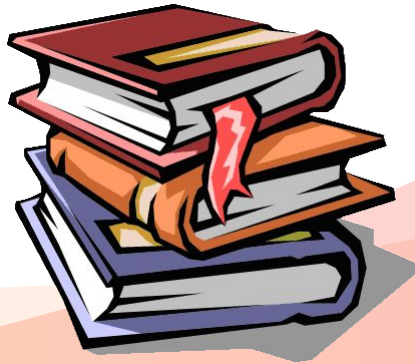




# **Academic Planning for Rising 8th Graders**

# 8th Grade Classes at DHMS



# All 8th Grade students will be enrolled in:

Four core subjects:

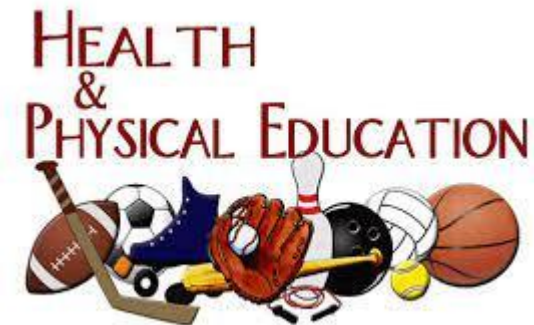
- English (Regular or Intensified)
- Physical Science (Regular or Intensified)
- World Geography \*
- Math
  - Pre-Algebra for 8th graders
  - Algebra I \*
  - Algebra I Intensified \*
  - Geometry Intensified \*

*(Math placements recommendations will be made at 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.

# Students will also participate in:

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

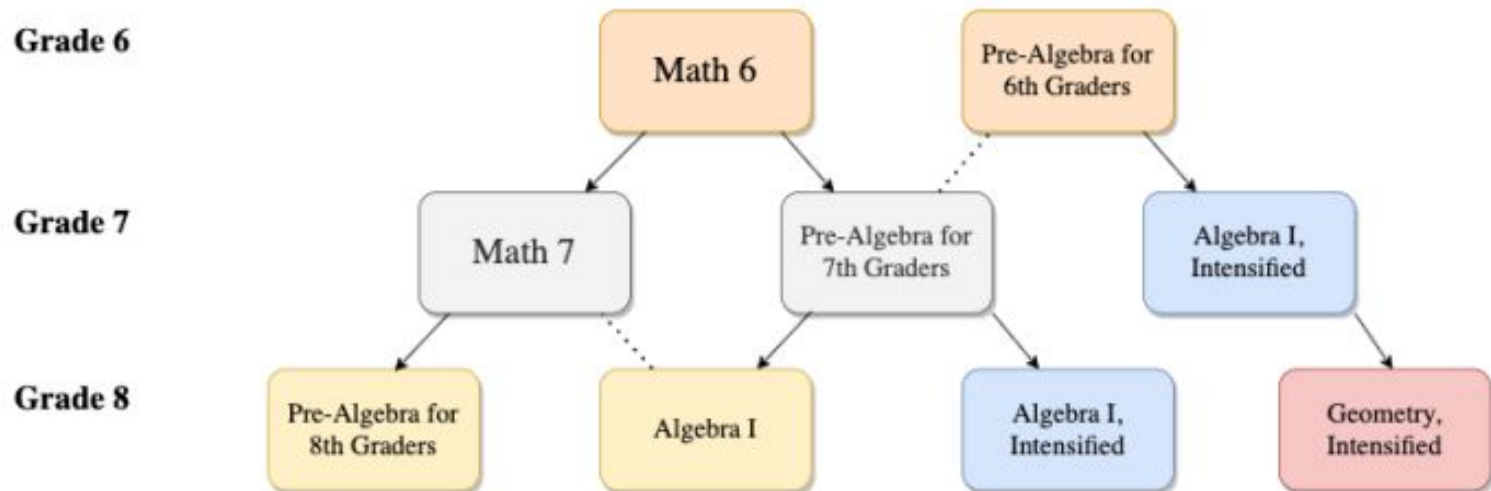


# What are intensified courses, and what are they not?

Intensified Courses Are		Intensified Classes are Not	
	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will <b>offer a chance to go deeper into content/standards.</b>		Intensified English, science, and social studies courses are <b>NOT accelerated courses</b> that go beyond grade level content.
	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will <b>not require prerequisite</b> classes.		There will be <b>the flexibility to opt into</b> the intensified English, science, <b>and/or</b> social studies courses each school year in middle school without prerequisite requirements.
	Teachers will use resources designed for rigor and CCT strategies regularly to <b>add depth and complexity within the existing curriculum.</b>		Intensified courses will use the <b>same existing curriculum map</b> and have <b>built in extensions</b> to support going deeper into the standards
	Intensified Courses will be <b><u>open to all learners.</u></b>		Intensified courses are <b><u>NOT exclusionary</u></b> and will be offered in settings that support all types of advanced learners.

# Suggested APS Middle School Mathematics Pathways

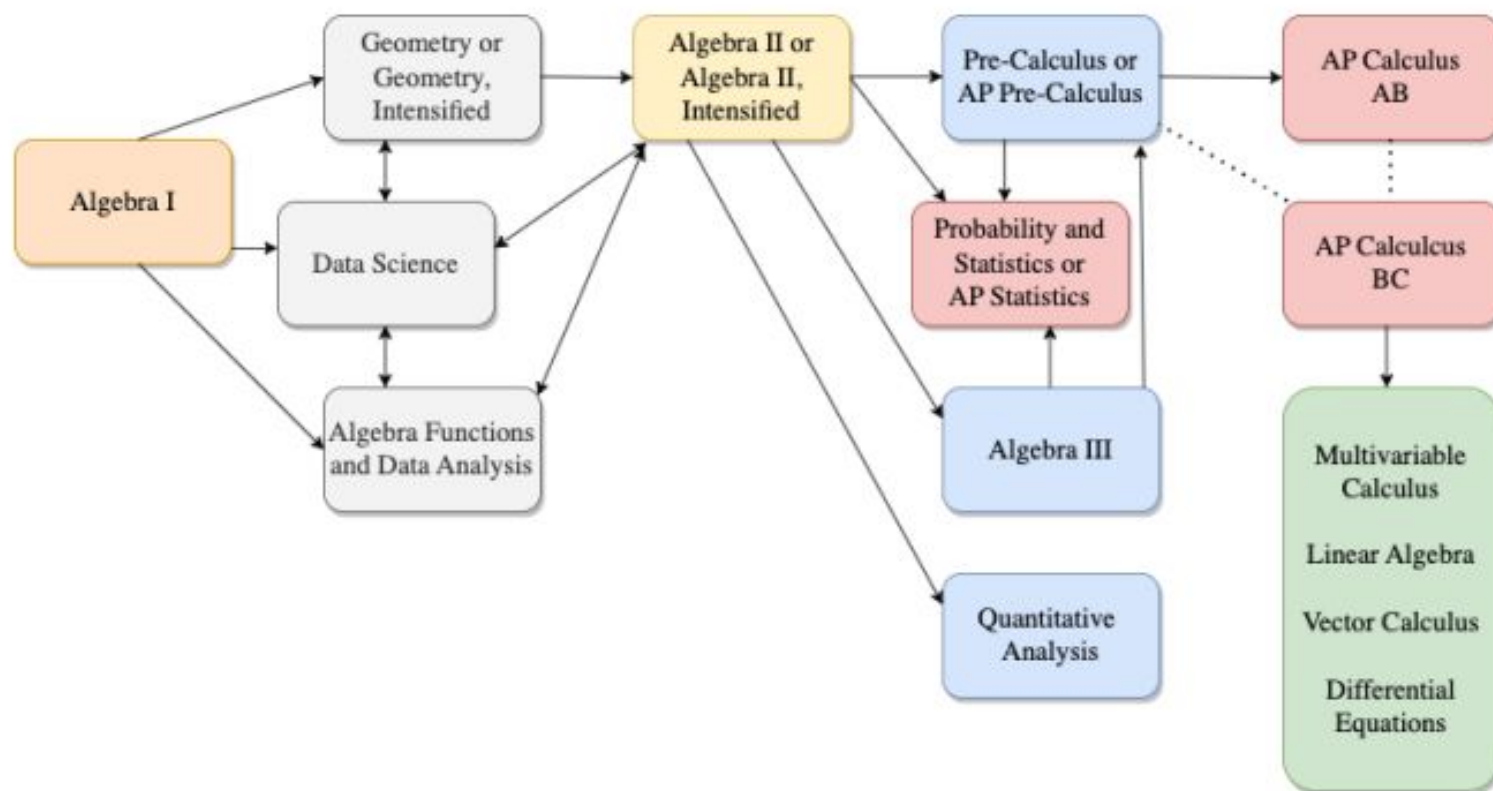
Arlington Public Schools Middle School Mathematics Progression, SY 2023 - 2024



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



## Arlington Public Schools High School Mathematics Progression, SY 2023 - 2024



- For specific IB and Dual Enrollment courses not mentioned on this diagram, please see the index of courses offered at individual high schools.
- Students needing additional support may be concurrently enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II along with an associated Strategies course.
- Upon completion of AP Calculus AB and/or AP Calculus BC, a student may take Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics in addition to the courses that are highlighted on this document.

# 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)



# 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
- **Transcript**: A document that lists every high school class you took, when you took them, and the grade you received in each class
- **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 2029**



# 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 to decline the credit AND the grade so that it is not included on the High School transcript or in the high school 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 Options (as of 2024)

## *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 2024)

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

- <https://tjhsst.fcps.edu/about>
- Eligibility Requirements:
  - Must have completed or be currently enrolled a full year course in Algebra I Intensified or higher and enrolled in Science, Social studies or English 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



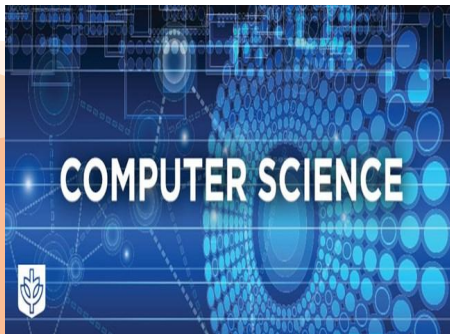
# FULL YEAR ELECTIVE CHOICES



# Full Year High School Credit Electives

- **World Languages**
- **Middle School 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

Latin - Ms. Bixby

Chinese - Mr. Wintersteen

Arabic - Ms. Al Qaisi

Arabic I

Chinese I

Latin I

Spanish I

Arabic II

Chinese II

Latin II

Spanish II

French I

Spanish for Fluent Speakers I

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 broader understanding of cultural aspects of the language.

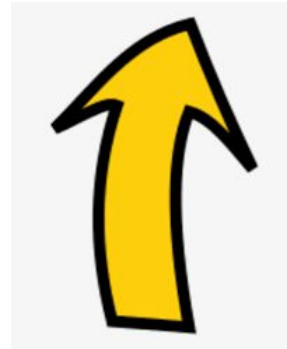
**All World Languages are full year high school credit courses**

# 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**



# Middle School Computer Programming (Coding)

## 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

## 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)

## 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
- Yearbook



# Band

## 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

## 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

## 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

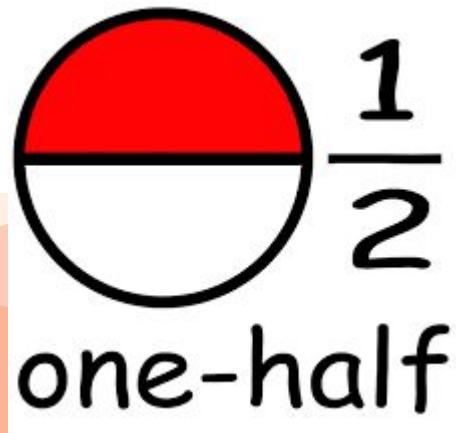
# Yearbook

## 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

**There will be an application for this class!**

# 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)

- 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

- 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

- 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

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



# Visual Art II

- 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:

Feb 8, 2024

Arlington Public Schools  
Dorothy Hamm Middle School  
2024-2025



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** at:

<https://catalog.apsva.us/middle-school-courses?P%5B0%5D=grade%3A1841>

**Grade 8 Program:**

All students will take:

- World Geography (12210)
- Grade 8 Health and Physical Education (17200)
- Math

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.)

Students may choose levels for English and Science. Please check off your selection below:

☐ Grade 8 English (11120)      **OR**      ☐ Grade 8 English, Intensified (11127)

☐ Grade 8 Physical Science (14125)      **OR**      ☐ Grade 8 Physical Science, Intensified (14129)

Turn OVER for elective offerings





### 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 (18266)
- ☐ Computer Applications and Internet Technologies (13306)
- ☐ Technological Systems (18463)
- ☐ Theater Arts (11393)
- ☐ Visual Arts II (10115)

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

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

#### Courses offered as full year only:

- ☐ Yearbook (11209)
- ☐ Chorus (19274/19285)
- ☐ 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:

- Structured Literacy I (11346)
- Structured Literacy II (11347)
- Math Strategies (11118)
- Instructional Studies (10028)
- Social Skills (10023)

#### High School full year credit courses:

these courses offer 1 H.S. credit

- ☐ Middle School Computer Programming (16640)
- ☐ Individual Development (18230)
- ☐ Technology of Robotic Design (18421)
- ☐ Arabic I (15800)
- ☐ Arabic II (15822)
- ☐ Chinese I (15635)
- ☐ Chinese II (15625)
- ☐ French I (15130)
- ☐ 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)



# Option 1: Choose 2 Year-Long Courses

Choose **NO** classes from this list

Choose **2** classes from this list

## Semester Classes

Life Management

Computer Applications and  
Internet Technologies

Technology Systems

Theater Arts

Visual Arts II

## Year-Long Classes

Band Chorus Orchestra

Arabic I Arabic II

Chinese I Chinese II

French I French II

Latin I Latin II

Spanish I Spanish II

SFS I SFS II

Investigating Computer

Science/Computer Programming

Technology of Robotic Design

Individual Development

Yearbook

Choose

2

# Option 2: 1 Full Year Class and 2 Semester Classes

Choose **2** classes from this list

Choose **1** class from this list

## Semester Classes

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

Choose 2

## Year-Long Classes

Band	Chorus	Orchestra	Guitar
Arabic I	Arabic II		
ASL I	ASL II		
Chinese I	Chinese II		
French I	French II		
Latin I	Latin II		
Spanish I	Spanish II		
SFS I	SFS II		
Investigating Computer Science/Computer Programming Technology of Robotic Design Individual Development Yearbook			

Choose

1

# Option 3: 4 Semester Classes

Choose **4** classes from this list

Choose **NO** classes from this list

## Semester Classes

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

Choose 4

## Year-Long Classes

Band Chorus Orchestra Guitar  
Arabic I Arabic II  
ASL I ASL II  
Chinese I Chinese II  
French I French II  
Latin I Latin II  
Spanish I Spanish II  
SFS I SFS II  
Investigating Computer  
Science/Computer Programming  
Technology of Robotic Design  
Individual Development  
Yearbook

# 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 **Mrs. Zurita**



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

<https://catalog.apsva.us/>

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

**February 23**

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



Questions??



Please feel free to email me at:

[maritza.zurita@apsva.us](mailto:maritza.zurita@apsva.us)

Heather Donaldson, Math Coach

[heather.donaldson@apsva.us](mailto:heather.donaldson@apsva.us)

Regina Boyd, Advanced Academics Coach

[regina.boyd@apsva.us](mailto:regina.boyd@apsva.us)