

The background of the entire page is a light cream color, decorated with a pattern of small, irregular dots in two colors: a muted orange and a dark purple. These dots are scattered across the page, with some forming small, dense clusters.

Rising 7th Grade Academic Planning 2026-2027

Ms. Wilkes

Agenda

Today we will discuss:

- 7th grade class options
 - Intensified vs. regular classes
 - Electives
- Graduation requirements
- High School Information
- Process for 7th grade course selection

Seventh Grade Classes

English
(regular or intensified)

Civics and Economics
(regular or intensified)

Science
(regular or intensified)

Math - Math 7, Pre-Algebra for 7th
graders, Intensified Algebra I
Recommendations in June

Elective


Elective

Health and PE

Intensified Classes

- 7th grade: intensified classes available for English, Science, and Social Studies (and Algebra)
- Any student can register. You do NOT need a teacher recommendation
- Optional!
- Choosing to take a regular or intensified option for 7th grade does not determine course placement for future school years.
- If you are gifted, or a young scholar, in a certain subject, consider taking the intensified version of that class next year
- Use the same grade level standards, taught by same teachers

Comparing the Courses

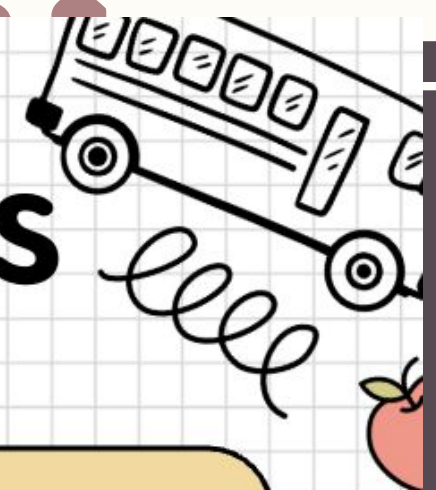


Cover the same content standards

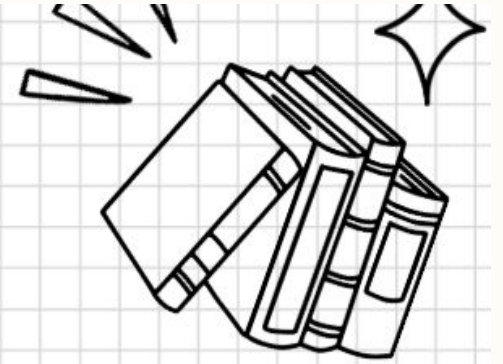
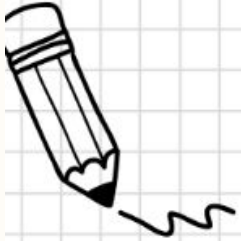
Take the same SOL assessments

Practice the same disciplinary skills

Provide the same opportunities looking toward high school



So, what is the difference?



Intensified delves deeper into the topics

Intensified use more critical thinking and analytical skills

General introduces topics and provides exploration into ideas.

General guides students to use critical thinking and analytical skills with structured support.


Intensified engages students to apply and investigate content to personal interests.

Intensified is for students who want to "nerd out" in a content area.

General provides students opportunities to investigate the content related to the real-world.

General is for students who enjoy a topic but it is not their passion.





Example Civics

Intensified

Do constitutional rights protect citizen while balancing individual freedoms with collective responsibilities? Explain

General

Explain how the Constitution addresses individual freedoms with collective responsibilities.

How to choose...

Talk with your student, do they want to delve deep into
a content or do they want to learn the content?
What is their passion?

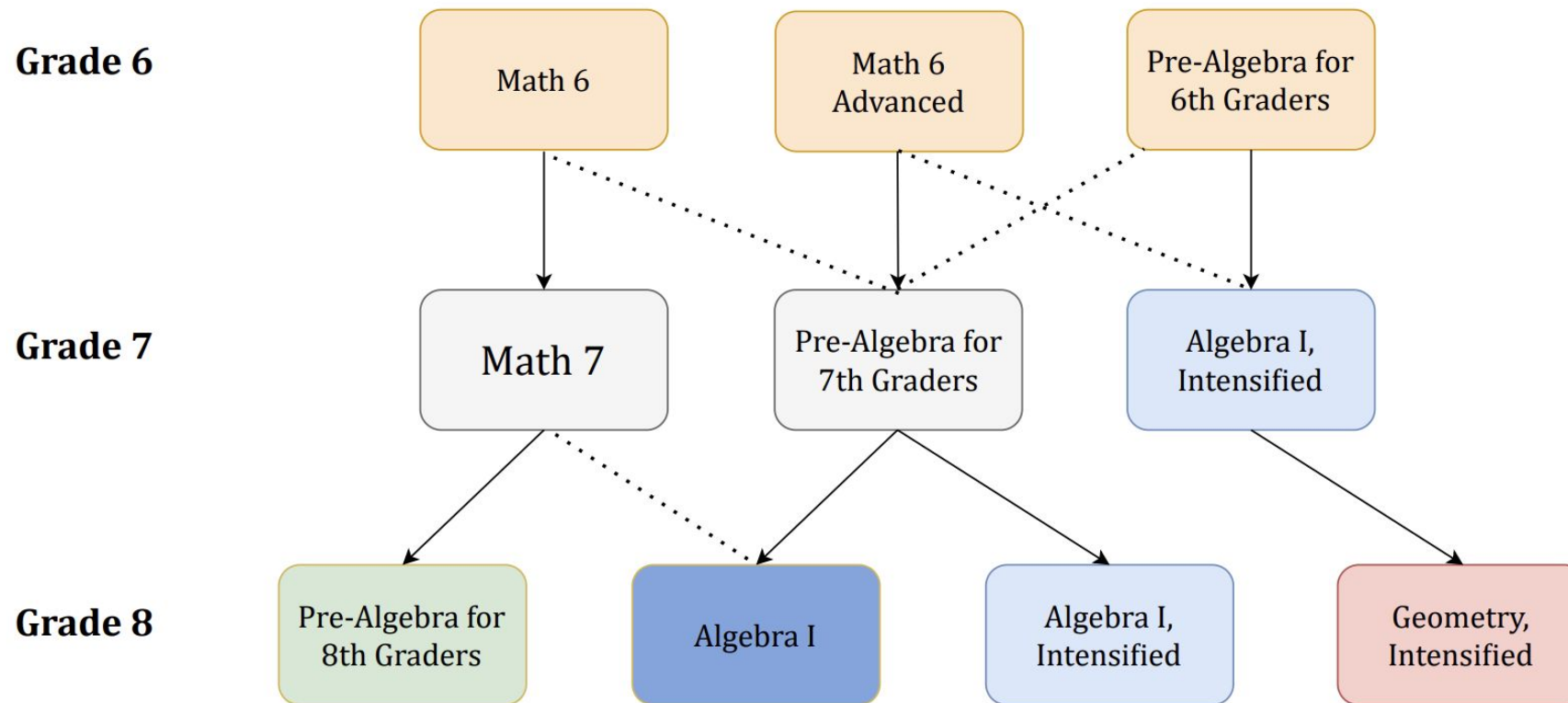
Follow rabbit trails
Nerd out
Passion

Intensified

Enjoys the learning
Does well

General

Arlington Public Schools Middle School Mathematics Progression, SY 2026 - 2027



- Students needing additional support may be concurrently enrolled in Math 6, Math 7, or Pre-Algebra 8 along with an associated Math Strategies course, where available.

Math recommendations will be sent in the summer

County Math Recommendations

- Recommendations are determined from multiple data points and communicated in the summer.
- When you receive your recommendation, if you have questions/concerns about your child's recommendation, you will be directed to contact Laura Partridge (Laura.Partridge@apsva.us), Swanson's math coach.

Electives

- All students have **2 elective periods**. These can be filled by:
 - **4** semester (half year) classes
 - **2** semester classes, and **1** full-year class
 - **2** full-year classes
- You will pick your electives, and provide alternates (back-ups)
- World Languages are only offered as full year courses and count as electives

Electives:

Semester (half-year) Classes

- **Digital Input Technologies** (*typing, word processing, technology applications*)
- **Inventions and Innovations** (*engineering and technology, design prototypes, use tools in the production laboratory*)
- **Teen Living** (*nutrition and wellness, creating textile products*)
- **Theater Arts** (*theater history, technical theater, dramatic theater*)
- **Visual Arts** (*exposure to a variety of artistic techniques and processes*)

Electives: Full Year Classes

Music Courses

- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus

Electives:

High School Credit Courses (Full Year)

- Arabic I
- Chinese I
- French I
- Latin I
- Spanish I
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers I

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Languages Offered:

Arabic

Chinese

French

Latin

Spanish

Spanish for Fluent Speakers (SFS)

Advanced Studies Diploma

Minimum World Language requirements for students to be eligible to earn an *Advanced Studies Diploma* upon graduation:

- Three years of one language
 - *Arabic 1, 2, & 3*
- OR
- Two years of two languages
 - *Spanish 1 & 2 and ASL 1 & 2*

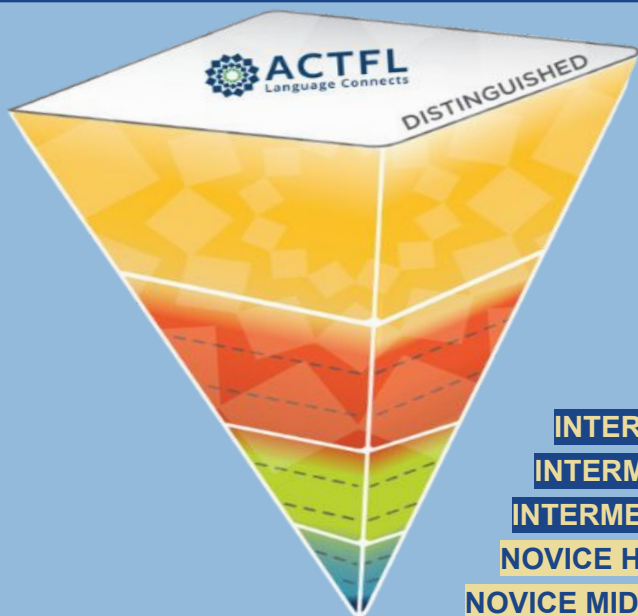


* All full-year language courses are high school credit-bearing courses.

SAMPLE WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRESSION

(Intro, Wheel, & Exploratory courses may be offered in 6th Grade)

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Start in 7th	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5/DE/IB 1	AP/IB 2
Start in 8th	-	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5/DE
Start in 9th	-	-	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4



INTERMED. HIGH - LEVEL 5
INTERMED. MID - LEVEL 4
INTERMED. LOW - LEVEL 3
NOVICE HIGH - LEVEL 2*
NOVICE MID - LEVEL 1
NOVICE LOW
*ACHIEVABLE IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL

WORLD LANGUAGE EXPECTATIONS & SUPPORTS

- Students should take a language in middle school with the **intent of reaching the highest level/most rigorous coursework** offered in high school
(Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate)
- Students have an opportunity to test for and earn eligibility for the **Seal of Biliteracy** embedded in their upper-level coursework
- Aside from Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma requirements, many universities are looking to see **four years of language learning in high school**
(Building on work done in middle school; committing to the 2nd language if switching after two years)

BENEFITS OF LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE

- Enhanced problem-solving & self-confidence
- Improved verbal and spatial abilities
- Improved memory function
- Increased standardized test scores
- Increased flexible and creative thinking
- Expanded vocabulary in native language
- Expanded perspective of associated culture

Electives: Courses Offered by Staff Recommendations or IEP

- Reading Strategies 7
- Structured Literacy
- Math Strategies 7
- Instructional Studies

Find all course descriptions in
the 26-27 Program of Studies

<https://www.apsva.us/curriculum/program-of-studies/>

High School Information

Virginia High School Graduation Requirements

Vocabulary

Credit : You receive 1 credit for passing a high school level class

Verified credit : You receive a verified credit when you pass the high school class AND the SOL for that class

Transcript : record of your grades, attendance, and test scores

Diploma Options

Standard Diploma:

- 22 credits total
- 5 must be “verified”
- No language requirement

Advanced Diploma:

- 26 credits total
- 5 must be “verified”
- Must take 3 years of a language or 2 years of one language, and 2 of another.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

- Internationally recognized program of studies available at W-L with a focus on the global perspective
- Students who want to transfer submit a pre-IB application during the fall of 8th grade year; no application necessary if your neighborhood school is W-L.
- Lottery system

Important when considering language and math courses

- Students must have 2 consecutive years of language in middle school (start in 7th grade) and be in Algebra 1 or higher in 8th grade
- IB program does not include American Sign Language

Refer to WL's website for additional information.

<https://wl.apsva.us/international-baccalaureate-program/>



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)



- Fairfax County high school that emphasizes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Interested students apply in **8th grade**
- In order to be eligible to apply, students must:
 - End 7th grade with a final GPA of 3.5 or higher
 - 8th grade - must take Algebra I Intensified or higher, Intensified Science, and Intensified English.
 - Eligibility requirements and admissions can change each year - to learn more, visit: <https://www.fcps.edu/tjadmissions>

Arlington Tech



- Rigorous, project based learning: Students collaborate on open-ended projects and apply classroom content to real-world problems and relevant questions.
- Collaborative problem solving
- Prepares students for college courses and workplace
- *Highly recommended* to be in Algebra I in 8th grade
- You must pass the math SOL you take in 7th grade

Course Selection Process

- Students will select their courses using the online platform School Links
- This is a program students also use to explore careers and college options



What is Course Planner?

- ✓ A student-driven multi-year planning tool
- ✓ A way to select courses aligned with graduation goals



SCHOOL Course Planner

2024 - 2025 Plan **NOT SUBMITTED**

Planned School: SchooLinks High School | Graduation Plan: Basic Grad Plan | [Course Catalog](#)

2022-2023 • 9th grade 4/5 | 2023-2024 • 10th grade 4/5 | 2024-2025 • 11th grade 4/5 | 2025-2026 • 12th grade

English

- English I (ENG101) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C
- English II (ENG102) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C
- English III (ENG103) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C
- EL English IV (ENG104) 1.0 / 1.0 credits | Missing prerequisite | Select 3 more alternate

Electives

- US History (HIST400) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C
- AP US Government (HIST403) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C AP
- French I (FRE100) 1.0 / 1.0 credits | Grade pending
- Psychology (HIST406) 1.0 / 1.0 credits | Grade pending
- Algebra I (MATH200) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C
- Algebra II (MATH202) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C
- AP Biology (SCI300H) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C AP
- AP Chemistry (SCI301H) 1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C AP
- AP Calculus AB (MATH205) 1.0 / 1.0 credits | Grade pending AP
- Band (ART509) 1.0 / 1.0 credits | Missing prerequisite
- Bundle 1 (Bun-1) 0.5 / 0.5 credits
- Bundle 2 (Bun-2) 0.5 / 0.5 credits | Needs approval for your g
- Accounting (ELEC100) 1.0 / 1.0 credits
- Creative Writing (EL) 1.0 / 1.0 credits

Credits: 20/20 planned ✓ | Requirements: 2/2 met ✓ | [Other Options](#)

Student submission Due 08/21/25 | [Submit plan](#)

Course Planning Milestones



Student Submits
Course Plan in
SchooLinks



Counselor Approves
Course Plan in
SchooLinks



Guardian receives
email notification to
sign the Course Plan
Acknowledgement



Next year's
courses will
be used for
course
requests

Review with
parents and
submit by
Feb. 19th

Counselor
will approve
within 2
school days
of
submission

Parent/
guardian
approves by
Feb. 27th

Next Steps

- Students will make their course selections at school during the week of **February 9-13th** on SchooLinks.
- *In June, families will receive information regarding math placement.*

Questions

Please email or call:

Michelle.wilkes@apsva.us or 703-228-5511