



# Academic Planning for Rising 8th Graders

# High School Terms to Know

- **Credit**: Unit earned upon successfully completing a high school course
- **Verified Credit**: A unit earned by passing an end-of-course SOL tests or other assessments approved by the Board of Education.
- **GPA (Grade Point Average)**: It is computed based on number of courses taken and grades earned in those high school courses

- **APS Grading Scale**:

Letter Grade	Percentages	Quality Points
A	90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	4.0
B+	87, 88, 89	3.5
B	80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86	3.0
C+	77, 78, 79	2.5
C	70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76	2.0
D+	67, 68, 69	1.5
D	60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66	1.0
E	0 – 59	0.0

# High School Graduation Requirements

Class of 2027



# Graduation Requirements

Discipline Area	Standard Diploma		Advanced Diploma	
	Credits	Verified Credits (SOLS)	Credits	Verified Credits (SOLS)
English	4	2	4	2
Math	3	1	4	1
Science	3	1	4	1
History & Social Studies	3	1	4	1
World Languages	2		3	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education			1	
Health & Physical Education	2		2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1		1	
Electives	4		3	
<b>Total # of Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>

# High School Credit Classes Offered in Middle School

- **High School Level Courses which may be taken in Middle School include:**
  - **World Language Level I**
  - **World Language Level II**
  - **Algebra I, Algebra I Intensified, Geometry Intensified**
  - **World Geography** (the 8th grade Social Studies course)
  - **Investigating Computer Science/Computer Programming** (Coding)
  - **Technology of Robotic Design**
  - **Individual Development** (Family & Consumer Science course)
- **Parents will have the option at the end of each year to decline the credit AND the grade so that it is not included on the High School transcript or in the GPA**

# High School Information - A Few Things to Keep in Mind

Students need to realize that how they perform in their classes in 7th grade can possibly impact the following:

- their elective options for 8th grade
  - repeat a World Language
  - be recommended for Math Strategies or Reading Strategies
- their high school options for 9th grade  
(W-L's IB Program & TJHSST)



**PLEASE  
NOTE:**

# High School Information - A Few Things to Keep in Mind

In the Fall of 2022, there will be a lot of information about high schools and options for your students.

APS holds High School Information Nights starting in November  
*(this year's link & information is below for your reference)*

<https://www.apsva.us/school-options/high-school-choices/high-school-information-sessions/>

Be sure to have your student check Ms. Schaefer's Canvas course (DHMS Class of 2027) for updated information



**PLEASE  
NOTE:**

# High School Options (as of 2022)

## *W-L International Baccalaureate (IB) Program*

- <https://wl.apsva.us/international-baccalaureate-program/>
- Prerequisites for W-L Pre-IB:
  - Strong grades (A's and B's) in all subjects
  - Need to take Level II of a World Language in 8th grade
    - Arabic, Chinese, French, Latin or Spanish
    - (ASL doesn't count for the IB Diploma)
    - Need to take Algebra I (or higher) in 8th grade
- <https://wl.apsva.us/international-baccalaureate-program/application-information/>

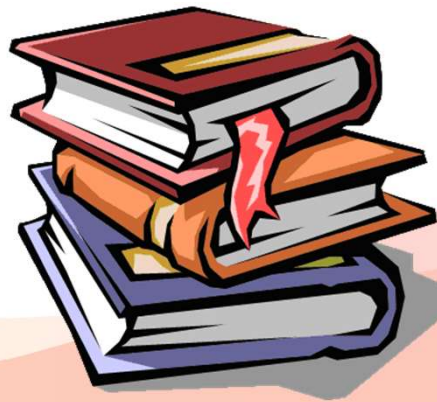


# High School Options (as of 2022)

## *Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology*

- <https://tjhsst.fcps.edu/about>
- Eligibility Requirements:
  - Must have completed a full year course of Algebra I or be currently enrolled in Algebra I Intensified
  - Must have a 3.5 or higher GPA in all core academic courses (Math, Science, Social Studies, English, World Language) at the time of application
  - At the end of 7th grade, all applicants must have a 3.5 or higher grade point average to be eligible to apply
- The window for TJHSST applications is usually in mid-October

# 8th Grade Classes at DHMS



# All 8th Grade students will be enrolled in:

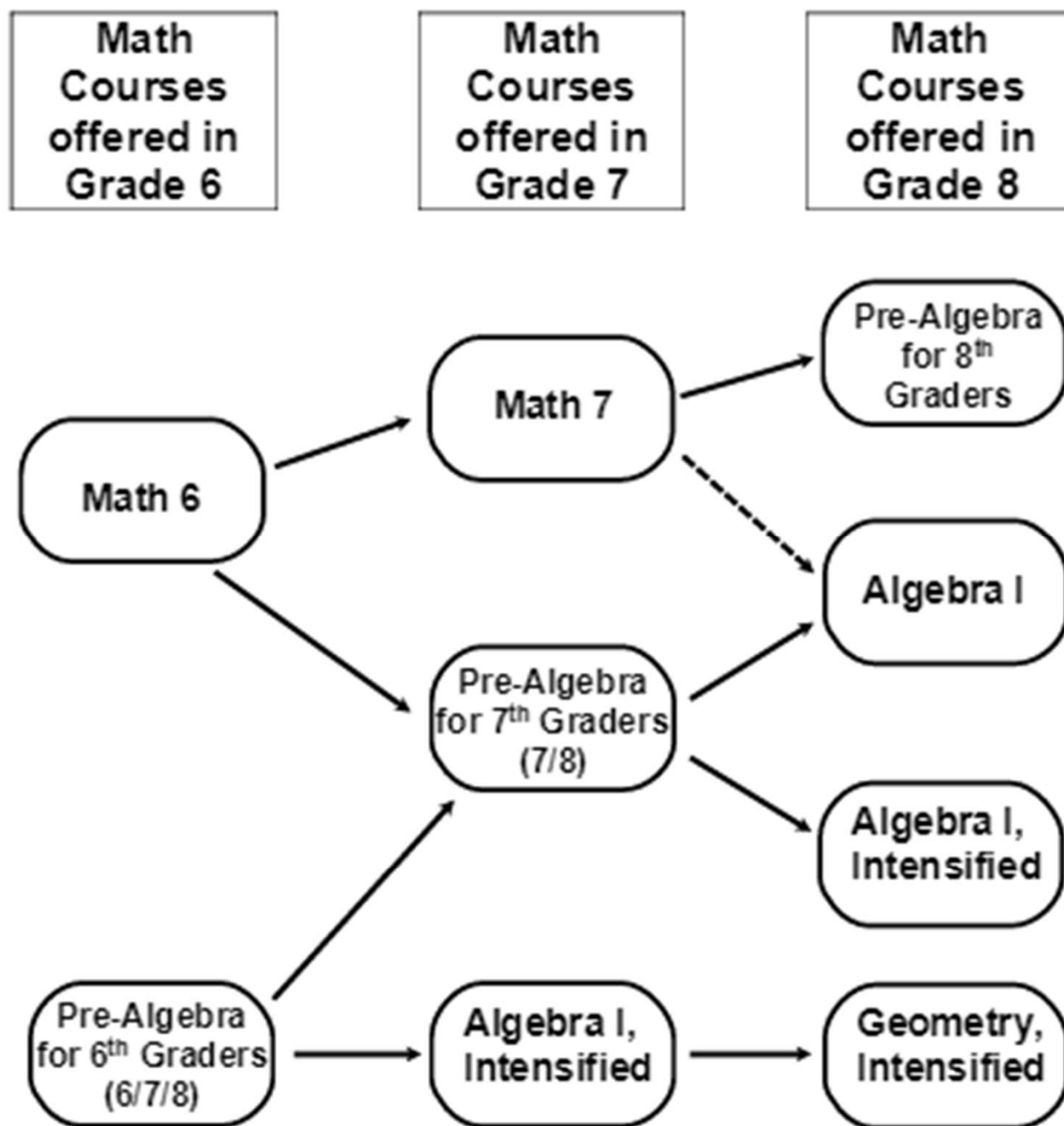
## Four core subjects:

- English
- Physical Science
- World Geography \*
- Math
  - Pre-Algebra for 8th graders
  - Algebra I \*
  - Algebra I Intensified \*
  - Geometry Intensified \*

*(Math placements 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 the final assignment is made.)*

\* This course earns a high school (HS) credit and grades from these courses will appear on a student's HS transcript and impact their HS G.P.A.

## Suggested APS Middle School Mathematics Pathways



# Students will also participate in:

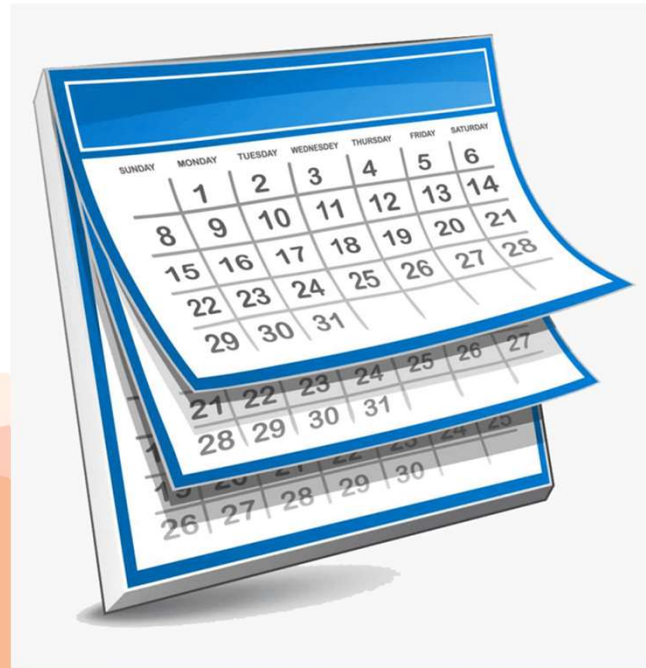
- Health/PE 8
- Teacher Advisory (TA)
- Two (2) Elective Periods



# Choosing Elective Classes

- Students will have two (2) elective periods
- They may be filled with:
  - 2 year long classes
  - OR
  - 1 year long class and 2 semester classes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of a year each)
  - OR
  - 4 semester classes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of a year each)

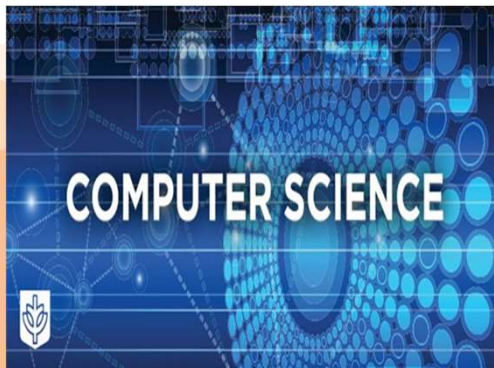
# FULL YEAR ELECTIVE CHOICES



# Full Year High School Credit Electives

- World Languages
- Investigating Computer Science/Computer Programming
- Technology of Robotic Design
- Individual Development (FACS class)

*These courses earn a high school (HS) credit and grades from these courses will appear on a student's HS transcript and impact their HS Grade Point Average (GPA)*





# World Languages

Spanish - Ms. Caballero, Ms. Cortés, Mr. Zeballos    French - Ms. Brennan

American Sign Language - Ms. Nguyen

Latin - Ms. Gephardt

Chinese - Mr. Wintersteen, Ms. Luu

Arabic - Ms. Salih

Arabic I

Chinese I

Latin I

Spanish I

Arabic II

Chinese II

Latin II

Spanish II

ASL I

French I

Spanish for Fluent Speakers I

ASL II

French II

Spanish for Fluent Speakers II

## Topics Covered:

- Level 1: basic language structure, greetings, basic conversations,
- Level 2: continue to develop fluency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing and develop a border understanding of cultural aspects of the language.

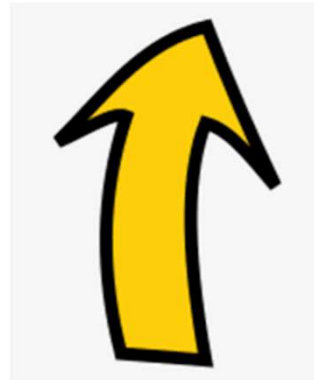
**All World Languages are full year high school credit courses**

# World Languages - Keep In Mind

Students **MUST** earn **a C or better** to move  
on to level II of a World Language

“A grade of “C” or better in the course must be verified if the student is to continue with the language in the Arlington Public Schools.”

**C**



# Investigating Computer Science / Computer Programming (Coding)

Teacher- Ms. Gwydir

## Topics covered in this class:

- Computer Hardware and Software
- Learn Python Alice with Java, Java Scratch, HTML, Java Scripting, Mobile apps, web page development
- Explore programming concepts and algorithmic procedures
- Workplace Readiness Skills
- **Full year high school credit course**



# Technology of Robotic Design

Teacher-Ms. S. Kennedy

## Topics covered in this class:

- Mechanisms/Mechanical Advantage/Simple Machines
- Electronics/Circuits
- Microprocessing (Arduino/C/C++)
- VEX Robotics/RobotC
- Students will use professional level software and tools used in the engineering and design arenas
- **Full year high school credit course**



# Individual Development (FACS)

Teacher- Ms. Allen

## Topics covered in this class:

- Students are given class projects that they are to lead and implement for the benefit of their learning community
- Workplace Readiness skills/Building a Resume
- Explore work-based learning/Career Paths
- Personal Health and Wellness
- Decision Making/Critical Thinking
- Healthy Relationships/Values/Needs/Wants
- **Full year high school credit course**



# Other Full Year Electives

- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- Guitar
- Yearbook



# Band

Teacher- Ms. Hanckel

## Topics covered in this class:

- Development of technique through scales, exercises & sight-reading
- Large group, small group and individual learning
- Variety of repertoire, some chosen by students
- Three concerts during the year plus additional performance opportunities
- Prepares students for High School band
- Spring Trip to Busch Gardens



# Orchestra

Teacher- Mr. Lunt

## Topics covered in this class:

- Development and refinement of technique through scales, exercises & sight-reading
- Large group, small group and individual learning
- Variety of repertoire, some chosen by students
- Three concerts during the year
- Prepares students for High School orchestra
- Spring Trip to Busch Gardens





# Chorus

Teacher- Ms. Causey

## Topics covered in this class:

- Sight reading using solfege
- Outside performance opportunities
- Various genres and styles of music
- Singing in two/three part harmony
- Song Analysis
- Spring Trip to Busch Gardens



# Guitar

Teacher- Ms. Causey

## Topics covered in this class:

- Development of technique through scales, exercises and sight-reading
- Playing repertoire with both single-note melodies and chords
- Large group, small group, and individual learning
- Variety of repertoire, some chosen by students
- Performance opportunities available throughout the year



# Yearbook

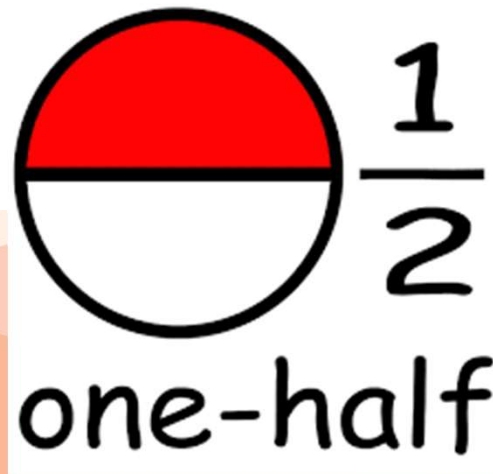
Teacher- Ms. Gwydir

## Topics covered in this class:

- Create yearbook for DHMS
  - Use the yearbook website “Jostens” to create layouts for your yearbook spread
- As a yearbook staff member you will:
  - take and collect pictures of school events
  - create and deliver polls to the student body
  - conduct interviews
  - be in charge of the yearbook spread
- Have lessons on photography, editing and graphic design



# SEMESTER ELECTIVE CHOICES



# Semester Electives

(each class lasts 2 quarters)

- Life Management
- Computer Applications and Internet Technologies
- Technological Systems
- Theater Arts
- Visual Arts II



# Life Management (FACS)

Teacher- Ms. Allen

- Workplace Readiness Skills
- Personal Development
- Healthy Living Environments
- Understand the importance of good nutrition and prepare a healthy meal
- Child Development
- Learn Clothing Care and Construction
- Money and Time Management
- Consumer Choices
- Explore Careers



# Computer Applications and Internet Technologies

Teacher- Ms. Gwydir

- Apply keyboarding skills to compose, format, revise and edit documents
- Workplace Readiness Skills
- Digital Readiness Skills
- Microsoft Office Suite
- New and Emerging Technology
- Students are introduced to the world of Business using the computer as a problem-solving tool



# Technological Systems

Teacher- Ms. S. Kennedy

- Six Areas of Technology/Systems & Components
- Basic Technical Sketching
- Data Collection
- Engineering Design Process
- Students will use professional level software and tools used in the engineering and design arenas





# Theater Arts

Teacher- Ms. Lunger

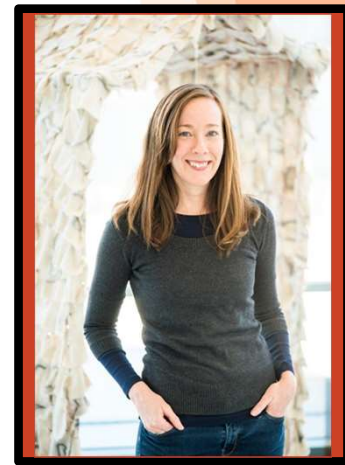
- Solo performance (monologues)
- Group performance (scene work)
- Intro to tech theatre
- Specialty craft exploration
- Intro to Shakespeare
- Improvisation



# Visual Art II

Teacher- Ms. Fitzpatrick

- Color Theory
- Elements of Art and Design
- Contemporary Portraits
- Printmaking
- Painting
- Students learn skills to make original art and practice techniques to develop a visual vocabulary that connects their ideas and the world around them



# Here's a Preview of the Course Request Form (CRF)



Return to counselor by:

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Arlington Public Schools  
Dorothy Hamm Middle School  
2022–2023



Grade 8 Course Request Form (CRF)

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

Student ID 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, social studies, and health/physical education. Additional core courses may also be required based upon specific program in which the student is enrolled. Descriptions of all courses can be found in the Middle School Program of Studies:

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Middle-School-POS-2021-22.pdf>

### Grade 8 Program:

- Grade 8 English (11120/10031)
- World Geography (12210/10040)
- Grade 8 Physical Science (14125/10009)
- Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200)
- Pre-Algebra for 8th 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 the 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 student's ELD level.

<u>ELD 1</u>	<u>ELD 2</u>	<u>ELD 3</u>	<u>ELD 4</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 1 English (10790)</li><li>• ELD 1 Reading (10797)</li><li>• World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Grade 8 Physical Science (14125)</li><li>• Pre-Algebra for 8th Graders (13112), or Algebra I (13130), or Algebra I Intensified (13140), or Geometry Intensified (13141)</li><li>• Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 2 English (10790)</li><li>• ELD 2 Reading (10797)</li><li>• World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Grade 8 Physical Science (14125)</li><li>• Pre-Algebra for 8th Graders (13112), or Algebra I (13130), or Algebra I Intensified (13140), or Geometry Intensified (13141)</li><li>• Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 3 English (10790)</li><li>• ELD 3 Reading (10797)</li><li>• World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Grade 8 Physical Science (14125)</li><li>• Pre-Algebra for 8th Graders (13112), or Algebra I (13130), or Algebra I Intensified (13140), or Geometry Intensified (13141)</li><li>• Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ELD 4 English (10790)</li><li>• ELD 4 Reading (10797)</li><li>• World Geography (12210)</li><li>• Grade 8 Physical Science (14125)</li><li>• Pre-Algebra for 8th Graders (13112), or Algebra I (13130), or Algebra I Intensified (13140), or Geometry Intensified (13141)</li><li>• Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200)</li></ul>

### Grade 8 Middle School Course Request Form (cont'd)

While all Grade 8 students are required to take a core curriculum, students also have the opportunity to select electives. Please note that elective offerings vary by school, in some cases because of specific programs offered by individual schools. In the chart below, please mark your student's selection by checking the boxes, paying close attention to the instructions listed.

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

- Choose four (4) semester electives **OR** • Choose two (2) full year electives **OR** • Choose two (2) semester elective and one (1)

#### Courses offered as semester:

- Life Management (18244)  
 Computer Applications and Internet Technologies (13106)  
 Technological Systems (18463)  
 Theater Arts (11393)  
 Visual Arts II (19115)

Please provide in the space below at least two alternates, should a student's first choice not be available.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Courses offered as full year only:

- Guitar (19246)  
 Chorus (19274/19285)  
 Yearbook (11209)  
 Orchestra (19243)  
 Band (19232/19201 / 19228) \*

\*Band is grouped by instrument vs level.

If you signed up for orchestra or band, please complete the information below:

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Played: \_\_\_\_\_

#### By teacher recommendation only:

Reading Strategies  
Math Strategies  
Instructional Studies  
Social Skills

#### High School full year credit courses:

these courses offer 1 H.S. credit

- Computer Programming MS (16640)  
 Individual Development (18210)  
 Technology of Robotic Design (18421)  
 American Sign Language I (15990)  
 American Sign Language II (15995)  
 Arabic I (15800)  
 Arabic II (15822)  
 Chinese I (15615)  
 Chinese II (15625)  
 French I (15110)  
 French II (15120)  
 Latin I (15310)  
 Latin II (15320)  
 Spanish I (15510)  
 Spanish II (15520)  
 Spanish for Fluent Speakers I (15517)  
 Spanish for Fluent Speakers II (15527)

\*If you are interested in W-L's IB program, you should have begun taking a World Language in 7th Grade.

Is your child considering applying to the IB Diploma? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



This form is updated annually by the APS Department of Instruction along with individual schools and distributed through school Counseling Offices. Please see your school counselor or the Program of Studies for additional course information.

# Filling Out the CRF

- Before you begin, decide with your family what courses you want to take
- **DECIDE** if you will take:
  - 2 year long classes
  - OR
  - 1 year long class and 2 semester classes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of a year each)
  - OR
  - 4 semester classes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of a year each)



# Filling Out the CRF

## FRONT SIDE

- Put a **STAR** by where the DUE DATE is listed
- **Print** your Last Name **THEN** your First Name
- **Print** your Student ID number

## BACK SIDE

- **Print** your Last Name **THEN** your First Name
- **Print** your Student ID number

# Filling Out the CRF

## BACK SIDE

- **CIRCLE** which option you're going to do
  - 4 semester courses
  - 2 full-year courses
  - 1 full-year course and 2 semester courses
- **MAKE** your selections
- **WRITE IN** your alternate classes (if the ones you want are full/won't fit with your schedule)
- If you play an instrument and are choosing band or orchestra, write the instrument you play and the number of years you've played









# Filling Out the CRF



## BACK SIDE

- **FILL OUT** the section about the IB Program
- Put a **STAR** next to Parent/Guardian Printed Name 
- Put a **STAR** next to Parent/Guardian Signature 
- Put a **STAR** next to Parent/Guardian Email 
- Have your Parent/Guardian **COMPLETE** the information listed above (where you put the stars ) 
- **TURN IN** the completed CRF to to **Ms. Schaefer**

To learn more about each class,  
please access the the Middle School Program Of Studies (POS)

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Middle-School-POS-2022-23-FINAL.pdf>

The 8th Grade CRF Form **MUST** be completed  
by:

**Friday, February 25, 2022**

Be sure **ALL** parts of the form are filled out  
**BEFORE** giving it to Ms. Schaefer

# This presentation & the Google CRF form can be found on the front page of the **DHMS Class of 2027**

Presentations will start on 2/7 in your Math classes

## Welcome to the DHMS Class of 2027 Canvas Course Page!

*In this course, you will find lots of information for this year,  
planning for next year and more!*



Any questions? Want to chat?

Contact Ms. Schaefer:

### Quick Links to Topics

[Rising 8th Grade Academic](#)

[Planning Presentation](#)

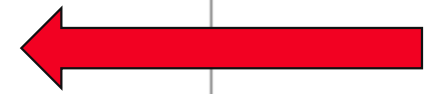
[Rising 8th Grade CRF](#)

[Bell Schedule \(Red/Gold/Anchor Day\)](#) ↓

[Bell Schedule for Early Release Anchor Days](#)



[2021-22 APS School Calendar](#)



Any Questions?



Please email me at: [carrie.schaefer@apsva.us](mailto:carrie.schaefer@apsva.us)

or

send me a canvas message through  
DHMS Class of 2027



**Thank you for participating!**  
**We can't wait for 8th grade!**

