

ACADEMIC PLANNING FOR EIGHTH GRADE



GOALS & OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PLANNING

- Revisit Graduation Requirements
- Review and deepen understanding of the impact of high school classes taken at WMS
- Understand 8th grade core course offerings & elective course offerings
- Explore the Course Selection Process



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Class of 2030

Virginia Diploma Types/Graduation Requirements



Advanced Diploma

26 Total Course Credits*

- 4 English
- 4 Math
- 4 Science
- 4 History & Social Sciences
- 2 Health/PE (+ First Aid/CPR/AED Training)
- 1 Economics & Personal Finance
- 3 World Languages (or 2 of 2 languages)
- 1 Fine Art or CTE
- 3 Electives (including two sequential)

Standard Diploma

22 Total Course Credits*



- 4 English
- 3 Math
- 3 Science
- 3 History & Social Sciences
- 2 Health/PE (+ First Aid/CPR/AED Training)
- 1 Economics & Personal Finance
- (2) World Languages (WL), Fine Arts (FA) OR Career & Technical Education (CTE)
 - 1 has to be FA or CTE and one has to be WL, FA, or CTE
- 4 Electives (including two sequential)

Verified Credits (SOLs): 5 Total

- 2 English (Reading & Writing)
- 1 Math
- 1 Science
- 1 History or Social Science

Additional Requirements

- 1 Virtual course (APS students complete this requirement through Economics and Personal Finance or AP/IB Economics)
- 1 Honors/AP/IB/DE Course or 1 CTE Credential or 1 HQWBL experience

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES FOR CREDIT

- A high school credit is earned by taking and passing a high school level class.
- Students may begin earning high school credits in 7th Grade at WMS
- High school level courses which may be taken in middle school include:
 - High School World Languages beginning in 7th Grade
 - High School level Math starting with Algebra I
 - World Geography (the 8th Grade Social Studies course)
 - Computer Programming MS (Coding)
 - Technology of Robotic Design (8th Grade only)

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES FOR CREDIT

- You will have the option at the end of each year to not accept the credit AND the grade so that it will not be included in the High School grade point average or High School transcript
- Students still have the option of removing any high school credit bearing class they took in middle school once they are in high school.

HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL PROGRAM OPTIONS

- *Washington & Liberty High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Program*
 - IB coursework begins in 11th grade. However, pre-IB coursework begins for 9th graders.
 - Application requirements:
 - Strong A's & B's in all subjects
 - Successful completion of Algebra I by end of 8th grade
 - Successful completion of at least 1 year* of World Language
 - **Note: If a student has not completed level 2 by the end of 8th grade, additional coursework will need to be taken to complete 4 years before 11th grade.**
 - Can earn IB diploma and/or certificate through program, which is recognized internationally
- *HB Woodlawn*
 - Application required
 - No neighborhood boundary zones or specific application requirements
 - Student motivated program - emphasis on self-starting and executive functioning skills

** Please visit the websites for each school for more information**

HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL PROGRAM OPTIONS

- *Arlington Tech Governor's STEM Academy*
 - Application required
 - No neighborhood boundary zones
 - Must have passed Gr 7 Math SOL
 - STEM oriented, Project-Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum
 - Dual Enrollment Courses (earn both high school and college credit)
- *Thomas Jefferson High School*
 - Algebra I Intensified or higher in 8th grade
 - Must be enrolled in the highest level of 8th grade coursework and 3.5 or higher GPA
 - Must be enrolled in all available intensified courses
 - English 8 Intensified, Physical Science 8 Intensified & World Geography Intensified

*** Please visit the websites for each school for more information***

WMS COURSES AND COURSE SELECTION

8TH GRADE CLASSES

Eighth Graders take **five** core subjects:

- Grade 8 English OR Grade 8 English Intensified
- Grade 8 Physical Science OR Grade 8 Physical Science Intensified
- Grade 8 World Geography or Grade 8 World Geography Intensified
- Math:
 - Pre-Algebra
 - Algebra I
 - Algebra I Intensified
 - Geometry I Intensified

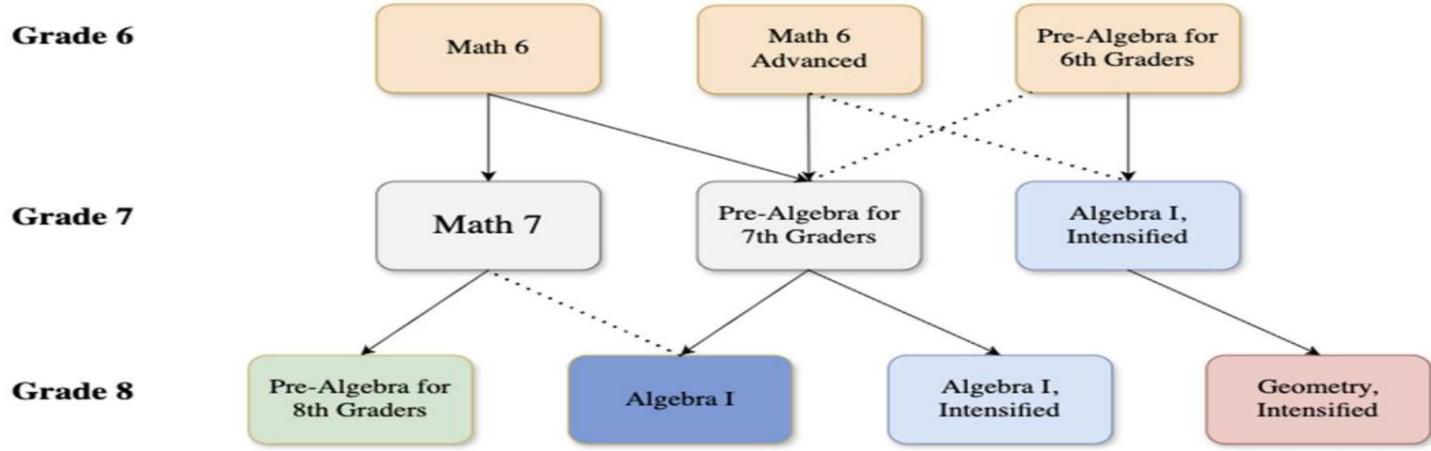


*Students will receive their recommended Math course from the APS Math Office in the summer. This placement is based on several end of year data points.

- All students will take Grade 8 PE/Health

Middle School Math Progression

Arlington Public Schools Middle School Mathematics Progression, SY 2025 - 2026



- Students needing additional support may be concurrently enrolled in Math 6, Math 7, or Pre-Algebra 8 along with an associated Math Strategies course, where available.

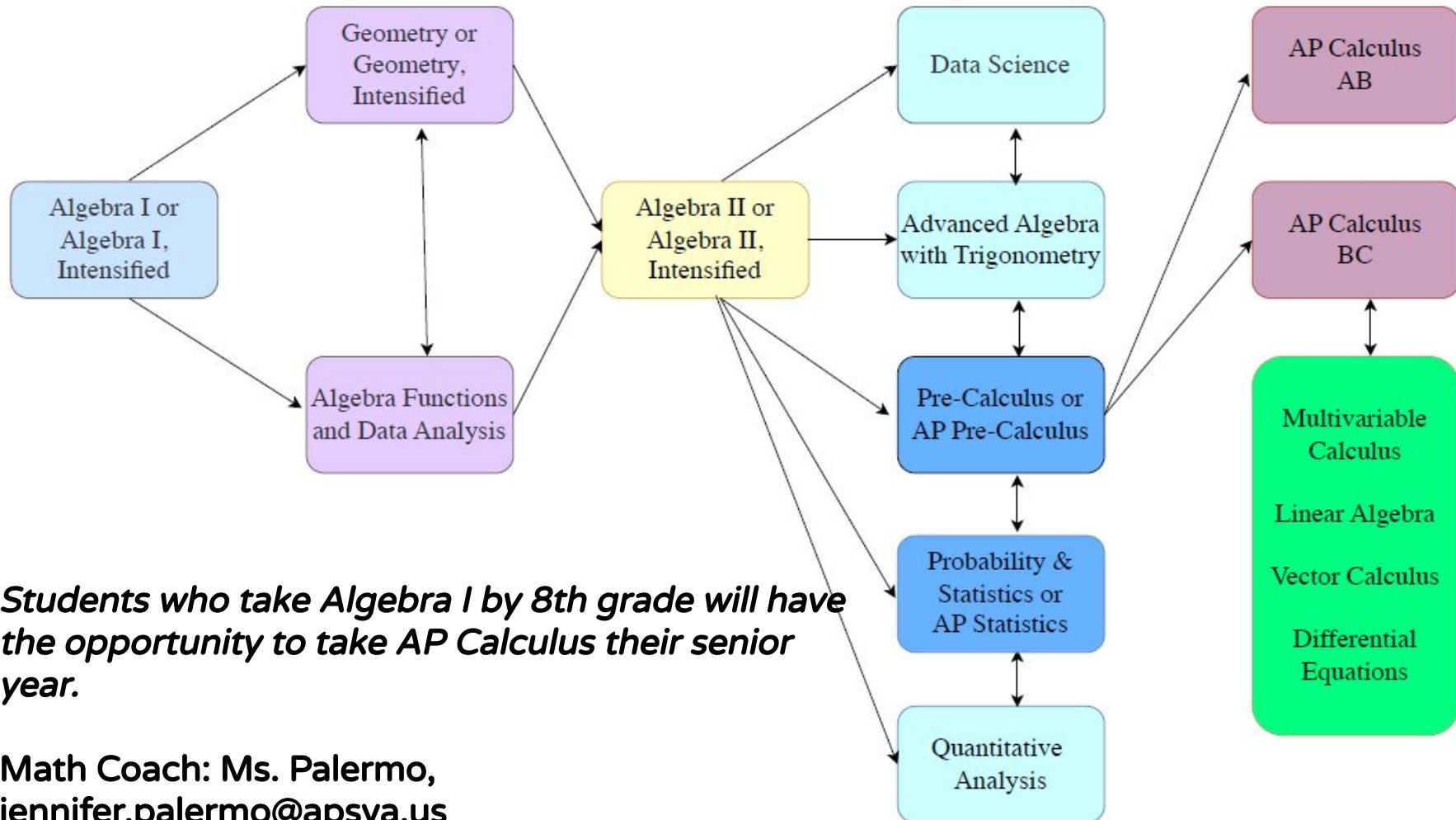
..... *Note:*
Dotted line progressions indicate that these instances are less common.

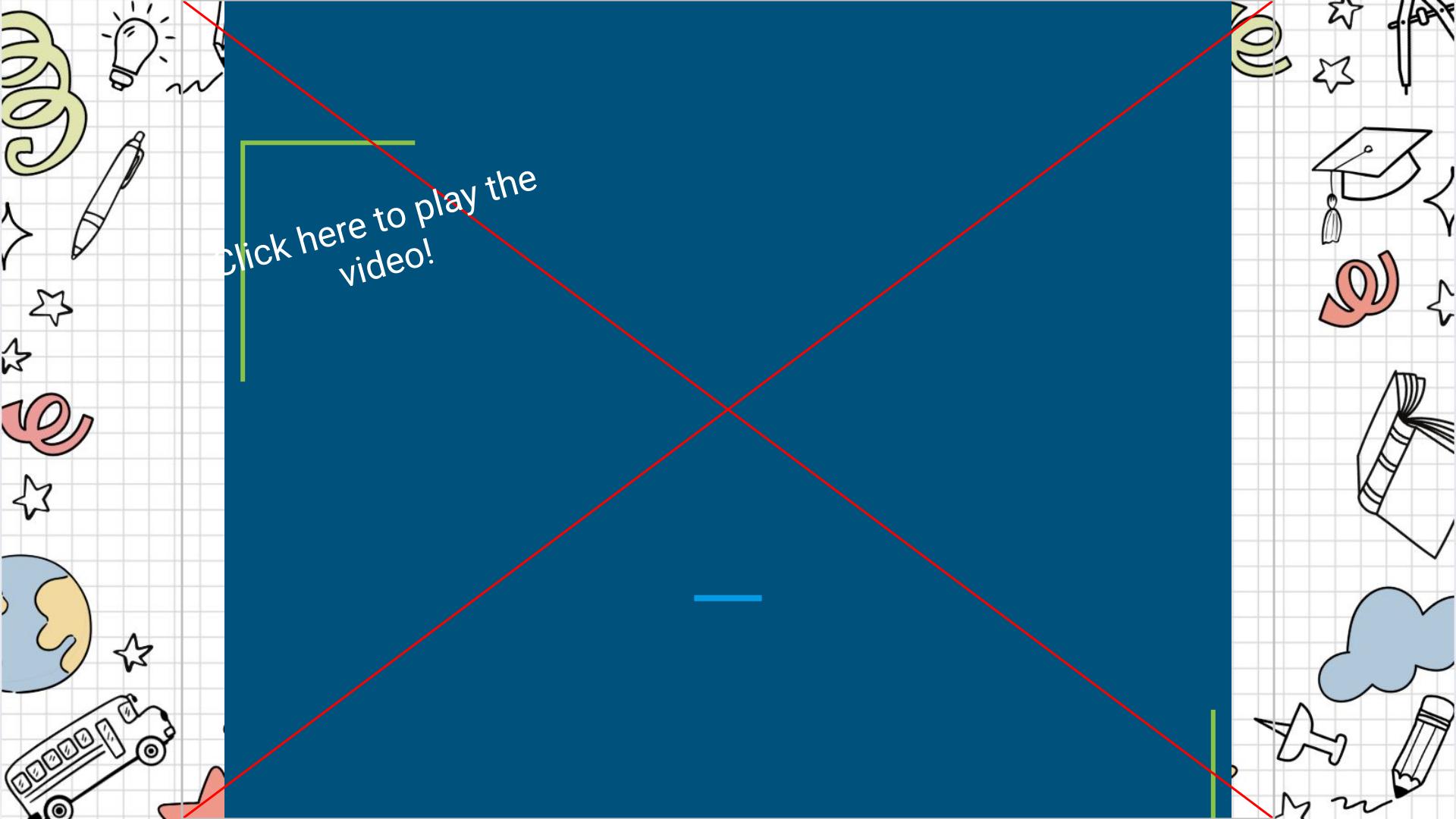
Standard progression of coursework is denoted by the solid line.

Math Coach: Ms. Palermo, jennifer.palermo@apsva.us

High School Math Progression

Arlington Public Schools High School Mathematics Progression, SY 2025 - 2026





click here to play the
video!

**Advanced Academics Information from
Ms. Katie Willet, katie.willet@apsva.us**

INTENSIFIED COURSES

Intensified Classes:

- Require intensive reading and analytical skill **across all subject areas**.
- Students need to be able to read complex texts and extract data independently.
- Students will need to think critically and analytically while applying concepts to novel problems.
- Students should have the ability to write and communicate complex thoughts with clear communication.
- Students should be building independent background on a particular topic due to the personal interest in that **subject area**.
- Intensified classes are not high school credit classes.

CHOOSING CLASSES - ELECTIVES

Students will have 2 elective periods for elective classes of their choice

Elective Options:

- 2 Year long classes

or

- 1 Year long class and 2 semester classes

or

- 4 Semester classes

Videos of Elective Teachers talking about each course will be available to students on their grade level School Counseling Canvas Course

CHOOSING CLASSES - ELECTIVES con't

Scenario 1

Elective PD 1	Semester Choice 1	Semester Choice 2
Elective PD 2	Semester Choice 3	Semester Choice 4

Scenario 2

Elective PD 1	Yearlong Choice	
Elective PD 2	Semester Choice 1	Semester Choice 2

Scenario 3

Elective PD 1	Yearlong Choice 1	
Elective PD 2	Yearlong Choice 2	

YEAR LONG ELECTIVES:

World Languages - HS

Credit

- Latin
- Chinese
- French
- Spanish
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers
- Arabic

Other Year Long Classes

- Computer Programming MS (Coding) - HS Credit
- Technology of Robotic Design - HS Credit
- Individual Development - HS Credit
- Orchestra
- Band
- Chorus
- Journalism
- MS Yearbook *Application required

Important: Alternates are important because some courses either do not have enough to keep the course or have too many students than sections are available.

SITE-SPECIFIC COURSE INFO NIGHT

Languages Offered:

Arabic

Chinese

French

Spanish

Spanish for Fluent Speakers (SFS)

NOTE: Courses may not be offered due to low enrollment

Advanced Studies Diploma

Minimum World Language requirements for students to be eligible to earn an *Advanced Studies Diploma* upon graduation:

- Three years of one language
 - Arabic 1, 2, & 3

OR

- Two years of two languages
 - Spanish 1 & 2 and French 1 & 2



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

SAMPLE WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRESSION

(Intro, Wheel, & Exploratory courses may be offered in 6th Grade)

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Start in 7th	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5/DE/IB 1	AP/IB 2
Start in 8th	-	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5/DE
Start in 9th	-	-	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4

INTERMED. HIGH - LEVEL 5

INTERMED. MID - LEVEL 4

INTERMED. LOW - LEVEL 3

NOVICE HIGH - LEVEL 2*

NOVICE MID - LEVEL 1

NOVICE LOW

*ACHIEVABLE IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL

WORLD LANGUAGE EXPECTATIONS & SUPPORTS

- Students should take a language in middle school with the **intent of reaching the highest level/most rigorous coursework** offered in high school
(Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate)
- Students have an opportunity to test for and earn eligibility for the **Seal of Biliteracy** embedded in their upper-level coursework
- Aside from Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma requirements, many universities are looking to see **four years of language learning in high school**

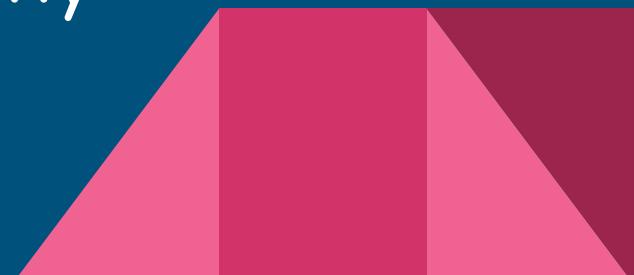
(Building on work done in middle school; committing to the 2nd language if switching after two years)

BENEFITS OF LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE

- Enhanced problem-solving & self-confidence
- Improved verbal and spatial abilities
- Improved memory function
- Increased standardized test scores
- Increased flexible and creative thinking
- Expanded vocabulary in native language
- Expanded perspective of associated culture

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

- Computer Applications & Internet Technologies
- Life Management
- Technological Systems
- Theater Arts (Drama)
- Visual Arts II
- Media Yearbook - Photography



“

Course Selection Process

SchooLinks

- A student-driven multi-year planning tool
- A way to select courses aligned with graduation goals
- A system that supports counselor workflows and parent/guardian involvement

The image displays the SchooLinks platform interface. On the left, a large screenshot of the 'Course Planner' shows a student's course selection for the 2024-2025 school year. The planner includes sections for English, Electives, and other subjects like Math and Science. Courses are listed with their respective credits and grade levels. On the right, a mobile phone screen shows the SchooLinks 'College & Career Platform' with a large 'S' logo and navigation options for 'Recent' and 'More'.

Students can access a Course Options Worksheet on Canvas



SchoolLinks for Parents 101

1. Look at your student's course plan with them. Remind them that this is just a plan...Plans can change and that's ok!
2. Make sure your child has submitted their Course Plan by 2/27/26.
3. After your child's counselor approves the plan, you will receive an email from SchooLinks to approve the plan, too.

NOTE: All guardians have been enrolled in SchooLinks with the email provided to the District. If you have a gmail account, you can select "Sign In with Google" to login to SchooLinks, if not, you will just need to select "forgot password" and create a new password.

More information about SchooLinks can be found here: [SchooLinks - Arlington Public Schools](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Board-Depts/Student-Affairs/Student-Records/Student-Records-2/SchooLinks.aspx)

Course Options

CRF Due: _____	Williamsburg Middle School
Name: _____	ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026
School ID: _____	
Grade 8 Course Request Form (CRF)	
<p>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 courses: <i>English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Health and Physical Education (HPE)</i>. Additional courses may also be required based upon the specific program in which the student is enrolled. <u>Description of all courses can be found in the APS Middle School Program of Studies.</u></p>	
<p>Part 1 Directions for Selecting Courses: The left column indicates courses you will be enrolled in. In the right column, please select the level of the listed courses. There is no prerequisite for intensified courses.</p>	
<p>8th Grade Core Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 8 TA • World Geography (HS credit course) • Math: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra I Intensified, Geometry Intensified (<i>Students will receive their recommended math course from the APS Math Department in the summer. This placement is based on several end of year data points</i>) • Grade 8 Health and Physical Education 	<p>8th Grade Core Course Selections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> English 8 (11120/10031) <input type="checkbox"/> English 8, Intensified (11127) • Science Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science 8 (14125/10009) <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science 8, Intensified (14129) • World Geography (HS credit course) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> World Geography (12210/10040) <input type="checkbox"/> World Geography, Intensified (12217)
<p>Support Courses: Math strategies and Structured Literacy courses are by recommendation only. These courses will replace an elective option.</p> <p>Notification of recommendation for support courses occurs at the end of the school year. <i>Parents must notify the school in order to opt out of these courses.</i></p>	<p>ACT II Classes: Students will receive announcements in the morning and during lunch regarding which classes will be offered, sign up and deadlines.</p>
<p>Please sign below to acknowledge that you have discussed and reviewed your students' course choices.</p>	

CRF Due: _____	Williamsburg Middle School
Print Name	Parent/Guardian Signature
Date _____	
Part 2	
<p>Directions: From the course selection below, students will select courses by making a checkmark next to courses for two open periods of the day. These two periods can be comprised of the following possible combinations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four semester classes where two semesters are taken for each period of the day (total of four choices should be checked off) 2. Two semester classes and one year-long course (total of three choices should be checked off) 3. Two year-long classes (total of two choices should be checked off) 	
Semester Choices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Theater Arts - Drama (11393) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Management - FACS (18244) <input type="checkbox"/> Technology Systems (18463) <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Applications and Internet Technologies (13106) <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts II (19115) <input type="checkbox"/> Media Yearbook - Photography (16632) 	
Year-Long Choices	
<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Band (19201/19228) **students will be placed by instrument and ability Instrument: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Chorus (19274/19285) <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Orchestra (19243) <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism (11201) *Morning announcements <input type="checkbox"/> MS Yearbook (11209) **Application required <p>High School Credit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Programming MS (16640) <input type="checkbox"/> Robotic Design (18421) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Development (18210) 	<p>World Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I (15510) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II (15520) t.i. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish for Fluent Speakers I (15517)**must be fluent in Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish for Fluent Speakers II (15537) t.i. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> French I (15110) <input type="checkbox"/> French II (15120) t.i. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Latin I (15310) <input type="checkbox"/> Latin II (15320) t.i. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese I (15615) <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese II (15625) t.i. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic I (15800) <p>** Prerequisite for Level II of languages is the <i>successful</i> completion of the level I of the language. Please have your level I teacher initial your level II request (teacher initials is <i>NOT</i> a prerequisite to move to level II)</p>
Course Alternates	
<p>Directions: For each ELECTIVE course you selected, please list an alternate if you are not able to be scheduled in that course. **Do not list alternates that you have already selected as your first picks.</p> <p><i>Note: Alternates do not have to be a "like for like" course (ex: you do not need to choose another language for an alternate to a language).</i></p> <p>Example: <i>Course Selection: Spanish I Alternate: Robotic Design</i></p>	
1. Course Selected:	Alternate:
2. Course Selected:	Alternate:
3. Course Selected:	Alternate:

Students can access a Course Options Worksheet on Canvas

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

SPORTS AT WILLIAMSBURG

Intramurals:

- Do not require a physical
- Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during ASP 1 & 2
- Drop in, no tryouts

Interscholastic:

- Students **MUST have a current VHSL Physical on file** with the Activities Coordinator (dated after May 1st)
- Student must have APS Athletics Agreement form filled out
- 8th Graders are able to tryout for Yorktown sports WMS does not have inter scholastically
- <https://yorktownsports.org/>

**Forms can be found on the WMS website.

Advanced Academics and Talent Development

Talent Development Opportunities:



After School Activities : Sports, ACT II Classes, and Clubs (i.e: Chess, Robotics, Inked, Model UN, Math Counts, TAB, Jazz Band, etc).

Wolftime enrichment choices

Competitions: Science Fair, AMC 8, Spelling Bee, & Geo Bee

Wbsites for more detailed information on the identification process, delivery of services, and how differentiation looks within APS at the secondary level:

- <https://williamsburg.apsva.us/advanced-academics-williamsburg/>
- <https://www.apsva.us/gifted-services/>

FINAL THOUGHTS



The WMS Middle School Program Of Studies (POS)
can be found on the WMS and APS website

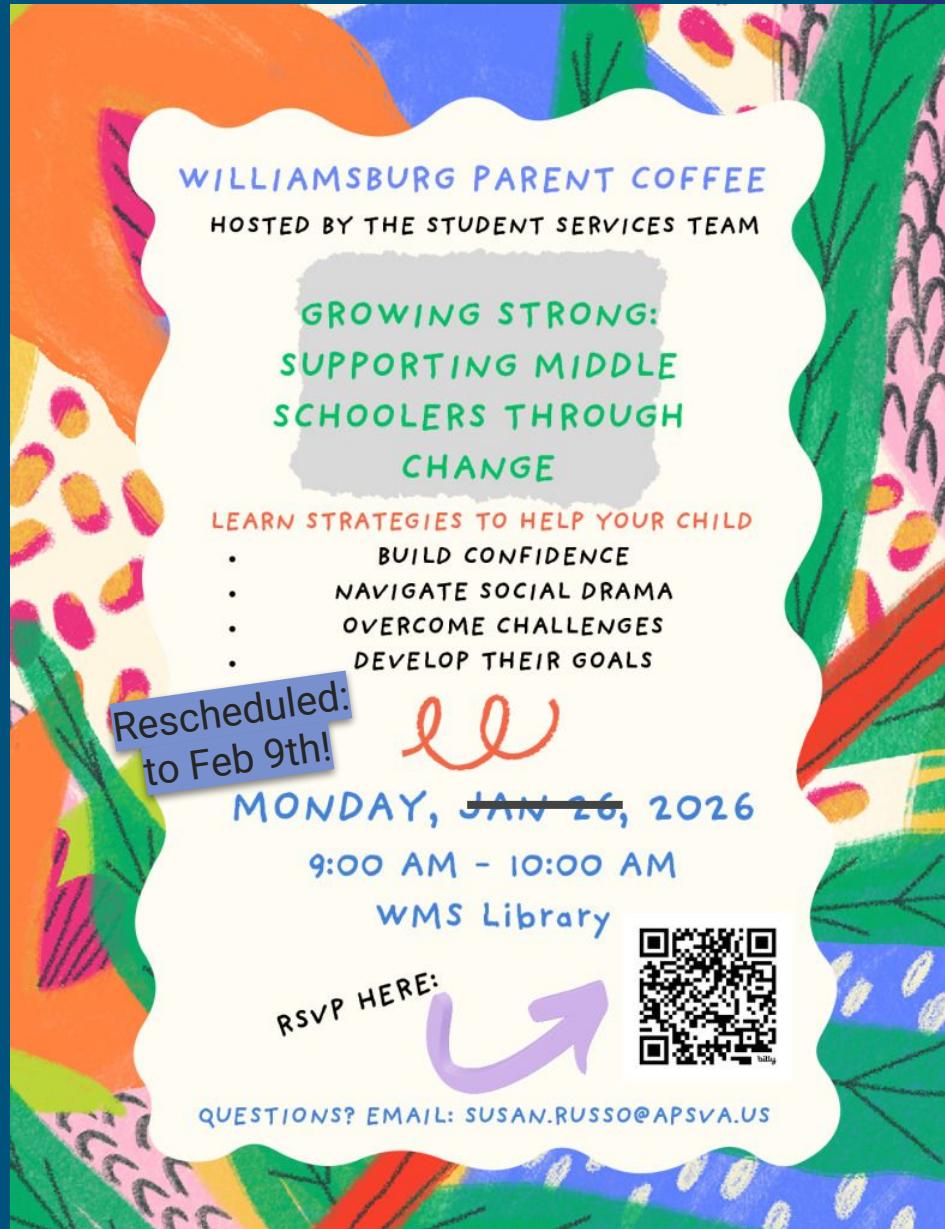
(hyperlink is below):

[MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES CATALOG 2026-2027](#)

Course Selections should be submitted NO LATER

than **Feb.27th, 2026**

Help your middle schooler's superpowers grow! Join us:



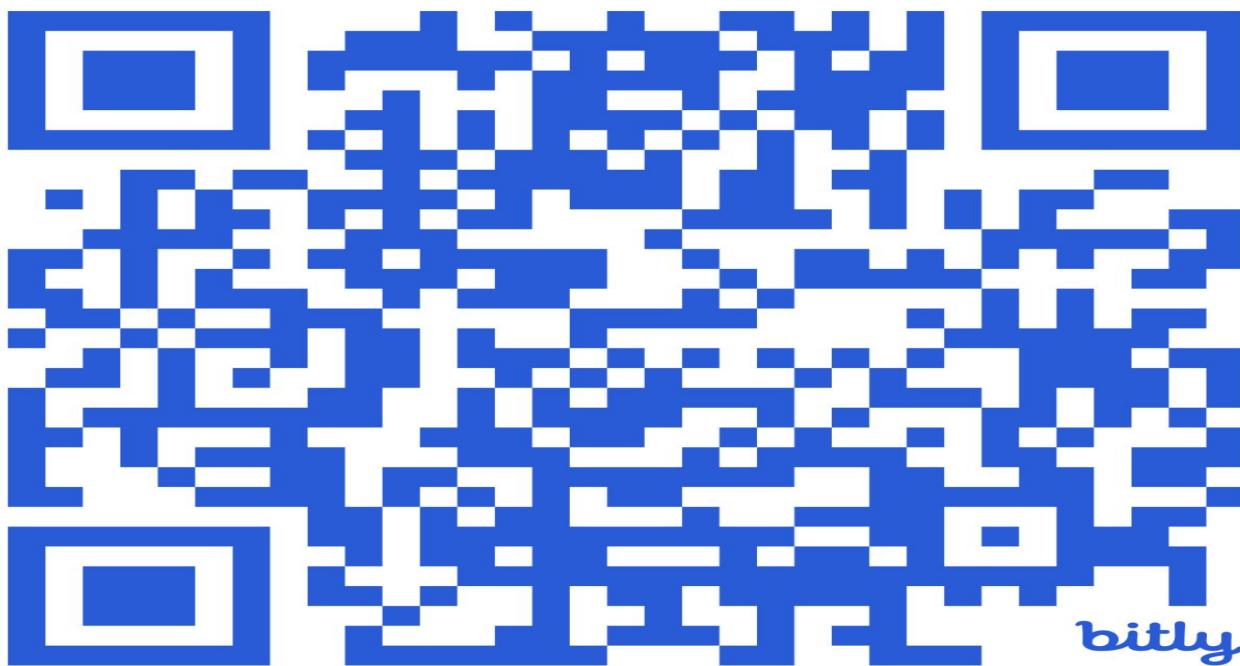
QUESTIONS?

Thank You For Coming!

Please email Mr. Gardner with
questions at:

Paul.Gardner@APSVA.US

Exit Ticket



SCAN ME