

Making Choices for 8th Grade

Ms. Wilkes
7th Grade Counselor



Agenda

- High School Graduation Requirements
- High School Option Programs
- Academic Plans
- Courses for Next Year
- Course Request Forms

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”

Advanced Diploma:

- 26 credits total
- 5 must be “verified”

Standard Diploma

Discipline Area	Standard Unit of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English (reading and writing)	4	2
Mathematics	3	1
Science	3	1
History & Social Sciences	3	1
Health & Physical Education	2	
World Languages Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
Total	22	5

Advanced Diploma

Discipline Area	Standard Unit of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English (reading & writing)	4	2
Mathematics	4	1
Science	4	1
History & Social Sciences	4	1
World Languages	3	
Health & Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	1	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Total	26	5

High School Option Programs

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 for W-L students
- Lottery system
- Must be in Level II of a language and Algebra I in 8th grade (not ASL)

More info: <https://washingtonlee.apsva.us/international-baccalaureate-program/>



High School Option Programs

Arlington Tech

- Rigorous, project-based learning, high school program located at the Career Center for students with focused interest in STEM fields
- Students apply in the fall of 8th grade

More info: <https://careercenter.apsva.us/arlington-tech/>



Arlington Tech

Infinite Possibilities

High School Option Programs

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)

- FCPS school that provides a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology
- Students apply during 8th grade
- To apply, students need to take Algebra I, Intensified or higher in 8th grade
- Need to have a 3.5 GPA or higher (B+ average) in core classes 7th grade and 1st quarter 8th grade

TJHSST admissions process is changing. Find the latest updates here:

<https://www.fcps.edu/registration/thomas-jefferson-admissions>



Academic Plans

- APS students will complete or add to an academic plan every year starting in 7th grade
- Helps you think about what courses you may want to take in the future
- Fluid document - it can change!
- We will do this later in the school year

8th Grade Course Information

- All core classes must be passed in order to promote to grade 9
- A grade of high C or higher is generally a good indicator that you are ready to move to the next level of math or a world language

High School Credit Courses:

- Count toward high school graduation requirements
- Appear on your high school transcript that is sent with your college applications
- Factored into your grade point average (GPA)

8th Grade Courses

7 Courses Total

- English
- Science
- World Geography*
- Math
 - Pre-Algebra for 8th Graders
 - Algebra I*
 - Algebra I Intensified*
 - Geometry Intensified*
- Health and P.E.
- 2 electives (choose one of the combinations below)
 - 2 full year courses
OR
 - 1 full year course + 2 semester courses
OR
 - 4 semester courses

Math recommendations made in the spring

Full Year Electives

World Languages - Level I or II

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

- Spanish
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers
- French
- Latin
- Chinese
- Arabic
- American Sign Language (Level 1 only)
 - *ASL is subject to staffing availability. Students MUST choose an alternative World Languages*

World Language Course Info

- All full-year language classes are high school credit courses
- The grade and the credit received appear on the high school transcript
- These courses are like core classes with nightly homework, quizzes and tests.
- If students plan to pursue the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, they must be in level two of a language in 8th grade (Spanish II, French II, Chinese II, Arabic II, or Latin II)
- There are no “Intensified” Level II classes.

Full Year Electives

**high school credit course*

- Computer Science*
- Technology of Robotics*
- Individual Development (new)*
 - *Focus: cultivating positive self-esteem; developing skills to build healthy relationships with family, peers, and community members; managing stress and conflict; preparing to become college-and career-ready*
- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- Yearbook Application required <https://apsva.instructure.com/enroll/6NLGR9>

Semester Electives

- Visual Arts
- Theater
- Computer & Internet Tech (computer skills)
- Life Management (budgeting, cooking, sewing, etc.)
- Tech Systems (designing, building, evaluating engineering systems)

Support Electives Offered by Staff Recommendation

- Reading Strategies
- Math Strategies
- Instructional Studies



Course Request Forms

- CRFs will be on Google Forms (no paper forms)
- Due Feb. 25th
- You **MUST** complete this with a parent/guardian!
- Link will be posted on Counseling Canvas homepage

How to Choose Electives

You will have 2 elective periods

You can choose a combination of full-year and semester (half-year) electives

Option A: 2 Full-Year Electives	Option B: 1 Full-Year Elective AND 2 Semester Electives	Option C: 4 Semester Electives
Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Band (full-year)● Spanish II (full-year)	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● French I (full-year)● Visual Art (semester)● Drama (semester)	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Visual Art (semester)● Drama (semester)● Life Management (semester)● Technological Systems (semester)



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Hi Class of 2027!(that's you)

This is Ms. Wilkes, your school counselor. This Canvas page will be a way for me to make announcements, provide resources, and communicate with you throughout middle school.

SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

Ms. Wilkes

michelle.wilkes@apsva.us

English Learners (EL) 1 & 2 Counselor:

Ms. Ortiz

melissa.laraortiz@apsva.us

Quick Links:

I will post important information here!

*****Elective Course Request Form will be posted HERE on Friday, February 11th at 3pm*****

Game Club:

Friday Lunch in Room 122(Orchestra Room)

[Message from the Resource Teacher for the Gifted](#)

Posted at 3PM
Friday February
11th



Elective Course Request Form

8th Grade Elective Course Request (Due Feb. 25)

You must complete this form with a PARENT/GUARDIAN!

Please enter a PARENT email address below. You will be emailed a copy of your responses.

All 8th grade students will take:

- English 8
- Physical Science
- World Geography (high school credit)
- Math (recommendations made in the spring)
- Health & PE 8

This form will be used to select your ELECTIVE classes for 8th grade.

Complete this form only ONCE! Please contact Ms. Wilkes (michelle.wilkes@apsva.us) with any questions or concerns about choosing 8th grade electives.

michelle.wilkes@apsva.us [Switch account](#)

* Required

Email *

• PARENT email
• address

Complete with a
parent/guardian!

Rising 8th Grade Elective Options

All course descriptions may be found in the [Program of Studies](#)
 All 8th graders will take English, Science, World Geography, Math, and PE

Elective Options: You can choose one of these combinations:		
Option A: 2 Full-Year Electives	Option B: 1 Full-Year Elective and 2 Semester Electives	Option C: 4 Semester Electives
Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Spanish I 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science Visual Art Drama 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual Art Drama Technological Systems Life Management

Full Year Electives * = high school credit course			Semester (half-year) Electives
Band	Spanish I*	Chinese I*	Visual Art
Orchestra	Spanish II*	Chinese II*	Drama
Chorus	Spanish for Fluent Speakers I*	Arabic I*	Technological Systems <i>Designing, building, evaluating engineering systems</i>
Yearbook <i>Application Required</i> <i>(Canvas enroll code: 6NLGR9)</i>	Spanish for Fluent Speakers II*	Arabic II*	Computer Applications <i>Digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, software applications</i>
Robotic Design*	French I*	Latin I*	Life Management <i>Cooking, sewing, nutrition, budgeting</i>
Computer Science* <i>(coding)</i>	French II*	Latin II*	
Individual Development* <i>New course: Cultivating positive self-esteem; healthy relationships with family, peers, and community members; managing stress and conflict</i>			

Final Notes

- Elective Selection Google Form will be posted on the Counseling Canvas homepage on Friday, February 11th by 3:00 PM
- Google Form is due February 25th
- Only submit the form **ONCE!!** If you need to make changes later, Canvas message me or have your parents email me.

Additional Information

Math Curriculum and Placement

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/311f7184-6ec3-4087-afdd-1000270d36cb>

Reading 6 and World Languages

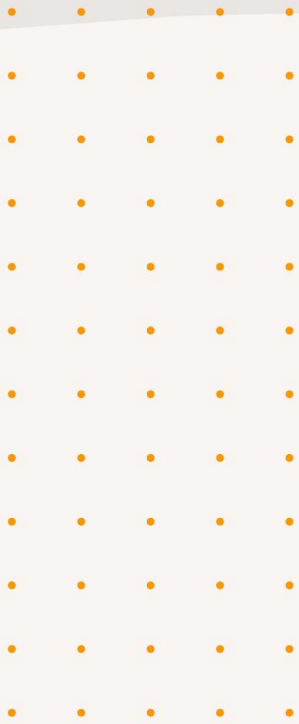
<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/0a706496-32d9-4e12-b1ff-a347cb04a55d>

World Languages for 7th and 8th Grade Students

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/2eca548d-35bb-4986-965f-b6a78f78becb>

Gifted Services

<https://vimeo.com/637527971>





Questions?

Ask now or message me on Canvas!

