



# Rising 7th Grade Academic Planning 2026-2027

Ms. Wilkes

# Agenda

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## Today we will discuss:

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

# Seventh Grade Classes

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**English**  
(regular or intensified)

**Civics and Economics**  
(regular or intensified)

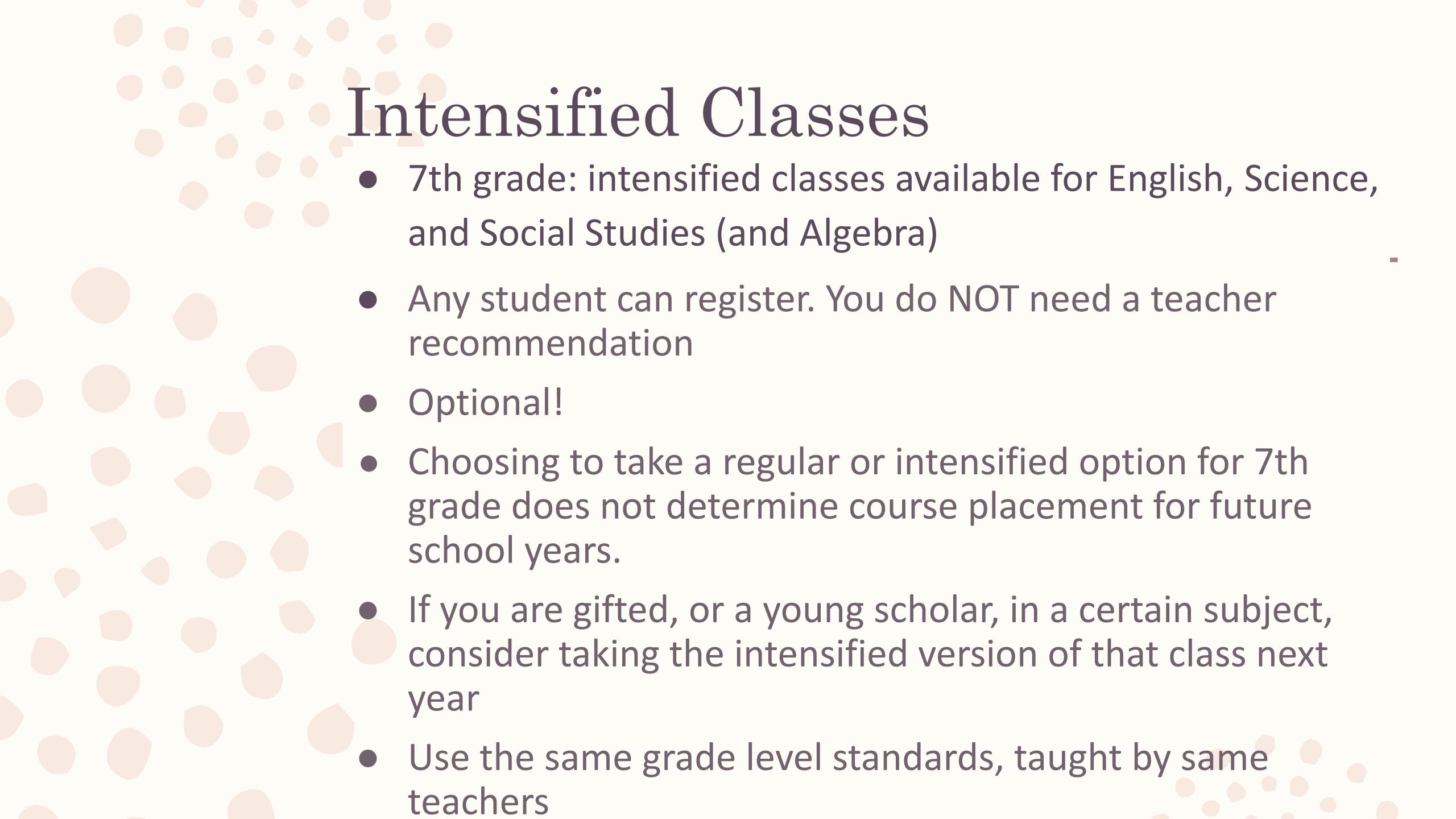
**Science**  
(regular or intensified)

**Math** - Math 7, Pre-Algebra for 7<sup>th</sup> 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

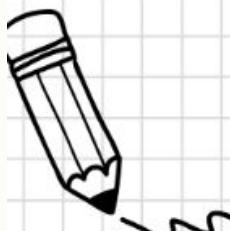
# Comparing the Courses

Cover the same content standards

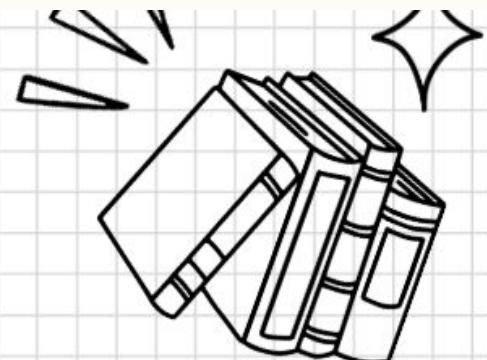
Take the same SOL assessments

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.

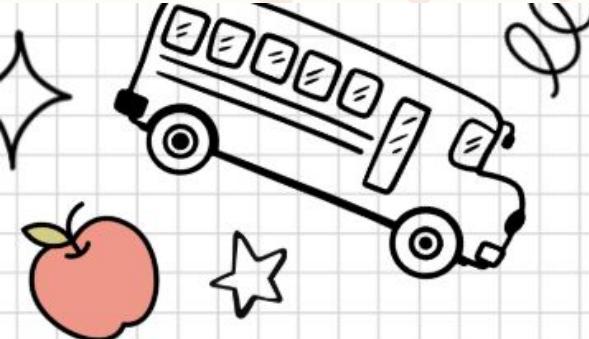
Intensified engages students to apply and investigate content to personal interests.

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

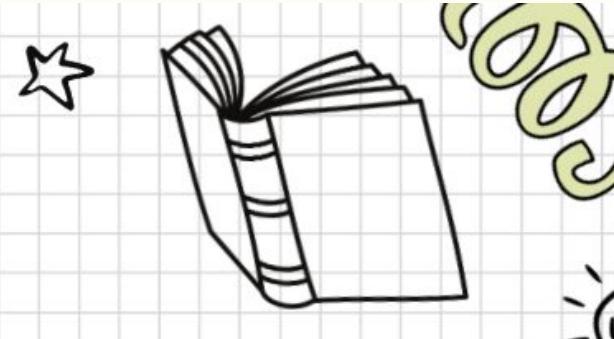
General provides students opportunities to investigate the content related to the real-world.

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





# Example Civics



## Intensified

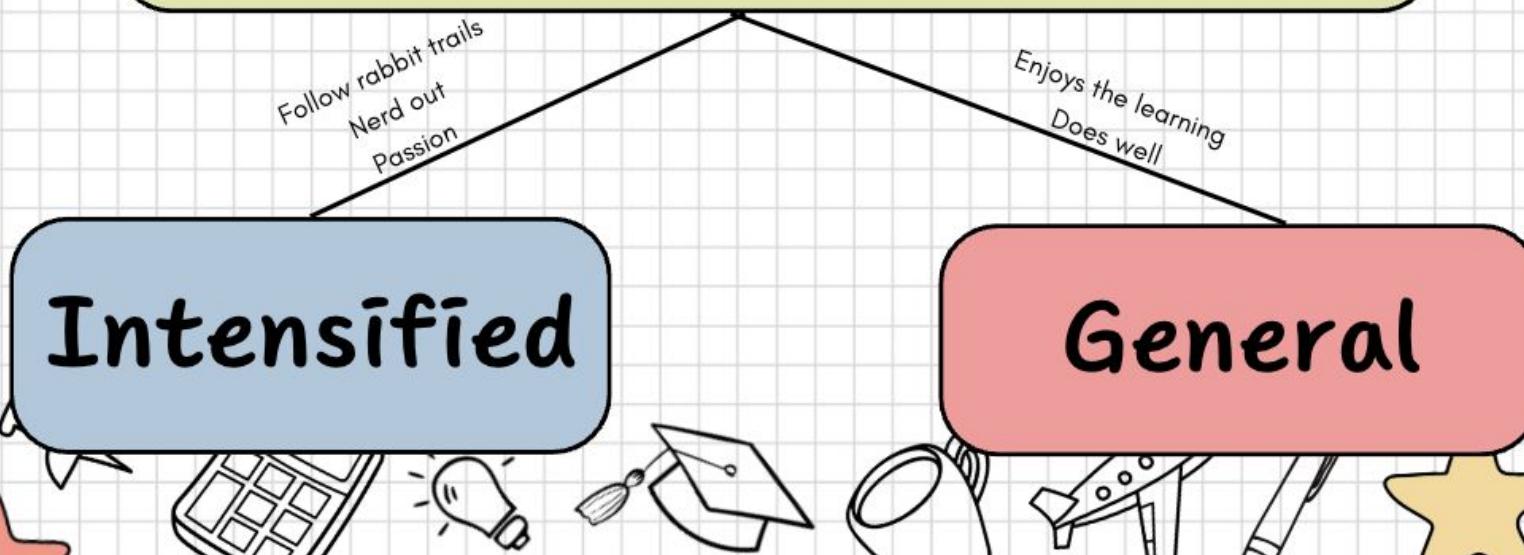
Do constitutional rights protect citizen while balancing individual freedoms with collective responsibilities? Explain

## General

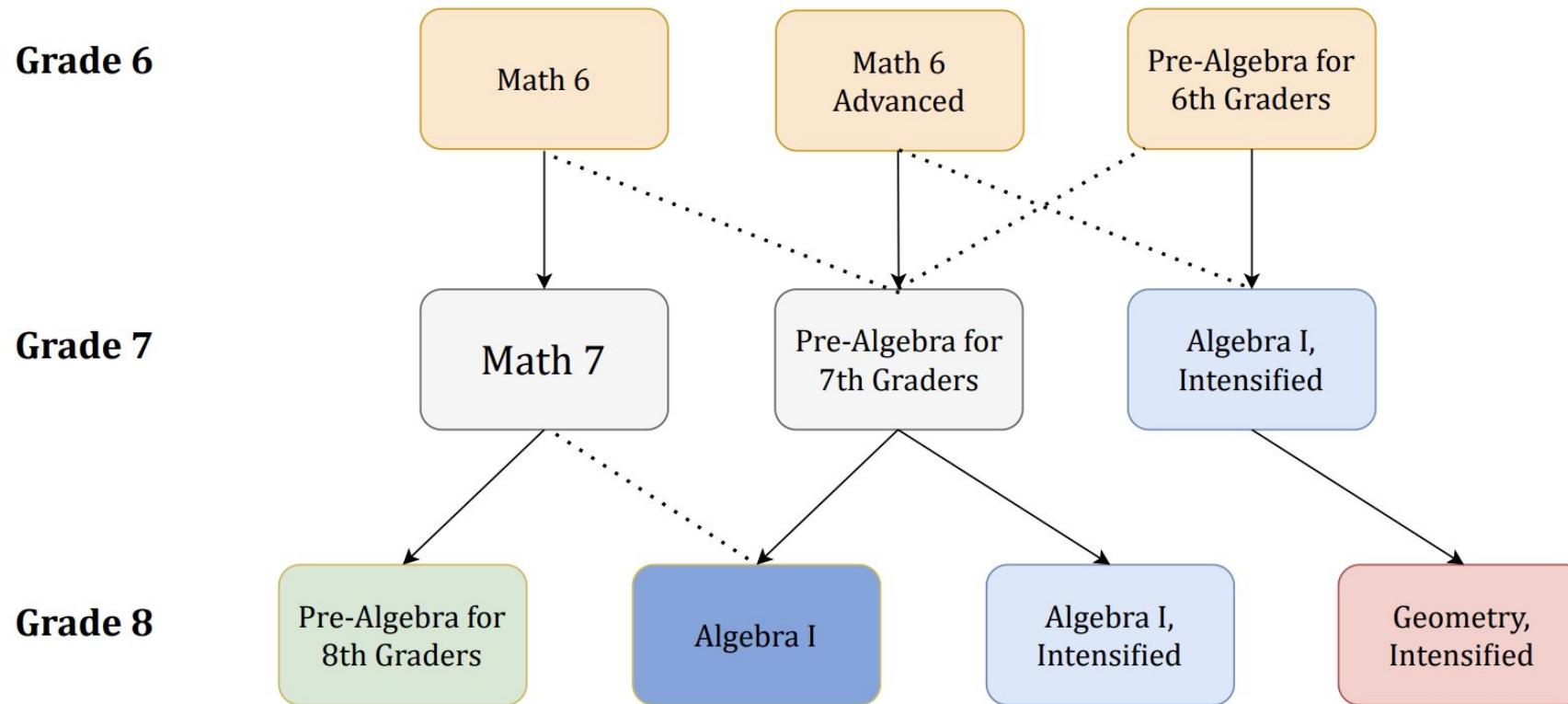
Explain how the Constitution addresses individual freedoms with collective responsibilities.

# 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?



## 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](mailto:Laura.Partridge@apsva.us)), Swanson's math coach.

# Electives

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- 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

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- **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

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## Music Courses

- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus

# Electives: High School Credit Courses (Full Year)

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- 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
- Two years of two languages
  - Spanish 1 & 2 and ASL 1 & 2

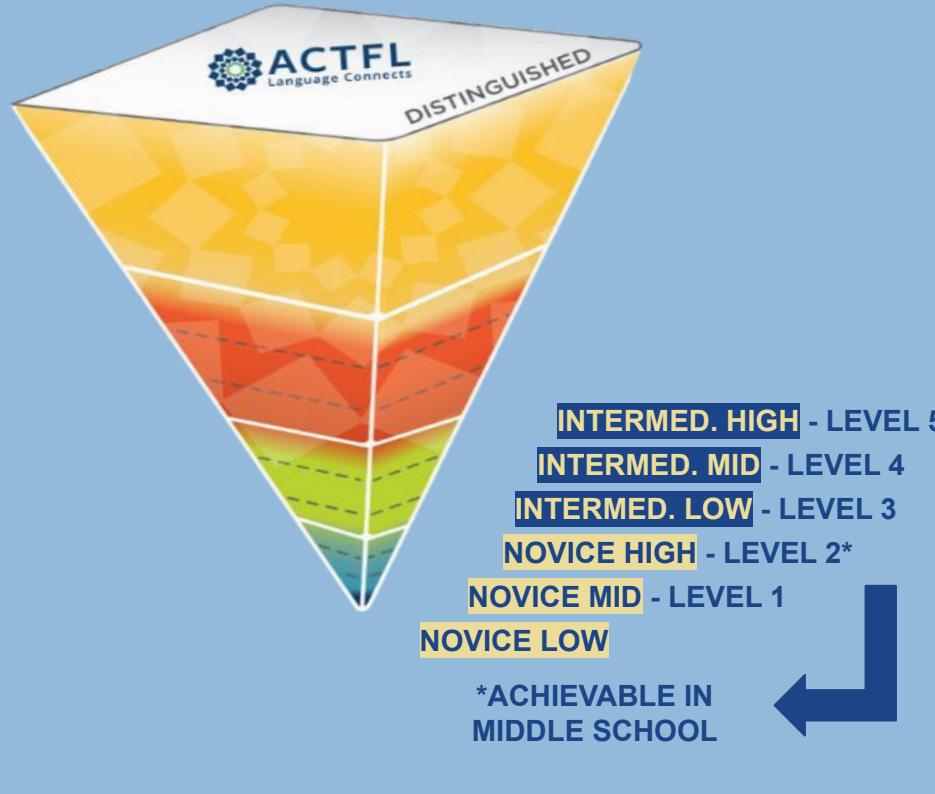


\* All full-year language courses are high school credit-bearing courses.

## 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



## 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

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- 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

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# Virginia High School Graduation Requirements

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## 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)

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- 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)

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- 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



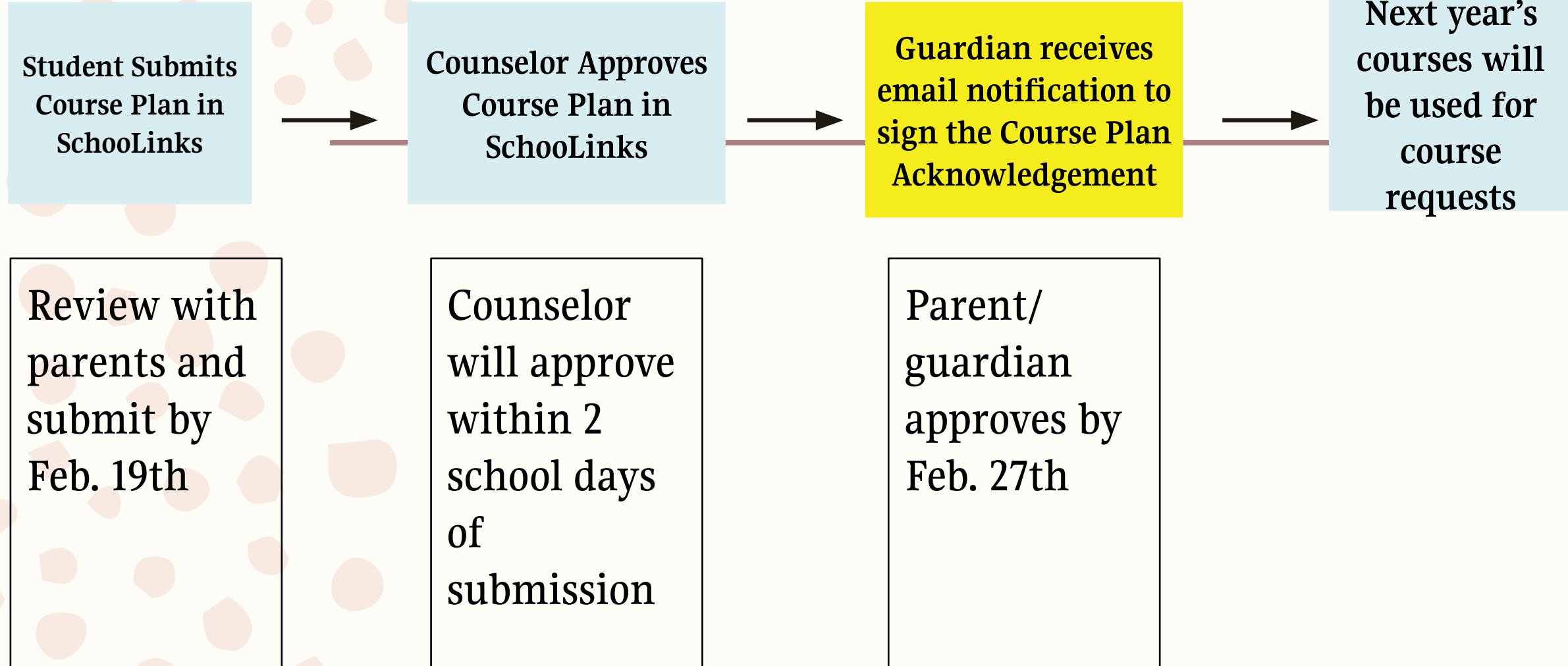
# What is Course Planner?



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

The screenshot shows the Course Planner software interface. The left sidebar has a yellow vertical bar with icons for Home, Student, Explore, Plan, Engage, Career, and College. The main area shows the '2024 - 2025 Plan' for 'NOT SUBMITTED'. It lists 'Planned School: SchooLinks High School' and 'Graduation Plan: Basic Grad Plan'. Below this, there are sections for 'English' and 'Electives'. The 'English' section shows courses: English I (ENG101), English II (ENG102), and English III (ENG103), each with '1.0 / 1.0 credits ✓ | C'. The 'Electives' section shows courses: US History (HIST400), AP US Government (HIST403), French I (FRE100), Algebra I (MATH200), Algebra II (MATH202), Psychology (HIST406), AP Biology (SCI300H), AP Chemistry (SCI301H), AP Calculus AB (MATH205), and AP Chemistry (SCI301H). Each course has its name, code, credits, and a status indicator. At the bottom, it says 'Credits: 20/20 planned' and 'Requirements: 2/2 met'. A 'Submit plan' button is at the bottom right. The top right shows a user profile for 'Denise Mendez' and various navigation icons.

# Course Planning Milestones



# Next Steps

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- 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

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Please email or call:

[Michelle.wilkes@apsva.us](mailto:Michelle.wilkes@apsva.us) or 703-228-5511