

Middle School Course Selection Guide 2012-2013

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*“A New Journey Begins In Middle School.”
2012 - 2013*

Dear Middle School Students and Parents:

The faculty and staff of the new Middle School at the South County site invite you to join us on this new journey that promises to be some of the most memorable years of your educational experience. We anticipate your middle school years will be an exciting time of learning and exploration while preparing for high school and beyond. To assist you with long-range planning, this course selection guide includes descriptions of the seventh and eighth grade instructional programs, as well as general information about the high school programs available in Fairfax County.

Middle school students are a part of a team comprised of approximately 140 students. Each team has four core teachers (English, math, social studies, and science) as well as a designated administrator and counselor available to assist students in their academic and social development. The middle school team concept provides the core teachers with a common period to plan collaboratively, organize instructional activities, and conference with students and parents.

Each middle school student is required to take a full year of English, math, science, social studies, and health/physical education. In addition, seventh and eighth grade students may choose two periods of electives that can be divided into a combination of full year and semester classes.

Students should consider current interests and future goals when selecting courses. All elective courses offer opportunities for enrichment, specialization, and interest exploration. Careful planning will help students make wise decisions about courses to take in middle school. School counselors are readily available to guide students through the course selection process.

Parental involvement is critical for achieving and maintaining student success in school. We encourage and appreciate parent participation and assistance with the many activities that we will plan for the middle school students at our new South County site. Our endeavor is to continue to forge lasting partnerships with our families and other members of our school community.

We look forward to meeting and working with you as we embark on this exciting journey in our new facility. Should you have any questions regarding the information presented in this course guide, or any other questions regarding the middle school program at the new South County site, please contact the student services department. Best wishes for a successful school year!

Middle School Administrative Team and School Counselors

Marsha Manning, Principal

Kathy A. Reese, Director of Student Services

Susan Martinez, Lead Middle School Counselor

Rachel Emmer, Middle School Counselor

Alicia Alston - Harrison, Middle School Counselor

Nicole Shaw, Middle School Counselor

MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM STANDARD AND OPTIONAL COURSE OFFERINGS

The seventh and eighth grade programs are a combination of required and elective courses.
Students are required to take a total of seven classes per semester.

GRADE 7

REQUIRED COURSES

English 7
United States History 7
Middle School Math 7
Investigations in Environmental
Science 7
Health & PE 7

Elective Choices:

TWO Full-Year Courses

OR

ONE Full-Year Course

TWO Semester Courses

OR

FOUR Semester Courses

GRADE 8

REQUIRED COURSES

English 8
Civics 8
Middle School Math 8
Algebra 1, Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors
Investigating Matter & Energy 8
Health & PE 8

Elective Choices:

TWO Full-Year Courses

OR

ONE Full-Year Course

TWO Semester Courses

OR

FOUR Semester Courses

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Advanced Academics Programs:

Honors, Grades 7-8

Honors classes in middle school are open to all students who seek academic rigor. Students may enroll in Honors classes in any of the four core academic subject areas. Honors classes use a curriculum that extends the POS in depth and complexity. Honors classes, which are available in all middle schools, seek to provide opportunities to build on individual student strengths, develop critical and creative thinking skills, and prepare students for advanced coursework in high school.

Advanced Academic Program Level IV Center ~ (AAP Level IV Center)

Students who reside within the South County boundary, and have been identified as eligible for placement in a full-time Advanced Academic Level IV Program through a central selection process, will receive services at the new middle school at the South County site. Identified rising 7th graders will attend the AAP Level IV Center in September 2012. Rising 8th graders who currently attend the AAP Level IV center at Lake Braddock Secondary School will have the option of completing their 8th grade year at their current school or enrolling in the AAP Level IV Center at the South County site.

The Level IV program is a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas. The program is designed to meet the needs of advanced learners with a strong emphasis on higher level thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making. Students have on-going opportunities for reflection and self-assessment that develop an understanding of the characteristics, demands, and responsibilities of advanced intellectual development.

Exceptional Education:

All exceptional education placements are determined by the Office of Student Services and Special Education. The exceptional education department offers a continuum of services as determined by the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP). If you have any questions regarding special education placement, please contact the exceptional education department coordinator.

English For Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): ESOL students are placed in **Level 1** (very limited or no knowledge of English), **Level 2** (limited proficiency in English), or **Levels 3-4** (proficient in speaking and understanding English but limited in reading and writing skills). The Level 1 students are in ESOL classes four periods each day, Level 2 students have two periods per day, and Level 3-4 students, one period of ESOL per day. ESOL students are enrolled in mainstream courses for all other classes that are not designated by the ESOL program.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY 2012-2013

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.

High School Credit Courses for Middle School Students

Students in grades 7-12 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken in middle school. High school credit-bearing courses available to South County Secondary School middle school students include Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, French I, Japanese I, Latin I and Spanish I.

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 omitted from the student's transcript, and therefore the student will not earn high school credit for the course. This request must be made in writing to the high school **prior** to the end of the first nine weeks of the new school year.

SEVENTH GRADE CORE REQUIRED PROGRAMS

Students must pass each of the 4-core classes (English, math, history, & science) in order to be promoted to the next grade level.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English 7

(111000)

Year

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.

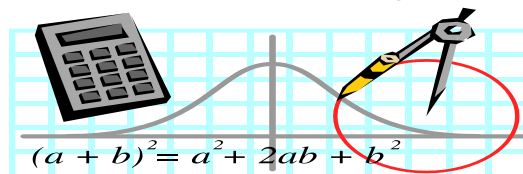
English 7 Honors

(111036)

Year

This course extends the standard program of studies for English 7. As students read and study a variety of literature, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and interpreting the text, they make connections across time, place and subject; perform as a practitioner or scholar in a discipline; and self-assess and reflect on their learning and the learning process. Instruction is enriched and extended through research-based practices designed to engage and challenge advanced learners, e.g. problem-based learning, research and investigations. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

MATHEMATICS



Mathematics 7

(311100)

Year

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 concepts and skills necessary for success in Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test**

Mathematics 7 Honors

(311136)

Year

The depth and level of understanding in Mathematics 7 Honors is beyond the scope of Mathematics 7. This course is based on Mathematics 8 curriculum and includes extensions and enrichment. Emphasis is placed on mathematical reasoning, non-routine problem solving, and algebraic connections among mathematical ideas. This course provides the opportunity to acquire the concepts and skills necessary for success in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors. **Students are required to take the Standard of Learning End of Course Test.**

Algebra 1 Honors (313036)

Year

Grade 7 Criteria: 91st % or higher Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test and Pass Advanced Math 7 SOL Test

The depth and level of understanding expected in Algebra 1 Honors is beyond the scope of Algebra 1. 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. Graphic calculators are an essential tool for every student to explore graphical, numerical, and symbolic relationships. **Students are required to take the Standard of Learning End of Course Test.**

SOCIAL STUDIES



United States History: 1865 to the Present (235500)

Year

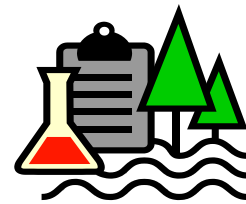
The grade seven program provides a survey of American history since 1865. This course incorporates the four strands of history, geography, civics, and economics. Important trends in American history are identified by the analysis of the role of ideas, individuals, and important events. Students develop historical-thinking skills and extend their understanding of how geography shapes history.

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

United States History Honors: 1865 to Present (235536)

Year

This course extends the standard program of studies for US History in grade 7, a survey of American history since 1865. As they study the four strands of history, geography, civics, and economics the students will think conceptually; make connections across time, place and subject areas; perform as a practitioner or scholar in a discipline; and self-assess and reflect on their learning and the learning process. Instruction is enriched and extended through research-based designed to engage and challenge advanced learners, e.g. problem-based learning, research, and investigations. **Students are required to take the Standard of Learning End of Course Test**



SCIENCE

Investigations in Environmental Science 7 (411500)

Year

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 investigation, 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.

Investigations in Environmental Science 7 Honors (411536)

Year

This course extends the standard program of studies for life science. As they study the content strands of cellular structure and function, heredity, diversity, populations and ecosystems the students will think conceptually; make connections across time, place and subject areas; perform as a practitioner or scholar in a discipline; and self-assess and reflect on their learning and the learning process. Instruction is enriched and extended through research-based practices designed to engage and challenge advanced learners, e.g. problem-based learning, research, and investigations

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health & Physical Education 7

(712033 – 712034)

Year

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

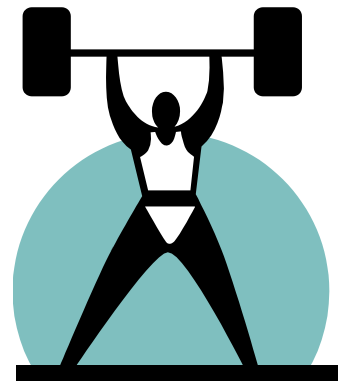
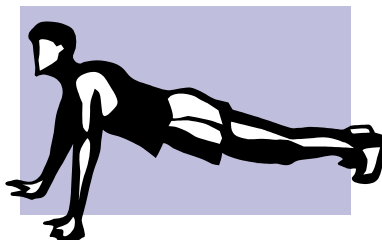
(770016)

Year

Grade: 7, 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 all health education units required of their grade level.



8TH GRADE CORE REQUIRED PROGRAMS

Students must pass each of the 4-core classes (English, math, civics, and science) in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



English 8

(112000)

Year

Prerequisite: English 7

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 information/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.

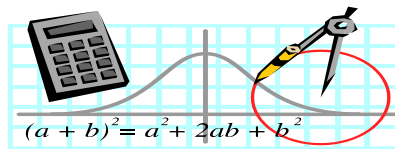
English 8 Honors

(112036)

Year

This course extends the standard program of studies for English 8. As student read and study a variety of literature, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and interpreting the text, they make connections across time, place and subject; perform as a practitioner or scholar in a discipline; and self-assess and reflect on their learning and the learning process. Instruction is enriched and extended through research-based practices designed to engage and challenge advanced learners, e.g. problem-based learning, research and investigations. **Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.**

MATHEMATICS



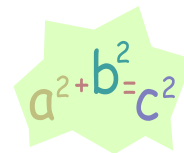
Mathematics 8

(311200)

Year

Prerequisite: Middle School 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 the opportunity to acquire the concepts 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.**



Algebra 1 (313000)
Grade: 8, 9, 10, 11
Prerequisite: Middle School Mathematics 7
Credit: 1

Year

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. When taken in grade 8, Algebra 1 becomes a part of the high school transcript record, is included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and counts as one of the required mathematics credits for high school graduation.

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

Algebra 1 Honors (313036)
Grade: 7, 8
Prerequisite: Middle School Mathematics 7
Credit: 1

Year

The depth and level of understanding expected in Algebra 1 Honors is beyond the scope of Algebra 1. 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. When taken in grade 8, Algebra 1 Honors becomes a part of the high school transcript record, is included in the determination of the high school grade point average (GPA), and counts as one of the required mathematics credits for high school graduation.

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



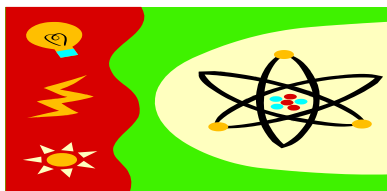
Geometry Honors (314336)
Grade: 8
Prerequisite: Algebra 1
Credit: 1

Year

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.

SCIENCE



Investigating Matter and Energy (412500)

Year

Prerequisite: Investigations in Environmental Science 7

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.

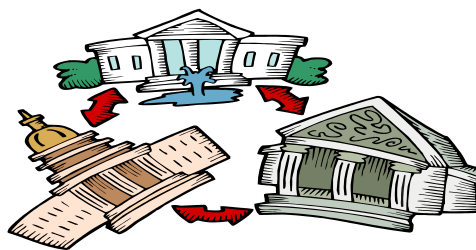
Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test.

Investigating Matter and Energy Honors (412536)

Year

This course extends the standard of studies for physical science. As they study the content strands of properties of matter, energy, forms and their transformations, and forces and motion the students will think conceptually; make connections across time, place and subject areas; perform as a practitioner or scholar in a discipline; and self-assess and reflect on their learning and the learning process. Instruction is enriched and extended through research-based practices designed to engage and challenge advanced learners, e.g. problem-based learning, research, and investigations. End of Course test covers content from grades 6, 7, and 8. **Students are required to take the Standard of Learning End of Course Test.**

SOCIAL STUDIES



Civics and Economics

(235700)

Year

Prerequisite: US History 7

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 process 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.**

Civics Honors

(235736)

Year

This course extends the standard program of studies for Honors Civics and Economics in grade 8 which is designed to prepare students to be responsible, productive citizens in a democratic republic and an interconnected world. As they gain an understanding of the concepts and processes of democratic government and the American economic system the students will think conceptually; make connections across time, place, and subject areas; perform as a practitioner or scholar in a discipline; and self-assess and reflect on their learning research, and investigations. 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

Health & Physical Education 8

(720033 – 720034)

Year

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

(770016)

Year

Grade: 7, 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 that will improve deficiencies, and maximize participation. Students in adapted physical education will participate in health education units required of their grade level.



SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE PROGRAM

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

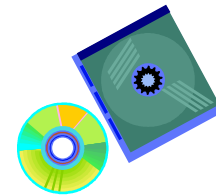


Computer Solutions Grade 7,8

(660932)

Semester

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 Grade 7,8

(616032)

Semester

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.

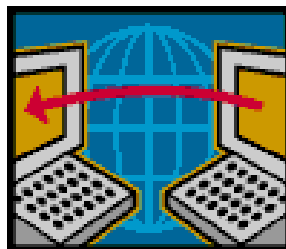
Technology Exploration 7 Grade 7

(846432)

Semester

Students are provided active learning situations and higher-order thinking skill development through practical problem-solving experiences; experience with technology; and exploration of personal interest, 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.



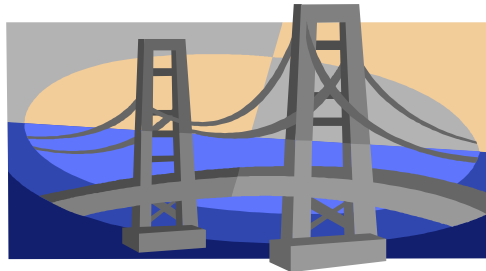
Technology Exploration 8 Grade 8

(846332)

Semester

In this course young men & women will experience how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics interact to create our technical 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 of technologies and related careers in a computer based-learning environment.

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



Career Search and Investigation (CSI) Grade 7,8

(907042)

Semester

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.



Family and Consumer Science 7

(826332)

Semester

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.



Family and Consumer Science 8

(824432)

Semester

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.

A student materials fee is required.

PEER HELPING

Peer Helping

(980717)

Semester

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the selection procedures including application, recommendations, and interview, as well as approval by the peer helper program instructor.

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.



PEER MEDIATION

Peer Mediation

(980960)

Semester

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the selection procedures including application, recommendations, and interview. Approval by the peer mediation program instructors and the guidance director is required.

This course is designed to train students to implement a peer mediation program in the middle school. The training program develops students' interpersonal support, and leadership skills for the purpose of understanding conflict resolution so that they may serve as peer mediators and work with other students to resolve disputes. Students are taught the mediation process through intensive training sessions focusing on defining conflicts, identifying needs, understanding different points of view, examining methods of prejudice reduction, identifying conflict management styles, practicing collaborate problem solving, and developing communication skills.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS



VISUAL ARTS

Art Foundations

(910532)

Semester

Grade: 7, 8

Explore a variety of art materials, develop art techniques, and use creative thinking skills to express ideas and viewpoints about personal experiences and the world. Produce meaningful and unique drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics and crafts 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.

3D Art Exploration

(910632)

Semester

Grade: 7, 8 (7th grade; 2nd semester only)

Prerequisite: Art Foundations or 8th 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 worlds. 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.**

Computers in Art

(911563 - 91564)

Semester

Grade: 7, 8 (7th grade; 2nd semester only)

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 Standard of Learnings 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.

Art Extensions

(911500)

Year

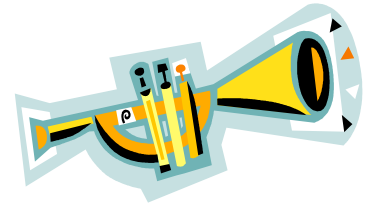
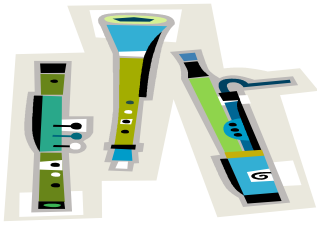
Grade: 8

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

Art Extension-Full Year offers an opportunity for eighth grade students with interest and above average performance 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 sculptures and they evaluate and critique their own and other students' artwork. Students study art history and culture and analyze the works of great artists while making 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.

MUSIC



Beginning Band

(923211)

Year

Grade: 7, 8

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 this course. **Note: This course is for all beginning instruments.** This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

Intermediate Band (Cadet Band)

(923310)

Year

Grade: 7, 8 Level 1

Prerequisite: Successful Audition or Permission of Instructor

Previous experience on wind instrument required.

Intermediate level band students will continue to develop skills on woodwind or brass 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.

Note: Percussion students should sign up for Percussion Ensemble.

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

Intermediate Band (Concert Band)

(923311)

Year

Grade: 7, 8 Level 2

Prerequisite: Successful Audition or Permission of Instructor

Previous experience on wind instrument required.

Intermediate level band students will continue to develop skills on woodwind or brass 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.

Note: Percussion students should sign up for Percussion Ensemble.

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



Advanced Band (Symphonic Band) (923411) **Year**
Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Successful Audition or Permission of Instructor

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.

Note: Percussion students should sign up for Percussion Ensemble.

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

Percussion Ensemble (925010) **Year**
Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Successful Audition or Permission of Instructor and previous experience on Percussion.

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. Instrumentation of the group is at the discretion of the instructor. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course. ***Students must have prior experience in band on percussion.***

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



Intermediate Chorus (928510) **Year**
Grade: 7, 8

Intermediate level chorus will provide for the continued study of correct vocal production and development of musicianship through the study 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 Chorus (928910) **Year**
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 Orchestra

(923710)

Year

Grades: 7, 8

Beginning level string class introduces students to the violin, 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. 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 Orchestra

(923810)

Year

Grade: 7, 8

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.

Note: Students with no prior string experience must contact instructor (Ms. Lancaster).

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

Advanced Orchestra

(923910)

Year

Grade: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Successful Audition and/or Recommendation of Instructor.

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 to receive credit for the course.

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



Guitar 1

(924510)

Year

Grades: 7, 8

Students learn the fundamentals of guitar. Guitar instruction emphasizes basic technique, reading, progressions, and music theory. Instructional literature is selected from classical and contemporary repertoire. Guest artists and field trips to performances and/or seminars may also be part of the curriculum.

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

THEATRE ARTS



Theatre Arts Appreciation Grade: 7, 8

(139067)

Semester

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

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

Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation

(139568)

Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts Course in Grade 7 and/or Instructor Recommendation

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 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.

Speech Arts Appreciation Grade: 7, 8

(130062)

Semester

Students in this class will produce the Middle School News Show.

Students develop an appreciation of speech and multi media production through an introduction to the basic concepts and skills of oral communication, public speaking, acting, broadcasting, and multi media production. Student begin to develop poise, leadership, collaboration, and confidence in speaking, and they develop skills in listening and discussing in group situations. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

Speech Arts Appreciation

(130010)

Year

Grade: 8 Prerequisite: Speech Arts Appreciation (130062 – Semester Course)

Students in this class will produce and anchor the Middle School News Show.

Students further develop an appreciation of speech and multi media production through the use of concepts and skills of oral communication, public speaking, acting, broadcasting, and multi media production. Students use the skills developed in the prerequisite course to collaborate and lead the development of the Middle School News Broadcast. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS**



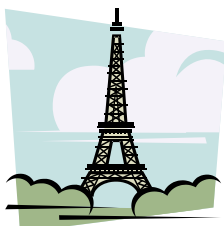
WORLD LANGUAGES

Introduction to Foreign Language

French 1
Japanese 1



Latin 1
Spanish 1



Introduction to Foreign Language (IFL) (570032)

Semester

Grade: 7

Students are introduced to one or more world languages and cultures. The languages studied are French, Latin, Spanish, and Japanese. Students learn the most basic structures, vocabulary, and expressions in each language and study the culture of the people who speak them. They are also exposed to the basic steps and study habits necessary to learn a world language. Students are made aware of how knowledge of world languages enriches a person's life and expands the options in terms of career goals. The semester course can include as many as four languages. **This course does not count as a world language credit.**

French 1 (511000)

Year

Grades 8 - 12

Credit: 1

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

Spanish 1 (551000)

Year

Grade 8 - 12

Credit: 1

Students develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic grammatical 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.

Latin 1
Grades 8 - 12
Credit: 1

(531000)

Year

Students learn basic language structures and essential elements of Latin pronunciation in order to be able to read simple passages in Latin. The relationship of English to Latin is emphasized in vocabulary building, word derivation, and meanings of prefixes and suffixes. Language structures and syntax are developed through the study of literary passages. The geography, history, government and the culture of the Roman Empire are studied. 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.

Japanese 1
Grade 8 - 12
Credit: 1

(591000)

Year

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. The Kana system of writing, along with some basic characters, is taught in this course. Students begin to explore and study the 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.

ENGLISH/LITERARY ARTS



Literary Arts/Fundamentals of Journalism (116168)
Grade: 7, 8

Semester

This is a semester-long class which teaches the foundations of journalism to prepare students for work on a publication staff. Students will learn basic publication and journalistic skills including writing, interviewing, editing, layout design, photography and advertising/funding a publication. This class will act as a pre-requisite for the year-long publications class.



Journalism/Newspaper

(116159)

Year

Grade: 8

This course is designed to introduce students to the specialized area of journalistic writing. Students learn basic publications and journalism skills focusing on writing articles and designing layouts for sample pages of a newspaper, yearbook, and literary magazine. This course provides leadership opportunities to students as editors and photographers. Students will report, write and edit the middle school newspaper.



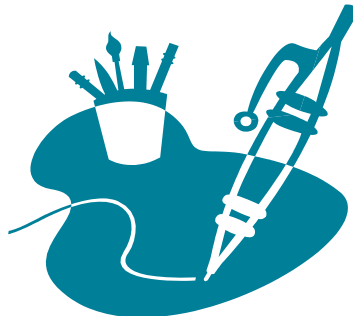
Journalism/Yearbook

(116160)

Year

Grade: 8

Students learn basic publication and journalism skills focusing on writing articles, designing layouts, and taking photographs for sample pages of the yearbook. Students will produce the middle school yearbook.



Creative Writing/Skills for Success

(110862)

Semester

Grade: 7, 8

Students develop their creative writing talents with emphasis on building skills and expertise as writers. Instruction will focus on the writing of poetry, short stories, plays, and descriptions. Students refine their skills in use of the Six Traits of Writing through planning, drafting, revising, and editing written work. Students expand their writing skills through analyzing and evaluating their own writing and that of other writers. The study skills component includes lessons from The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey, as well as training with the Online Card Catalog, NoveList, and the library databases. Through a variety of instructional techniques, students develop higher-level thinking, organization, time management, and other study skills fundamental to school success.

ENRICHMENT & REMEDIATION COURSES



Action Literacy 7

(011047)

Semester

Action Literacy 7 is a one semester SOL support class for 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 or 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

(011048)

Semester

Action Literacy 8 is a one-semester SOL support class for 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.

Responsive Writing 8

(011049)

Semester

Responsive writing is a one-semester English Writing SOL support class for 8th grade students. This small intervention class will focus on implementing the writing process and applying the Six Traits of Writing. The classes are capped at 15 students. Built around best practices in writing such as conferring, using mentor text, and supporting real-world writing, this class offers students strategies that enable them to write effectively.

Power Mathematics 7

(011066)

Semester

The Power Mathematics course provides students with foundational concepts and skills to support success with current mathematics explorations and enhance experiences with future mathematics study. Power Mathematics in grade seven focuses on fundamental skills with integer operations, order of operations, equivalence, percent and percent applications, along with area and graphing concepts.

Power Mathematics / Science 8

(011068)

Semester

Power Mathematics and Power Science in grade eight 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.

READ180

(110868)

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.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS



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 -Beginning, who take a minimum of three classes of ESOL; Level 2 -Intermediate, who take a minimum of two classes of ESOL; and Levels 3/4 -Advanced, who take one class of ESOL.

Beginning ESOL English (571061) **Year**
WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2
Grade: 7,8

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.

Beginning ESOL English (571062) **Year**
WIDA ELP 1 & 2 English
Grade: 7,8

This is the second of two English classes in which WIDA ELP Levels 1 & 2 students are 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 US History 7 (571217) **Year**
WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2
Grade: 7

This is the Social Studies class in which grade 7 WIDA ELP Levels 1 & 2 students may be 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 the development of vocabulary and academic discourse of Social Studies.

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

ESOL Civics & Economics 8**(571218)****Year****WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2****Grade: 8**

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 & 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.

ESOL Focus Science**(571400)****Year****WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2****Grade: 7, 8**

This course is the science course for WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2 students. It is designed to develop the academic language of science through scaffold 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.

Developing ESOL English**(572061)****Year****WIDA ELP Level 2 & 3****Grade: 7, 8**

This is the English language classes 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, reading comprehension 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 Academic Language**(573061)****Year****WIDA ELP Level 3 & 4****Grade: 7, 8**

The class is designed to enrich students' academic language across the curriculum. Students develop academic language through target 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 student 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.**

ESOL Fast Math**(571300)****Year****WIDA ELP Level 1 & 2****Grade: 7, 8**

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 instructions within the FAST Math Class.

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



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Students with disabilities are eligible to participate in courses specifically designed to meet identified needs as specified in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Students may have experiences in general education classes with the support of a special education teacher. Students who require more specialized instruction and reinforcement are enrolled in small group special education classes. Students may also be fully mainstreamed in their academic courses according to their IEP. The objective of the exceptional education program is to offer a continuum of services to meet the needs of individual students.

Basic Skills **Grades: 7,8** **(781980)** **Year**

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

Reading 7 **(110780)** **Year**

This course is designed to provide direct, explicit and intensive reading instruction to students with disabilities who are reading significantly below grade level. Basic objectives of the reading courses are focused on closing the gap between the student's present level of performance and the level of performance needed to successfully access the general curriculum. Instruction focuses on increasing student's decoding, fluency and comprehension skills of fiction and nonfiction materials, which is based on the diagnosis of each student's needs as outlined through the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

Reading 8 **(110880)** **Year**

This course is designed to provide direct, explicit and intensive reading instruction to students with disabilities who are reading significantly below grade level. Basic objectives of the reading courses are focused on closing the gap between the student's present level of performance and the level of performance needed to successfully access the general curriculum. Instruction focuses on increasing student's decoding, fluency and comprehension skills of fiction and nonfiction materials, which is based on the diagnosis of each student's needs as outlined through the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

Work Awareness and Transition **(907060)** **Year**

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.

Personal Development **(781540)** **Year**

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).

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL at the SOUTH COUNTY SITE
Seventh Grade Course Selection Sheet
2012 - 2013

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Gender	School Last Attended
Parent/Guardian Name		Home Telephone	Work Phone	E-mail Address

REQUIRED COURSES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middle School Math 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & P.E. 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> History 7	

Requests for HONORS courses should be made on the Honors Course Request Form.

Please check if the following apply: Student has been identified as AAP Level IV Center Eligible.
Center eligible students will automatically be placed in Level IV Center core classes.

Student has a 504. Student receives ESOL services. ESOL Level

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 elective and two (2) semester electives; or four (4) semester electives.**

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

If you are choosing semester electives, please number them in the order of preference, 1-13.

"While every effort will be made to provide students with their most desired elective choices, placement will also depend on staffing and enrollment. Students may expect to receive at least one of their top four semester elective choices.

<input type="checkbox"/> Career Search & Investigations	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech Arts Appreciation
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts Appreciation
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Input Technologies (Prerequisite: Computer Solutions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing/Skills for Success
<input type="checkbox"/> Family & Consumer Science 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundamentals of Journalism
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Exploration 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Art Foundations
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Foreign Language	<input type="checkbox"/> 3D Art Exploration (Prerequisite: Art Foundations)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer in Arts (Prerequisite: Art Foundations)

Electives that require a teacher or counselor recommendation:

Action Literacy 7 Power Math 7 Peer Mediation

YEAR ELECTIVES

Place a **checkmark** on the line if you are choosing a year-long elective. Do not number year-long selections.

Students will automatically receive their requests for year-long electives.

Beginning Band Beginning Orchestra Intermediate Chorus Guitar

Electives that require an audition by the SCSS Music Department:

<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Percussion Ensemble
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Orchestra	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Orchestra	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Chorus

Electives that require a teacher recommendation or an IEP:

Read 180 Basic Skills Review Reading 7 Personal Development

I UNDERSTAND THAT STAFFING IS BASED ON COURSE SELECTIONS, AND MY CHILD'S SELECTIONS REPRESENT A FIRM COMMITMENT.

_____ Student Signature (Required)	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature (Required)	_____ Date
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THE MIDDLE SCHOOL at the SOUTH COUNTY SITE
Eighth Grade Course Selection Sheet
2012-2013

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Gender	School Last Attended
Parent/Guardian Name	Home Telephone	Work Phone	E-mail Address	

REQUIRED COURSES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Math 8 OR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civics 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Algebra 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Algebra 1 Honors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & P.E. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Geometry Honors (Prerequisite Algebra 1 Honors)

Requests for HONORS courses should be made on the Honors Request Form.

Please check if the following apply: Student has been identified as AAP Level IV Center Eligible.
Center eligible students will automatically be placed in Level IV Center core classes.

Student has an IEP. Student has a 504. Student receives ESOL services. ESOL Level

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 classes.**

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

If you are choosing semester electives, number them in order of preference, 1-12.

While every effort will be made to provide students with their most desired elective choices, placement will also depend on staffing and enrollment. Students may expect to receive at least one of their top four semester elective choices.

<input type="checkbox"/> Career Search & Investigations	<input type="checkbox"/> 3D Art Exploration
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer in Arts (Prerequisite: Art Foundations)
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Input Technologies (Prerequisite: Computer Solutions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater Arts Appreciation
<input type="checkbox"/> Family & Consumer Science 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech Arts Appreciation
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Exploration 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundamentals of Journalism
<input type="checkbox"/> Art Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing /Skills for Success

Electives that require a teacher or counselor recommendation:

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Literacy 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Power Math & Science 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Peer Helping	<input type="checkbox"/> Peer Mediation	

YEAR ELECTIVES

Place a checkmark on the line if you are choosing a year long elective.

<input type="checkbox"/> French 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Latin 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Orchestra	<input type="checkbox"/> Journalism/Yearbook	<input type="checkbox"/> Journalism/Newspaper	
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Chorus	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech Arts Appreciation		

Electives that require an audition or recommendation by the SCSS Music Department:

<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Band	<input type="checkbox"/> Percussion Ensemble	<input type="checkbox"/> Guitar 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Orchestra	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Orchestra	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Chorus	

Electives that require a teacher recommendation or an IEP:

<input type="checkbox"/> Art Extensions	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Theater Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> Read 180
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Skills Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading 8

I UNDERSTAND THAT STAFFING IS BASED ON COURSE SELECTIONS, AND MY CHILD'S SELECTIONS REPRESENT A FIRM COMMITMENT.

Student Signature (Required)	Parent/Guardian Signature (Required)	Date
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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
Mathematics ¹	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 Ed ⁷	2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives ⁴	3	
Student Selected Test ⁵		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 2012-2013 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
Mathematics ¹	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 Education ⁴	4	
Student Selected Test ⁶		1
Total Credits	22	6

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. 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
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	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Student Selected Test ⁵		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 2012-2013 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 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 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
Mathematics ¹	3
Science ²	2
History and Social Sciences ³	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed.	1
Electives ⁴	6
Total Credits	20

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

GRADING SYSTEM

Effective September 2009

FCPS adopted a new grading scale effective September 2009. Changes in the FCPS grading policy include a modified ten-point grading scale that uses pluses and minuses. An asterisk (*) is used on the transcript to distinguish B+, C+, and D+ grades earned prior to September 2009. For example, B* = B+.

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	

Grading System Prior to September 2009

A (94-100) = 4.0	C (74-79) = 2.0
B+ (90-93) = 3.5	D+ (70-73) = 1.5
B (84-89) = 3.0	D (64-69) = 1.0
C+ (80-83) = 2.5	F (below 64) = 0.0

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Middle schools do not calculate a grade-point average. High school grade point average (GPA) is calculated on the basis of **all courses for which high school credit has been earned or attempted, including repeated courses previously passed.** In order for a repeat course to raise a GPA, the student's grade must be higher than the one originally given. All classes appearing on the high school transcript including high school classes taken in summer school, middle school, elementary school, or online are included when calculating GPA.

Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors and Algebra 2 Honors receive an additional 0.5 weight added to the final grade upon successful completion of the course. Successful completion is defined as completing the course with a passing grade. For example, a final grade of A in an honors class shall receive 4.5 quality points.

High school credit bearing courses dropped will not be counted in grade point average (GPA) except when a final grade of F is received: (a) for the fourth grading period of a full-year course, or (b) for the second grading period of a semester course. A student's GPA is determined by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the number of courses included in the transcript. The grade point average is reported to three decimal places (thousandths). Fairfax County Public Schools does not rank its students.

EXPUNGING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

In accordance with Virginia state regulations, FCPS Regulation 2430 permits parents of students who take a high school credit-bearing course in middle school to request that the grade be omitted from the student's high school transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. **Parents must make this request in writing no later than the end of the first nine weeks of the school year following completion of the course.** The form to make this request, along with the process for making the request, is available at: <http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/is104.pdf> or through your student's school counselor. Parents are strongly advised to discuss this decision with their student's school counselor and the impact of expunging a course on desired high school diploma type and standard and verified credit requirements.

COURSES TAKEN OUTSIDE OF FCPS

Currently enrolled FCPS students who wish to take a course outside of FCPS and transfer back the credit must have written approval from their school prior to enrolling in the course. The course must meet the requirements outlined in the current version of FCPS regulation 2460 and Virginia state regulations. For additional information about pursuing coursework outside of FCPS for credit, please contact your school counselor.

WITHDRAW POLICY

For the first grading period only, a student has five days after the date on which report cards are sent home in which to drop a course without having a grade recorded. Courses dropped are not counted in the grade point average except when an F is received for the course. Middle schools do not calculate grade-point averages; however, if a high school credit course is taken by a middle school student, courses dropped are not counted in the high school grade-point average except when an F is received for the course. Unless the principal approves an exception, a student may not withdraw during the final quarter of a course if he or she is passing the course. 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.

PROMOTION POLICY

Middle School

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

WORLD LANGUAGES PROFICIENCY CREDIT

The Credit Exam for World Languages is given each fall to students who wish to demonstrate written proficiency in one of several languages: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog/Pilipino, Telugu, Twi, Urdu, or Vietnamese. Students who are successful on the exam receive two world languages credits which may be used to fulfill the world languages requirements/electives of the Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, Standard Technical or Standard Diplomas. In addition, middle school students in grades 6-8 enrolled in ESOL 5720-5730 courses may receive up to two world languages credits towards high school graduation requirements in the two-plus-two option for fulfilling the world languages requirement. High school students enrolled in ESOL 5720 courses may receive elective or up to two world languages credits toward high school graduation requirements in the two-plus-two option for fulfilling the world languages requirement. For more information on the exam, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/creditexam/index.shtml> or contact the World Languages Team at 571-423-4602.

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 web site at: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/index.shtml>.

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.

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.

Advanced Placement in High School

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 in High School

Annandale, Edison, Lee, Marshall, Mount Vernon, Robinson, South Lakes, and Stuart High Schools offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and the Word Program. To qualify for the IB Diploma, students must select at least one subject from each of six IB subject groups including English, world languages, mathematics, science, social studies, and an elective. 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 complete the end-of-course IB exams. IB diploma candidates must complete 150 hours of extracurricular activities and community service, take the Theory of Knowledge course, and write a 4000 word essay on a topic of their choice. Students in IB schools may also take IB courses in areas of academic strength and interest. IB diploma course students take one or more IB courses and the associated exam(s) and receive recognition for each IB exam with a score of “4” or better.

The IB program is offered in English, social studies, mathematics, science, world languages, fine arts, and other electives. IB courses are offered as open enrollment to all students committed to rigorous, academic work. Further information about the IB program may be obtained by contacting the school counselor or IB coordinator at the participating school. Annandale, South Lakes, Mount Vernon, and Stuart High Schools implement the IB Middle Years Program in 9th and 10th grade. Students may choose to work toward the MYP certificate which requires the completion of a personal project at the end of 10th grade and success on the MYP 10th grade assessments.

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 571-423-3770 or at: <http://www.tjhsst.edu/abouttj/admissions/index.html>

FCPS ONLINE COURSES

FCPS Online Campus is a program designed to provide students with an online option for earning high school credits toward graduation. This program supports the Governor’s “Early College Scholars” program by providing advanced courses to students.

Students registered in any Fairfax County Public School are eligible to apply to take a course through the FCPS Online Campus. These courses are for students who have scheduling conflicts, transportation issues, or have special needs requiring web-based 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 course requirements to enroll in an FCPS online course. Students interested in enrolling in an FCPS Online Campus course should consult their school counselor for information regarding the registration process. For more information go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/onlinecampus/>.

The following courses are currently available on line for middle school students:

Algebra 1, Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry, Geometry Honors, Algebra 2, Algebra 2 Honors , Precalculus

Spanish 1, Spanish 2

STUDENT FEES

Courses that require a student fee for consumable materials have been designated in this catalog. The schedule of divisionwide student fees to be charged for any elective course can be found in Notice 5922 at <http://www.fcps.edu/Directives/topicalindexQR.shtml#REVE>. Students eligible for the federal Free and Reduced-Price meals program may have course and test fees waived. For more information, see your school counselor

NOTES

