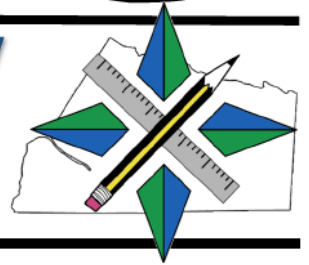


# MOCPS

MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES



Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the past year we have experienced significant disruption to the traditional education process. The COVID pandemic has forced us to engage a variety of technologies that give schools the ability to teach students virtually. Initially this gives parents the option to have their children learning at home in the healthiest environment. Healthy, because it's the most socially distanced from other students and adults outside their family. However, virtual learning creates many other issues for students, parents, and the teachers. We are all working together to provide the best education options for all MCPS students.

One very important component of education that has not changed is the development of the appropriate academic, technical, and soft skills required to prepare them for success with a chosen career. Each student must understand what jobs and careers are available, make a significant selection of a career pathway, and demonstrate appropriate success with academics and practical skills in preparing for that career. This should include appropriate understanding of work habits and demonstration of good discipline.

This booklet is designed to provide you and your child with information regarding the career preparation opportunities available at Mecklenburg County Public Schools. We are excited to provide options that represent all 17 career clusters of work within six career centers. A long term career plan is vital for success with career and college and is now required to earn a high school diploma. Please work with your child in developing a career plan that will prepare him/her for their dream of success within the workforce, armed forces, or continuing education toward industry certificate or university diploma (or both!). School counselors are available to assist you in making selections appropriate for your child's future. Feel free to make appointments with the school's counselor as needed for assistance.

Mecklenburg County Public Schools is focused on creating strategic partnerships with the Community College, institutions of higher education, and many local businesses and industries to create wonderful opportunities for your child. I encourage you to explore all options for your child. We are appreciative of the time that we have with your child, and soon they will be embarking on greater adventures. Our goal is that their time with us provides the skills and tools necessary for taking the next step.

Sincerely,



DISCLOSURE: The Mecklenburg County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, religion, marital or veteran's status, genetic information, disability, or any classification protected by applicable law in its programs, activities, or employment. The Director of Federal and Special Programs acts as the Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer as outlined in School Board Policy for the following areas: Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination, Section 504, Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation, and Third Party Complaints Against Employees. The Assistant Superintendent serves as the Alternate Compliance Officer. Both the Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officers may be contacted at the Mecklenburg County Public Schools' Central Office at 175 Mayfield Drive, Boydton, VA 23917, or by calling 434-738-6111.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

Introduction	5
Phone Numbers	5
Mission Statement	5
Vision Statement	5
Special Note	5
Middle School Registration Guidelines	5
Timeline for Schedule Changes	6
Revised School Accreditation and Graduation Requirements	6
Academic and Career Plan	6
Career Investigation Course	7
Career Exploration Platforms	7
Gifted Education	7
Middle School Course Offerings	8
Middle School Language Arts Course Descriptions	9
Middle School Math Course Descriptions	9
Middle School Science Course Descriptions	10
Middle School History/Social Science Course Descriptions	11
Middle School Electives Course Descriptions	12

## Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

This Program of Studies booklet has been prepared to provide you with pertinent information regarding scheduling guidelines and available course options. The regulations and course descriptions should assist you in preparing a schedule for the upcoming school year and in planning a personalized plan of studies for the future.

Questions should be directed to the respective school counseling departments at the middle schools. The telephone numbers are:

PHONE NUMBERS	
<b>BLUESTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> 434-372-3266	<b>PARK VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> 434-447-3761
<b>ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION</b> 434-372-5177 EXT/22026	

## MISSION STATEMENT

---

The mission of the Mecklenburg Public School Division, in partnership with family and community, is to provide all students with a quality education within a safe environment supporting the development of intellectual growth, effective communication, wellness, and life-long learning in a rapidly changing society.

## VISION STATEMENT

---

Mecklenburg County Public Schools provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment which fosters career literacy, academic enhancement, social-emotional growth and community engagement that prepares students who contribute to the global society.

## SPECIAL NOTE

---

The “Standards of Accreditation for Virginia Schools” allows a one-time provision for any high school credit bearing-course taken in middle school. Parents may request that grades be omitted from the student’s transcript and the student will not earn high school credit for the course(s). A form will be provided for parents who wish to exercise this option. If a parent wishes to have the grade omitted, the form must be submitted to the high school principal by the end of June before the student enters the ninth grade.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

---

1. Students will pre-register for classes in Jan./Feb. for the upcoming school term.
2. Mecklenburg County Public Schools have an open enrollment policy for all courses. Students are free to select from any of the available courses, provided they meet the grade level requirements and have successfully completed the stated prerequisite courses.
3. Parental approval and signature must accompany course requests and changes unless changes are due to clerical error.
4. Requests to add or drop courses after the opening of school will be handled by a school counselor. In making the decision on the schedule change request, the school counselor will consider extenuating factors such as teacher/ administrative recommendation, course difficulty, space availability, medical justification, and present student performance in the applicable course.

## TIMELINE FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES

<b>REGISTRATION</b>	Jan./Feb.
<b>REQUEST TO DROP OR ADD COURSE WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY</b>	No later than the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of school for year long classes and the 5 <sup>th</sup> day of school for semester classes.

### **REVISED SCHOOL ACCREDITATION & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

---

On November 16, 2017, the Virginia Board of Education approved revisions to the requirements students must meet to earn a high school diploma. For students, the revised regulations reduce the number of Standards of Learning tests they need to pass to earn a diploma. The new standards also implement the “Profile of a Virginia Graduate,” a set of expectations that includes increased emphasis on developing critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship skills, in addition to academic achievement in English, mathematics, science and history.

The new diploma requirements took effect with students entering the ninth grade in the Fall 2018 (Class of 2022). Course requirements for both the Advanced Studies Diploma and the Standard Diploma remained the same but the number of required verified credits was reduced to five (one each in English reading, English writing, mathematics, science and history/social science). In addition, schools are required to provide opportunities for students to learn about career options aligned with their interests in their own communities and elsewhere.

### **ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLAN - REVISED 2011**

---

Beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, all schools began the development of a Personal Academic and Career Plan for each 7th grade student. The Academic and Career Plan is designed to be a working document that maximizes student achievement by setting and accomplishing goals in middle and high school that lead to postsecondary success. The Plan should be student-driven and maintained by school officials working cooperatively to assist the student in reaching his or her goals in the most logical academic and career path. The Academic and Career Plan should start with the end in mind.

Plans of study provide successful student transitions between secondary and postsecondary education. The plan includes academic and career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses. The plan leads to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or bachelor’s degree. It includes the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment courses or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits.

The student, student’s parent or guardian, and school official(s) will create a plan agreed upon and signed by all parties to ensure that everyone is focused on working toward the same goals and analyze and adjust the plan in response to new information to meet the needs of the student.

The plan shall include, but is not limited to, the student's program of studies for high school graduation and postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests. The plan shall be included in the student's record and be reviewed and updated, if necessary, before the student enters the ninth and eleventh grades.

Students who transfer from a home school, private school or an out of state public school into the eighth grade shall have a plan developed as soon as possible following enrollment.

## **CAREER INVESTIGATION PROGRAM**

---

Superintendent's Memo #187-17, dated June 23, 2017, states that, "To support development of the Academic Career Plan, students shall complete a Career Investigations course selected from the Career and Technical Education state-approved list to support development of the ACP, or a school division-provided alternative means of delivering the Career Investigations course, provided that the alternative is equivalent in content and academic rigor."

In this program, students will identify personal preferences, skills, and interests that influence career choices and success. A number of soft skills will be highlighted, such as punctuality, courtesy, proper dress, etc. Students will have an understanding on how each of these topics relate to the education and training needed for achieving career goals and how each of these affect overall quality of life.

## **CAREER EXPLORATION PLATFORMS**

---

The Major Clarity platform will be used by students enrolled in all secondary schools. The internet based program will be used by students, parents, and counselors to assist students with the selection of a MCPS Career Pathway, career exploration and ACP completion.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION**

---

Eligible students in Grades 6-8 who are identified to receive gifted education services participate in after-school enrichment activities and specialized seminars. In addition, appropriately differentiated instruction can be delivered through the regular education classroom.

### **REFERRALS:**

Parents may refer their child at any time by contacting the Gifted Coordinator (738-6111) or your child's school. In addition, referrals may be made by a classroom teacher or other professional staff member as well. Once a referral is made it will be processed and a decision made within 60 days.

### **ELIGIBILITY PROCESS:**

Eligibility for the Gifted Education Program is determined by the division's Identification/Placement Committee. Eligibility data is collected throughout the school year. Necessary testing of candidates may occur throughout the school year. Parents will be notified of the determination for services at the completion of the screening/ identification process.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

SIXTH GRADE	
REQUIRED COURSES	
LANGUAGE ARTS 6	MATH 6 OR MATH 6 ADVANCED+
SCIENCE 6	UNITED STATES HISTORY I TO 1865
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6	CAREER INVESTIGATIONS I
KEYBOARDING	
ELECTIVES	
BEGINNING BAND	ART 6
INTRODUCTION TO AGRISCIENCE	FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPLORE
INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY	DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS
MUSIC 6	Reading
Skills Enhancement	

SEVENTH GRADE	
REQUIRED COURSES	
UNITED STATES HISTORY II: 1865-PRESENT	LANGUAGE ARTS 7
MATH 7 OR MATH 7/8 ADVANCED+	LIFE SCIENCE 7
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7	
ELECTIVES	
COMPUTER SOLUTIONS	ART 7
INTERMEDIATE BAND	SPANISH EXPLORATORY
INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS	AGRISCIENCE EXPLORATIONS
INTRODUCTION TO IT FUNDAMENTALS	CAREER INVESTIGATIONS II
MUSIC 7	Skills Enhancement
Reading	

EIGHTH GRADE	
REQUIRED COURSES	
CIVICS AND ECONOMICS	LANGUAGE ARTS 8
MATH 8 OR ALGEBRA 1*	PHYSICAL SCIENCE
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8	
ELECTIVES	
FOUNDATIONS OF AGRICULTURE	ADVANCED BAND
SPANISH I/ROSETTA STONE	ART 8
MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS	TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS
IT FUNDAMENTALS	CAREER INVESTIGATIONS III
Reading	Skills Enhancement

\*MATH 8 - for those who scored below 450 on the Math 7 SOL -- Algebra I (for those who scored 450 or higher on the Math 7 SOL).

+Teacher recommendations and SOL scores will be considered when placed in this course.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### LANGUAGE ARTS 6

GRADE 6

This course emphasizes an integrated approach to the development of reading comprehension and writing skills. Students will strengthen and improve spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral communication skills while exploring the rules of grammar through various forms of writing. The application of critical reading and reasoning skills is emphasized and shall serve as a foundation for the written compositions created by the students. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate.

***Note: The Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered near the end of sixth grade.***

### LANGUAGE ARTS 7

GRADE 7

This course is designed to strengthen word study and increase vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral communication skills. Students will explore the rules of grammar while refining their written composition techniques. Students will increase their proficiency in the use of print and electronic information resources. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate. ***Note: The Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered near the end of seventh grade.***

### LANGUAGE ARTS 8

GRADE 8

Students will continue to refine skills in oral communication, written expression, critical thinking and reading comprehension. Writing activities are designed to explore more deeply the rules of grammar while strengthening the application of language skills through various forms of writing. An emphasis on reading will allow for the development of an appreciation for literature through the study of classics and contemporary selections. Students will communicate through electronic networks to gain a basic understanding of processing and transmitting electronic and digital information. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate. ***Note: The Reading and Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered near the end of eighth grade.***

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### MATH 6

GRADE 6

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework for Math 6 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 6 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 6.

***Note: The Math 6 Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.***

### MATH 7

GRADE 7

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework for Math 7 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 7 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 7.

***Note: The Math 7 Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.***

**MATH 8 (PRE-ALGEBRA)****GRADE 8**

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework for Math 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 8 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 8.

**Note: The Math 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.**

**ALGEBRA I****GRADE 8**

**Prerequisite(s): 450 or higher on the Math 7 SOL Test**

**Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This course focuses on all the topics in the Curriculum Framework for Algebra I Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Algebra I SOL objectives outlined in the division's Pacing Guide for Algebra I.

**Note: End of course Algebra I SOL test will be administered to students completing this course.**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****SCIENCE 6****GRADE 6**

This course presents substantial, general science content in a flexible format, building on skills and concepts from grades K-5. Students gain a solid, well-balanced foundation of science concepts based on several major strands: Force, Motion, and Energy, Matter, Life Processes, Living Systems, Interrelationships in Earth/Space Systems, Earth Resources, and Scientific Investigations, Reasoning, and Logic. Students are expected to use the scientific method and hands-on-discovery to conduct group and/or individual projects/experiments.

**LIFE SCIENCE 7****GRADE 7**

Students in this course will explore the world of plants and animals using the scientific method in experimentation and hands-on-discovery. There is an emphasis on a more complex understanding of changes, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the world. Subjects covered will include the characteristics of living things, life origins, the classification and characteristics of plants and animals, the human body, heredity, adaptation, and ecology.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8****GRADE 8**

Physical Science 8 continues to build on skills of systematic investigation. Major areas covered include the organization and use of the periodic table, physical and chemical changes; nuclear reaction, temperature and heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, and work, force, and motion. Students will plan and conduct research involving both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from written and electronic resources.

**Note: Students will be administered the Science 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) Test on Science 6, Life Science 7, and Physical Science objectives near the end of this course.**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1865

GRADE 6

This course relates to the history of the United States from the Pre-Columbian times until 1865. The content of the course includes concepts in civics, economics, and geography. Students study United States History in a chronological sequence; learn about change and continuity in our history, and study documents and speeches that lay the foundation of American ideals and institutions. This course continues in grade 7. **Note: Students will complete Performance Based Assessments throughout the course in lieu of the SOL test.**

### UNITED STATES HISTORY: 1865 TO PRESENT

GRADE 7

This course continues the study of the history of the United States from 1865 to the present day, thus completing a two-year study of American history. Students continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography in the context of United States History. **Note: Students will complete Performance Based Assessments throughout the course in lieu of the SOL test.**

### CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

GRADE 8

This course covers the role of the citizen in the American political and economic systems. The focus is on gaining essential knowledge of the U.S. and Virginia Constitution and the structure and functions of government institutions at the national, state, and local levels. **Note: Students will be administered Civics & Economics Standards of Learning (SOL) Test at the end of this course.**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### GRADE 6 ELECTIVES

#### ART 6

GRADE 6

This exploratory course incorporates creative problem solving and the use of various art materials. Students will be introduced to the Elements of Art, The Principles of Design, basic drawing techniques, and other art forms.

#### KEYBOARDING

GRADE 6

This course is designed to introduce middle school students to the basics of computers, keyboarding skills, and potential careers. Students will develop and enhance touch skills for entering information using a keyboard to compose and produce personal, educational, and professional documents. **This course is required for all sixth grade students.**

#### INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY

GRADE 6

Students study technological resources through problem-solving processes and various hands-on activities. They relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPLORE****GRADE 6**

This course is designed to introduce students to as many cultures as possible. Students will be taught the importance of respect and tolerance for all cultures. Students will become aware of important documents necessary to travel abroad, such as passports. In addition, students will study the process of immigration and naturalization on becoming a citizen of a foreign country.

**HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6****GRADE 6**

Topics in the six-grade health program include body systems, physical, emotional and social growth, health care, consumer choices, nutrition, physical fitness, disease prevention, drugs, bullying prevention, safety, and environmental issues. Students participate in activities that promote fitness and cardiorespiratory endurance. Students learn and practice skills in basketball, volleyball, and many other activities. **This course is required for all sixth grade students.**

**BEGINNING BAND****GRADE 6**

This course emphasizes the fundamentals of music as well as instruction in playing an instrument. The student will begin learning the basic terms of music and the techniques associated with playing an instrument. By the end of the year, the student will be able to play their instrument at a beginner level and have an understanding of the fundamentals of music, playing technique, and music terminology. Concert performances are required.

**INTRODUCTION TO AGRISCIENCE****GRADE 6**

Through project-based learning, technical skill development, and academic enrichment activities, students in Introduction to Agriscience will explore the importance of plant and animal agriculture, scientific principles, agricultural mechanics, natural resources management, career opportunities related to agriculture, agriscience, and agribusiness, and the benefits of FFA membership.

**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS****GRADE 6**

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.

**CAREER INVESTIGATIONS I****GRADE 6**

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 begin developing an Academic and Career Plan (ACP) 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. **This course is required for all sixth grade students.**

**MUSIC 6****GRADE 6**

This exploratory course is to enable students to obtain musical knowledge and skills by participating in music through singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, and composing/improvising. Students explore music theory by reading and writing music notation and become familiar with important musical styles and representative works of music from different periods of music history.

**GRADE 7 ELECTIVES****ART 7****GRADE 7**

This exploratory course allows students to experiment with various wet and dry media such as pencils, charcoal, and ink while learning basic drawing techniques. A basic art vocabulary, as well as major artists and their works, will be studied.

**COMPUTER SOLUTIONS****GRADE 7**

Students are introduced to computing devices and software as problem-solving tools. Emphasis is placed on using basic touch keyboarding skills to complete a variety of projects incorporating word processing, database, presentation, and spreadsheet software. Basic Internet safety, coding, and device maintenance are components of this course.

**INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS****GRADE 7**

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.

**SPANISH EXPLORATORY****GRADE 7**

This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. In addition, the course is designed to study these past civilizations and how they impacted modern civilization.

**HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7****GRADE 7**

This course includes the study of health, growth and development, nutrition, substance abuse, bullying prevention, and safety. Students participate in activities that promote fitness and cardiorespiratory endurance. **This course is required for all seventh grade students.**

**INTERMEDIATE BAND****GRADE 7**

This course will expand on what the student learned in Beginning Band. The student will continue to learn music terminology, expand their understanding of the fundamentals of music, and work on playing their instruments at the intermediate level. Concert and parade performances are required.

**MUSIC 7****GRADE 7**

This exploratory course is to enable students to enhance musical knowledge and skills. Students participate in increasingly complex music through singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, and composing/improvising music.

**AGRISCIENCE EXPLORATIONS**

**GRADE 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.

**INTRODUCTION TO IT FUNDAMENTALS**

**GRADE 7**

Students will explore an introduction to computer science through computer programming. Learning basic skills and terminology as well as hands-on study through code.org. This introductory course will be a stronger concentration on the basics of technology fundamentals and digital citizenship.

**CAREER INVESTIGATIONS II**

**GRADE 7**

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 begin developing an Academic and Career Plan (ACP) 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. It will also provide a more in depth study of MCPS pathways and career exploration especially in STEM related fields. **This course is required for any student who did not complete the sixth grade course.**

**GRADE 8 ELECTIVES**

**ART 8**

**GRADE 8**

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of art through drawing, design, craft projects, sculpture, and painting. Art history is studied throughout the year. This class is designed to help students realize the importance of visual arts and art history.

**ADVANCED BAND**

**GRADE 8**

This course will focus on expanding students' musical knowledge and getting them to the next level as a musician. Students must have knowledge of music terminology, the fundamentals of music, and demonstrate correct playing technique. Performances may include ball games, concerts, parades, and other school events. Band members must attend all performances.

**FOUNDATIONS OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**GRADE 8**

**Prerequisite(s): AgriScience Explorations**

**Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This course develops a foundation in each of the career pathways in agriculture, food, and natural resources (AFNR), including the global scope of agriculture, concepts in plant, animal, and food science, natural resources and environmental systems, agricultural skills and safety in power, structural, and technical systems, and agribusiness.

---

**MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS****GRADE 8**

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.

---

**SPANISH I / ROSETTA STONE****GRADE 8**

**Prerequisite(s): Spanish Exploratory and A or B in Language Arts 7**      **Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of the Spanish language. Emphasis will be placed on the four skills needed for communicating in a foreign language: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

---

**TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS****GRADE 8**

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.

---

**HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8****GRADE 8**

This course includes the study of body systems, hygiene, nutrition, human growth and development, substance abuse, bullying prevention, and safety. Students also participate in activities that promote fitness, and cardiorespiratory endurance such as basketball, volleyball, and many other activities. **Students opting not to enroll in HPE 8 must provide documentation of organized physical activities taking place outside of standard school hours.**

---

**IT FUNDAMENTALS****GRADE 8****Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

Information Technology Fundamentals introduces the essential technical and professional skills required for students to pursue programs leading to professional careers and information technology certifications. The course introduces skills related to digital technology, digital applications, maintenance/upgrading/troubleshooting, and networking fundamentals. Students also explore ethical issues related to computers and Internet technology and examine web page and game design.

---

**CAREER INVESTIGATIONS III****GRADE 8**

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 continue to build their 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. This course is required for any student who did not complete the sixth or seventh grade course.

It will also provide a more in depth study of MCPS pathways and career exploration especially in STEM related fields.

## **GRADES 6 - 8 ELECTIVES**

### **READING**

**GRADES 6-8**

This course is designed to provide opportunities for students to build knowledge and understanding through the reading and in-depth study of popular, high-interest, thematic novels. Students learn new strategies to build vocabulary and increase comprehension. **Students will be placed in this course based on teacher recommendation and SOL scores.**

### **SKILLS ENHANCEMENT**

**GRADES 6- 8**

This course is designed to provide additional support for students in the areas of reading decoding and comprehension and math computations and problem-solving. **Students will be placed in this course based on teacher recommendation and SOL scores.**