

# MAKING CHOICES FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Swanson Middle School  
Academic Planning Presentation

# AGENDA

- Graduation Requirements
- Academic Plans
- Courses for Next Year
- Course Request Forms



# TWO DIPLOMA OPTIONS

- **Standard Diploma**
  - 22 credits, 5 verified\*
- **Advanced Diploma**
  - 26 credits, 5 verified\*
- *Credit*: you receive a credit for passing a class
- *Verified credits*: you receive a verified credit when you pass a class and the SOL test for that class
- *Transcript*: record of your grades, attendance, test scores

*\*Verified credit requirements recently changed*

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

- Internationally recognized program of studies available at W-L with a focus on the global perspective
- Students who want to transfer submit a pre-IB application during the fall of 8th grade year; no application necessary for W-L students
- Must be in Level II of a language and Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - <https://washingtonlee.apsva.us/international-baccalaureate-program/>

## **AP Scholars**

- Program for high-achieving students at Yorktown that provides them with enrichment opportunities and mentoring; requirement 2 or more Intensified classes in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 6 or more AP classes in 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - <https://yhs.apsva.us/academics/yorktown-ap-scholars/>

***Students will receive information about and submit applications for all programs in the fall of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year***

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## **Arlington Tech**

- Rigorous, project-based learning, high school program located at the Career Center for students with focused interest in STEM fields

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

## **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)**

- FCPS school that provides a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology

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

***Students will receive information about and submit applications for all programs in the fall of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year***



# ACADEMIC PLANS

- APS students will complete or add to an academic plan every year
- Serves a road map to see what classes are required
- Plan will be sent home to families



# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE INFORMATION

- All core classes must be passed in order to promote to grade 9
- A grade of high C or better is generally a good indicator that the student has the foundation to be successful in the next math level
- High school credit courses information
  - courses count toward high school graduation requirements
  - grades appear on your high school transcript that is sent with your college applications
  - grades are factored into your grade point average (GPA)
  - Receive a C or better to get promoted to next level of language

# COURSE REQUESTS FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## **Four core subjects:**

- English/Storytelling
- Science
- World Geography\*
- Math
  - Pre-Algebra for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders
  - Algebra I\*
  - Algebra I Intensified\*
  - Geometry Intensified\*

## **Health and P.E.**

## **Two electives**

\* *High School Credit Course*



# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## World Languages

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

### **Level I or II of:**

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

# WORLD LANGUAGES

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



# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## ■ **Band**

- Intermediate (Symphonic)
- Advanced (Wind Ensemble)

## ■ **Chorus**

- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced

## ■ **Orchestra**

- Beginning
- Advanced

## ■ **Journalism**

## ■ **Yearbook (*Must Apply*)**

## ■ **Investigating Computer Science\***

*\*high school credit course*

## ■ **Technology of Robotic Design\***

*\*high school credit course*

# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## **Supportive Electives: (Based on recommendation and/or student IEP)**

- Reading Strategies
- Math Strategies (Algebra/Pre-Algebra for 8<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Instructional Studies

# SWANSON SEMESTER ELECTIVES

- Life Management (*Teen Living*)
- Computer Applications & Technology
- Technological Systems (*Tech Ed*)
- Theater Arts (*Drama*)
- Visual Arts II

# COURSE REQUEST FORM

- Due **February 21** to the Counseling Office
- For the card to be accepted, it must include:
  - Selected electives (2 full year, 1 full year and 2 semester, or 4 semester)
  - Initial from current Level I World Language teacher to move on to Level II
  - Two alternate classes
  - A parent or guardian signature

**DUE FEB. 21**

**For use by school staff only:**  
Return to counselor by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student IEP: \_\_\_\_\_

Arlington Public Schools  
Swanson Middle School  
2020-2021  
Grade 8 Course Request Form (CRF)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

This Course Request Form (CRF) allows a student and their family to make course selections for the following year. All Grade 8 students are required to take the following core courses: English, math, science, world geography, and health and physical education. Additional core courses may also be required based upon a specific program in which a student is enrolled. Descriptions of all courses are contained in the **Middle School Program of Studies**.

Select only **ONE** overall program by checking the appropriate box


**Grade 8 Program:**  
Choose 1 English Language Arts Course:  
 Grade 8 English (11120/10031)  
or  
 Grade 8 Storytelling (11124)  

- World Geography (12210/10040)
- Grade 8 Physical Science (14125/10009)
- Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200/17660)

- Pre-Algebra for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (13112) or Algebra I (13130) or Algebra I Intensified (13140) or Geometry Intensified (13141) (Math placement recommendations will be made prior to the end of the school year. A letter noting the recommended course will be sent home to families before final assignment is made.)

**English Language Development Program:**  
Students enrolled in the English Language Development program are grouped by English language proficiency into ELD 1, ELD 2, ELD 3, and ELD 4. Recommendations for math courses are made by staff. Parents will be notified of the recommendations before a final assignment is made.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ELD 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 1 English (10786)</li><li>• ELD 1 Reading (10787)</li><li>• ELD 1 Science (10780)</li><li>• ELD 1-2 US History (10800) or ELD 1-2 US History, Civics and Economics from 1865 to the Present (10801) or World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Math: Staff Recommendation</li><li>• Health and Physical Education (17110/17120/17200)</li></ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ELD 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 2 English (10790)</li><li>• ELD 2 Reading (10791)</li><li>• ELD 2 Science (10781)</li><li>• ELD 1-2 US History (10800) or ELD 1-2 US History, Civics and Economics from 1865 to the Present (10801) or World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Math: Staff Recommendation</li><li>• Health and Physical Education (17110/17120/17200)</li></ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ELD 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 3 English (10796)</li><li>• ELD 3 Reading (10794)</li><li>• World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Science (14125)</li><li>• Math: Staff Recommendation</li><li>• Health and Physical Education (17110/17120/17200)</li></ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ELD 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 4 English (10799)</li><li>• ELD 4 Reading (10797)</li><li>• World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Science (14125)</li><li>• Math: Staff Recommendation</li><li>• Health and Physical Education (17110/17120/17200)</li></ul>
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OVER for elective offerings 

**Turn in signed CRFs to Counseling Office by Feb. 21 or before**

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While all Grade 8 students are required to take a core curriculum, students also may select electives. In the chart below, please mark your child's selections by checking the boxes, paying close attention to the instructions listed at the top. Elective course offerings depend on sufficient student enrollment. Therefore, please indicate alternate choices (in the inset box) to help counselors meet the needs and interests of all students.

**Electives: Choose four (4) semester electives or two (2) full year electives or two (2) semester and one (1) full year elective**

Courses offered as <u>full year only</u> :	High School Credit Courses:	Courses offered as <u>semester only</u> :
<input type="checkbox"/> Journalism (11201) <input type="checkbox"/> *Yearbook (11209) <small>*Application required</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Band (19232) Instrument: _____ Years Played: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Band (19201) Instrument: _____ Years Played: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Band (19228) Instrument: _____ Years Played: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Orchestra (19237) Instrument: _____ Years Played: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Orchestra (19243) Instrument: _____ Years Played: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Chorus (19274) <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Chorus (19285)	<input type="checkbox"/> Arabic I (15800) <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic II (15822) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese I (15615) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese II (15625) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> French I (15110) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> French II (15120) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Latin I (15310) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Latin II (15320) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I (15510) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II (15520) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish for Fluent Speakers I (15517) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish for Fluent Speakers II (15527) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish for Fluent Speakers III (15537) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> *American Sign Language I (15990) <input type="checkbox"/> Investigating Computer Science (16640) <input type="checkbox"/> Technology of Robotic Design (18421)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Life Management (18244) <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Applications and Internet Technologies (13106) <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Systems (18463) <input type="checkbox"/> Theater Arts (11393) <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts II (19115)

\*Subject to staffing availability- students must pick an alternate World Language course

**Courses offered by staff recommendation (Full Year):**

- Math Strategies 8 (13118)
- Algebra Strategies (13125)
- Reading Strategies 8 (11121)
- Instructional Studies (10028)
- Social Skills (10034)

Please provide in the space below at least two alternates, should a student's first choice not be available due to scheduling conflicts:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child considering applying to the IB Diploma Program? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_



This form is updated annually by the APS Department of Instruction and distributed through school counseling offices. Please see your school counselor or the Program of Studies for additional course information.

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# COUNSELOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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# BREAK OUT SESSIONS

## **Session 1**

**7:35 PM to 8:00 PM**

World Languages of 7<sup>th</sup> and  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Auditorium

Math Curriculum &  
Placement for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade – Library

## **Session 2**

**8:05 PM to 8:30 PM**

World Languages of 7<sup>th</sup> and  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Auditorium

Math Curriculum &  
Placement for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade – Library