



Middle School Program of Studies School Year 2020-2021

RPS Middle Schools Overview

Albert Hill Middle School

Grades 6-8

3400 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221

Phone: 804.780.6107

Binford Middle School

Grades 6-8 (Turnaround Arts Program)

1701 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: 804.780.6231

Elkhardt Thompson Middle School

Grades 6-8

7825 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225

Phone: 804.272.7554

Lucille Brown Middle School

Grades 6-8 (**Application-based IB Programme Grades 6-8**)

6300 Jahnke Road, Richmond, VA 23225

Phone: 804. 319.3013

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School

Grades 6-8 (**Lottery-based STEM Academy Grades 6-8**)

1000 Mosby Street, Richmond, VA 23223

Phone: 804.780.8011

Thomas Boushall Middle School

Grades 6-8

3400 Hopkins Road, Richmond, VA 23234

Phone: 804.780.5016

Thomas Henderson Middle School

Grades 6-8 (**STEM Academy beginning in 6th grade SY20-21**)

4319 Old Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227

Phone: 804.780.8288

Franklin Military Academy

Grades 6-12 (**Application Only**)

701 North 37th Street, Richmond, VA 23223

Phone: 804.780.8526

Middle School Specialty Schools & Programs

Richmond Public Schools has launched “Passion4Learning”, a comprehensive, multi-year effort to nurture our student’s passion for learning by creating an exciting, hands-on and rigorous theme at every RPS middle school. Five of our seven middle schools have a specific theme or area of focus and all have passion pathways in development.

All students have the opportunity to apply to schools outside their zone using the open enrollment lottery or through a specialty school application. Schools with a specific area of focus are listed below.

Program	Description
Binford Middle School	Binford Middle School is a Turnaround Arts Integration School. The focus of BMS is to affirm and prepare students to be their authentic selves through The Arts.
Franklin Military Academy	Franklin Military Academy promotes the potential of each student through a rigorous academic program, community involvement, and leadership opportunities within a military structure. (Application only)
Lucille Brown Middle School International Baccalaureate World School	The focus of Lucille Brown Middle School, an IB World School, is to develop active, life-long learners: young people who have the knowledge, abilities and skills to function independently and collaboratively, to be reflective and to take appropriate action.
Henderson Middle School STEM Academy	A rigorous program that fosters exploration in science, technology, engineering and math. All 6th grade students at Henderson are enrolled as STEM academy students.
Martin Luther King Middle School STEM Academy	A rigorous program that fosters exploration in science, technology, engineering and math. The STEM program at MLK operates as a school within a school for 100 6th grade students for the 2020-21 school year

Academic and Career Planning

Each middle school student will have a personal learning plan and course of study that aligns with the student’s academic and career goals. Students complete their academic and career plan in middle school and revisit it throughout the student’s secondary education.

The Academic and Career Plan must include but is not limited to:

- A program of study for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student’s academic and career interests.
- A process for completing and documenting a review and update, if necessary, before the student enters the ninth and eleventh grades.
- The signatures of the student, student’s parent or guardian, and school official(s) designated by the principal.

Academic and Career Planning in RPS Middle Schools is conducted through counselor lessons and as a function of the Career Investigation class required of all middle school students.

Academic & Elective Course Requirements

Core Academics

Each year, all students will enroll in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science/History courses. Within these subjects, students have the option to select honors courses, as well as advanced courses in mathematics and science, including select courses available for high school credit that can be earned during middle school.

Career Investigations Requirement

In compliance with provisions 8VAC20-131-140, all RPS 6th graders are required to complete a semester-long career investigation course. All 7th or 8th graders during SY20-21 that did not take one of the following CTE courses must take the Career Investigations (18 weeks) course.

- Keyboarding
- Introduction to Technology
- Family and Consumer Science I
- Career Investigations

Physical Activity Requirement

In compliance with provisions 8VAC20-131-90, all students are expected to participate in physical activity for 150 hours a week on average, each year. Specifically, RPS requires that each 6th and 7th grade student take one semester of Health/PE or Dance. In addition, all 8th grade students must either take Health/PE, Dance, or select an alternative path, documenting adequate physical activity in any combination of (i) physical education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities (either within or outside of the school day). Eighth grade students opting for an alternative path must indicate such plans during the course selection process and are responsible for maintaining and submitting documentation to their school counselor.

Course Selection Guidance & Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

English - Grade 6 (Course Code 1109)

This course will focus students' English Language Arts learning on oral communication, vocabulary, reading, writing and research. Students will read a variety of fiction, narrative nonfiction, nonfiction, and poetry independently and in groups, and apply critical reading and reasoning skills. Students will plan, draft, revise, and edit narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing with attention to composition and written expression as well as sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. Students will also learn how to evaluate the validity and authenticity of sources and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information.

Required: Grade 6 Reading SOL Test
Grade Level: 6

English - Grade 6 Honors (Course Code 1109)

This course will focus students' English Language Arts learning on oral communication, vocabulary, reading, writing and research at a more challenging level of instruction in traditional and innovative ways. Students will read a variety of fiction, narrative nonfiction, nonfiction, and poetry independently and in groups, and apply critical reading and reasoning skills. Assigned readings may be at a higher grade level or complexity. Students will plan, draft, revise, and edit narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing with attention to composition and written expression as well as sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. Students will also learn how to evaluate the validity and authenticity of sources and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information. This course asks students to think critically and synthesize the material that they learned in a greater depth and complexity of study.

Required: Grade 6 Reading SOL Test
Grade Level: 6

English - Grade 7 (Course Code 1110)

This course will focus students' English Language Arts learning on continued oral communication, vocabulary, reading, writing and research. Students will be expected to participate in small group and classroom discussions, including the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors. Students will learn the persuasive and informative techniques of media literacy and develop independence in vocabulary acquisition. Students will read a variety of fiction (including both classic and recent works), narrative nonfiction, nonfiction, and poetry independently and in groups, and apply critical reading and reasoning skills. Students will

plan, draft, revise, and edit narrative, expository, and persuasive writing and will achieve greater independence with sentence formation, usage, and mechanics and the conventions of language. Students will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research product, collecting and organizing information from multiple online, print, and media sources.

Required: Grade 7 Reading SOL Test
Grade Level: 7

English - Grade 7 Honors (Course Code 1110)

This course will focus students' English Language Arts learning on oral communication, vocabulary, reading, writing and research at a more challenging level of instruction. Students will learn the persuasive and informative techniques of media literacy and develop independence in vocabulary acquisition. Students will read a variety of fiction (including both classic and recent works), narrative nonfiction, nonfiction, and poetry independently and in groups, and apply critical reading and reasoning skills. Assigned readings may be at a higher grade level or complexity. Students will plan, draft, revise, and edit narrative, expository, and persuasive writing and will achieve greater independence with sentence formation, usage, and mechanics and the conventions of language. Students will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research product, collecting and organizing information from multiple online, print, and media sources. This course asks students to think critically and synthesize the material that they learned in a greater depth and complexity of study.

Required: Grade 7 Reading SOL Test
Grade Level: 7

English - Grade 8 (Course Code 1120)

This course will focus students' English Language Arts learning on continued oral communication, vocabulary, reading, writing and research. Students will be expected to participate in small group and classroom discussions, including an introduction to interviewing skills. Students will analyze, develop and produce media messages and develop independence in vocabulary acquisition. Students will read a variety of fiction, narrative nonfiction, nonfiction, and poetry independently to continue to develop an appreciation of literature and apply critical reading and reasoning skills. Students will plan, draft, revise, and edit narrative, expository, informational, and persuasive writing and will achieve greater independence with sentence formation, usage, and mechanics and the conventions of language. Students will apply knowledge of appropriate

reference material to produce a research product including the collection and organization of information from multiple online, print, and media sources. They will extend skills in the evaluation of sources and the use of technology to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information. In addition, they will continue to cite sources and avoid plagiarism by using style guidelines.

Required: Grade 8 Reading SOL Test, Grade 8 Writing SOL Test
Grade Level: 8

English - Grade 8 Honors (Course Code 1120)

This course will focus students' English Language Arts learning on oral communication, vocabulary, reading, writing and research at a more challenging level of instruction. Students will be expected to participate in small group and classroom discussions, including an introduction to interviewing skills. Students will analyze, develop and produce media messages and develop independence in vocabulary acquisition. Students will read a variety of fiction narrative nonfiction, nonfiction, and poetry independently to continue to develop an appreciation of literature and apply critical reading and reasoning skills. Assigned readings may be at a higher grade level or complexity. Students will plan, draft, revise, and edit narrative, expository, informational, and persuasive writing and will achieve greater independence with sentence formation, usage, and mechanics and the conventions of language. Students will apply knowledge of appropriate reference material to produce a research product including the collection and organization of information from multiple online, print, and media sources. They will extend skills in the evaluation of sources and the use of technology to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information. In addition, they will continue to cite sources and avoid plagiarism by using style guidelines. This course asks students to think critically and synthesize the material that they learned in a greater depth and complexity of study.

Required: Grade 8 Reading SOL Test, Grade 8 Writing SOL Test
Grade Level: 8

Middle School ESL Level I (Course Code 5710)

This course will focus on basic building of English language foundations for middle school English Learners. It will be geared towards new arrivals that have little to no background knowledge of English and students who are at English Language Proficiency Level I (1.0-1.9), as measured by the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs test. The content of the course will be the English Language Proficiency Standards, including basic vocabulary building, basic literacy skills (alphabet, phonics, sight words, etc.) and basic grammar.

Grade Level: 6-8

Middle School ESL Level II (Course Code 5720)

This course will focus on continuing to build basic English language skills for middle school English Learners. It will be geared towards students who are at English Language

Proficiency Level II (2.0-2.9), as measured by the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs test. The content of the course will be the English Language Proficiency Standards, including academic vocabulary building, literacy skills, grammar, and strengthening reading and writing skills needed for success in core content classes.

Grade Level: 6-8

Middle School ESL Level III (Course Code 5730)

This course will focus on expanding the academic vocabulary needed for success in core content classes. It will be geared towards students who are at English Language Proficiency Level III (3.0-3.9), as measured by the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs test. The content of the course will be to expand academic vocabulary and strengthen reading and writing skills needed for success in core content classes.

Grade Level: 6-8

Reading Skills - Grade 6 (Course Code 1106)

This course offers students the opportunity to learn strategies to develop word attack, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary building skills primarily through the use of non-fiction material. The course facilitates an appreciation of reading through independent practice and development of tools to become motivated readers. Students may exit the course at the end of the first semester based on mid-year assessment results. Students are recommended for placement based on multiple criteria including but not limited to: results from previous standardized tests, diagnostic assessments, IEPs, and on-going quarterly data with teacher observation evidence of reading skills.

Grade Level: 6

Reading Skills - Grade 7 (Course Code 1107)

Students may exit the course at the end of the first semester based on mid-year assessment results. This course offers students the opportunity to learn strategies to develop word attack, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary building skills primarily through the use of non-fiction material. The course facilitates an appreciation of reading through independent practice and development of tools to become motivated readers. Students are recommended for placement based on multiple criteria including but not limited to: results from previous standardized tests, diagnostic assessments, IEPs, and on-going quarterly data with teacher observation evidence of reading skills.

Grade Level: 7

Reading Skills - Grade 8 (Course Code 1108)

This course offers students the opportunity to learn strategies to develop word attack, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary building skills primarily through the use of non-fiction material. The course facilitates an appreciation of reading through independent practice and development of

tools to become motivated readers. Students may exit the course at the end of the first semester based on mid-year assessment results. Students are recommended for placement based on multiple criteria including but not limited to: results from previous standardized tests, diagnostic assessments, IEPs, and on-going quarterly data with teacher observation evidence of reading skills.

Grade Level: 8

Fine Arts

Art - Grade 6 (Course Code 9103)

This course is designed for students who have an interest in exploring the mediums of Visual Art. It introduces artistic activities and experiences that lead to an understanding of the joy of creative involvement, communication of feelings, development of skills, critical judgment and perception. Early technique and skills will be introduced as related to cultural heritage, preservation and modern art. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 6

Art - Grade 7 (Course Code 9105)

This course is designed for students who have an interest in exploring the mediums of Visual Art. It introduces intermediate level artistic, activities and experiences. Intermediate level technique and skills will be learned as related to cultural heritage, preservation and modern art. This course will build upon the technique and skills from beginning Visual Art for a more in-depth course of study using multiple mediums. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 7

Art - Grade 8 (Course Code 9115)

A course designed for students demonstrating a strong interest and ability in an in-depth study of art. Art as a means of improving social order and daily living, art that sells, art that shapes our environment, preservation; art as a record of cultural heritage as related to ethnic groups and modern art. This course will build upon the technique and skills from Intermediate Visual Art for a more in-depth course of study using multiple mediums. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Band (Course Code 9230)

This is a basic course in beginning instrumental techniques. The student is taught basic tone production, embouchure, intonation, posture, and breathing. Scheduled school-related and public performances are required.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Band (Course Code 9231)

This course continues in technical sequence from Middle School Beginning Band. More advanced techniques will be introduced in Intermediate Band and will be studied in greater depth. Daily individual practice and private instruction is highly recommended. Public performance is required to enhance learning.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Middle School Beginning Band.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Band (Course Code 9229)

This course which continues in technical sequence from Middle School Intermediate Band involves the study of more advanced music literature emphasizing style and phrasing. Scheduled school related public performances are required.

Prerequisite: Intermediate Band, successful completion of Middle School Beginning Band, and recommendation from former instructor.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Chorus (Course Code 9269)

This course is designed for early training in choral literature. Emphasis is on the basic fundamentals of music reading, voice care, and singing from a vocal score. Public performances are required.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Chorus (Course Code 9270)

This course continues in the technical sequence from Middle School Beginning Chorus. The students will become familiar with various styles of three- and four-part choral literature with emphasis placed on appropriate choral techniques. Through listening and performing, students further develop intermediate techniques in phrasing, diction and other aspects of choral music interpretation. Participation in scheduled public performances is required.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Chorus (Course Code 9271)

This course continues in the technical sequence from Middle School Intermediate Chorus. Experiences are designed to develop skills that range from proper performance position to music reading. Technical concentration on scales, etudes, and medium graded literature is included. Daily practice outside of the chorus class recommended. Participation in scheduled public performances are required to enhance learning. Prerequisite:

successful completion of Beginning and Intermediate Chorus.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Dance (Course Code 6305)

Students experience dance as an art form that develops critical thinking skills, discipline, collaboration, creativity, and physical skills that safely facilitate the execution of dance movement. Students enrich their views of society, themselves, and other cultures through the study of dance history. This course prepares students for further dance study and nurtures a lifelong appreciation of dance as an expressive and accessible art form. An interest in dance and the physical capacity to participate in dance movement is expected. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Dance (Course Code 6306)

Students experience dance as an art form that develops critical thinking skills, discipline, collaboration, creativity, and physical skills that safely facilitate the execution of dance movement. Students enrich their views of society, themselves, and other cultures through the study of dance history. This course prepares students for further dance study and nurtures a lifelong appreciation of dance as an expressive and accessible art form. Students need to demonstrate an interest in dance and the physical capacity to participate in dance movement. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Dance (Course Code 6307)

Students experience dance as an art form that develops critical thinking skills, discipline, collaboration, creativity, and physical skills that safely facilitate the execution of dance movement. Students enrich their views of society, themselves, and other cultures through the study of dance history. This course prepares students for further dance study and nurtures a lifelong appreciation of dance as an expressive and accessible art form. An interest in dance and the physical capacity to participate in dance movement is expected.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Guitar (Course Code 5008)

This course is designed for the beginning guitar student with no experience. Students will learn to use basic proper guitar technique and the basic understanding of the elements of music. Students will learn to tune their guitars warming-up, group instruction, and independent group

practicing and playing. Students will also learn basic maintenance of the instrument and how to change strings, clean the guitar's surface, clean strings, and maintain tuning. An interest in guitar is expected.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Guitar (Course Code 5009)

Students will continue with the techniques and skills learned in the beginning guitar class with more in-depth work on technique and understanding. Music will be intermediate level music for high quality performances.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Guitar (Course Code 5010)

Students will continue with the techniques and skills learned in the previous class with more in-depth work on technique and understanding. Music will be advanced level music for high quality performances.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Harp (Course Code 3711)

Beginning instructional classes in harp are designed for students recommended by harp instructors or students desiring to study harp. Harp instruction is designed to develop skills that range from proper care and maintenance of the harp, to proper hand positions and note-reading. Techniques for the harp will include note reading skills, identification of harp parts, corresponding strings, levers, hand position and finger action. The students will also learn pitch names, staff clefs, note alterations, note values, rests, simple time signatures, key signatures, and scales (C, G, D, F, and B flat) and sight reading. This course includes solo and ensemble repertoire selected by the harp instructor. Scheduled school related and public performances are required.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Harp (Course Code 3712)

The intermediate level of harp instruction continues in sequence from the beginning level harp instruction. Hand positions and finger action skills, instrument care and maintenance continue to be developed. Technical skills of placing, connecting, placing of four fingers in succession, playing octaves and intervals are learned on this level. Time signatures, key signatures, major and minor scales are expanded. A larger harp repertoire of performance proficiency compositions is studied. Scheduled school related and public performances are required.

Prerequisite: successful completion of Middle School Beginning Harp and recommendation from former instructor.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Harp (Course Code 3713)

The technical sequence of instruction continues from Intermediate level harp instruction. Students continue to develop a degree of proficiency in note-reading, rhythm, hand positions, and techniques. Expanded use of pedals on the pedal harp, lever and pedal changes, rolls, glissandos, and muffle techniques are taught. Advance solos, orchestral and ensemble repertoire are performed for concerts and community-based performances. Performances of repertoire from varied cultures and composers are studied. Scheduled school related and public performances are required. The student must have successfully completed Middle School Intermediate Harp. Prerequisite: recommendation of former music teacher.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Theatre Arts (Course Code 1393)

This course provides an avenue for students to express themselves creatively through theatrical performances. Basic acting skills will be explored along with stagecraft. Students will have the opportunity to perform for the student body and general public. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Theatre Arts (Course Code 1394)

This course provides an avenue for students to express themselves creatively through performances. Basic to intermediate acting skills will be explored along with stagecraft. Students will have the opportunity to perform for the student body and general public. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Theatre Arts (Course Code 1395)

This course provides middle school advanced level theater technique and skills. Oral interpretation, acting basics, and play reading will be included. Students will respond to a variety of dramatic media and will participate in a theatrical production. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 8

Middle School Beginning Orchestra (Course Code 9235)

This course is a beginning instructional course for strings (violin, viola, cello, and bass). Basic fundamental rudiments such as proper performance position, bowing, tone production and music reading are introduced. Technical concentration on scales, etudes and simple graded literature

is included. Daily practice outside of orchestra class and private instruction are strongly encouraged. Scheduled public performances are required to enhance performance skills. The student must have an interest in music and physical capacity to perform on one of the orchestral instruments.

Grade Level: 6

Middle School Intermediate Orchestra (Course Code 9236)

This course continues in the technical sequence of Middle School Beginning Orchestra. The techniques that were introduced in the Beginning Orchestra are studied in greater depth. More advanced music literature is studied. Public performance is required. Daily individual practice is strongly encouraged. Prerequisite: successful completion of Middle School Beginning Orchestra and recommendation from former instructor.

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Advanced Orchestra (Course Code 9241)

This course continues in technical sequence from Middle School Intermediate Orchestra. Experiences are designed to develop skills that range from proper performance position to music reading. Technical concentration on scales, etudes, and middle school advanced literature is included. Daily practice outside of the orchestra class is required. Scheduled public performances are required to enhance performance skills.

Prerequisite: successful completion of Middle School Beginning Orchestra and Middle School Intermediate Orchestra and recommendation from former instructor.

Grade Level: 8

History and Social Studies

U.S. History to 1865 (Course Code 2353)

This course focuses on using skills for historical and geographical analysis to explore the early history of the United States and understand ideas and events that strengthened the union. The course relates to the history of the United States from pre-Columbian times until 1865. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography as they study United States history in chronological sequence and learn about change and continuity in our history. They also will study documents and speeches that laid the foundation for American ideals and institutions and will examine the everyday life of people at different times in the country's history through the use of primary and secondary sources. Instruction is enriched and extended through research-based practices designed to engage and challenge advanced learners (e.g., problem-based learning, research, and investigations).

Grade Level: 6

U.S. History to 1865 Honors (Course Code 2353)

This honors course emphasizes the use of historical and geographical skills for an analysis and exploration of the early history of the United States and understanding the ideas and events which shaped the Union. The course covers the history of the United States from the pre-Columbian period through 1865 and students will continue to learn fundamental concepts building a foundation of ideas in civics, economics, and geography. History will be covered in a chronological sequence, helping students to learn about continuity and change in American history. They will study primary and secondary source documents in the form of speeches and letters which detail a foundation of American ideals and institutions while examining the everyday life of people throughout the course of United States history. Instruction will be enriched through introductory research designed to engage and challenge advanced learners (e.g., problem-based learning, research, and investigations).

Grade Level: 6

U.S. History: 1865 to Present (Course Code 2354)

Students will continue to use skills of historical and geographical analysis as they examine American history since 1865. The standards for this course relate to the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era to the present. Students should continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography within the context of United States history. Political, economic, and social challenges facing the nation reunited after the Civil War will be examined chronologically as students develop an understanding of how the American experience shaped the world political and economic landscape.

Grade Level: 6

U.S. History: 1865 to Present Honors (Course Code 2354)

This Honors course emphasizes the use of historical and geographical skills in order to analyze and explore early United States history with regard to the events that developed and strengthened the early union. The course details the end of the Reconstruction era through the Present. Students will build an understanding of fundamental ideas and concepts which they will learn in Civics and Economics; including standard United States geography. This course is covered through a chronological sequence which builds on the historical skill of identifying change and continuity over time. Primary source documents in the forms of speeches, letters, etc., will be examined in order to help students understand the foundation for

American ideals and institutions. An examination of everyday American life at different times in the country's history will be enriched and extended through research-based practices designed to engage and challenge advanced learners (e.g., performance-based learning, introductory research, and investigation).

Grade Level: 7

Civics & Economics (Course Code 2357)

This course examines the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students examine the constitutions of Virginia and the United States; identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens; and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. Students investigate the process by which decisions are made in the American market economy and explain the government's role in it. The standards identify personal character traits, such as patriotism, respect for the law, and a sense of civic duty, that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in the civic life of an increasingly diverse democratic society.

Required: Civics & Economics SOL Test

Grade Level: 8

Civics & Economics Honors (Course Code 2357)

This honors course allows students to examine the impact of thoughtful citizenship on the outcomes of political, governmental, and economic systems in our nation. Students will examine the development of the Virginia Constitution as well as that of the United States. They will identify which rights, duties, and responsibilities are required for citizens; and describe the structures and operations of government from the local through the state and national levels. Students will also investigate the function of the American market economy and its influencing factors. There will also be a focus on identifying traits and principles of citizenship and defining the role of the citizen in the context of civic responsibility and a thoughtful participation in a democratic society.

Grade Level: 8

Health and PE

Health & PE - Grade 6 (Course Code 7110)

This course is designed to offer fundamental instruction in beginning soccer, tumbling, gymnastics, rhythmic, rope skipping, fitness activities, and basketball. Approximately 40% of instruction is devoted to Health Education: nutrition, mental health, and disease prevention control. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 6

Health & PE - Grade 7 (Course Code 7120)

This course is designed to offer fundamental instruction in speedball, flag football, square dance, tumbling, and gymnastics. Approximately 40% of instruction is devoted to health education: mental health, nutrition, personal growth and personal health. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 7

Health & PE - Grade 8 (Course Code 7200)

This course is designed to provide instruction in physical fitness, field hockey, flag football, volleyball, square dance, basketball, tumbling, tennis, track and softball. Approximately 40% of instruction is health education in the areas of personal growth & health, drugs and alcohol, tobacco, smoking & safety. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 8

Mathematics**Math Enrichment - Grade 6 (Course Code 3199)**

This math elective course is designed to help prepare students for grade level mastery in addition to the core math class. Students are recommended for placement based on multiple criteria including but not limited to: results from previous standardized tests, diagnostic assessments, and on-going quarterly data with teacher observation evidence of math skills. Course will review math skills and focus on the standards that are foundational for success in the general math course. Enrichment activities allow students to make mathematical connections based on real world experiences. Course may be structured with additional time, smaller class size, or instructional strategies to afford students an opportunity to build upon the skills based on individual needs.

Grade Level: 6

Math Enrichment - Grade 7 (Course Code 3200)

This math elective course is designed to help prepare students for grade level mastery in addition to the core math class. Students are recommended for placement based on multiple criteria including but not limited to: results from previous standardized tests, diagnostic assessments, and on-going quarterly data with teacher observation evidence of math skills. Course will review math skills and focus on the standards that are foundational for success in the general math course. Enrichment activities allow students to make mathematical connections based on real world experiences. Course may be structured with additional time, smaller class size, or instructional strategies to afford students an

opportunity to build upon the skills based on individual needs.

Grade Level: 7

Math Enrichment - 8th Grade (Course Code 3201)

This math elective course is designed to help prepare students for grade level mastery in addition to the core math class. Students are recommended for placement based on multiple criteria including but not limited to: results from previous standardized tests, diagnostic assessments, and on-going quarterly data with teacher observation evidence of math skills. Course will review math skills and focus on the standards that are foundational for success in the general math course. Enrichment activities allow students to make mathematical connections based on real world experiences. Course may be structured with additional time, smaller class size, or instructional strategies to afford students an opportunity to build upon the skills based on individual needs.

Grade Level: 8

Math Grade 6 (Course Code 3110) (Formerly named Math 6/7)

This rigorous sixth grade mathematics course is designed to prepare students for advanced math. It incorporates all 6th grade standards and some of the 7th grade standards to explore and develop concepts related to variable expressions, equations and inequalities, geometry, rational numbers, probability, formulas, and percent. Students are exposed to problem-based learning tasks requiring higher order thinking skills and the ability to reason and communicate mathematically.

Required: Grade 6 Math SOL Test

Grade Level: 6

Math Grade 7 (Course Code 3111)

This course emphasizes the exploration of proportions, percent, discount, taxes, and geometric concepts including area, surface area, and volume of prisms as well as algebraic terminology, expressions, and equations. The development of solving and applying linear equations and inequalities and organizing and analyzing data to make inferences and predictions will be emphasized. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technology such as calculators.

Required: Grade 7 Math SOL Test

Grade Level: 7

Math Grade 7 Honors (Course Code 3111) (Formerly named Math 7/8)

The course highlights objectives from 7th grades standards not taught in Math - Grade 6 honors and all 8th grade math

objectives with concentrating on proportional reasoning. Connections of mathematical concepts to other disciplines and real-world applications allow students to develop and explore concepts related to variable expressions, equations and inequalities, geometry, rational numbers, probability, formulas, and percent. Students are exposed to tasks requiring higher order thinking skills and the ability to reason and communicate mathematically.

Required: Grade 8 Math SOL Test
Grade Level: 7

Math Grade 8 (Course Code 3112)

Math 8 extends concepts and skills from previous grades and prepares students for the more abstract concepts in algebra. The curriculum includes the components of functions, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability, measurement, numbers, and proportional reasoning. The 8th grade standards provide students additional instruction and time to acquire the concepts and skills necessary for success in Algebra I. Students will gain proficiency in computation with rational numbers and will use proportions to solve a variety of problems.

Required: 8 Math SOL Test
Grade Level: 8

Other Electives

SPACE: Special Program for Academic and Creative Excellence, Grade 6 (Course Code 112)

SPACE offers high achieving students the opportunity to benefit from learning at an accelerated pace in order to develop, cultivate, and extend critical thinking skills and understanding broad generalizations using inquiry and problem-based learning. SPACE students will be challenged to apply varied analysis models to investigations based in the core areas (English, math, science, technology, and social science). Investigations and explorations of various subjects will take place in small groups and on an individual basis. Content will be advanced and students will apply the lens of their essential understandings to different contexts. Students will use their creativity and problem-solving abilities to produce required or self-directed products that show evidence of their new knowledge and how they can use it in new and different ways. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 6

SPACE: Special Program for Academic and Creative Excellence, Grade 7 (Course Code 112)

SPACE offers high achieving students the opportunity to benefit from learning at an accelerated pace in order to develop,

cultivate, and extend critical thinking skills and understanding broad generalizations using inquiry and problem-based learning. SPACE students will be challenged to apply varied analysis models to investigations based in the core areas (English, math, science, technology, and social science). Investigations and explorations of various subjects will take place in small groups and on an individual basis. Content will be advanced and students will apply the lens of their essential understandings to different contexts. Students will use their creativity and problem solving abilities to produce required or self-directed products that show evidence of their new knowledge and how they can use it in new and different ways. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 7

SPACE: Special Program for Academic and Creative Excellence, Grade 8 (Course Code 112)

SPACE offers high achieving students the opportunity to benefit from learning at an accelerated pace in order to develop, cultivate, and extend critical thinking skills and understanding broad generalizations using inquiry and problem-based learning. SPACE students will be challenged to apply varied analysis models to investigations based in the core areas (English, math, science, technology, and social science). Investigations and explorations of various subjects will take place in small groups and on an individual basis. Content will be advanced and students will apply the lens of their essential understandings to different contexts. Students will use their creativity and problem-solving abilities to produce required or self-directed products that show evidence of their new knowledge and how they can use it in new and different ways. Available as a semester or year-long course.

Grade Level: 8

Military Science VI - Leadership (Course Code 7922)

Students will receive an introduction to self-image, identify their own behavior preferences and consider the preferences of others, understand situations as they unfold, improve communication with others, and influence people and situations to get the results you desire. Basic introduction of leadership and define what is leadership is covered. Students begin to learn the effects of gender, ethnicity, customs, and tradition on the interests, values, styles, and behavior of others. Students are taught to recognize contributions of people from different backgrounds and experiences.

Grade Level: 6 (offered only at Franklin Military Academy)

Military Science VII - Leadership (Course Code 7924)

Students will study the characteristics of leaders, examine their own leadership behavior strengths and weaknesses, begin making improvements and explore leadership through citizenship and service. Students will learn to communicate effectively in pairs, small groups, teams, and large groups. Students review the information they learned from the previous school year, including the purpose of command voice and inflection. Drill and ceremony are expanded to teaching military squad drills, basic facing, and marching movement. Students learn how to give commands and engage in student leadership responsibilities.

Grade Level: 7 (offered only at Franklin Military Academy)

Military Science VIII - Leadership (Course Code 7926)

The leadership skills students use to accomplish a mission and learned the past two years are the same whether a student is in a classroom, their neighborhood, church, and/or home. To be a good leader, the student must provide teammates with purpose, direction, and motivation. Purpose helps them to understand why they are performing a task, direction shows what they must do, and motivation gives them the desire or initiative to do everything they are capable of doing to accomplish their mission /goal. In this learning plan they will explore the principles of leadership and determine what you must do to improve their leadership abilities and culminate with a service-learning project. This activity allows students to conduct research on a public policy issue of personal interest. Group work and an oral presentation help student improve the communication skills that are vital to leadership. Students develop committee program and select organization research organization in the community and reach out to them to develop a relationship to provide selfless service.

Grade Level: 8 (offered only at Franklin Military Academy)

Science

Integrated Science Grade 6 (Course Code 4105)

Integrated Grade 6 Science/Life Science – Integrated Science 6/7 combines the 6th grade content that covers earth and environmental science and combines them with Life Science topics, emphasizing a complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world from the subcellular level up to the biosphere and beyond. Students gain an understanding of these principles through the following: the study of organization and the classification of organisms; the relationship among organisms; populations, communities and ecosystems; and change due to the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. The course will have a heavy emphasis on hands-on lab opportunities, allowing students to engage in the process of scientific investigation and

engineering design. Students will also continue to build skills related to computational thinking and the design and use of models. This course completes all of the earth science related content of the 6th Grade Science standards and all of the Life Science standards at a more challenging level of instruction.

Grade Level: 6

Life Science Grade 7 (Course Code 4115)

The Life Science content is emphasized by studying change, life cycles, patterns, and relationships. Students gain an understanding of these principles through the following: the study of organization and the classification of organisms; the relationship among organisms; populations, communities and ecosystems; and change due to the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. The course will have a heavy emphasis on hands-on lab opportunities, allowing students to engage in the process of scientific investigation and engineering design. Students will also continue to build skills related to computational thinking and the design and use of models.

Grade Level: 7

Integrated Science 7 (Course Code 4135)

Integrated 7/8 Science – The 8th Grade Physical Science content is merged with those strands of 6th grade science that focus on energy and atomic theory, emphasized through the study of the characteristic properties of matter; atomic structure and theory; energy; electricity and magnetism; work, force, and motion; science, technology, and society; and career awareness. The course will have a heavy emphasis on hands-on lab opportunities, allowing students to engage in the process of scientific investigation and engineering design. This course completes the physical science-related content in the 6th grade standards and all 8th grade Physical Science at a more challenging level of instruction. Students will also continue to build skills related to computational thinking and the design and use of models.

Grade Level: 7

Physical Science Grade 8 (Course Code 4125)

The Physical Science content is emphasized through the study of the characteristic properties of matter; atomic structure and theory; energy; electricity and magnetism; work, force, and motion; science, technology, and society; and career awareness. The course will have a heavy emphasis on hands-on lab opportunities, allowing students to engage in the process of scientific investigation and engineering design. Students will also continue to build skills related to computational thinking and the design and use of models.

Grade Level: 8

Career & Technical Education

Career Investigations (18 Weeks) (Course Code 9069)

This course allows students to explore career options and begin investigating career opportunities. Students assess their roles in society, identify their roles as workers, analyze their personal assets, complete a basic exploration of career clusters, select career pathways or occupations for further study, and create an Academic and Career Plan based on their academic and career interests. This course also helps students identify and demonstrate the workplace skills that employers desire in their future employees.

Grade Level: 6-8

Computer Solutions (18 Weeks) (Course Code 6609)

Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Emphasis is placed on completing a variety of projects incorporating programming concepts and writing code. Basic Internet safety is an important component of this course.

Grade Level: 7-8

Digital Technology Foundations (36 weeks) (Course Code 6161)

This foundation course introduces the use of relevant and emerging technologies, tools, and applications to prepare students for current workplace practices and everyday life. Students will demonstrate information processing using a variety of hardware and software and Internet-based tools to produce and integrate data in various formats. This course is designed for students wishing to progress through more advanced business and information technology coursework.

Recommended prerequisite(s): Keyboarding course(s) or teacher-approved demonstration and documentation of touch keyboarding skills

Grade Level: 6-8 (offering only in 8th grade)

Family & Consumer Sciences Exploratory I (18 Weeks) (Course Code 8208)

FACS Exploratory I, focus on areas of individual growth such as personal goal achievement, responsibilities within the family and accountability for personal safety and health. Students apply problem-solving and leadership skills as they progress through the course.

Grade Level: 6

Family & Consumer Sciences Exploratory II (18 Weeks) (Course Code 8263)

In FACS Exploratory II, students focus on their individual development as well as their relationships and roles within the family unit. They learn how to maintain their living and personal environments and to use nutrition, wellness

practices and explore careers related to Family and Consumer Sciences.

Grade Level: 7

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory III (36 Weeks) (Course Code 8245)

In FACS Exploratory III is an advanced-level course that prepares middle school students for their roles in families, careers, and communities through project-based instruction. Students experience in-depth studies of nutrition and wellness, food preparation, relationships, personal environments, textiles, fashion and apparel, consumer resources, child development and care, and leadership service in action. Instruction in this course emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts, where appropriate.

Grade Level: 8

Introduction to Technology (18 Weeks) (Course Code 8482)

Students study the resources of all technology, including tools, energy, materials, people, time, information, and capital. This also includes the problem-solving process and various hands-on activities. They explore up to six systems of technology, including medical, agricultural and related biotechnologies, energy and power, information and communication, transportation, manufacturing, and construction. Students relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions.

Grade Level: Recommended grades 6-8 (offering only to 6th grade)

Inventions & Innovations (18 Weeks) (Course Code 8464)

Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world, and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions.

Grade Level: Recommended grades 6-8 (offering only to 7th grade)

Keyboarding - Middle School (18 Weeks) (Course Code 6150)

This course is designed for middle school students to develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbol information on a keyboard to produce documents.

Grade Level: 6

Make It Your Business (18 Weeks) (Course Code 8114)

Students design, establish, and operate a small-group or class business, producing a service or product that meets an identified school or community need. Emphasis is placed on the introduction and application of business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business principles. Basic academic skills (mathematics, science, English, and history/social science) are integrated into this course.

Grade Level: 6-8

Technological Systems (36 Weeks) (Course Code 8462)

Students combine resources and techniques to create systems, attaining comprehension of how technological systems work. Students will explore, design, analyze, and evaluate technological systems. By simulating systems and assessing their impacts, students gain insight into how to approach the problems and opportunities of a technological world. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

Grade Level: Recommended grades 7-8 (offering only to 8th grade)

High School Credit Bearing Courses**Spanish 1A (Course Number – 24052; VA Assignment Code – 5513)****0 Credit**

This elective course, the first in a two-part sequence, provides students with the necessary foundation for the continued study of Spanish through Level I. It presents basic structure and grammar of the Spanish language and encourages conversation with the introduction of basic vocabulary. Cultural activities introduce the student to the customs and geography of the Spanish speaking countries. This class is a prerequisite for Spanish 1B.

Prerequisites: None

Spanish 1B (Course Number – 24052; VA Assignment Code – 5515)**1 Credit**

This elective course continues to present basic structure and grammar of the Spanish language and encourages conversation with the introduction of basic vocabulary. Cultural activities will expand student awareness of the customs and geography of Spanish-speaking countries. This course completes the two-part sequence of Spanish I at the middle school level.

Prerequisites: Spanish 1A

Spanish I (Course Number – 24052; VA Assignment Code – 5510)**1 Credit**

Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish I courses prepare students to communicate authentically in Spanish by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Graduation Requirements: This course is one that may be used to fulfill the world languages standard credit.

Prerequisites: None

Spanish II (Course Number – 24053; VA Assignment Code – 5520)**1 Credit**

Spanish II courses build upon skills developed in Spanish I, preparing students to communicate authentically in Spanish by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics. Spanish II courses introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Graduation Requirements: This course is one that may be used to fulfill the world languages standard credit.

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Algebra I (Course Number – 02052; VA Assignment Code – 3130)**1 Credit (Eligible for Verified Credit)**

This course provides the foundation for future mathematics courses by transferring concrete mathematical knowledge to more abstract algebraic generalizations. The focused topics include variables and expressions; solving equations and inequalities; linear, quadratic and exponential functions; graphing and writing linear equations; systems of equations and inequalities; polynomials; factoring; statistics; and rational expressions. In order to develop critical thinking, this course will be learned by integrating engaging activities using an online graphing calculator (DESMOS), projects, classwork, homework, and other learning avenues.

Graduation Requirements: This course may be used to fulfill the mathematics standard credit.

Prerequisites: None

Geometry (Course Number – 02072; VA Assignment Code – 3143)**1 Credit (Eligible for Verified Credit)**

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the standards for Algebra I. Course emphasizes

transformational geometry and measurement, theorems and properties, formal definitions of geometric terms, trigonometric relationships, and reasoning to justify conclusions. Methods of justification will include paragraph proofs, two-column proofs, indirect proofs, coordinate proofs, algebraic methods, and verbal arguments. A variety of applications and some general problem-solving techniques, including algebraic skills, will be used to implement these standards using classwork, homework, project, etc. Graphing calculators (DESMOS), computers, graphing utilities, dynamic geometry software, and other appropriate technology tools may be used to assist in teaching and learning.

Graduation Requirements: This course may be used to fulfill the mathematics standard credit.

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Earth Science I (Course Number – 03001; VA Assignment Code – 4210)

1 Credit (Eligible for Verified Credit)

Earth Science is a laboratory-based course that provides students with an opportunity to explore the various physical phenomena that affect the earth. This course, which includes research design concepts, helps students become more aware of their surroundings through the study of astronomy, space science, meteorology, oceanography, physical geology, and environmental resources.

Graduation Requirements: This course may be used or counted toward the graduation requirement in science.

Prerequisites: None

Art I/Art Foundations (Course Number – 05154-I; VA Assignment Code – 9120)

1 Credit

Comprehensive courses enable students to explore one or several art forms (e.g., drawing, painting, two- and three-dimensional design, and sculpture) and to create individual works of art. Initial courses emphasize observations, interpretation of the visual environment, visual communication, imagination, and symbolism. Courses cover the language, materials, media, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements used. Advanced courses encourage students to refine their skills while also developing their own artistic styles following and breaking from traditional conventions. Courses may also include the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

Graduation Requirements: This course meets the graduation requirements for Fine Arts

Prerequisites: None

Technology Foundations (Course Number – 21003-36; VA Assignment Code – 8403)

1 Credit

In this beginning high school course, students acquire a foundation in technological material, energy, and information and apply processes associated with the technological thinker. Challenged by laboratory activities, students create new ideas and innovations, build systems, and analyze technological products to learn further how and why technology works. They work in groups to build and control systems using engineering design in the development of a technology.

Graduation Requirements: This is an elective course and fulfills the requirements of a standard credit course.

Prerequisites: None

Independent Living (Course Number – 22904-36; VA Assignment Code – 8219)

1 Credit

Students in Independent Living build life skills focusing on establishing positive relationships, balancing work and family life, investigating careers, making responsible consumer choices, applying nutrition and wellness knowledge, and studying child development and parenting. Students learn to relate to others (relationships), apply financial literacy, manage resources in the areas of apparel, nutrition and wellness, and housing. Students learn to use leadership skills to reach individual goals, plan for careers and make consumer choices in a global environment.

Graduation Requirements: This is an elective course and fulfill the requirements of a standard credit course.

Prerequisites: None

Digital Applications (Course Number – 10004-36; VA Assignment Code – 6611)

1 Credit

This course is designed for secondary school students to develop real-life, outcome-driven approach skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, application software (word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, databases), and career exploration. This course promotes skills that can be applied across the curriculum and offers preparation relevant to 21st century skills and post-secondary education. Student skills may be enhanced by participation in work-based learning activities and/or the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

Graduation Requirements: This is an elective course and fulfills the requirements of a standard credit course.

Prerequisites: None

Course Sequences

Students should be given the opportunity to flex between these pathways based on interest. No student shall be denied the opportunity to take accelerated or advanced courses at any even if they do not begin on that pathway (unless a content-specific pre-requisite is required).

Grade	English	Mathematics	History & Social Sciences	Science
6 th Grade	English - Grade 6	Math 6	US History to 1865	Integrated Science 6
	English - Grade 6 Honors	Math 6	US History to 1865 Honors	Integrated Science 6
7 th Grade	English - Grade 7	Math 7 Math 7/8	US History 1865 to present	Life Science 7
	English - Grade 7 Honors	Algebra 1	US History 1865 to present Honors	Integrated Science 7
8 th Grade	English - Grade 8	Math 8 Algebra	Civics & Economics	Physical Science 8
	English - Grade 8 Honors	Geometry	Civics & Economics Honors	Earth Science

Electives

In addition to core content courses, middle school students have an array of choices for electives. Students may select a combination of four semester-long courses; two year-long courses or two semester-long courses and one year-long courses. Note that at a minimum all 6th graders must enroll in a semester long CTE course to meet the Career Investigations requirement. All 6th and 7th graders at a minimum must enroll in at least one semester-long Health/PE course (though they may opt for a year-long course should they wish to do so).

Grade	Semester Courses	Year Long Courses
6 th	Art Grade 6	Art Grade 6

	Middle School Beginning Dance Middle School Beginning Theatre Arts Health/PE Grade 6 Family and Consumer Science Exploratory I Keyboarding Introduction to Technology Career Investigations Make It Your Business	Middle School Beginning Band Middle School Beginning Orchestra Middle School Beginning Chorus Middle School Beginning Dance Middle School Beginning Guitar Middle School Beginning Harp Middle School Beginning Theatre Arts Health/PE Grade 6
7th	Art Grade 7 Middle School Intermediate Dance Middle School Intermediate Theater Arts Health/PE Grade 7 Family and Consumer Science Exploratory II Inventions and Innovations Computer Solutions Make It Your Business	Spanish I Spanish 1A Art Grade 7 Middle School Intermediate Band Middle School Intermediate Orchestra Middle School Intermediate Chorus Middle School Intermediate Dance Middle School Intermediate Guitar Middle School Intermediate Harp Middle School Intermediate Theater Arts Health/PE Grade 7
8th	Health/PE Grade 8 Make It Your Business	Spanish I* Spanish 1B* Spanish II* Art I* Middle School Advanced Band Middle School Advanced Orchestra Middle School Advanced Chorus Middle School Advanced Dance Middle School Advanced Guitar Middle School Advanced Harp Middle School Advanced Theatre Arts Health/PE Grade 8 Digital Technology Foundations Digital Applications* Technology Foundations* Technological Systems Family and Consumer Science Exploratory III Independent Living*

*High School Credit-Bearing Courses

Student Support Electives (English as a Second Language, Reading, and Math)

In addition to the above electives, each middle school has time in their schedule to support students (typically referred to as the “Intervention/Enrichment Block”). This time is vital to meeting students’ needs and is structured to support identified students with targeted additional instruction. Schools will schedule students for additional support using achievement data to determine placement of students for this period.

ESL I, II, III, IV will be offered at the secondary level (grades 6-12) and will be counted for Foreign Language credits starting in the 8th grade. English as a Second Language courses will focus on English Language Acquisition and will support the grade level English course.

Middle School Scheduling for Language Instruction Educational Program

Lead English Learner (EL) teachers will work with school counselors to ensure that all ELs are placed in appropriate classes, depending on WIDA ELP level. ELs may be placed in sheltered (EL only) sections or content classes, taught by content endorsed teachers, where students are placed with ELs and non-ELs. English Language Development (ELD) classes will be offered at the middle school level and will focus on academic language development throughout the four domains. **ELD classes in the middle school are not to be counted for High School World Language Credit.**

Newcomer 6 (Course Code 24999-I)

This class is designed for newly arrived English learners who are at the beginning stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking, while supporting newly arrived students through the U.S educational system. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, and the writing process. WIDA ELP Level 1 students are enrolled in this course and a sheltered section of the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 1.0-1.9

Grade Level: 6

Newcomer 7 (Course Code 24999-II)

This class is designed for newly arrived English learners who are at the beginning stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking, while supporting newly arrived students through the U.S educational system. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, and the writing process. WIDA ELP Level 1 students are enrolled in this course and a sheltered section of the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 1.0-1.9

Grade Level: 7

Newcomer 8 (Course Code 24999-III)

This class is designed for newly arrived English learners who are at the beginning stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the

four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking, while supporting newly arrived students through the U.S educational system. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, and the writing process. WIDA ELP Level 1 students are enrolled in this course and a sheltered section of the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 1.0-1.9

Grade Level: 8

Entering ELD 6 (Course Code 24999-I)

This class is designed for English learners who are at the entering stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, and the writing process. WIDA ELP Level 2 students are enrolled in this course and a sheltered section of the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 2.0-2.9

Grade Level: 6

Entering ELD 7 (Course Code 24999-II)

This class is designed for English learners who are at the entering stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, and the writing process. WIDA ELP Level 2 students are enrolled in this course and a sheltered section of the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 2.0-2.9

Grade Level: 7

Entering ELD 8 (Course Code 24999-III)

This class is designed for English learners who are at the entering stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, and the writing process.

WIDA ELP Level 2 students are enrolled in this course and a sheltered section of the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 2.0-2.9

Grade Level: 8

Developing ELD 6 (Course Code 24999-I)

This class is designed for English learners who are at the developing stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, the writing process, and academic discourse. WIDA ELP Level 3 students are enrolled in this course and the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 3.0-3.9

Grade Level: 6

Developing ELD 7 (Course Code 24999-II)

This class is designed for English learners who are at the developing stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, the writing process, and academic discourse. WIDA ELP Level 3 students are enrolled in this course and the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 3.0-3.9

Grade Level: 7

Developing ELD 8 (Course Code 24999-III)

This class is designed for English learners who are at the developing stages of English language proficiency. This class is designed to support the development of academic

language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. This course is aligned to the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, as well as aligned with the grade level English Language Arts SOLs. It maintains a focus on vocabulary development, literacy skills, the writing process, and academic discourse. WIDA ELP Level 3 students are enrolled in this course and the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 3.0-3.9

Grade Level: 8

Academic Language Enrichment 6 (Course Code 01999-I)

The class is designed to enrich students' academic language. Students develop academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students are engaged in targeted instruction in vocabulary, reading strategies, content writing, and academic discourse models for continued success in grade level courses. WIDA ELP Level 4 students are enrolled in this course and the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 4.0-4.3

Grade Level: 6

Academic Language Enrichment 7 (Course Code 01999-II)

The class is designed to enrich students' academic language. Students develop academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students are engaged in targeted instruction in vocabulary, reading strategies, content writing, and academic discourse models for continued success in grade level courses. WIDA ELP Level 4 students are enrolled in this course and the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 4.0-4.3

Grade Level: 7

Academic Language Enrichment 8 (Course Code 01999-III)

The class is designed to enrich students' academic language. Students develop academic language and skills through the four domains – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students are engaged in targeted instruction in vocabulary, reading strategies, content writing, and academic discourse models for continued success in grade level courses. WIDA ELP Level 4

students are enrolled in this course and the grade level English course.

Prerequisite: WIDA ELP Level 4.0-4.3
Grade Level: 8

Below is the recommended course scheduling sequence for middle school based on ELP level.

Profile: Level 1.0-1.9	
Subject	Courses
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 6, 7, 8 (sheltered)
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 6, 7, 8 (sheltered) or Algebra 1 (collab) Math Credit
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 6, 7 (sheltered) Civics & Economics 8 (sheltered)
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science 6, 7, 8 (sheltered)
Health & PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & PE 6, 7, 8
ESL Elective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newcomer 6, 7, 8
Profile: Level 2.0-2.9	
Subject	Courses
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 6, 7, 8 (sheltered)
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 6, 7, 8 (sheltered) or Algebra I Math Credit
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 6, 7 Civics & Economics 8
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science 6, 7, 8
Health & PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & PE 6, 7, 8
ESL Elective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entering ELD 6, 7, 8
Profile: Level 3.0-3.9	
Subject	Courses
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 6, 7, 8
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 6, 7 Math 8 or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Math Credit
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 6, 7 Civics & Economics 8
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science 6, 7, 8 or Earth Science Science Credit
Health & PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & PE 6, 7, 8
ESL Elective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing ELD 6, 7, 8
Profile: Level 4.0-4.3	
Subject	Courses
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 6, 7, 8
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math 6, 7, 8 or Algebra 1 Math Credit
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History 6, 7 Civics & Economics 8
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science 6, 7, 8 or Earth Science Science Credit
Health & PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & PE 6, 7, 8
ESL Elective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Language Enrichment 6, 7, 8

High School Credit Courses Available in Middle School

The following courses are available to middle school students to take as a high school credit. These courses must meet the required 140 seat time hours and are only offered as a year-long course (unless otherwise noted). All 8th grade students, regardless of prior academic experience, are to be provided the opportunity to take these courses, as none have prerequisites unless otherwise noted.

- Spanish I or the combination of Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B
- Spanish II (Spanish I prerequisite)
- Algebra I
- Geometry (Algebra I prerequisite)
- Earth Science I
- Art I
- Technology Foundations
- Independent Living
- Digital Applications

Access to High School Credit-Bearing Courses & Impact on Transcripts

Access to high school level coursework that is appropriate to a student's interests and skill level has been shown to increase the likelihood of a student completing a rigorous, college and career ready sequence of courses in high school. High school credit bearing courses are available all to middle school students in Richmond Public Schools.

Please note the following applies to middle school students in SY18-19 onward and is not retroactively applicable to current RPS high school students. Successful completion of high school credit-bearing courses taken in middle school will earn credit towards a high school diploma. **However, grades earned these courses will not apply to a student's high school GPA.** This allows students to challenge themselves without being prematurely concerned about a potential negative impact on their high school GPA.

Understanding the developmental needs of middle school students, and in accordance with state policy, the division allows students who take a high school credit-bearing course in middle school to have the option of omitting the course from their transcript. If the course is omitted, the student will have to retake the course in high school to earn credit towards graduation requirements, where applicable. This request must be made at the end of the 8th grade year; once a student begins high school, the option to omit that course and credit will no longer be available. Students wishing to seek this option can do so through the school's counseling office.

Considerations for Course Selection & Looking Ahead to High School

Options

Richmond Public Schools offers a variety of high school opportunities for its students. Some high school options include a selection process that requires a review of the student's middle school experience that may include but is not limited to course choices, grades, disciplinary record and attendance. Application-based schools are competitive and the courses a student takes in middle school can impact eligibility to be considered for these schools.

The following public high schools available to Richmond City residents have an admissions process and certain requirements for middle school courses:

- **Appomattox Regional Governor's School** (completion of Algebra I by the end of 8th grade is required)
- **Franklin Military Academy**
- **Maggie L. Walker Governor's School** (completion of Algebra I by the end of 8th grade is required)
- **Open High School**
- **Richmond Community High School** (completion of Algebra I by the end of 8th grade is strongly encouraged)
- **Thomas Jefferson High School-International Baccalaureate Programme**

Because it can be difficult to know in 6th grade what a student desires for high school and beyond, RPS recommends that students challenge themselves in middle school and enroll in advanced courses, including at a minimum, completing Algebra I by 8th grade.

Supports for Students with Disabilities

Exceptional Education and Related Services (i.e., speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nursing services) are available to meet the unique social, emotional, physical, and academic needs for middle school students with disabilities. These services ensure a student's access to the general education curriculum across a continuum of educational environments. Services are individualized and implemented through the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and students who require intensive instructional and/or behavioral support will be fully supported. Music, art, library, physical education, and extracurricular activities are available to all students with disabilities. All students with disabilities receive special education services from teachers and service providers who are credentialed to teach and/or provide services to students with disabilities.

Acceleration in Core Content Areas

Acceleration in core content areas is based on student interest, success in previous coursework, standardized tests results, skill attainment in the content area, teacher recommendation, and parent request. Students may be accelerated in Math or Science and may take high school credit classes in Career and Technical Education, Art or World Languages. Students and families should speak with their school counselor if they are interested in acceleration options.