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

ESOL 2 LEVEL U.S. HISTORY 7

Full Year

Grade: 7

WIDA ELP LEVEL 2

This is the Social Studies class in which grade 7 WIDA ELP Level 2 students are enrolled. It is aligned with the grade 7 Standards of Learning and the FCPS POS. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through alignment with the grade level Social Studies Standards. It supports content vocabulary development as well as academic discourse of Social Studies.

ESOL LEVEL 2 CIVICS 8**Full Year****Grade: 8**

WIDA ELP LEVEL 2

This is the Social Studies class in which grade 8 WIDA ELP Level 2 students are enrolled. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through alignment with the grade 8 Civics and Economics standards. It supports the development of vocabulary and academic discourse of Social Studies.

ESOL LEVEL 1 SCIENCE**Full Year****Grade: 7 – 8**

WIDA ELP LEVEL 1 & 2

This course is the science course for WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2 students. It is designed to develop the academic language of science through scaffolded grade level hands-on investigations. Students learn foundations science concepts as they acquire key vocabulary in Life and Physical Science. End of Course test for grade 8 covers content from grades 6, 7 and 8 This course may be repeated.

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

ESOL FAST MATH**Full Year****Grade: 7 – 8**

WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2

This is the course for WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2 students who have significant gaps of two or more years below grade level in mathematics skills & concepts. This course is an articulated mathematics curriculum from the grade 7 mathematics standards. FAST Math is designed and developed around a framework of skills progression to accommodate multiple entry points that recognize students' different strengths and supports differentiated instruction within the FAST Math Class.

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

ESOL FAST MATH 3**Full Year****Grade: 7 – 8**

WIDA ELP LEVEL 1 & 2

This course provides instruction in 7th and 8th grade math skills to WIDA ELP Level 1 and 2 students, who have gaps (one grade level below) in math and language, which would impact success in mainstream math classes. It presents the 7th and 8th grade POS in a compacted format using manipulatives, adapted materials and ESOL strategies for teaching the language of math. This class helps prepare students to take the math SOL.

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

ESOL ACADEMIC LANGUAGE**Full Year****Grade: 7 – 8**

WIDA ELP LEVEL 3 & 4

The class is designed to enrich students' academic language across the curriculum. Students develop academic language through targeted instruction in vocabulary, reading strategies, content writing and academic discourse models for continued success in grade level courses. WIDA ELP Level 4 students are enrolled in both this course and a grade level English class. This course may be taken by WIDA ELP Level 3 students in conjunction with Developing ESOL English (572061). This course may be repeated. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**



ELECTIVE COURSES

ART FOUNDATIONS

Half Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 8

Explore a variety of art media, develop art techniques, and use creative thinking skills to express ideas and viewpoints about personal experiences and observations of the outside world. Produce meaningful and unique drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, and ceramics in a studio setting. Study artists and their works to gain understanding of the artistic process and learn about art produced at different times and in diverse cultures. Make interdisciplinary connections based on the Virginia Standards of Learning for all disciplines. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

COMPUTERS IN ART

Half Year Elective

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Art Foundations or 8th grade standing

Use the computer as a tool for creating original artwork. Work with a variety of software applications including Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator or other available software to explore subjects, ideas and themes related to living in the world. Make interdisciplinary connections based on the Virginia Standards of Learning for all disciplines and develop knowledge regarding ethical issues concerning computer generated imagery. Prior computer experience is not required. This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

3D ART EXPLORATION

Half Year Elective

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Art Foundations or eighth grade standing

Work in the third-dimension by creating sculptures, ceramic objects, models and installations that express ideas about personal experiences and observations of the world. Learn to use a variety of art media, non-traditional materials, tools and equipment to compose, construct, and form functional and decorative artworks. Build knowledge, refine skills, improve techniques, and craftsmanship to meet challenges and solve problems in unique ways. Investigate three-dimensional artworks produced by artists in different times and places to inform the artmaking process. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

Beginning Band *(Woodwinds and Brass or Percussion)*

Full Year Elective

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. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**



INTERMEDIATE BAND

Full Year Elective

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. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

ADVANCED BAND

Full Year Elective

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. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

WOMEN'S CHORUS Full-Year Elective

Grade: 7–8

Prerequisite: none

Students participate in a choral experience designed to develop skills as individual musicians and as members of a women's ensemble. Emphasis is placed upon vocalization and sight-singing through the use of appropriate choral literature. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

ADVANCED MIXED CHORUS

Full Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 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. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

BEGINNING STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 8

Prerequisite: none

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

Full Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 8

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. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA

Full Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 8

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. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

SPEECH AND THEATRE ARTS APPRECIATION

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 7 – 8

Students develop an appreciation of speech and theatre arts through an introduction to the basic concepts and skills of oral communication and acting. They begin to develop poise and confidence in speaking, and they develop skills in listening and discussing in group situations. They participate in a variety of dramatic activities by exploring improvisation and interpretation. Course may consist of speech topics, drama topics, or a combination of both. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

ADVANCED THEATRE ARTS APPRECIATION

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts Course in Grade 7 and/or recommendation of the theatre or speech arts instructor.

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 introductory class. They will participate in a variety of dramatic activities and perform for varied 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.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 7

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 7

This semester 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.**





COMPUTER SOLUTIONS

Half Year or Full Year Grade: 7 – 8

Computer Solutions teaches concepts in database, spreadsheet, presentation, publishing, and Internet skills. The Computer Solutions course extends student expertise in a project-based curriculum. The Computer Solutions course is intended to serve as a bridge to the high school business department curriculum.

DIGITAL INPUT TECHNOLOGIES

Half Year or Full Year Grade: 7 – 8

Prerequisite: Computer Solutions or equivalent skill

Digital Input Technologies introduces new and emerging input devices (e.g., speech- and handwriting-recognition software, headset/microphone, personal data assistant [PDA], scanner, digital camera, digital video camera, keyboard, and mouse) to prepare students for using tools that are becoming standard in the workplace and in everyday life.

TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATION 7

Half Year or Full Year Grade: 7

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.**

TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATION 8

Half Year or Full Year Grade: 8

In this course young men and women will experience how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics interact to create our technological society. By active participation in research, design, fabrication, and prototype testing, students will explore various topics in Technology, such as structural engineering and transportation systems. Students will develop problem solving strategies and work place skills that will be useful in 21st century careers. This course is a dynamic approach to many academic subject areas to include mathematics and science by physically demonstrating these concepts in real world applications with a focus on critical thinking skills and problem solving. Schools equipped with modular "Synergistic" labs provide active exploration of a wide variety technologies and related careers in a computer based-learning environment.

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

A.V.I.D. (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Full Year Elective Grade: 7 - 8

Prerequisite: Participants selected through application and interview process.

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in either algebra or a world language.

This course is designed to support motivated, capable students in pursuing a rigorous course of study leading to acceptance to and success in a four-year college or university. Through a variety of instructional techniques, students develop skills in higher-level thinking, writing across the curriculum, and reading strategies for accessing challenging course material. Students develop time management, note taking, research, organization, and other skills fundamental to success in higher-level math, social studies, English, science, and world language courses. Students participate in college, career, and cultural exploration activities, including field trips.





WORLD LANGUAGES



FRENCH 1

Full Year Elective Grade: 8

Prerequisite: none

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 world languages requirement of the high school Advanced Studies diploma. It also counts toward the total number of credits required for graduation

SPANISH 1

Full Year Elective Grade: 8

Prerequisite: none

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 world languages requirements of the high school Advanced Studies diploma. It also counts toward the total number of credits required for graduation.

SPANISH IMMERSION 1

Full Year Elective Grade: 7

Prerequisite: Participation in the Elementary Partial-Immersion Program in grades 1-6.

This course serves as a transition from elementary partial-immersion to the sequential world languages high school program. Students expand their knowledge of the language to include communicating about themselves and their immediate environment. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing. The content of this course is aligned with the Level 1 POS. Credit becomes a part of the high school transcript, is included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and counts towards fulfilling the world languages requirements of the high school Advanced Studies diploma. It also counts towards the number of credits required for high school graduation.

SPANISH IMMERSION 2

Full Year Elective Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Seventh Grade Immersion 1

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 world languages requirements of the Advanced Studies diploma. This course counts toward the number of credits required for graduation.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT



BASIC SKILLS

Full Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 8

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.

WORK AWARENESS AND TRANSITION

Full Year Elective

Grade: 7 – 8

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.

ACTION LITERACY 7

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 7

Action Literacy 7 is a one semester SOL support class for the English Reading SOL (not Writing SOL) for 7th grade students reading on or just below grade level. The classes are capped at 15 students. These students have word attack skills and comprehension skills near grade level (on grade level to two years below grade level), but their general comprehension is literal or low level. This course reinforces vocabulary instruction as well as explicit reading strategy instruction.

ACTION LITERACY 8

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 8

Action Literacy 8 is a one semester SOL support class for the English Reading SOL (not Writing SOL) for 8th grade students reading on or just below grade level. The classes are capped at 15 students. These students have word attack skills and comprehension skills near grade level (on grade level to two years below grade level), but their general comprehension is literal or low level. This course reinforces vocabulary instruction as well as explicit reading strategy instruction.

READ 180

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 7-8

READ 180 is a full year reading intervention course designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is well below the proficient level. The course addresses individual needs through direct teacher instruction, high-interest reading material, and adaptive instructional software. Because it is an intervention course, READ 180 is capped at 15 students. It can be accessed by both seventh and eighth graders from ESOL or general and special education populations. Depending on their proficiency level, some students might be in the course for two years.

POWER MATHEMATICS

Half Year or Full Year

Grade: 7

The Power Mathematics is a one-semester course designed to provide students with foundational concepts and skills to support success with current mathematics explorations and enhance experiences with future mathematics study. In grade seven, Power Mathematics focuses on fundamental skills with integer operations, order of operations, equivalence, percent and percent applications, along with area and graphing concepts.

POWER MATHEMATICS**Half Year or Full Year Grade: 8**

Power Mathematics is a one-semester course that focuses on fundamental skills with ratios and proportions, measurement in two and three dimensions and statistics, along with heavy emphasis on algebraic thinking and equations. Additionally, the class includes direct instruction in science concepts including scientific investigation, living systems, ecosystems, heredity, and diversity.

READING 7**Full Year****Grade: 7**

This course provides an opportunity for students to improve reading and study skills. Students learn reading skills and strategies that improve comprehension of fiction and nonfiction material. Reading competencies addressed in the Virginia Standards of Learning are incorporated into the course objectives. With approval, schools may offer an alternate plan for incorporating reading instruction into other courses. *This class is offered to students with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP).*

READING 8**Full Year****Grade: 8**

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. (With approval, schools may offer an alternate plan for incorporating reading instruction into other courses.) *This class is offered to students with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP).*



ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Fairfax County Public Schools Advanced Academic Programs provide challenging learning experiences that are designed to meet the unique learning profile of a broad range of advanced learners. Through a continuum of opportunities, students engage in complex subject matter, preparing them for more challenging and rigorous classes as they advance in grade level. Advanced Academic courses at the middle school consist of honors courses and the Level IV center program. Students who have demonstrated high achievement, interest, and/or potential in one or more academic areas may enroll in honors courses. Students eligible for full time Level IV center placement have the option to take full honors at their local middle school.

Advanced Academic courses in high school are open to all students who seek academic rigor. Students have the opportunity to enroll in honors courses as underclassmen and continue in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment courses. Students may earn college credits based on the results of their examinations (AP or IB) or course grade (dual enrollment). Student transfer applications may be submitted for an AP or IB program if the base school does not offer the desired program of study. For more information on the transfer process please visit the website at: www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/StudentRegistration/student-transfer/index.htm.

AP and IB courses are advanced-level courses with external exams. Students who take AP and IB courses are required to complete the examinations.

The Advanced Academic program responds to the requirement of the Virginia Board of Education that each local school division plan and implement an instructional program for gifted and talented students at all levels K-12. Courses

designated as honors, Level IV, IB or AP fulfill this requirement. Differentiated curricula and teaching strategies which stress critical thinking skills, creativity, and problem solving are integrated into the content of all advanced academic course offerings. The four-year sequence of courses in each of the academic disciplines, which progress from honors to AP, and IB, provides a continuous and balanced advanced academic program.

Advanced Placement

Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Hayfield, Herndon, Lake Braddock, Langley, Madison, McLean, Oakton, South County, West Potomac, West Springfield, Westfield, and Woodson High Schools offer the Advanced Placement (AP) program. Individual AP courses are also offered at other high schools. All students enrolled in an AP course are required to complete the end-of-course AP exam. Students may receive college credit and/or placement based upon their exam grades.

The AP program is offered in English, social studies, mathematics, science, world languages, and fine arts. AP courses are offered as open enrollment to all students committed to rigorous, academic work. Students taking at least 3 AP exams with at least a grade of 3 on each are recognized by the College Board as AP Scholars. Further information about the AP program may be obtained by contacting the school counselor or AP coordinator at the participating school.

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP) is designed for students ages 11-16 (grades 6-10). The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. The curriculum is supported by the fundamental concepts of intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication. The IBMYP program is available at the following middle and high schools: Glasgow, Holmes, Hughes, Poe, Whitman, Annandale, Mt. Vernon, South Lakes, and Stuart.

Thomas Jefferson High School For Science And Technology

The Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is a unique Fairfax County public school offering a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology. As the Governor's School for Science and Technology in Northern Virginia, the school serves students who are selected in a competitive process and intend to pursue college preparation in the sciences, engineering, or related fields. Students may obtain information about application procedures and deadlines from the School Counseling Office of their local schools or by calling Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Office of Admissions at 703-658-5823 or at: www.tjhsst.edu/abouttj/admissions/

<p>NOTICE: All graduation requirements documented in the 2010-11 Standard Course Offerings Guide reflect Virginia Department of Education and Fairfax County Public Schools' expectations at the time of publication.</p>
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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 9th grade for the first time. The following applies to 9th grade students who enter high school in 2011-2012 and beyond.

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 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken and passed 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 Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50)		
Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics¹	3	1
Laboratory Science^{2, 6}	3	1
History and Social Sciences^{3, 6}	4	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
*World Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed⁷	2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives⁴	3	
Student Selected Test⁵		1
Total Credits	22	6

*Foreign Language is designated World Language in Fairfax County Public Schools.

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II. The Board of Education shall 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 sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The Board shall approve 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 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 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, economics, or other areas as prescribed by the Board 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 (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a science or history and 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 as an additional test to verify student achievement.

⁷ Pursuant to Section 22.1-253.13:4, Code of Virginia, credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.

STANDARD TECHNICAL 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 9th grade for the first time. The following applies to 9th grade students who enter high school in 2011-2012 and beyond.

To graduate from high school with a Standard Technical Diploma, students shall meet the minimum requirements 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 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken and passed 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 Technical Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50)		
Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics¹	3	1
Laboratory Science^{2,5}	3	1
History and Social Sciences^{3,5}	4	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or *World Language	1	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Career and Technical Education⁴	4	
Student Selected Test⁶		1
Total Credits	22	6

*Foreign Language is designated World Language in Fairfax County Public Schools.

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II. The Board of Education shall approve 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 shall approve 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 World History/Geography I and World History/Geography II. AP World History satisfies the requirement for World History/Geography II.

⁴ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include a career concentration as approved by the Board. If a career concentration includes a specific assessment approved by the Board and the student is eligible to take the assessment, then the student must take this assessment.

⁵ 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 (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a science or history and 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 as an additional test to verify student achievement.

⁶ A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education, economics or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA

26 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the 9th grade for the first time. The following applies to 9th grade students who enter high school in 2011-2012 and beyond.

To graduate from high school with an Advanced Studies Diploma, students shall meet the minimum requirements as outlined below which include 26 credits, 9 of which must be verified credits. Any student who meets the requirements for both the Advanced Studies and the Advanced Technical Diploma may choose between these two diplomas. 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 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken and passed 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 Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50)		
Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics¹	4	2
Laboratory Science²	4	2
History and Social Sciences³	4	2
*World Language⁴	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Student Selected Test⁵		1
Total Credits	26	9

*Foreign Language is designated World Language in Fairfax County Public Schools.

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement 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 shall approve 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 shall approve 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 World History/Geography I and World History/Geography II. AP World History satisfies the requirement for World History/Geography II.

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, economics, or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

ADVANCED TECHNICAL DIPLOMA 26 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the 9th grade for the first time. The following applies to 9th grade students who enter high school in 2011-2012 and beyond.

To graduate from high school with an Advanced Technical Diploma, students shall meet the minimum requirements as outlined below which include 26 credits, 9 of which must be verified credits. Any student who meets the requirements for both the Advanced Studies and the Advanced Technical Diploma may choose between these two diplomas. 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 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken and passed 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 Technical Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-110)		
Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics ¹	4	2
Laboratory Science ²	4	2
History and Social Sciences ³	4	2
*World Language ⁴	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical	1	
Career and Technical Education ⁵	3	
Student Selected Test ⁶		1
Total	26	9

*Foreign Language is designated World Language in Fairfax County Public Schools.

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement 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 shall approve courses to satisfy the 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 shall approve 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 World History/Geography I and World History/Geography II. AP World History satisfies the requirement for World History/Geography II.

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

⁵ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include a career concentration as approved by the Board. If a career concentration includes a specific assessment approved by the Board and the student is eligible to take the assessment, then the student must take this assessment.

⁶ A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education, economics, or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA

20 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT 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. The following applies to 9th grade students who entered high school in 2000-2001 and beyond.

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 including the student, when appropriate, at any point after the student’s eighth grade year. There are no verified credit requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma. 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 for the literacy and numeracy requirements.

A student who has chosen to pursue a Modified Standard Diploma shall also be allowed to pursue the Standard Diploma, Advanced Studies Diploma, or Standard Technical Diploma or Advanced Technical Diploma (based on year of entry into 9th grade) at any time throughout the high school career. The student may not be excluded from courses and tests required to earn a Standard, Advanced Studies, Standard Technical, or Advanced Technical Diploma.

Modified Standard Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50)	
Subject Area	Standard Credits
English	4
Mathematics¹	3
Science²	2
History and Social Sciences³	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed.	1
Electives⁴	6
Total Credits	20

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and probability 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.

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.

⁴ Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at 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 race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, 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 (571-423-2280) regarding access to facilities; Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050 or dial 711 for access to Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)), regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues; Due Process and Eligibility (703-317-3000), 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.

