



**Middle School Program of Studies  
2023-2024**

**Mecklenburg County Middle School**

**24999 Hwy 58  
Baskerville, VA 23915  
(434) 447-1292**

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Mecklenburg County Middle School and Mecklenburg County High School offers our students a learning environment that is very unique in Virginia. We call this environment the Phoenix Career Literacy Academies program, and the academic opportunities for our students are detailed within this Program of Studies. Each child will have a significant opportunity to explore the multitude of career pathways throughout their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years of middle school. Our goal is that the career exploration will spark a vision for their future career goals and provide the intrinsic understanding of why success with their academic studies is so important. They are actually beginning to compete for the jobs in their future!

Each student graduating from Mecklenburg County Middle School to Mecklenburg County High School will make an important decision to join one of six Career Centers. The Center options are:

- Environmental Science Academy
- Law and Leadership Academy
- International Business and Culture Academy
- Health and Human Services Academy
- S.T.E.M. Academy
- Advanced Technology Academy

Each center was developed specifically to prepare our students for long term, high-paying jobs locally as well as throughout Virginia and the nation. You will find the specific academic program options for each center within this program of studies.

Participating in a career center has many advantages for our students:

- It places the student in a smaller learning community. Each one will provide unique career and social experiences for the participating student to be motivated and prepared for future careers.
- It connects each student with business leaders from local companies who employ persons who have earned the appropriate industry credential. These businesspersons can serve as mentors, and will share important information about development of a strong personal resume and provide job interview tips.
- Most career programs prepare students to earn industry credentials that lead directly to job opportunities. These are the same credentials that students study for a

community college or technical center. In fact, many of the Career and Technical Education courses are Dual Enrollment classes with Southside Virginia Community College.

- Each student will have an opportunity to participate in a workforce program for on the job experience. All of the career centers partner with local businesses to provide options for job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, and even entry level jobs.
- Students selecting careers that require a Bachelors, Masters, or Doctoral degree will have the option to participate in honors, Dual Enrollment and or Advanced Placement while in high school. This will give students a strong academic foundation for success at the university level.

Mecklenburg County Public Schools developed the architectural plans for the new school specifically to engage our students and business community in this career-focused academic program. We ask each parent to spend quality time with your student to take advantage of the program that will best prepare your child for a bright future in a career that will be fulfilling. Our school counselors, teachers, and other staff are here to assist in every way.

It's a new day for students in Mecklenburg County! Make the most of these exciting opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul C. Nichols". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "N".

Paul C. Nichols, Superintendent

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DISCLOSURE: The Mecklenburg County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, sexual orientation, 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 Compliance Officer as outlined in School Board Policy for the following areas: Title IX, 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 Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer may be contacted at the Mecklenburg County Public Schools’ Central Office at 175 Mayfield Drive, Boydton, VA 23917, or by calling 434-738-6111.

## Introduction

This Program of Studies 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 school counseling department at the middle school.

### **Mrs. Sherry Gregory: School Counseling Secretary**

### **Mrs. Sally Adams: Lead School Counselor**

- Students with last names A-F

### **Mrs. Martha Bowlin: School Counselor**

- Students with last names G-N

### **Ms. Raven Edmonds: School Counselor**

- Students with last names O-Z

## 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 21st century learning environment which fosters career literacy, academic enhancement, social-emotional growth and community engagement that prepares students who contribute to the global society

# Academic Policies

Includes information on grading policies, make-up work, Honor Code, and more.

## Grading Scale

A - 90-100

B - 80-89

C - 70-79

D - 60-69

F - Anything below 60

## Honor Roll Requirements

“A/B” Honor Roll: No grade lower than a B

## Middle School Promotion

In order to be promoted within the middle school level, students must successfully complete three of the four subjects: Language Arts, Math, Science, History. If a student receives a failing final grade in two or more core subjects in a school year, the student will be retained. If a student receives a failing final grade in a subject area in consecutive years, the student will be retained.

## Omit a High School Credit(s) Taken at the Middle School

The “Standards of Accreditation for Virginia Schools” allows a one-time provision for any high school credit bearing-course taken in middle school whereby 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). The required form is provided below 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 August 1 of the year the student will be entering 9th grade.

**Parent letter and form: [MCMS EXPUNGE LETTER program of studies](#) (Can also be found at the end of the Program of Studies.)**

## Graduation Requirements

### HIGH SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTION & GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION

<b>GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>
GRADE 10	Minimum of 5 units of credit including English 9
GRADE 11	Minimum of 11 units of credit including English 10
GRADE 12	Minimum of 14 units of credit including English 11 AND eligible to graduate in June

Promotion takes place at the end of the school year. Students will not be moved from one grade level to another at any other time during the school year.

### 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. For more information, please see the High School Program of Studies.

## Progress Reports/Report Cards

Parents/guardians may access grades at any time via Campus Parent.

Progress/ Interim reports: Student progress reports will be available to parents/guardians midway during each nine weeks period. The dates are typically denoted on the division calendar. However, parents/guardians may be contacted at any time during a nine weeks period if a deficiency needs attention or correction. Parents/guardians are encouraged to call teachers to check their child’s progress more frequently. Faculty and staff should encourage parents/guardians to remain up-to-date with grades, assignments, and course requirements.



## Make-up Work

Students are expected to make arrangements with their teachers to collect and to complete all classwork assigned.

Students who are assigned to ISS or serving a suspension are also required to complete all classwork assigned.

Students who participate in school-sponsored or community-sponsored athletics are also required to complete all classwork assigned.

All classwork missed during an absence should be made up within five days. Exceptions and/or special circumstances may arise. Therefore, the teacher will address those situations on an individual basis.

**\*\* If illness requires quarantine, students will be given work to complete and reasonable time to complete assignments.**

## Academic Extra-Credit

Teachers may provide students with extra-credit activities only if those activities are appropriately aligned with the Virginia Standard Course of Study, provide opportunities for academic enrichment, and enhance classroom instruction. Extra-credit activities should not be used to replace missing assignments. Extra credit is not a requirement in any course nor should it be an expectation.

## Cheating

MCPS believes that every student should be encouraged to be a responsible, trustworthy individual, capable of excelling to the best of his/her ability without cheating. A positive environment conducive to learning is provided, and students are encouraged to seek assistance from parents/guardians, teachers, and peers in an appropriate way when extra help is needed. Cheating, however, is not acceptable at any secondary school. For more information refer to the MCMS student handbook.

## Honor Code Agreement

Students are expected to adhere to the code listed below. A student signature sheet can be found in the Student Code of Conduct and will be kept in the student record.

FOR ASSESSMENTS: “I affirm that I will not give or receive any unauthorized help on this exam, and that all work will be my own.”

FOR GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: “I affirm that I have not given or received any unauthorized help on this assignment, and that this work is my own.”

FOR GROUP PROJECTS: “I accept responsibility for my role in ensuring the integrity of the work submitted by the group in which I participated.”

## Remediation

Remediation will be offered at the middle school for English/Language Arts and for Mathematics. The number of remediation classes offered will depend upon enrollment and funding. Remediation may be offered during school or after school.

## Summer School

Summer School will be required for students at the middle school level who have not made adequate progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

## Extended School Year

Students with disabilities may require educational services beyond the regular school calendar. This need will be addressed per each Individual Education Program (IEP).

## Virginia High School League Eligibility

Students wishing to participate in Virginia High School League activities such as sports, cheerleading, or academic competition must pass a minimum of three classes per semester. Students must be present for a minimum of three blocks to be eligible to participate in that day’s events.

## Alternative Learning Program

The Mecklenburg County Alternative Learning Program is an individualized program to address educational and personal needs of students experiencing academic, behavioral/emotional and/or attendance problems in the regular school setting. The Alternative Learning Program will provide an individualized course of study and address the behavioral and social and emotional growth of students as they prepare to either return to their home school, pass the G.E.D., or

transition into the workforce. Students are referred to the program by the principal of the school, the Superintendent, or the School Board.

## **Other Academic Information**

### **504 Plan**

Students identified as having a disability and requiring accommodations in the regular school classroom setting may be referred and served by the 504 Plan. Parents may refer their child at any time by contacting the principal of the school the child attends or by contacting the Director of Student Services at 738-6111 ext. 21014.

### **Special Education**

Students identified as having a disability and requiring specialized instruction may be served in the regular classroom with/without accommodations, in a collaborative instructional setting, resource setting, self-contained setting, other specialized settings, or a combination of these options. Programming and placement is determined by the student's Individual Education Program (I.E.P) Team. Referrals can be made by classroom teachers, staff members, parents, students and community members throughout the school year by contacting the Chairperson of the Comprehensive Study Team at the school the student attends.

### **Middle School Gifted Education**

Eligible students in Grades 6-8 who are identified to receive gifted education services participate in core classes with differentiated instruction, specialized seminars, after-school and summer activities depending upon area of giftedness.

### **Referrals**

Parents may refer their child at any time by contacting the Gifted Coordinator (738-6111) or MCMS. 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.

## **Art Gifted Education (Art Gate)**

### **Art Seminar**

Gifted art students will focus on communication and expression, creating unique and complicated works using real-world issues and images, seeking critiques from teachers and peers, and exploring historical and contemporary imagery by other artists whose work relates to their own.

### **Art Eligibility Process**

Direct referrals are accepted throughout the school year. The Art Selection Committee will meet three times each year to score portfolios. Students who have completed referrals (referral and parent checklist) and a complete portfolio by deadline will be considered during that cycle. Incomplete referrals or portfolios will be deferred to the next cycle.

Completed Referral	Eligibility Notification
October 1	October 30
January 5	January 30
June 1	June 30

Parents of those students referred must provide written consent for formal evaluation. Parents, teachers, administrators, and school staff may refer students. Referral forms are available from the following sources:

- Gifted Education Art Teachers
- Guidance Office in each school

Referral Forms may be returned to classroom teachers, the gifted teachers or contacts, art teacher guidance counselors, or the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator.

Transfer Students who have documentation of participation in another instructional gifted program will have their records reviewed by the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator. Placement or evaluation in the Mecklenburg County Gifted and Talented Program will be made upon the recommendation of the Gifted Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator. Re-evaluation, when necessary, will occur within 30 instructional days of submission of completed referral and portfolio. Participation in another city or county's Visual and Performing Arts program does not automatically guarantee placement in Mecklenburg County Public School's Gifted and Talented Education Program.

### **Summer Art**

This is a 4 days summer art program (held during Summer School) is a continuation for the students focus on communication and expression, creating unique and complicated works using real world issues and images.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

As it is our mission in Mecklenburg County Public Schools to prepare students for college and careers after their K-12 experience, the middle school model must provide opportunities for students to explore different career opportunities. This exploration will give students much-needed exposure to different career pathways. Through our elective course offerings, students are given the opportunity to explore a variety of career fields. The goal is that by the time students reach 8th grade, they will have enough exposure to make more informed decisions about what pathway they would like to take when they reach high school.

In keeping with this philosophy, students will be required to take elective classes in each of the domains mentioned below. Any additional electives may be selected by the students to take a deeper dive into concepts in which they are most interested.

Please find below the course offerings.

## Middle School Required Course Offerings

### **Sixth Grade**

LANGUAGE ARTS 6 or LANGUAGE ARTS 6 HONORS  
MATH 6 OR MATH 6 HONORS  
SCIENCE 6 UNITED STATES HISTORY I TO 1865  
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6  
CAREER INVESTIGATIONS I  
KEYBOARDING

### **Seventh Grade**

UNITED STATES HISTORY II: 1865-PRESENT  
LANGUAGE ARTS 7 or LANGUAGE ARTS 7 HONORS  
MATH 7 OR MATH 7/8 HONORS  
LIFE SCIENCE 7  
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

### **Eighth Grades**

CIVICS AND ECONOMICS  
LANGUAGE ARTS 8 or LANGUAGE ARTS 8 HONORS  
MATH 8 OR ALGEBRA 1\*  
PHYSICAL SCIENCE  
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

## Middle School Core Subject Course Descriptions

### **Language Arts**

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 6 HONORS**

### **GRADE 6**

Prerequisite: See Language Arts Accelerated Pathway for requirements.

This course emphasizes an accelerated, thematic 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. This course will cover standards for 6th and 7th grade.

\*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 7 HONORS**

### **GRADE 7**

Prerequisite: See Language Arts Accelerated Pathway for requirements.

This course's accelerated, thematic approach is designed to explore meaningful text and strengthen writing and comprehension. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate. This course will cover 7th and 8th grade standards. \*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.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 8 HONORS**

GRADE 8

Prerequisite: See Language Arts Accelerated Pathway for requirements.

Students will continue to refine skills in oral communication, written expression, critical thinking and reading comprehension through rigorous Pre-AP course work. An emphasis on reading will allow for the development of an appreciation for literature through the study of classics and contemporary selections. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate. This course will cover 8th and 9th grade standards.

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

## **Math**

### **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 6 HONORS** (Will be offered beginning in the 24-25 School Year)

GRADE 6

Prerequisite(s): Please see the Advanced Math Pathway for more information.

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework with a combination of Math 6 and Math 7 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 6 and Math 7 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 6 and 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 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 7 HONORS**

GRADE 7

Prerequisite(s): Pass Advanced MATH 6 SOL

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework with a combination of Math 7 and Math 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 7 and Math 8 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 7 and Math 8.

\*Note: The Math 8 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.

## **Science**

### **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.

## **History**

### **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 Offerings

### Required Elective Courses (ALL STUDENTS)

- Keyboarding (6th grade course)
- PE (required each year)
- Career Investigations (Offered in grades 6 - 8)

### Elective Pathways

#### STUDENTS MUST SELECT ONE FROM EACH PATHWAY

- Visual and Performing Arts
  - Art (Offered in grades 6 - 8)
  - Band (Offered in grades 6-8)
  - Chorus (Offered in grades 6 - 8)
  - Drama (Offered in grades 6 - 8)
- Technology
  - Intro to Technology (6th grade course)
  - Innovations and Inventions (7th grade course)
  - Technological Systems (8th grade course)
  - App Creators (7th grade course)
- Business
  - Computer Science Foundations (6th grade course)
  - Computer Solutions (7th grade course)
  - Make it Your Business (8th grade course)
  - Digital Technology Foundations (8th grade course)
- Agriculture
  - Introduction to Agriscience (6th grade course)
  - Agriscience Exploration (7th grade course)
  - Agriscience and Technology (8th grade course)
- Family and Consumer Sciences
  - Family and Consumer Sciences I (7th grade course)
  - Family and Consumer Sciences II (8th grade course)
- Foreign Language
  - Foreign Language Exploratory (6th grade course)
  - Spanish Exploratory (7th grade course)
  - Spanish I yr (8th grade HS credit course)

\*Note: Band students must select three courses from the above pathways.

# 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.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS**

#### **GRADE 6**

Computer Science Foundations is an introductory course that takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY**

#### **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.

### **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.

### **CHORUS 6**

#### **GRADE 6**

This course completes Level 1 of the vocal curriculum by teaching the mechanics of music notation and music reading and fosters skills that help students become better singers and appreciate the relationships among music, other arts, and society. Performances are mandatory and are a part of the overall grade in this class.

**DRAMA 6**  
**GRADE 6**

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade Drama provides students with opportunities to explore movement on stage, create original scenes, and interpret scripted material. While there will be major projects to assess each of the aforementioned areas, students will also engage in storytelling, theatre games, improv to develop both their skills and confidence along the way.

**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.

**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.

**APP CREATORS****GRADE 7**

This unit will expose students to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

This course is pending VDOE approval.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE EXPLORATORY I****GRADE 7**

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory I students will prepare to be life-ready as they manage individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities.

**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.

**CHORUS 7****GRADE 7**

This course completes Level 2 of the vocal curriculum by teaching music production that helps students become better singers and appreciate the relationships among music, other arts, and society. Performances are mandatory and are a part of the overall grade in this class.

**DRAMA 7**

## **GRADE 6 -8**

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade Drama provides students with opportunities to explore movement on stage, create original scenes, and interpret scripted material. While there will be major projects to assess each of the aforementioned areas, students will also engage in storytelling, theatre games, improv to develop both their skills and confidence along the way.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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

## **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.

### **DRAMA 8** **GRADE 6 -8**

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade Drama provides students with opportunities to explore movement on stage, create original scenes, and interpret scripted material. While there will be major projects to assess each of the aforementioned areas, students will also engage in storytelling, theater games, improv to develop both their skills and confidence along the way.

### **CHORUS 8** **GRADE 8**

This course completes Level 3 of the vocal curriculum by teaching music production that help students become better singers and appreciate the relationships among music, other arts, and society. Performances are mandatory and are a part of the overall grade in this class.

### **AGRISCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** **GRADE 8**

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

### **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** **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. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE EXPLORATORY II**

#### **GRADE 8**

Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory II helps students develop essential knowledge and skills to lead better lives, be career-ready, build strong families, and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

### **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.

### **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS**

#### **GRADE 8**

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 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.

### **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.

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

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: TBD, usually in February/ March

REQUEST TO DROP OR ADD COURSE (APPLICATION MADE TO COMMITTEE): No later than the 5th day of each semester for semester courses. No later than the 10th day for yearlong courses.

There are no Study Halls during the day.

Class offerings will be subject to administrative change over the summer due to the number of students requesting classes, staff, or space availability. Mecklenburg County Public Schools reserves the right not to offer classes that do not meet minimum enrollment requirements.

Once schedules have been developed, they will not be changed without permission from the school's administration.

## **Virtual Instruction**

### **VIRTUAL VIRGINIA COURSE OPTION**

There are times when Mecklenburg County Public Schools is unable to secure staff to teach courses offered in our program of studies that lead to a high school diploma. When this occurs, a Virtual Virginia course may be assigned to a particular group of students to provide instruction, from a certified teacher, with support of MCPS staff. Parents will be notified if this option must be utilized.

There is no option for full-time virtual instruction at this time. For more information, please refer to the Student and Parent Handbook.

# Mecklenburg County Middle School

24999 Hwy. 58  
Baskerville, VA 23915

Dear Parent or Guardian:

According to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (8 VAC 20-131-90.C),

*In 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 not earn high school credit for the course. Notice of this provision must be provided to parents with a deadline and format for making such a request.*

We are providing the enclosed form information concerning your child's credit-bearing course(s) taken during the school year. If you wish to have the final grade(s) omitted from your child's high school transcript, indicate this by placing your initials by the course. Once the grade is omitted from the high school transcript, credit for the course(s) cannot be used for graduation requirements. Should any of the courses be required for a high school diploma, your child must re-take that course. A decision to omit the course grade from the high school transcript is final.

**No response is needed if you wish for your child to receive all the credits listed on the enclosed form.** If you **DO NOT** wish for your child to receive the credits, please fill out and return the back of this form, **no later than August 1st** to:

Counseling Department  
Mecklenburg County Middle School  
24999 Hwy 58  
Baskerville, VA 23970

Jonathan Dixon, Principal  
Mecklenburg County Middle School

# Mecklenburg County Middle School

24999 Hwy. 58  
Baskerville, VA 23915

I request that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, have the courses  
(please print)

initialed below be omitted from his/her school transcript.

**Spanish I** \_\_\_\_\_

**Algebra I** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)