



PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# **Middle School Program of Studies**

**Luray Middle School  
Page County Middle School**

**2024-2025**

# Middle School

## Program of Studies

The Middle School Program of Studies is intended to help students and their families plan their course of study. This guide provides a general overview of the middle school program, outlining the common components of our middle schools. Differences in enrollment and staffing may necessitate variations, although the basic programs are identical.

The administration, faculty and staff that serve our middle school students are committed to forming a personal relationship with each student. We see that relationships are the foundation that allow us to challenge all students capable of higher level work, to provide additional assistance to all students as necessary, and to meet the needs of individual school communities whenever possible.

Middle school students will have the opportunity to select courses that allow them to explore their interests. Teachers and School Counselors can provide students with guidance about which courses will best fit their interests, abilities, and future academic plans.

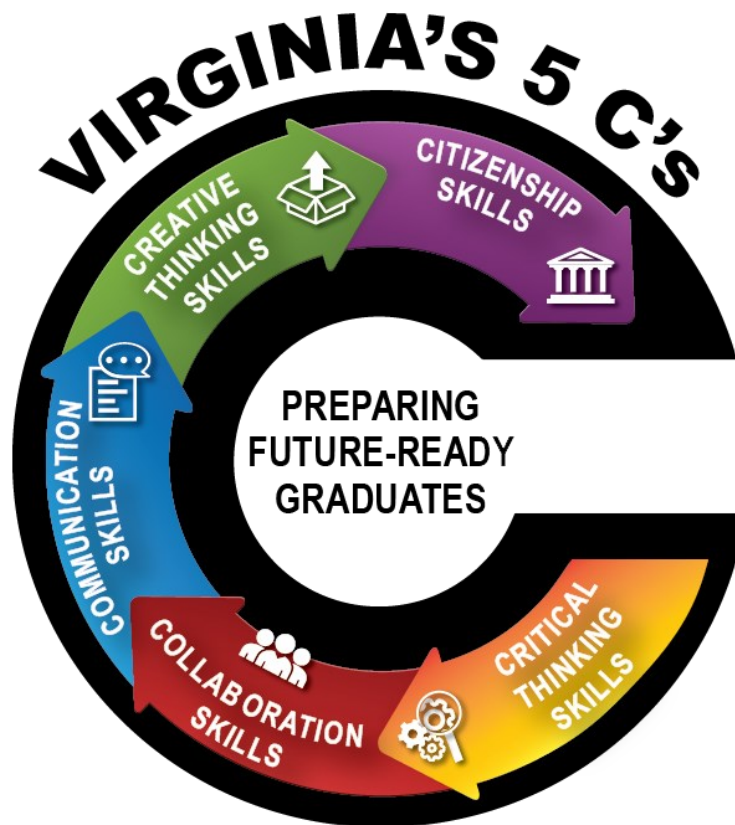
**School attendance is directly related to academic achievement and the development of good habits, which are important in the world of work.** The middle school curriculum is built around active classroom involvement, and is much more than the completion of an assignment; therefore, **a student's presence in the classroom cannot be completely replaced with make-up assignments.** Page County Public Schools expects parents and students to take an active role in accepting the responsibility for good attendance.



# Virginia's 5 C's


In preparing students to meet the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, schools are required to ensure that students develop the following competencies known as the "Five C's":

- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Citizenship



# Career Clusters

The 16 Career Clusters are part of the plan of study for students beginning in middle school. Your school counselor will meet with you to identify your interests and develop your individual plan. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The sixteen career clusters provide an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities and academies.

 <b>Agriculture, Food &amp; Natural Resources</b>	<p>The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.</p>
 <b>Architecture &amp; Construction</b>	<p>Careers in designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.</p>
 <b>Arts, A/V Technology &amp; Communications</b>	<p>Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.</p>
 <b>Business, Management &amp; Administration</b>	<p>Business Management and Administration careers encompass planning, organizing, directing and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations. Business Management and Administration career opportunities are available in every sector of the economy.</p>
 <b>Education &amp; Training</b>	<p>Planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.</p>
 <b>Finance</b>	<p>Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management.</p>
 <b>Government &amp; Public Administration</b>	<p>Executing governmental functions to include Governance; National Security; Foreign Service; Planning; Revenue and Taxation; Regulation; and Management and Administration at the local, state, and federal levels.</p>
 <b>Health Science</b>	<p>Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.</p>



# Career Clusters

 <b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b>	<p>Hospitality &amp; Tourism encompasses the management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other foodservices, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel related services.</p>
 <b>Human Services</b>	<p>Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.</p>
 <b>Information Technology</b>	<p>Building Linkages in IT Occupations Framework: For Entry Level, Technical, and Professional Careers Related to the Design, Development, Support and Management of Hardware, Software, Multimedia, and Systems Integration Services.</p>
 <b>Law, Public Safety, Corrections &amp; Security</b>	<p>Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.</p>
 <b>Manufacturing</b>	<p>Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering.</p>
 <b>Marketing, Sales &amp; Service</b>	<p>Planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.</p>
 <b>Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Mathematics</b>	<p>Planning, managing, and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g., physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.</p>
 <b>Transportation, Distribution &amp; Logistics</b>	<p>Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail and water and related professional and technical support services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment and facility maintenance.</p>



## Changes to Course Schedule

With serious effort from students, custodial parents, teachers, and the school counselor, courses and electives selected will be the correct ones and any alternatives selected will also be valid options if substitutions need to be made. Once the master schedule is in place, it will be very difficult to make changes without negatively impacting other students and teachers.

**Therefore, course changes will not be made unless one of the following criteria is evident:**

- Failure or failure to attain a prescribed grade in a prerequisite course
- Prerequisite course has been completed with the appropriate grade in summer school
- A teacher initiates a change for the benefit of the student
- An emergency situation exists which requires a change to be made

## Counseling Services

The School Counseling Department is dedicated to providing individual, classroom and consultative services to our middle school students. School Counseling services are designed to help the individual student achieve educational, vocational, social, and personal goals that are consistent with interests, needs, and abilities. The program is built upon the belief that each student is unique, capable of making a meaningful contribution to our society and deserves every opportunity to attain self-fulfillment.

School counselors attempt to work closely with students, custodial parents, and teachers. Conferences may be arranged at any time upon request. Conferences are encouraged and may be initiated by the pupil, teacher, parent, administration, or support services personnel.

## Curriculum

The Page County Public School middle schools' curriculum provides a transitional experience for the student between the elementary and secondary years by combining core academics with opportunities for exploration in career and related arts. The curriculum is based on the following characteristics:

- ✓ aligned to the Standards of Learning
- ✓ opportunities for integration
- ✓ physical education and health
- ✓ electives and acceleration opportunities
- ✓ academic support for struggling students

VA SOLs	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Mathematics	X	X	X
Reading	X	X	X
Writing			X
History			X
Science			X

The middle school curriculum includes instruction in the core areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, and Health. Electives include opportunities in Agriculture, Computer Science Performing Arts, and Visual Arts.

The Commonwealth of Virginia tests all middle school students in grades 6, 7, and 8 on Standards of Learning (SOL) in English and Mathematics. The state also tests students in grade 8 on the SOL in Science, Writing, and Civics & Economics.



# Curriculum Criteria Reviewed for Honors Courses

<b>Honors English 7 Criteria</b>	<b>Honors Math 7 Criteria</b>
Historical SOL data	Historical SOL data
Historical grades	Historical grades
A or B as current English class average	A or B as current Math class average
Teacher recommendation Rating Score	Teacher recommendation Rating Score

<b>Honors English 8 Criteria</b>	<b>Algebra I Criteria</b>
Historical SOL data	Historical SOL data
Historical grades	Historical grades
A or B as current English class average	A or B as current Math class average
Teacher recommendation Rating Score	Teacher recommendation Rating Score

Meeting the criteria above does not guarantee a student's placement in an Honors class.

All criteria will be evaluated to determine the best placement for each student .



PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## English as a Second or Other Language

The English for Speakers of Other Languages Program is designed to help limited English proficient (LEP) students develop high levels of academic attainment in English and meet the challenging state content and achievement standards that comprise the middle school curriculum. Support is provided within the context of regular classroom instruction and through targeted support delivered by an ESOL specialist.

## Electives/Exploratory Wheel

Elective classes are an integral and critical part of instruction at the middle school level, providing students with an introduction into the broader curriculum offerings available in high school as well as career and academic opportunities in the post secondary world. The Exploratory Wheel in grade 6 introduces students to a variety of topics that relate to their high school and post secondary electives.

GT/Challenge allows students to receive tutorial support or appropriate differentiation without sacrificing core class time.

## Gifted Education Services

Middle school students who are identified as intellectually gifted benefit from activities designed to stretch their intellectual growth and support the development of their leadership abilities. A gifted specialist provides enrichment during the elective Challenge program, with cross curricular opportunities to research, think critically, and work cooperatively with other identified students. Gifted students are encouraged to consider honors courses, which are designed to provide academic depth and challenge for core content SOL.

## Grading Policy

The following is the grading scale adopted by Page County Public Schools:

Letter Grade	Percentages
A	90-100
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59 and below



## **Grading (Expulsion of a grade)**

### **Expunging High School Courses Taken Prior to the 9th Grade from a Student's Permanent Record**

The Standards of Accreditation for Virginia Schools state that parents of students taking a high school credit course in middle school may be allowed to request that the final grade for the class be omitted from their high school transcript. Courses which qualify for this consideration are included in the Page County Public Schools Middle School Program of Studies. The intent of this policy is to encourage students to take challenging courses without penalizing them unfairly for attempting to take these courses earlier than usual in their academic career.

Upon written request by the parent/ guardian, a course grade shall be expunged from the student's permanent record if the course was taken prior to grade 9 for high school credit. This request must be made by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The request should be directed to the student's middle school principal. If the choice is made to omit the grade from the high school transcript, the student will not receive credit for the course unless he/she takes the course again at the high school level. The expunging of a student's grade shall not affect the student's promotion status.

## **Response to Intervention (RTI)**

Students are placed in RTI based on intervention or enrichment needs. A student's RTI class may change throughout the year to best meet their academic needs.



## 7-Year Academic Career Plan

Upon entering the 6th grade, school counselors and advisors will meet with each student to create a 7-Year Academic and Career Plan. This plan begins by listing courses taken in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and sketching out courses for his/her remaining middle school and high school years. An outline is developed to make certain all graduation requirements will be met and to ensure that students are taking the appropriate courses and course paths to meet their post-secondary goals. Counselors will meet with students during the school day to schedule for the following year. Students may have an opportunity at that time to revisit and revise his/her 7-Year Plan to change career or academic goals. Parents and students can search careers, colleges and universities in the state of Virginia. In addition, parents can learn more about financial assistance for college. Parents and students can view this information on the website, [www.vacareerview.org](http://www.vacareerview.org). The ACP is a flexible plan which is revisited throughout high school and updated each year or as student interests change. PCPS is utilizing Major Clarity to help students develop their ACPs. Students can log on to Major Clarity using their school-issued

## Special Services

All schools in Page County are committed to providing all children with opportunities to benefit from a public education. Students experiencing significant difficulty in achieving educational success may be referred to the Student Study Team. This team will collect information regarding the student's specific area(s) for improvement and develop a plan of strategies to be implemented. If these interventions are not successful and the team suspects that the child has a disability and requires special education services, then the student may be referred for an evaluation to determine if they are eligible to receive the services. A child with a disability must meet criteria established by the Federal Government and the State of Virginia to be eligible for special programs and services.

If a student qualifies for special services as a student with a disability, they are entitled to services designed to provide an appropriate educational program. These programs are discussed and planned by school personnel, custodial parents, and the student. The instruction may be delivered in either a regular or special education classroom. Review of the student's special education plan is conducted at least annually.



# 6th Grade Schedule

**All 6th graders will receive English 6, Math 6, Science 6, US History I, PE 6, and RTI.** English 6, math 6, and RTI occur every day, all year long. Science 6 and US History I occur every day for a semester.

**In The Exploratory Wheel** students will be exposed to 4 courses aligned with their interests.

**The Exploratory Wheel options are as follows:**

- Agriculture 6
- Art 6
- Family & Consumer Sciences 6
- Intro to Computer Science

Other options:

- Band 6
- Challenge/GT 6 (for identified students)
- Chorus 6
- Drama 6



# 6th Grade Courses

## English 6

Sixth grade English language arts instruction supports students in the development and refinement of their skills in reading, writing, and listening. Students will read a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, including classical pieces and contemporary works. Activities will allow students to refine and apply their public speaking and critical listening skills and to further develop and apply critical reading and reasoning skills across all content areas. Specific topics of study will include the use and meaning of analogies and figurative language and the study of word roots and their affixes. The development of writing skills will include opportunities to draft, revise, and edit narratives, descriptions and explanations. Students will be expected to use writing as a tool for learning academic concepts in all core areas.

## Math 6

The 6th grade Mathematics curriculum places continued emphasis on the study of whole numbers, decimals, and rational numbers (fractions). Students will use ratios to compare data sets; make conversions within a given measurement system; classify three-dimensional figures; collect, analyze, display, and interpret data, using a variety of graphical and statistical methods; begin using integers and percentages; find the probability of an event; and investigate numerical and geometric patterns. Students will be introduced to algebraic terms and solving algebraic equations in one variable. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technologies.

## Science 6

The curriculum at 6th grade is composed of the five concept strands of Force, Motion, and Energy, Matter, Living Systems, Interrelationships in Earth/Space Systems, and Resources, with an additional strand that focuses on Scientific Investigations, Reasoning, and Logic interwoven through all of the others. Topics within those strands include magnetism, types of motion, simple machines, forms of energy, food chains, and the relationship between living organisms and their non-living environment. Experimentation and data analysis are used to help students test the validity of their predictions and conclusions.

## US History I

Students will use skills of historical and geographical analysis to further explore the early history of the United States and understand ideas and events that strengthened the union. The standards for this course relate to the history of the United States from pre-Colombian times until 1865, with an increased focus on the time period from 1607 through 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 of 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.



# 6th Grade Electives/Exploratory Wheel

## Agriculture 6

Students develop an awareness of the relationships between agriculture and science. Major concepts covered in the course include awareness of agriculture, the world of work, agribusiness careers, human relations, and scientific principles applied in agriculture.

## Art 6

The Grade Six Visual Arts Standards of Learning are the basis for instruction in this elective. Objectives for visual communication and production, cultural context and Art History, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics are all included in the standards. Students will use the elements of art and the principles of design as a framework to investigate a variety of concepts and to explore various two- and three-dimensional art media. Students will understand the factors that distinguish artistic styles, and will be able to determine how artists convey meaning through the use of forms, media, and symbols.

## Band 6

The Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia are used as guidelines for student development and achievement in the area of instrumental music. Beginning level students will begin receiving instruction on a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument of their choice with guidance from the music teacher. Consideration for beginning level band includes: identifying parts of the instrument and demonstrating proper care, correct planning posture, instrument positions, fingerings, embouchure, instruction in rhythm, and tone production. In addition to developing the fundamental music skills, the music program will also promote the holistic development of each student by focusing on citizenship, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, creativity and self-confidence. Band performances will be required in the music curriculum. Performance opportunities will be determined by the director.

## Challenge/GT 6 (for identified students)

Challenge focuses on the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills in all curriculum areas for students who have been identified for services in the Gifted and Talented Program. Units are designed to stretch students in the development of their intellectual gifts and personal talents. Students will be expected to work effectively with others, to write to clarify their thinking and to defend their positions, and to research independently as they approach complex problems embedded in topics from all core areas.

## Choir 6

The Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia are used as guidelines for student development and achievement in the area of choral development. Areas of instruction include the introductory development of vocal techniques, singing in unison and two-part harmony, ensemble participation, performance, creativity, understanding and applying traditional music notation, sight-reading and ear training. In addition, the music program will also promote the holistic development of each student by focusing on citizenship, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, creativity and self-confidence. Rehearsals and performances in the choir ensembles will be required in the music curriculum. Performance opportunities will be determined by the director.



# 6th Grade Electives/Exploratory Wheel

## Family & Consumer Sciences 6

This class provides a foundation for managing individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities. Students focus on areas of individual growth such as personal goal achievement, responsibilities within the family, and accountability for personal safety and health. They also explore and practice financial management, clothing maintenance, food preparation, positive and caring relationships with others, and self-assessment as related to career exploration.

## Introduction to Computer Science

This course empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving and fun. Topics of exploration and study include the problem solving process and computing, computer maintenance, using the internet and creating animations.

## Physical Education/Health 6

Physical Education is an integral part of the education process. Developing and incorporating a physically active lifestyle is an important part of achieving long-term health goals. Physical education classes help students develop motor skills, increase fitness and wellness levels, enhance social skills, and improve academic learning. Physical education content includes fitness and conditioning, fitness planning and lifetime sport activities.

Students learn to evaluate their own level of fitness and establish individual goals for improvement. The Health curriculum focuses on the development of positive health habits and an active lifestyle. As outlined in the Virginia Standards of Learning, health education allows students to apply their health knowledge to improve their own health, demonstrate their ability to identify valid and accurate health information, and demonstrate a variety of health practices that promote safe and healthy communities.



PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 7th Grade Schedule

**All 7th graders will receive English 7, Math 7, Life Science 7, US History II, PE 7, and RTI.** English 7, math 7, and RTI occur every day, all year long. Life Science 7 and US History II occur every day for a semester.

**7th grade students have the option of choosing 2 electives that best fit their interests.** These electives will occur every other day for a semester. Physical Education/Health 7 occurs every other day, all year long. Please note: Chorus 7 may be taken every other day for a semester or all year long. Band 7 will occur every other day, all year long. Students choosing Band 7 or Chorus 7 (year-long) will only receive 1 elective.

- Agriculture 7
- Art 7
- Band 7 (all year)
- Challenge/GT 7 (for identified students)
- Chorus 7 (1 semester or all year)
- Computer Science Discoveries I
- Drama
- Family & Consumer Sciences 7
- Introduction to Spanish & World Cultures 7



# 7th Grade Courses

## English 7

Seventh grade students will continue to develop oral communication skills and will become more knowledgeable of the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in oral communication. Students will continue to read a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry while becoming more independent and analytical. They will also continue to refine written composition skills, with special attention to word choice, organization, style, and grammar. Written explanations will utilize informational writing skills, and persuasive writing will be introduced. Seventh graders will continue vocabulary development through a study of figurative language and continuing study of roots and affixes. Knowledge of the impact of media on public opinion will be introduced. Finally, students in seventh grade will increase proficiency in the use of print and electronic information resources and will learn ways to give credit to reference sources.

## English 7 Honors (Please refer to page 8 for the Honors criteria)

In addition to the curriculum described for English 7, the 7th grade Honors English course includes additional enrichment projects and activities to enhance learning. The curriculum can include reading material that is above grade level,

## Life Science 7

Seventh grade student focus on life sciences. In addition to learning about the cellular structure of organisms and their life processes, they learn how organisms are classified and how they change and relate to each other. In their experiments, they organize and analyze data, manipulate variables and identify sources of error.



# 7th Grade Courses

## Math 7

The 7th grade Mathematics curriculum is comprised of five instructional strands: numeracy, geometry, measurement, patterns and algebra, and probability and statistics. Students explore proportional reasoning, investigate and use real numbers and operations, apply attributes and properties of geometric figures, and apply formulas for linear measurement, area, and volume. In addition, considerable time is spent in developing, solving, and applying linear equations and inequalities and organizing and analyzing data to make inferences and predictions.

## Math 7 Honors (Please refer to page 8 for the Honors criteria)

The 7th grade Mathematics curriculum is comprised of five instructional strands: numeracy, geometry, measurement, patterns and algebra, and probability and statistics. Students explore proportional reasoning, investigate and use real numbers and operations, apply attributes and properties of geometric figures, and apply formulas for linear measurement, area, and volume. In addition, considerable time is spent in developing, solving, and applying linear equations and inequalities and organizing and analyzing data to make inferences and predictions. In addition projects for each SOL is assigned to extend their learning.

## US History II

This course focuses on our nation's history from 1865 until the present and emphasizes the importance of the individual in history as well as the impact of groups on society. Students are asked to analyze key events and movements that have shaped modern America and America's place in the world. Critical thinking and critical writing are used to develop the skills needed for active citizenship as students come to understand how the past influences the present.



# 7th Grade Electives

## Agriculture 7

Students explore science as it relates to agriculture and develop an understanding of human relations, communication, the importance of agriculture to the economy, and key scientific terms related to the field of agriculture.

## Art 7

Art 7 continues to emphasize exploration, analysis, and investigation of the creative process. Students will develop technical skills that allow them to communicate ideas visually. Students will develop inquiry skills and vocabulary as they explore the meaning of works of art, using analysis of subject matter, themes and symbols.

## Band 7 (all year)

The 7<sup>th</sup> Instrumental program is based on the Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The standards are used as guidelines for student development and achievement in the area of instrumental music. Development of musicianship skills continues at the intermediate level through the use of articulation, performance of scales and key signatures, performance of music, instruction in rhythms, tonality, and beginning ear training, The description of musical concepts common to music. In addition to developing the fundamental music skills as determined by the Virginia Standards of Learning, the Luray and Page Middle School music programs will also promote the holistic development of each student by focusing on citizenship, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, creativity, and self confidence. Band performances will be required in the music curriculum. Performance opportunities will be determined by the director.

## Chorus 7 (1 semester or all year)

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral Music program is based on the Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The standards are used as guidelines for student development and achievement in the area of choral development. **Areas of instruction include:** Continuing development of vocal techniques, Ensemble participation, Performance, Creativity, Investigation of level of increased ability, Understanding and application of traditional music notation, Beginning of sight and ear training. In addition to developing the fundamental music skills as determined by the Virginia Standards of Learning, the Luray and Page Middle School music programs will also promote the holistic development of each student by focusing on citizenship, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, creativity, and self confidence. Performances in the choir ensembles will be required in the music curriculum. Performance opportunities will be determined by the director.

## Drama

The Theatre Arts Standards of Learning are the basis for instruction in this course, which explores various components of the theater. Students engage in highly energized and hands-on experiences that allow them to express their creativity while learning important language and presentation skills. According to the Virginia Department of Education, these skills include the "ability to think critically, solve problems creatively, make informed judgments, work cooperatively within groups, appreciate different cultures, imagine, and create."



PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 7th Grade Electives

## Computer Science Discoveries I

This course is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage in computer science as a means of creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Part I of this course includes problem solving, web development, animation and games. Part II of this course can be taken in 8th grade. Computer Science courses are intended to support the following seven practices for students: fostering an inclusive computing culture, collaborating around computing, recognizing and defining computational problems, developing and using abstractions, creating computational artifacts, testing and refining computational artifacts and communication about computing.

## Family & Consumer Sciences 7

This class is one of the middle school courses that provides a foundation for managing individual, family, work and community roles and responsibilities. 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 and wellness practices. Students also apply consumer and family resources, develop textile, fashion, apparel concepts and explore careers related to Family and Consumer Sciences. Time is also provided for developing early childhood education concepts and leadership skills.

## Introduction to Spanish & World Cultures 7

This course is designed to allow students to have exposure to the Spanish language before Spanish I. Students will learn basic greetings, numbers, colors, vocabulary, and introductory verbs in present tense. Traditions and customs of Spain and Mexico are also studied.

## Challenge/GT 7 (for identified students)

Challenge focuses on the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills in all curriculum areas for students who have been identified for services in the Gifted and Talented Program. Units are designed to stretch students in the development of their intellectual gifts and personal talents. Students will be expected to work effectively with others, to write to clarify their thinking and to defend their positions, and to research independently as they approach complex problems embedded in topics from all core areas.

## Physical Education/Health 7

Physical Education content includes fitness and conditioning, fitness planning and lifetime sport activities. Students learn to evaluate their own level of fitness and establish individual goals for improvement. Activities help students develop motor skills, increase fitness levels, and enhance social skills.

In 7th grade, as in earlier years, the Health curriculum focuses on the development of positive health habits in conjunction with an active lifestyle. Students are given opportunities to demonstrate their ability to identify valid and accurate health information, products and services, and to demonstrate those practices and behaviors that promote safe and healthy communities



# 8th Grade Schedule

**All 8th graders will receive English 8, Math 8/Algebra I, Physical Science 8, Civics & Economics, PE 8, and RTI.** English 8, Math 8/Algebra I, and RTI will occur every day, all year long. Civics 8 and Physical Science 8 will occur every day for a semester.

**8th grade students have the option of choosing 2 electives that best fit their interests.** Physical Education/Health 8 will occur every other day, all year long. Most other electives will occur every other day for a semester.

**Please note:** Chorus 8 may be taken every other day for a semester or all year long. Spanish I, Yearbook 8, and Band 8 will occur every other day, all year long. Students choosing Spanish I, Yearbook 8, Band 8, or Chorus 8 (year-long) will only receive 1 elective.

- Agriculture 8
- Art 8
- Band 8 (all year)
- Challenge/GT8 (1 semester)
- Chorus 8 (1 semester or all year)
- Computer Science Discoveries II
- Drama
- Family & Consumer Sciences 8
- Spanish I (all year)
- Yearbook (all year)



# 8th Grade Courses

## English 8

The English/language arts curriculum will focus on the further development of critical reading and persuasive expression in speaking and writing. Eighth grade students will learn and apply interviewing techniques and will learn to interpret the persuasive strategies using in print and mass media. Student will demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. Students will plan, draft, revise, and edit writing, with emphasis on exposition and persuasion. Students are expected to respond critically to literature and to demonstrate critical thinking through their writing in all subject areas. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through a study of a wide variety of selections and will be asked to describe themes or inferred main ideas, interpret cause/effect relationships, and draw conclusions from a variety of literary and informational selections.

## English 8 Honors (Please refer to page 8 for the Honors criteria)

In addition to the curriculum described for English 8, the 8th grade Honors English course is designed for students who are highly motivated and interested in exploring advanced literary and language concepts. The course will focus on the analysis of a variety of texts, including novels, plays, poetry, and nonfiction. Students will also learn how to write clear, well-supported essays, and will be encouraged to think critically and creatively. This is a challenging course that is intended for students wish to apply themselves in English.

## Math 8

The 8th grade Mathematics curriculum uses problem solving, mathematical communication, mathematical reasoning, connections, and representations to integrate understanding across all the mathematical instructional strands of numeracy, geometry, measurement, patterns and algebra, and probability and statistics. At this level students begin to focus more on abstract thinking skills as they develop, investigate, solve, and apply multi-step equations. Students will be expected to collect and graph data using a variety of representations, and analyze the data to make inferences and predictions. Students will use probability to predict and calculate outcomes for data and identify, classify, and apply transformations to geometric figures.



# 8th Grade Courses

## **Algebra I (High School Credit)** (Please refer to page 8 for the Honors criteria)

Students in this course will develop a mastery of the structure of the number system, solve linear equations, quadratic equations and inequalities, and solve operations with polynomials, functions, relations, and graphs. Prerequisite skills from the 8th grade curriculum will be incorporated into the Algebra course. Students who pass this course will earn one mathematics credit towards graduation. Students enrolled in this course will be required to take the Algebra I SOL test. [Passing the SOL test and the course earns a verified high school credit.](#)

## **Civics & Economics**

Eighth grade students explore the fundamentals of American constitutional government and our economic system. Students continue to develop critical/analytical thinking and writing skills as they prepare to become active and responsible citizens. Students use primary and secondary source documents and simulations to answer important questions about the responsibilities and rights of citizenship. They also seek to understand the impact of the increasingly global and interdependent economy on U.S. interests and their own future.

## **Physical Science 8**

In 8th grade Science, students will develop an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy while exploring how technology applies to physical science principles. Eighth graders will study the periodic table; physical and chemical changes; nuclear reactions; temperature and heat; sound; light; electricity and magnetism; and work, force and motion.



# 8th Grade Electives

## Agriculture 8

Through classroom instruction and hands-on laboratory activities, students will explore the fields of agriculture, food, and natural resources, to include: global agriculture; new and emerging technologies; agriculture mechanics; and careers in agribusiness; animal systems; environmental services; food products and processing; natural resources systems; plant systems; and power, structural, and technical systems.

## Art 8

Students will acquire art skills that enable them to make conscious choices of media and techniques for expressive purposes. Students will produce works of arts that re developed from preliminary ideas and sketches. They will compare and contrast art from different world cultures and investigate how context can influence meaning. Students will develop their own criteria for making art judgments and develop a personal aesthetic.

## Band 8 (all year)

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrumental program is based on the Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The standards are used as guidelines for student development and achievement in the area of instrumental music. Development of musicianship skills continues with the band program at eighth grade. Consideration for Intermediate Level band includes: The use of articulation, Performance of scales and key signatures, Performance of music, Instruction in rhythms, tonality, and beginning ear training, The description of musical concepts common to music. In addition to developing the fundamental music skills as determined by the Virginia Standards of Learning, the middle school music programs will also promote the holistic development of each student by focusing on citizenship, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, creativity, and self confidence. Band performances will be required in the music curriculum. Performance opportunities will be determined by the director.

## Challenge/GT 8 (for identified students)

Challenge focuses on the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills in all curriculum areas for students who have been identified for services in the Gifted and Talented Program. Units are designed to stretch students in the development of their intellectual gifts and personal talents. Students will be expected to work effectively with others, to write to clarify their thinking and to defend their positions, and to research independently as they approach complex problems embedded in topics from all core areas.

## Chorus 8 (1 semester or all year)

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral Music program is based on the Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The standards are used as guidelines for student development and achievement in the area of choral development. Areas of instruction include: Continuing development of vocal techniques, Ensemble participation, Performance, Creativity, Investigation of level of increased ability, Understanding and application of traditional music notation, Beginning of sight and ear training. In addition to developing the fundamental music skills as determined by the Virginia Standards of Learning, the Luray and Page County Middle School music programs will also promote the holistic development of each student by focusing on citizenship, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, creativity, and self confidence. Performances in the choir ensembles will be required in the music curriculum. Performance opportunities will be determined by the director.

## Computer Science Discoveries II

This course expands on the following seven practices for students: fostering an inclusive computing culture, collaborating around computing, recognizing and defining computational problems, developing and using abstractions, creating computational artifacts, testing and refining computational artifacts and communication about computing.

# 8th Grade Electives

## Drama

The Theatre Arts Standards of Learning are the basis for instruction in this course, which explores various components of the theater. Students engage in highly energized and hands-on experiences that allow them to express their creativity while learning important language and presentation skills. According to the Virginia Department of Education, these skills include the “ability to think critically, solve problems creatively, make informed judgments, work cooperatively within groups, appreciate different cultures, imagine, and create.”

## Family & Consumer Sciences 8 (8244)

This course allows students to explore successful strategies for living independently by actively participating in practical problem solving focusing on: Relating to others (relationships), Applying financial literacy, Managing resources in the areas of apparel, nutrition and wellness and housing, Using leadership skills to reach individual goals, Planning for careers, Making consumer choices in a global environment.

## Physical Education/Health 8

Physical Education is an integral part of the education process. Physical Education classes help students increase fitness and wellness levels, enhance social skills, and prepare for a physically active lifestyle. The content includes fitness and conditioning, fitness planning and lifetime sport activities. Students learn to evaluate their own level of fitness and establish individual goals for improvement.

The Health curriculum continues to focus on the development of positive health habits in conjunction with an active lifestyle. As outlined in the Virginia Standards of Learning, students are given opportunities to demonstrate their ability to identify valid and accurate health information, products and services, and to demonstrate those practices and behaviors that promote safe and healthy communities.

## Spanish I (High School Credit)

Students who have an interest in accelerating their high school course of study may elect to take Spanish I. It is highly recommended students have earned at least a B in English 6 and English 7 as well as have demonstrated proficiency on the English 6 and English 7 SOL tests. Spanish I introduces students to the Spanish language through a variety of reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. Students learn how to ask and respond to basic conversational questions in the target language, write and present short dialogues and compositions, and read short selections in the target language. In addition to grammar and vocabulary, the culture of Spanish-speaking countries will also be studied. **This is a high school level course and successful completion will earn a credit towards high school graduation.**

## Yearbook 8 (all year)

Students should be provided with an educational experience that maximizes their intellectual growth and promotes divergent thinking in a variety of ways. This unit has been designed to build skills in high ability students in the areas of writing, editing, comprehension, graphic design, photography, design and layout. The intent of this unit is to have students become more aware of the unique design and layout techniques that are used in creating yearbooks as they produce the school yearbook.



PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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**Visit the division webpage for  
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**[www.pagecounty.k12.va.us](http://www.pagecounty.k12.va.us)**

**2024-2025**