

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

LCS Middle School Program of Studies 2018-2019

Every child, by name and by need, to graduation.

*Lynchburg City Schools
Mission Statement
Adopted August 7, 2012*

School Board Approved: June 5, 2018



Dear Lynchburg City Schools Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to middle school! We are proud of our three comprehensive middle schools. Each middle school has unique features, while there are many common characteristics that provide for an environment and structure especially created for the middle school student, including electives and after-school supports.

The Middle School Program of Studies is designed to assist parents and students with course selections by giving a brief description of the curriculum content of each course. There are required courses in English, mathematics, physical education/health, science and social studies at each school along with a range of electives and exploratory courses, some which are across all three schools and some that may be specific to that school.

While in middle school, each student will create an academic and career plan. Development of this comprehensive academic and career plan is best accomplished through the collaboration of students, parents, teachers, principals, and counselors. A well-developed and detailed plan will ensure the fidelity of our LCS mission statement, "Every Child, by Name and by Need, to Graduation." Please partner with your child's school counselor to create an individualized plan for your child.

For both students and parents, it is my greatest hope that we will serve you well throughout your middle school years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Crystal M. Edwards
Superintendent

Lynchburg City School Board

Dr. Crystal Edwards
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Robert O. Brennan
District 1

Ms. Susan Morrison
District 1

Mr. Derek Polley
District 1

Ms. Sharon Y. Carter
District 2

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District 3 (Vice Chairman)

Dr. Michael J. Nilles
District 3 (Chairman)

Mrs. Katie K. Snyder
District 3

MIDDLE SCHOOLS OF LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation

1200-1208 Polk Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
Phone: (434) 515-5310

Linkhorne Middle School

2525 Linkhorne Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24503
Phone: (434) 515-5330

Sandusky Middle School

805 Chinook Place
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone: (434) 515-5350

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Superintendent's Letter	3
Overview of LCS School Board & Middle Schools	4
Middle School Program of Studies Overview	6
Keys to Middle School Success	6
Course Selection Decisions	7
Registering for Classes at Middle School	8
Academic and Career Plans	8
High School Graduation Requirements	8
Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculations	9
Calculating Grade Point (GPA) for High School Credit Courses	10
Middle School Retention and Summer School	11
Expunging Grades for High School Credit Courses	12
Core Curriculum Descriptions	13-21
Sixth Grade Core Curriculum Descriptions	13-15
Seventh Grade Core Curriculum Descriptions	16-18
Eighth Grade Core Curriculum Descriptions	19-21
Middle School Exploratory Overview	22
Middle School Electives Overview	22
Career-Technical Education Overview	22
High School Credit Courses offered at the Middle School Level	23
Math Instructional Sequence Options	25-30
English Placement Criteria	34
Social Studies Placement Criteria	35
Science Placement Criteria	36
Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation	37
Gifted Education	37
Special Education	37
Appendix A – Request to Expunge Grade for High School Course taken in Middle School	38

Middle School Program of Studies Overview

The purpose and intent of our Middle School Program of Studies is to help students, along with their parents/guardians, to:

- Learn about courses and programs offered in our middle schools
- Successfully make the academic and personal-social transition from elementary school
- Make informed decisions concerning courses and receive answers to commonly asked questions
- Better prepare for and understand Virginia's graduation requirements
- Gain understanding of the importance of school performance and how it relates to an individual's goals for further education and career choices
- Help plan and develop academic and career plans to meet educational and career goals

The middle school provides instruction in core content knowledge and skills as well as elective and exploratory experiences appropriate to the developmental needs of early adolescents. In bridging the gap between elementary school and high school, the middle school moves the student from the smaller environment of the elementary school to the departmentalized, diversified, and comprehensive instructional program available in the high school. Students are encouraged to explore and challenge themselves through a variety of subject areas and activities. Starting in 2018-2019, the middle school day consists of seven periods.

The city's three middle schools offer a unified body of instruction based on the Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia. All middle school students take at least one period of each of the four core academic areas: English, math, science, and social studies. Descriptions for these core academic courses are found in the core curriculum section of this document.

In addition to the core academic courses, all students participate in a physical education and health course along with the opportunity for exploratory classes and/or electives. The exploratory classes are generally nine weeks in length whereas elective offerings are year-long or semester courses. In addition, some students are scheduled into RISE English or RISE math courses in order to provide additional support for academic success in one of these content areas.

Keys to Middle School Success

Middle school can be a rewarding experience for every student but can bring anxiety due to the variety of transitions that occur at this age. We have found that students who experience success in school have identified the following as keys to their success:

- Attending school regularly
- Applying consistent effort
- Participating in class
- Completing all assignments
- Asking for assistance if information is not understood
- Being organized (keeping an agenda)
- Setting time aside daily to study and review material
- Engaging in extracurricular activities according to special interests

Course Selection Decisions

The selection of courses for a student in middle school should be a decision that will provide instructional rigor and challenge students in every subject area. Therefore, we want students and parents/guardians to continue to select courses that will support the student's personal academic and career goals.

Courses are offered at different levels of difficulty beyond the grade level content in order to provide students opportunities for challenging their learning and growing at a more rapid pace. The following provide general differences between the course types. In some cases, additional information is provided in the specific course descriptions.

Grade Level or Regular Course – Course content is at the level of rigor of the Standards of Learning or the defined curriculum (for courses that are not included in the Virginia Standards of Learning). More individualized support is often provided.

Advanced Course – Course content includes the rigor of SOLs while also requiring additional content and/or deeper application of the content. Assignments may include additional work that may also require more self-direction by the student. Some advanced courses include components of gifted instructional approaches.

High School Credit Course – Several courses are offered for high school credit, typically beginning in 8th grade. Courses for high school credit are offered in math, science, world language, and some elective areas.

In determining the right level of a course for a student, there are three pathways for enrolling in an advanced level course:

1. Achievement score - The student scores at or above a certain score on an achievement test (usually an SOL test).
2. Teacher recommendation - The teacher recommends the student for a more rigorous course based on the student's achievement in the course and self-direction in learning. A teacher recommendation adds opportunities for students; it does not take opportunities away.
3. Parent request - A parent may request that the student take a course at one level more advanced than he or she would otherwise be enrolled in. The request will usually be honored, except that if prior achievement suggests the student may experience a high degree of struggle in that course, the school may establish a plan with the student and parent for staying on track in the course.

A student may be enrolled in a more advanced course using any of these three options and it is important that parents and teachers not see the first pathway as the only one. Lynchburg City Schools urges students to pursue the most rigorous classes of which they are capable. The courses selected during middle school can impact which courses students can take during high school.

Additional information regarding enrolling in advanced courses for each subject is available on page 31.

Registering for Classes at Middle School

The registration process for rising 6th graders and current 6th, 7th, and 8th graders generally begins during the spring each year. School counselors initiate the process and involve teachers in making recommendations for the following school year concerning course placement.

- The school counselor meets with students to explain course options, recommendations, and requirements. Course selections are based on the student's current academic progress and interests, teacher recommendations, and parent/guardian input.
- The student is required to share these initial course selections with parents/guardians for feedback and approval and then returns the signed course selection sheet to the designated teacher. Parents are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the school counselor for questions and/or concerns regarding course selection and registration.
- The parent/guardian may request that a student be enrolled in an advanced level course even if that is not recommended by the teacher. Please contact the school counselor for more information. (Also, see page 31 for more information).

Academic and Career Plans

All middle school students will transition to the high school with a comprehensive academic and career plan (ACP) that will be developed each year during middle school by using various learning and career inventories to help establish each student's academic and career interests. This is normally started in the beginning of their 7th grade year and completed by the spring of their 8th grade year.

The components of the ACP shall include, but are not limited to middle and high school course selections, career interests, and diploma requirements. This is a working document that is reviewed each year and amended based on the changing desires and needs of the individual student. The goal is to maximize student achievement by remaining focused on what is required to obtain his/her personal postsecondary and career readiness through a personal learning plan.

High School Graduation Requirements

High school graduation requirements are listed in the High School Program of Studies and can be found on the Lynchburg City Schools' website. A printed copy is available in the counseling department for any parent/guardian who would like to obtain one. Also, all 8th graders will receive a printed copy of the High School Program of Studies.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculations

The information below pertains to high school level courses. There are only a few high school level courses offered in middle school, but this information is provided as students begin to take and plan for courses that will impact graduation and beyond.

The Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation is a way to quantify the overall academic achievement of a student in a single number. The GPA calculation is used with high school credit courses for ranking graduating students and determining if the student achieves Summa Cum Laude honors (a student should be enrolled in LCS for two full years to be considered for this honor). The GPA is often requested on applications for awards, recognitions, certain memberships or positions, and on college applications. This value is determined by the grades a student earns and by the level of difficulty of the courses taken.

In the Lynchburg City Schools, there are three levels of courses, and each allocates a different number of quality points for a given grade. For most classes, an “A” is worth 4 points, a “B” is worth 3 points, a “C” is worth 2 points, a “D” is worth 1 point, and an “F” is worth zero points. If a student takes an advanced level course, an additional 0.5 points is added to any grade earned above an “F”. If a student takes an Advanced Placement (AP) course and AP exam (or identified Dual Enrollment courses or CVGS courses), an additional full point is added to any grade earned above an “F”. For GPA purposes, the + and – of a grade letter do not factor in.

Quality Points per Full Year Credit

Advanced Placement, CVGS, and Dual Enrollment Courses in Core Content Areas	Advanced Courses and Specified Dual Enrollment Courses	All Other
A – 5	A – 4.5	A – 4
B – 4	B – 3.5	B – 3
C – 3	C – 2.5	C – 2
D – 2	D – 1.5	D – 1
F – 0	F – 0	F – 0

Calculating Grade Point Average (GPA)

The information below pertains to high school level courses. There are only a few high school level courses offered in middle school, but this information is provided as students begin to take and plan for courses that will impact graduation and beyond.

The GPA for a year is calculated by averaging the quality points for courses taken that year and dividing that by the number of courses taken that year. The cumulative GPA is calculated by averaging the quality points for high school courses taken for that year and all prior years (including high school level courses that a student may have taken in middle school and in approved summer courses) and dividing that by the total number of those courses.

With regard to rank using the GPA, students are first considered for the distinction of Summa Cum Laude, based on the cumulative GPA to that point in their high school career. Summa Cum Laude is considered the highest level of academic performance and students with that distinction share the class rank of first. Rank order below Summa Cum Laude is then determined by exact GPA level, with the highest GPA below Summa Cum Laude being ranked with a number one more than the total number of students at Summa Cum Laude (e.g. If there are 4 students at Summa Cum Laude and ranked 1st, then the students with the highest GPA that is not Summa Cum Laude would be ranked 5th).

The thresholds for Summa Cum Laude are noted below for the end of each grade level:

- 9th grade – 4.3
- 10th grade – 4.3
- 11th grade – 4.4
- 12th grade – 4.5

Middle School Retention and Summer School

Students in middle school are expected to pass all courses and especially each of the four core courses. The school will provide communication with parents and support for students if they are struggling to pass a course so that the possibility of failing a course is minimized.

If a student has a failing grade at the end of any quarter during the year, the school will communicate with the parent and establish strategies for the student to make progress and minimize the possibility of a failing grade for the course. The strategies may include support during and/or after the school day. The school may also require the student to attend tutoring and support in order to participate in afterschool sports or activities.

If a student is not passing one or more core courses at the end of the school year, the student will be considered for summer school. The purpose of summer school is to prepare the student for success in the coming school year with the focus in literacy and math.

The following guidelines are used for considering whether attendance in summer school is required or recommended and if the student should be promoted. If summer school is required and the student does not attend at least 80% of the classes, the student will not be promoted to the next grade level, unless an exception is made by the principal and superintendent's designee.

Student Status with Core Courses	Summer School Status
Failed one course	Principal decision to recommend or require
Failed two courses	Required
Failed three courses	Principal decision to require summer school or retain (if retained, summer school is also recommended)
Failed four courses	Student shall be retained or considered for alternative school (Summer school is also recommended)

Any exceptions to the guidelines for a particular student circumstance require the approval of both the principal and superintendent's designee.

Process for Expunging Grades of High School Courses Taken in Middle School

In accordance with the current *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, parents/guardians of a middle school student enrolled in a high school credit course may request that the grade earned in that course be expunged, or omitted, from their child's transcript. Under these guidelines, the grades earned in such classes are not included in the high school GPA, nor will the student receive a credit toward graduation for this course. This process for expunging grades is only applicable for a high school credit course taken in middle school.

The school counseling department will send home an *expunge form* with the final report card. At that time, to have the course removed from the transcript, a completed form will need to be returned for each course to be removed, and that form must be returned to the middle school counseling department by June 30th or to the school counseling department of the high school the student will attend (rising 9th graders) on or before August 1st of the year in which the student completes the 8th grade.

Please be aware that when a middle school student receives a grade of "F" in a high school credit-bearing course, that grade and course will automatically be expunged from their transcript. Students who elect to expunge the grades from their high school records must understand that to receive high school credit for the course, he/she will need to repeat that course in the future in order to receive credit toward meeting state diploma requirements.

If a student is struggling in the first semester of a course, the parent/guardian may instead request for the student to be switched out of a high school credit class prior to the end of the first semester. The course the student switched out of will be on the student's report card but no credit will be given to the student for the course. In this instance, there is no need to expunge the grade.

When a student remains in the course for most of the school year, that student will take any associated state Standards of Learning test, and that test score will be maintained in the student's scholastic record.

Should you have any questions regarding the expunging grades process, please do not hesitate to contact your middle school Counseling Department. A copy of the expunge form can be found in Appendix A of this program of studies.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Sixth Grade

The sixth grade student will have four required core classes (English, math, science, and social studies), health/physical education, English and/or math remediation and choices among exploratory rotations and/or a music course in his/her first year of middle school. The following provides a description of the course options that are available for sixth graders. In addition, the school will share additional information on certain courses and rotations offered that are specific to the school.

English

English 6 (961XY): This course provides instruction in vocabulary, reading comprehension, and literature, as well as in oral communication skills. Reading instruction integrated with the domains of writing (composing/written expression and usage/mechanics) to produce multi-paragraph narratives, descriptions, explanations, and persuasive writings will be the focus of this course. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 6th grade Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) test.

RISE English 6 (961YE): This course provides an opportunity to some selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in English 6. These students are identified by using achievement data such as SOL scores and grades. The course focus is on those skills that prove to be challenging for students and help them to become more proficient in their abilities to read, write, and be better critical thinkers.

English 6A (961AY): This advanced-level class is designed to meet the needs of 6th grade students with well-developed reading and writing skills. Vocabulary, literature, language, and writing instruction are taught, and instruction moves at a faster pace than in a non-advanced course. In addition, students in the advanced-level class will have opportunities for wider reading and writing experiences than those required by the 6th grade English SOL. Selection factors for considering placement of students into this advanced-level class include success on the 5th grade SOL test, teacher recommendation, and other test scores. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 6th grade Reading SOL test.

Mathematics

Math 6 (962XY): This course covers the 6th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum. The development of problem solving skills will be a major goal. Students will use appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers. A wide range of skills and strategies will be developed in the following areas: number and number sense, computation and estimation, measurement, geometry, probability, statistics, patterns, and algebra. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 6th grade math SOL test.

RISE Math 6 (962YE): This course provides an opportunity to some selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in Math 6. These students are identified by using achievement data such as SOL scores and grades. The course focus is on those skills that prove to be challenging for students and help them to become more confident in their abilities to do mathematics and be better mathematical problem solvers.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Sixth Grade (continued)

Math 6A (Advanced) (962AY): This advanced course covers the 7th grade math SOL. Students will also identify applications of the mathematical principles that can be applied to science and other disciplines. Appropriate technologies such as calculators, videos, and computers will also be utilized. There are selection factors for considering placement of students into this advanced-level class which can be found in the recommended instructional sequences section. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 7th grade math SOL test.

Pre-Algebra 7A (972AY): This course covers the 8th grade math SOL, including content that reviews and extends the concepts and skills learned in previous grades and new content that reviews and extends the concepts and skills learned in previous grades and new content that prepares students into this advanced-level class which can be found in the recommended instructional sequences section. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade math SOL test. (See page 23 for further details)

PETAL Math Block 6/6A (Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated Learning) 962XAY: This is a special program offered to selected students in a two-period course. The program is a division initiative to address the achievement gap while encouraging underrepresented populations of students to access more rigorous courses. Students in this course complete 6th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum and part of 7th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum. Appropriate technologies such as calculators, videos, and computers will also be utilized. Rising 6th grade students who were in the on-grade level math course in 5th grade are invited to participate in this program during the summer based on factors which include the following: math achievement in fifth grade, elementary math SOL test scores, scores on LCS Division-benchmarks in math, teacher recommendations, and previous participation in the PETAL summer math program. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 6th grade SOL test. For additional information on the Sixth Grade PETAL Math Block, please contact the office of Engagement, Equity, and Opportunity in the School Administration Building, 434-515-5048.

Science

Life Science 6 (963XY): This course emphasizes a complex understanding of changes, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students use the inquiry approach to manipulate variables in experimentation, organize and analyze mathematical data, and summarize conclusions. Students study both the general science 6th grade SOL and the life science SOL.

Life Science 6A (963AY): This advanced-level course covers the same science SOL as the regular life science course but moves at a faster pace to allow time for additional opportunities for enrichment. Throughout the year, students complete alternative assessments to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course content.

Social Studies

United States History 6 (Part I) 964XY: This course covers the history of the United States from Pre-Columbian times until 1865. Students learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography as they understand ideas and events that strengthened the United States. Responsible citizenship is an emphasis as are the use of primary and secondary sources. Throughout the year, students complete performance assessments to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course content.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Sixth Grade (continued)

Social Studies (continued)

United States History 6A (Part II) 964AY: This advanced-level course covers the same SOL as the regular US History 1 course but moves at a faster pace to allow time for additional opportunities for enrichment of the curriculum. Throughout the year, students complete performance assessments to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course content.

Physical Education

PE/Health 6: The 6th grade physical education curriculum introduces students to physical activities which promote personal wellness, physical fitness, body management, and a basic knowledge of sports for leisure-time pursuits. The health curriculum covers the development of healthy personal characteristics and includes information on self-esteem, decision-making, self-discipline, acceptance, loyalty, honesty, cooperation, diligence, tolerance, and trustworthiness. Sixth grade family life deals with the physical, social, emotional, and psychological changes that occur at the time of puberty, and includes AIDS education.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Seventh Grade

The seventh grade student will have four required core classes (English, math, science, and social studies), health/physical education, English and/or math remediation and choices among semester electives and/or a music course in his/her second year of middle school. The following provides a description of the course options that are available for seventh graders. In addition, the school will share additional information on certain courses and rotations offered that are specific to the school.

English

English 7 (971XY): This course provides instruction in vocabulary, reading comprehension, and literature, as well as in oral communication skills. Reading instruction integrated with the domains of writing (composing/written expression and usage/mechanics) to produce multi-paragraph narratives, descriptions, explanations, and persuasive writings will be the focus of this course. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 7th grade Reading SOL test.

RISE English 7 (971YE): This course provides an opportunity to some selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in English 7. These students are identified by using achievement data such as SOL scores and grades. The course focus is on those skills that prove to be challenging for students and help them to become more proficient in their abilities to read, write, and be better critical thinkers.

English 7A (971AY): This advanced-level class is designed to meet the needs of 7th grade students with well-developed reading and writing skills. Vocabulary, literature, language, and writing instruction are taught, and instruction moves at a faster pace than in the English 7 format. In addition, students in the advanced-level class will have opportunities for wider reading and writing experiences than those required by the 7th grade English SOL. Selection factors for considering placement of students into this advanced-level class include success on the 6th grade SOL test, teacher recommendation and other test scores. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 7th grade Reading SOL test.

Mathematics

Math 7 (972XY): This course covers 7th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum. The development of problem solving skills will be a major goal. Students will use appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers. A wide range of skills and strategies will be developed in the following areas: number and number sense, computation and estimation, measurement, geometry, probability, statistics, patterns, and algebra. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 7th grade math SOL test.

Rise Math 7 (972YE): This course provides an opportunity to some selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in Math 7. These students are identified by using achievement data such as SOL scores and grades. The course focus is on those skills that prove to be challenging for students and help them to become more confident in their abilities to do mathematics and be better mathematical problem solvers.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Seventh Grade (continued)

Mathematics (continued)

PETAL Math Block 7/7A (Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated Learning) (972AY): This two-period course covers the second half of 7th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum and all of the 8th grade Standards of Learning curriculum including the properties and basic operations of rational numbers including algebraic and graphical representation, linear equations and inequalities, and solving of these equations. This is a special program offered to selected students in a two-period course. The program is a division initiative to address the achievement gap while encouraging underrepresented populations of students to access more rigorous courses. The development of problem solving skills will be a major goal. Students will use appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade math SOL test.

Pre-Algebra 7A (972AY): This course covers the 8th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum, including content that reviews and extends the concepts and skills learned in previous grades and new content that prepares students for more abstract concepts in algebra. Appropriate technologies such as calculators, videos, and computers will also be utilized. There are selection factors for considering placement of students into this advanced-level class which can be found in the recommended instructional sequences section. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade math SOL test.

Advanced Algebra I (2387Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): *Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or Advanced Pre-Algebra.* This course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point course in terms of Grade Point Average (GPA). This course includes instruction in greater depth than the traditional Algebra I course. Students attach meaning to the abstract concepts of algebra by using tables and graphs to interpret equations and inequalities and to analyze functions. Calculators, computers, spreadsheets, and graphing calculators or computer graphing simulators are used to assist in solving problems. Advanced algebra is the initial course in the sequence of courses designed for a five-year accelerated math program. Near the end of the school year, students will take the Algebra I SOL test. It is recommended for the student to take Advanced Algebra II (8th) and Advanced Geometry/Trigonometry (9th) with successful completion of Advanced Algebra I.

Science

Physical Science 7 (973XY): This course provides an in-depth understanding of matter and energy. Students use experiments, technology, and literature reviews to build upon their investigation skills. Students in this course study the physical science SOL.

Physical Science 7A (973AY): This advanced-level course covers the same science SOL as the regular physical science course but moves at a faster pace to allow time for additional opportunities for enrichment of the curriculum and a solid review of previous science SOL. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade Science SOL test.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Seventh Grade (continued)

Social Studies

United States History 7 (Part II) 974XY: This course covers the history of the United States from 1865 to the present. The standards for this course relate to the history of the United States from the Reconstruction era to the present. Political, economic, and social challenges facing the nation reunited are examined as students develop an understanding of how the American experience shaped the world's political and economic landscapes. Responsible citizenship is also an emphasis of this course. Throughout the year, students complete performance assessments to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course content.

United States History 7A (Part II) 974AY: This advanced-level course covers the same SOL as the regular US History 2 course but moves at a faster pace to allow time for additional opportunities for enrichment of the curriculum. Throughout the year, students complete performance assessments to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course content.

Physical Education

PE/Health 7: The physical education curriculum in the 7th grade focuses on the development of proficiency in specific areas of physical fitness through instruction and participation in team, individual, and dual sports. Emphasis is placed on skill development, playing strategies and rules of the game, and an appreciation for the aesthetic value of body management as it relates to dance and gymnastics. Health instruction includes information on the effects of alcohol and other drugs; information on the causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases; and first aid techniques. The relationship between nutrition and the development of good mental, physical, and emotional health is also covered. Family life topics include family relationships, human sexuality and loving relationships, and the causes and treatments of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Eighth Grade

The eighth grade student will have four required core classes (English, math, science, and social studies), health/physical education, English and/or math remediation and choices among semester electives and/or a music course in his/her third year of middle school. High school credit courses are also available in this year (some course offerings are dependent upon sufficient enrollment). The following provides a description of the course options that are available for eighth graders. In addition, the school will share additional information on certain courses and rotations offered that are specific to the school.

English

English 8 (981XY): This course provides instruction in vocabulary, reading comprehension, and literature, as well as in oral communication skills. Reading instruction integrated with the domains of writing (composing/written expression and usage/mechanics) to produce multi-paragraph narratives, descriptions, explanations, and persuasive writings will be the focus of this course. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade Reading and 8th grade Writing SOL tests.

RISE English 8 (981YE): This course provides an opportunity to some selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in English 8. These students are identified by using achievement data such as SOL scores and grades. The course focus is on those skills that prove to be challenging for students and help them to become more proficient in their abilities to read and write and be better critical thinkers.

English 8A (981AY): This advanced-level class is designed to meet the needs of 8th grade students with well-developed reading and writing skills. Vocabulary, literature, language, and writing instruction are taught, and instruction must move at a faster pace than in the non-advanced course. In addition, students in the advanced-level class will have opportunities for wider reading and writing experiences than those required by the 8th grade English SOL. Selection factors for considering placement of students into this advanced-level class include success on the 7th grade SOL test, teacher recommendation and other standardized tests scores. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade Reading and 8th grade Writing SOL tests.

Mathematics

Foundations of Algebra 8 (982AY): This course covers the 8th grade math Standards of Learning curriculum and some of the Algebra I Standards of Learning curriculum. This course provides introductory instruction in the properties and basic operations of rational numbers including algebraic and graphical representation, linear equations and inequalities, and solving of these equations. Appropriate technologies such as calculators, videos, and computers will also be utilized. Near the end of the school year, students will take the 8th grade math SOL test unless that SOL was completed in 7th grade.

Rise Math 8 (982YE): This course provides an opportunity to some selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in Foundations of Algebra. These students are identified by using achievement data such as SOL scores and grades. The course focus is on those skills that prove to be challenging for students and help them to become more confident in their abilities to do mathematics and be better mathematical problem solvers.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Eighth Grade (continued)

Mathematics (continued)

Advanced Algebra I (2387Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): *Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or Advanced Pre-Algebra. This course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point course in terms of Grade Point Average (GPA).* This course includes instruction in greater depth than the traditional Algebra I course. Students attach meaning to the abstract concepts of algebra by using tables and graphs to interpret equations and inequalities and to analyze functions. Calculators, computers, spreadsheets, and graphing calculators or computer graphing simulators are used to assist in solving problems. Advanced algebra is the initial course in the sequence of courses designed for a five-year accelerated math program. Near the end of the school year, students will take the Algebra I SOL test.

Advanced Algebra II (2397Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): *Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra I. This course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point course in terms of Grade Point Average (GPA).* The first semester includes the study of equations, inequalities, relations, functions, systems of equations, polynomials, irrational numbers, complex numbers, and conic sections. The second semester of this course includes the study of higher degree polynomials, rational and exponential functions, and statistics and probability. Appropriate technologies such as calculators, videos, and computers will also be utilized. Near the end of the school year, students will take the Algebra II SOL test.

Science

Principles of Science 8 (983XY): This course enables students to complete an extended study of general, life, and physical science. The living world, matter, energy, and scientific experimentation are explored in depth. Students completing this course take the 8th grade Science SOL test.

Advanced Earth Science 8 (3387Y) High School Credit (1.0 Credit): *Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or physical science. This advanced course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point course in terms of HS Grade Point Average (GPA).* The major topics studied in this course are oceanography, meteorology, geology, and astronomy, each with accompanying laboratory activities. Near the end of the school year, students take the Earth Science SOL test.

Social Studies

Civics and Economics 8 (984XY): This course covers the Constitutions of the United States and Virginia, as well as the structure and functions of government institutions at the national, state, and local levels. Students also study the basic principles, structure, and operation of the American economy. Standards for this course examine the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Responsible citizenship is also an emphasis of this course. Near the end of the school year, students take the Civics/Economics SOL test.

Civics and Economics 8A (Advanced) (984AY): This advanced-level course covers the same SOL as the regular civics/economics course but moves at a faster pace to allow time for additional opportunities for enrichment of the curriculum. Near the end of the school year, students take the Civics/Economics SOL test.

Core Curriculum Descriptions Eighth Grade (continued)

World Languages

Spanish I (1880Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): This introductory course is an initiation into language as a means of active communication for which a reasonable proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish is the overall goal. Activities include frequent conversational activities, projects, and dramatizations which involve students actively in the language. Correlated audio-visuals serve as stimuli to involve students in conversations to interest teenagers.

French I (1580Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): Communicating in French is the highlight of these beginning semesters of language study. Students become involved immediately in using the language to simulate daily life situations. Activities include speaking, listening, writing, reading, and learning about French culture. Correlated audio-visuals serve as stimuli to involve students in conversations of interest to teenagers.

Latin I (1780Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): This first-year Latin course provides the foundation for understanding Latin and the basis for learning any world language. Students enlarge their vocabulary, refine grammar in English, and learn about the origins of our traditions and institutions while reading the history, myths, and legends of the ancient Romans.

German I (1680Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): In this introductory course, students become involved with the German language through conversations and readings relating to school, family, leisure-time activities, travel, parties, and German speaking countries. Authentic audio-visual aids reinforce aural-oral skills while lending authentic cultural insights. **(Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation only)**

Physical Education

PE/Health 8: This course emphasizes the further development of flexibility, agility, cardiovascular endurance, balance, coordination, time, and speed. Students continue to develop skills in physical coordination and movement through the performance of dance and gymnastics routines. The history of team, individual, and dual sports is introduced, and specific rules and knowledge of playing strategies are reinforced. Health units continue instruction on the effects of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Personal wellness and good mental health are promoted through the study of healthy lifestyles. Emphasis is placed on safety at home, at school, and in the community. Family life units focus on the stages of human growth and development. Emphasis is placed on responsible behaviors in dealing with sexuality, and topics covered include sexual abstinence, coping skills, teen pregnancy, the prevention of sexual assault, and AIDS awareness and prevention.

Middle School Exploratory Overview

Exploratory courses are usually offered in 6th and 7th grades. The courses are offered in the areas of world language, cultural arts, technology and career-technology, and enrichment of the core subjects. Each middle school offers a varied array of exploratory rotations that usually range from nine to eighteen weeks in length. School specific offerings are available through the course scheduling form and from your school counseling office. Exploratory rotations are courses that students are scheduled into that afford students opportunities to explore their interests and talents.

Exploratory course offerings are subject to change based on interest inventories, scheduling constraints, and staffing availability.

Middle School Electives Overview

Lynchburg City Schools' middle schools offer a wide array of elective offerings. School specific offerings are available from the individual school. In support of the middle school philosophy, all three middle schools offer elective and enrichment courses in the areas of world language, fine and performance arts, career and technological education. Electives are courses students choose or "elect" to take. Specialized electives and enrichment opportunities provide students with differentiated instruction and an advanced curriculum to address students' unique intellectual gifts and talents. Elective and enrichment offerings are subject to change based on interest inventories, scheduling constraints, and staffing availability.

Career-Technical Education Overview

A wide variety of Career and Technical Education courses are offered at each middle school. A full list of CTE courses are available through the school counseling department at each school.

Middle school opportunities exist in the following:

- Family and Consumer Science
- Business and IT
- Webpage Design
- Computer Applications
- Technology Systems/STEM
- Health and Medical Sciences/STEM
- Technical Drawing/CAD
- Inventions and Innovations
- Digital Photography
- TV and Media Production
- Career Investigation

High School Credit Courses offered at the Middle School Level

Keyboarding (6240A) High School Credit (0.5 credits per semester): *Prerequisite: None.*

Students develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbol information on a keyboard. Students compose and produce a variety of personal, educational, and professional documents.

Keyboarding Applications (6250B) High School Credit (0.5 credits per semester): *Prerequisite: Keyboarding (6240A) or mastery of touch typing.* Students enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbol information on a keyboard. Students compose and produce a variety of personal, educational, and professional documents with an emphasis on speed and accuracy.
(Linkhorne Middle School only)

World Languages

Spanish I (1880Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 21 for course description.

French I (1580Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 21 for course description.

Latin I (1780Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 21 for course description.

German I (1680Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 21 for course description.

Drama

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE, Grade 8 (1.0 credit): *Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation.* This course is a basic introduction to acting and other theatre skills. Course content includes units in Theatre Games, Improvisation, Stagecraft, Theatre Vocabulary and Terminology, and Theatre History.

Mathematics

Advanced Algebra I (2387Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit)

Prerequisite: teacher recommendation and/or Advanced Pre-Algebra. *This course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point course in terms of Grade Point Average (GPA).* This course includes instruction in greater depth than the traditional Algebra I course. Students attach meaning to the abstract concepts of algebra by using tables and graphs to interpret equations and inequalities and to analyze functions. Matrices are used to organize and manipulate data. Calculators, computers, spreadsheets, and graphing calculators or computer graphing simulators are used to assist in solving problems. Advanced algebra is the initial course in the sequence of courses designed for a five-year accelerated math program. Near the end of the school year, students will take the Algebra I SOL test.

High School Credit Courses offered at the Middle School Level

Mathematics (continued)

Advanced Algebra II (2397Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit)

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra I. This course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point in terms of Grade Point Average (GPA). The first semester includes the study of equations, inequalities, relations, functions, systems of equations, matrices, polynomials, irrational numbers, complex numbers, and conic sections. The second semester of this course includes the study of higher degree polynomials, rational and exponential functions, and statistics and probability. Near the end of the school year, students will take the Algebra II SOL test.

Science

Advanced Earth Science 8 (3387Y): High School Credit (1.0 Credit)-SOL Test

Prerequisite: teacher recommendation and/or physical science. *This course is weighted as a 4.5 quality point course in terms of Grade Point Average (GPA).* The major topics studied in this course are oceanography, meteorology, geology, and astronomy, each with accompanying laboratory activities. Near the end of the school year, students take the Earth Science SOL test.

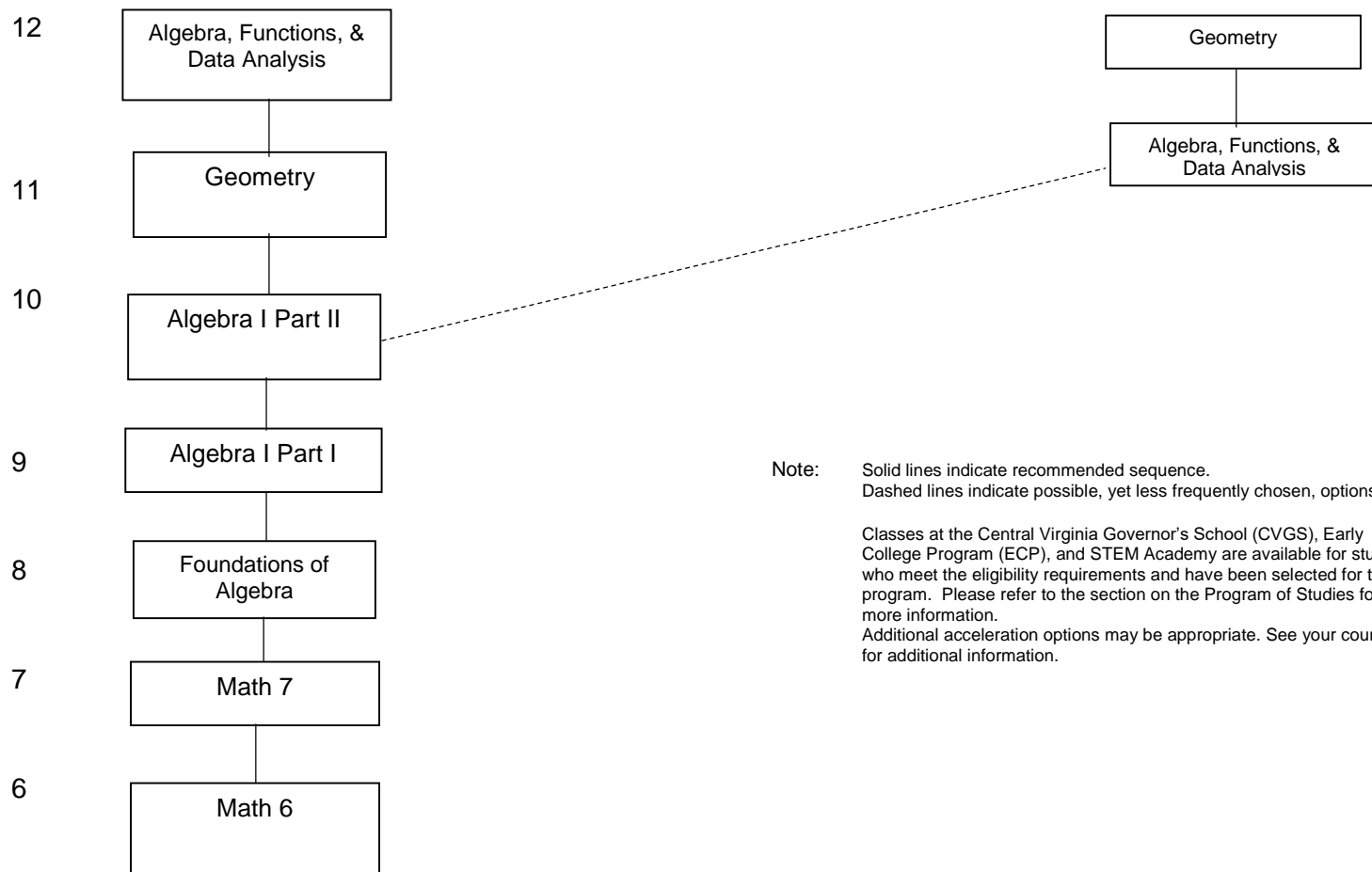
Math Instructional Sequences

The following charts illustrate possible math course sequences and placement for the courses in middle school. Each student should select courses within the sequences which are most closely related to his or her strengths and educational/career goals of students. Students may also move from one sequence to another as students, parents/guardians, teachers and school counselors perceive a need and as the student's progress indicates. Advanced Placement (AP) and dual enrollment (DE) courses, which can provide both high school and college credit, are available to high school students who meet the requirements. Additional information on these high school courses may be obtained from the school counseling department at each high school.

It is encouraged that parents/guardians and students review frequently the graduation and diploma requirements. Graduation and diploma requirement information can be found in the high school program of studies and at <http://www.lcsedu.net/departments/curriculum/program-of-studies>.

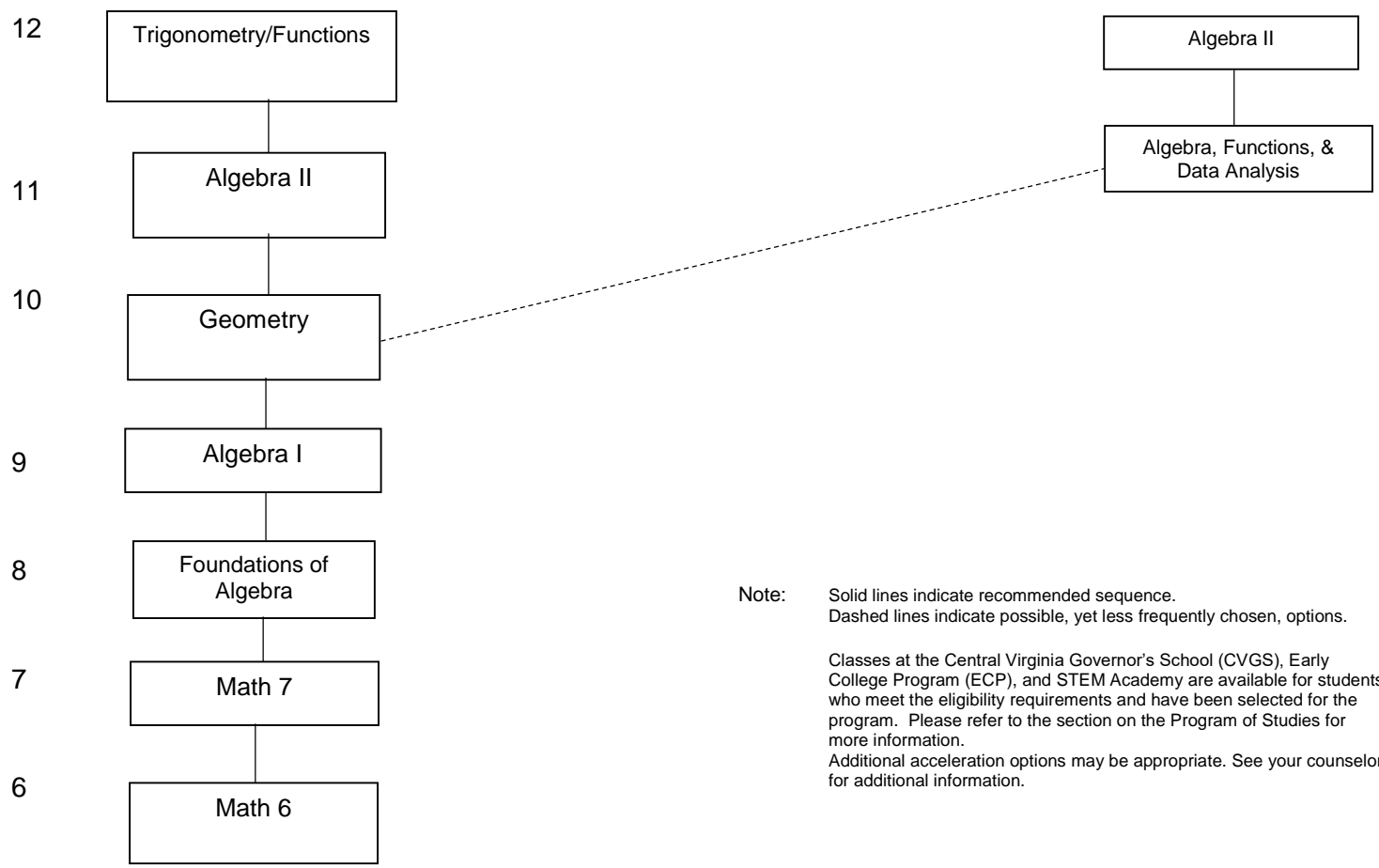
Mathematics Instructional Sequence Options

OPTION 1– Algebra I Part I in 9th Grade



Mathematics Instructional Sequence Options

OPTION 2– Algebra I in 9th Grade

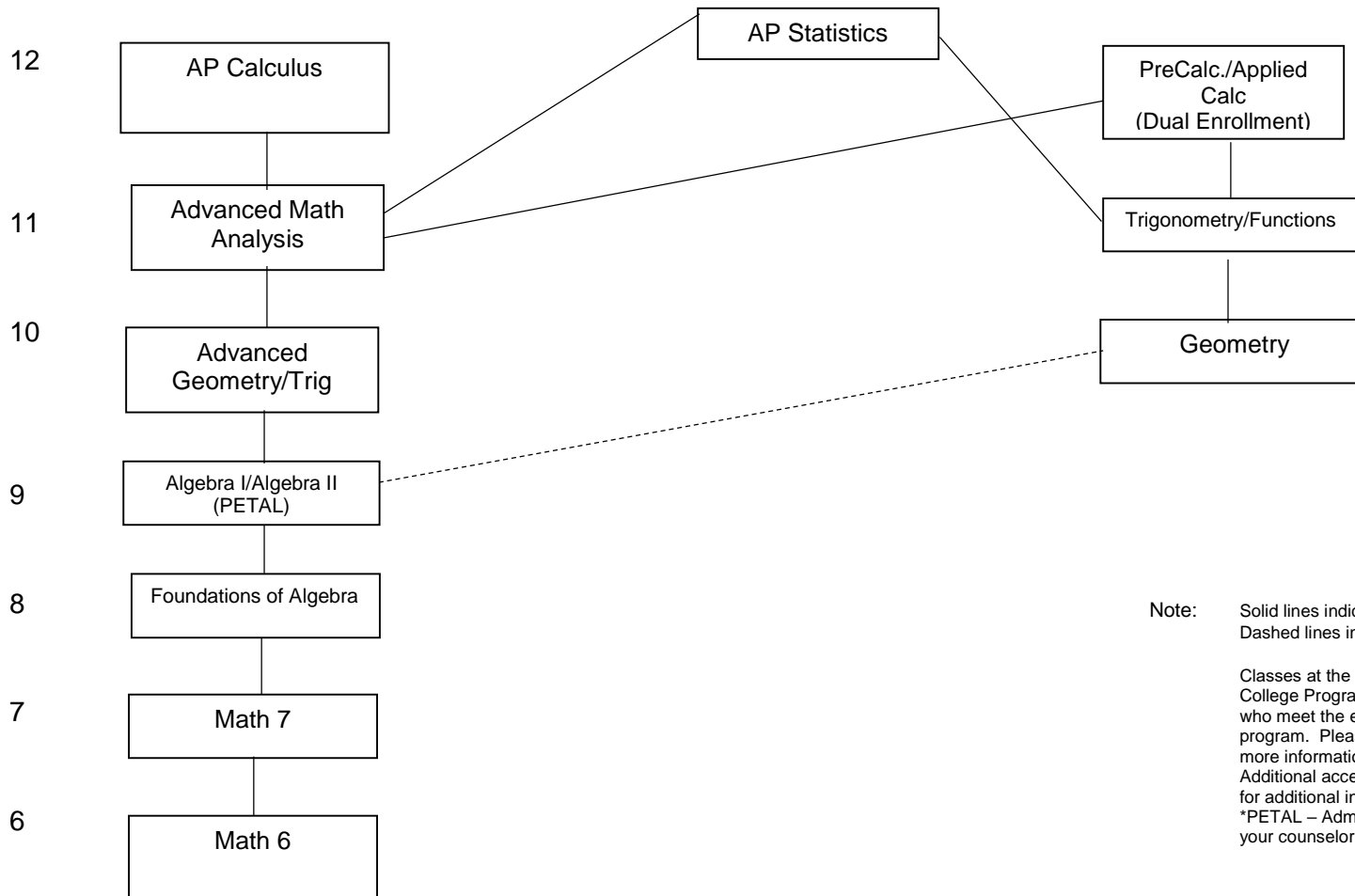


Note: Solid lines indicate recommended sequence.
Dashed lines indicate possible, yet less frequently chosen, options.

Classes at the Central Virginia Governor’s School (CVGS), Early College Program (ECP), and STEM Academy are available for students who meet the eligibility requirements and have been selected for the program. Please refer to the section on the Program of Studies for more information.
Additional acceleration options may be appropriate. See your counselor for additional information.

Mathematics Instructional Sequence Options

OPTION 3 – Algebra I/ Algebra II (PETAL) in 9th grade

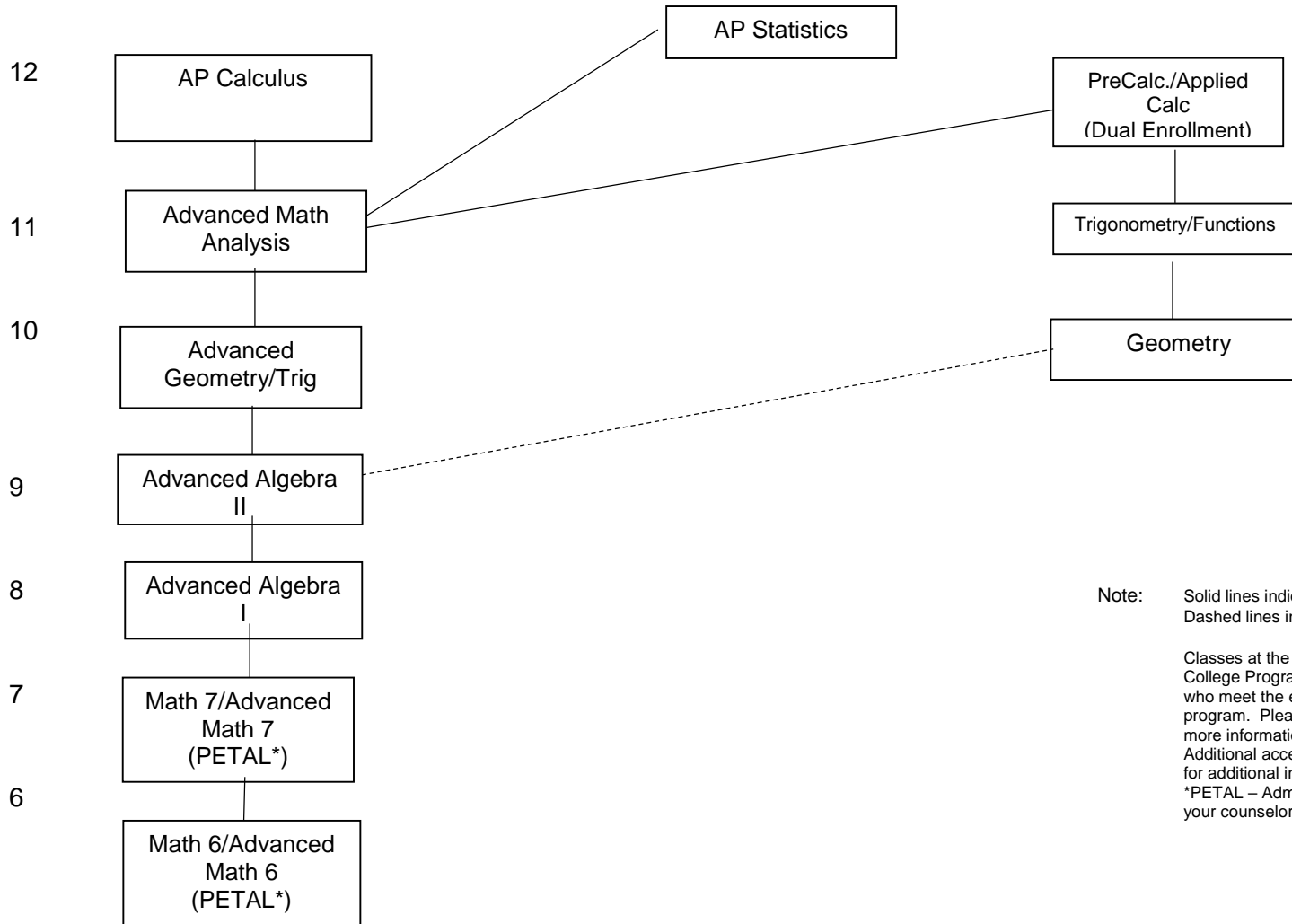


Note: Solid lines indicate recommended sequence.
Dashed lines indicate possible, yet less frequently chosen, options.

Classes at the Central Virginia Governor's School (CVGS), Early College Program (ECP), and STEM Academy are available for students who meet the eligibility requirements and have been selected for the program. Please refer to the section on the Program of Studies for more information.
Additional acceleration options may be appropriate. See your counselor for additional information.
*PETAL – Admission to PETAL requires meeting selection criteria. See your counselor for additional information.

Mathematics Instructional Sequence Options

OPTION 4 – Advanced Algebra II in 9th Grade (PETAL in 6th Grade)



Note: Solid lines indicate recommended sequence.
Dashed lines indicate possible, yet less frequently chosen, options.

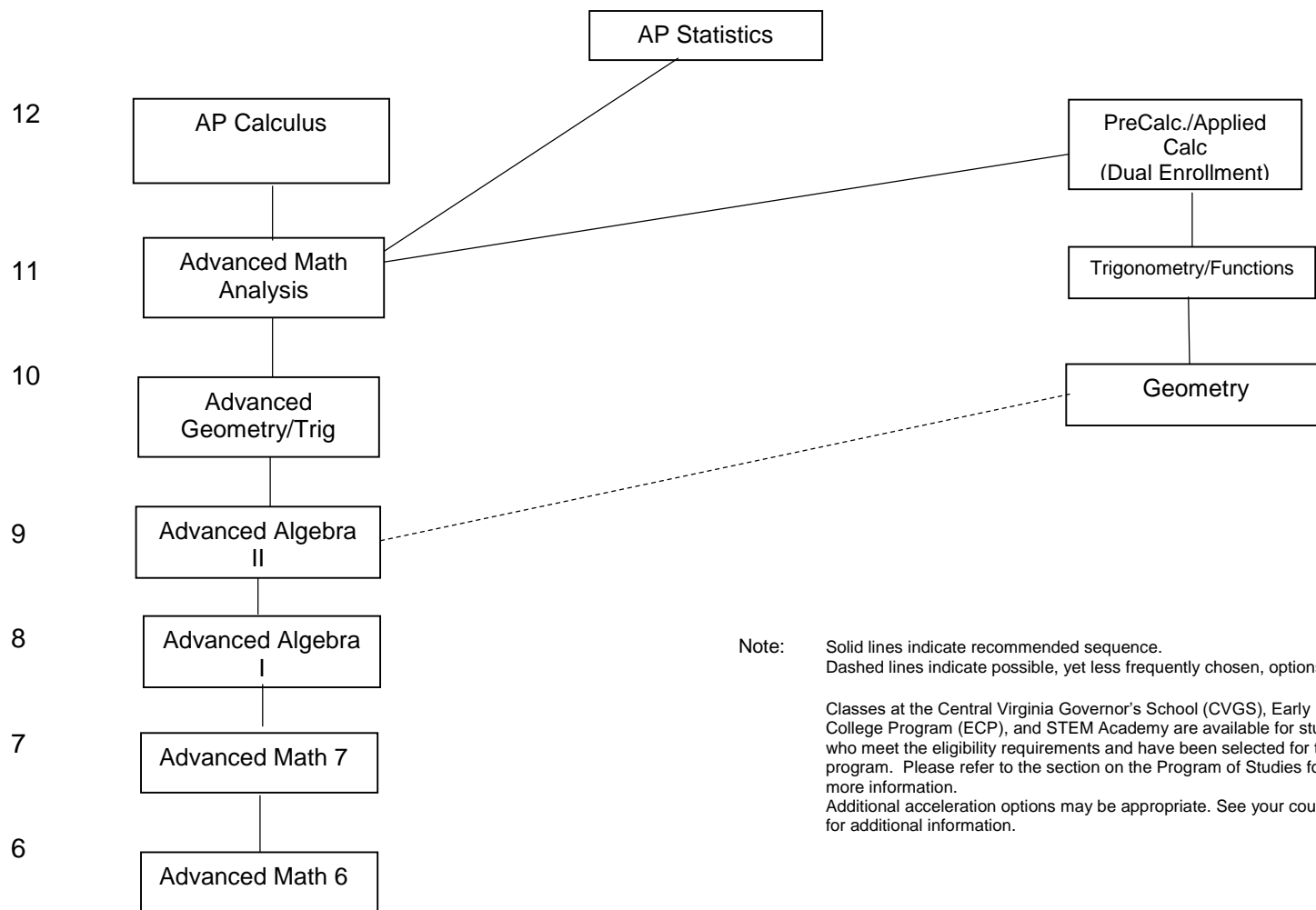
Classes at the Central Virginia Governor's School (CVGS), Early College Program (ECP), and STEM Academy are available for students who meet the eligibility requirements and have been selected for the program. Please refer to the section on the Program of Studies for more information.

Additional acceleration options may be appropriate. See your counselor for additional information.

*PETAL – Admission to PETAL requires meeting selection criteria. See your counselor for additional information.

Mathematics Instructional Sequence Options

OPTION 5 – Advanced Algebra II in 9th Grade



Note: Solid lines indicate recommended sequence.
Dashed lines indicate possible, yet less frequently chosen, options.

Classes at the Central Virginia Governor's School (CVGS), Early College Program (ECP), and STEM Academy are available for students who meet the eligibility requirements and have been selected for the program. Please refer to the section on the Program of Studies for more information.
Additional acceleration options may be appropriate. See your counselor for additional information.

Course Placement Criteria Overview

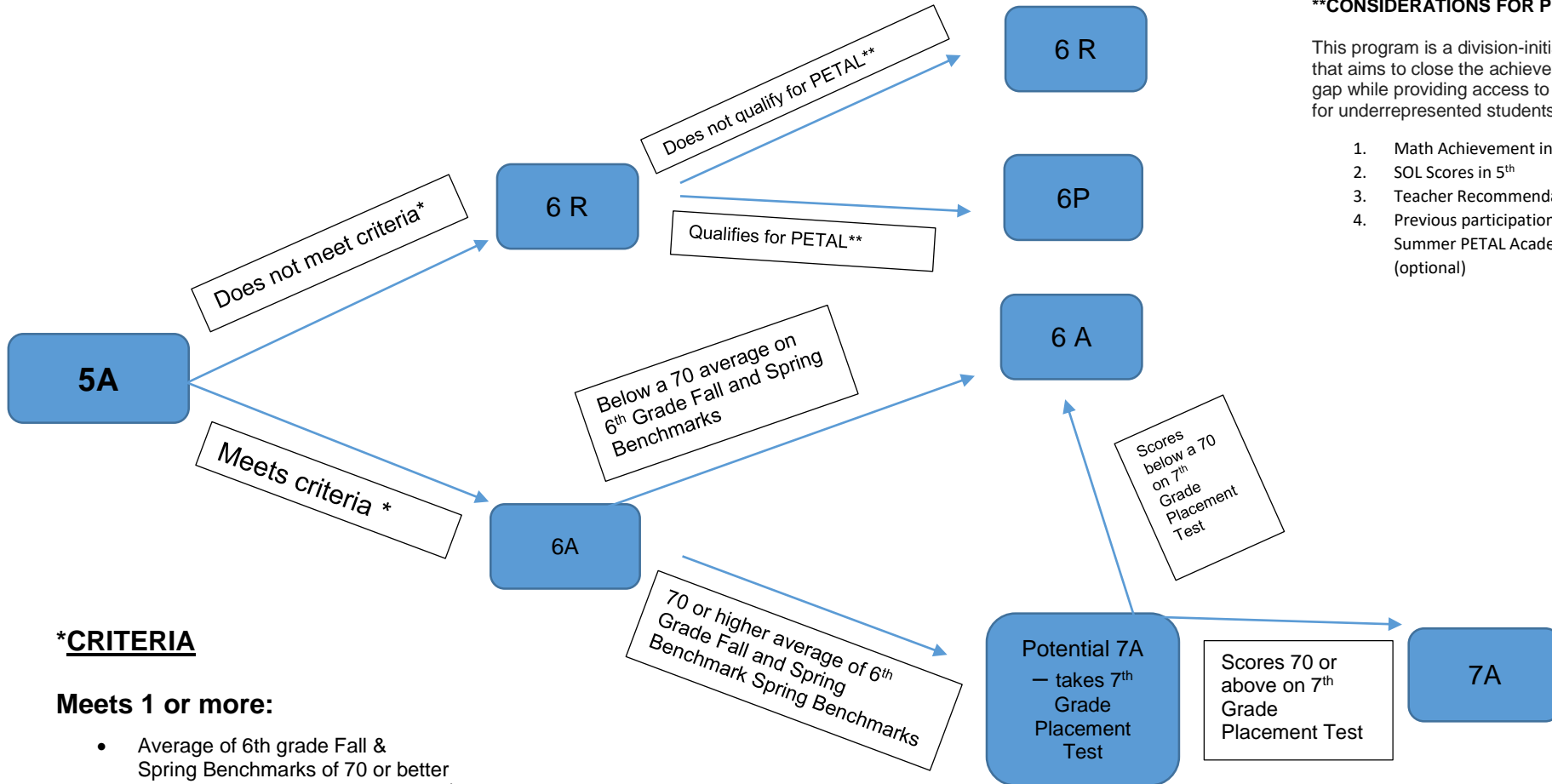
The following charts illustrate the criteria used to determine when a student may take an advanced level of a course in English, math, science, and social studies. Each chart shows three possible pathways to an advanced course:

1. Achievement score - The student scores at or above a certain score on an achievement test (usually an SOL test).
2. Teacher recommendation - The teacher recommends the student for a more rigorous course based on the student's achievement in the course and self-direction in learning. A teacher recommendation adds opportunities for students; it does not take opportunities away.
3. Parent request - A parent may request that the student take a course at one level more advanced than he or she would otherwise be enrolled in. The request will be honored, except that if prior achievement suggests the student may experience a high degree of struggle in that course, the school may establish a plan with the student and parent for staying on track in the course.

A student may be enrolled in a more advanced course using any of these three options and it is important that parents and teachers not see the first pathway as the only one. Lynchburg City Schools urges students to pursue the most rigorous classes of which they are capable. The courses selected during middle school can impact which courses students can take during high school.

MATH PLACEMENT 2018 – 19

I. 5A TO 6TH GRADE



**CONSIDERATIONS FOR PETAL

This program is a division-initiative that aims to close the achievement gap while providing access to rigor for underrepresented students.

1. Math Achievement in 5th
2. SOL Scores in 5th
3. Teacher Recommendation
4. Previous participation in Summer PETAL Academy (optional)

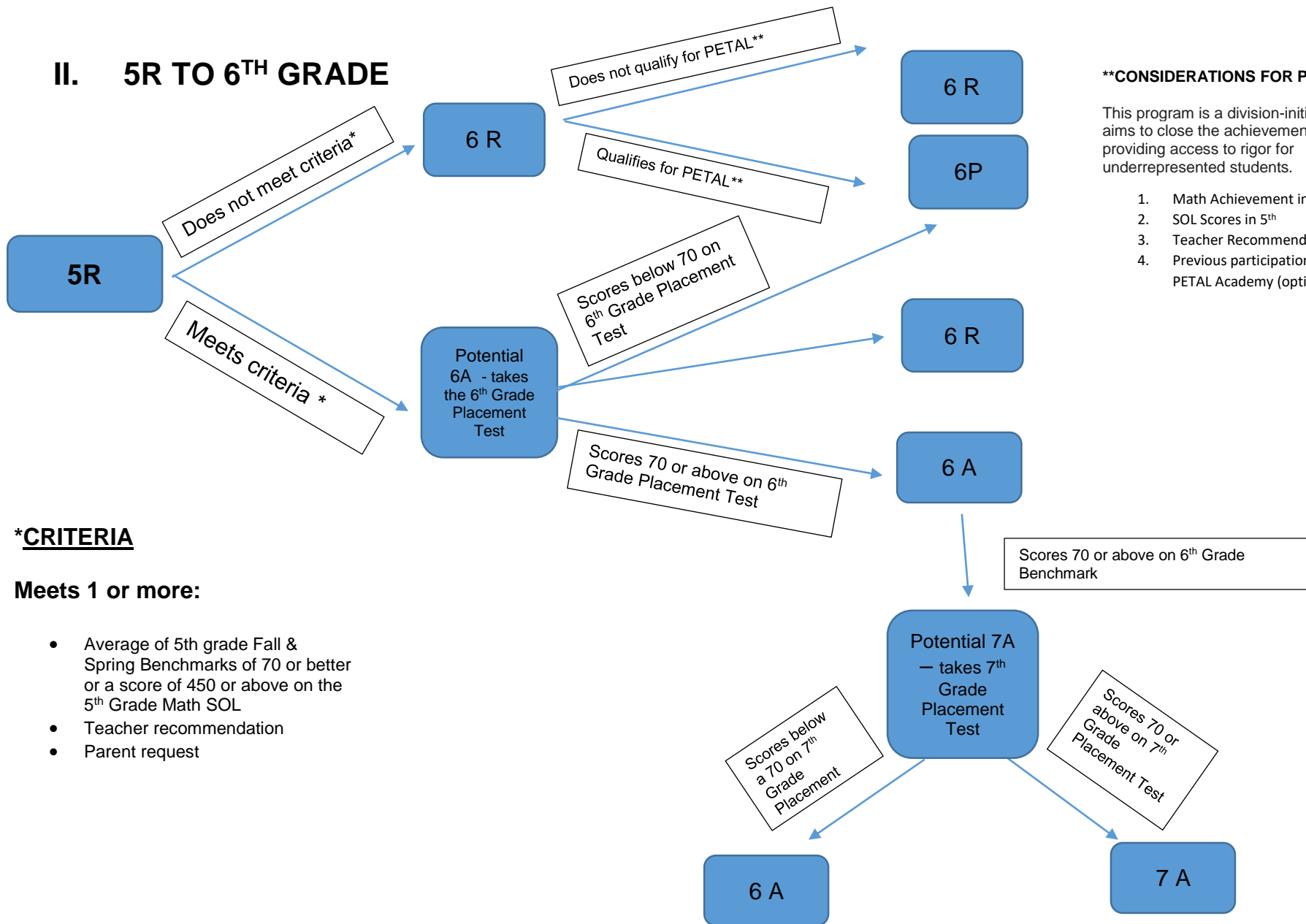
*CRITERIA

Meets 1 or more:

- Average of 6th grade Fall & Spring Benchmarks of 70 or better or a score of 450 or better in the 6th grade SOL test
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent request

*In order to take Algebra I in the 7th grade, students are required to complete the 8th Grade Placement Test with a 70 or better.

II. 5R TO 6TH GRADE



**CONSIDERATIONS FOR PETAL

This program is a division-initiative that aims to close the achievement gap while providing access to rigor for underrepresented students.

1. Math Achievement in 5th
2. SOL Scores in 5th
3. Teacher Recommendation
4. Previous participation in Summer PETAL Academy (optional)

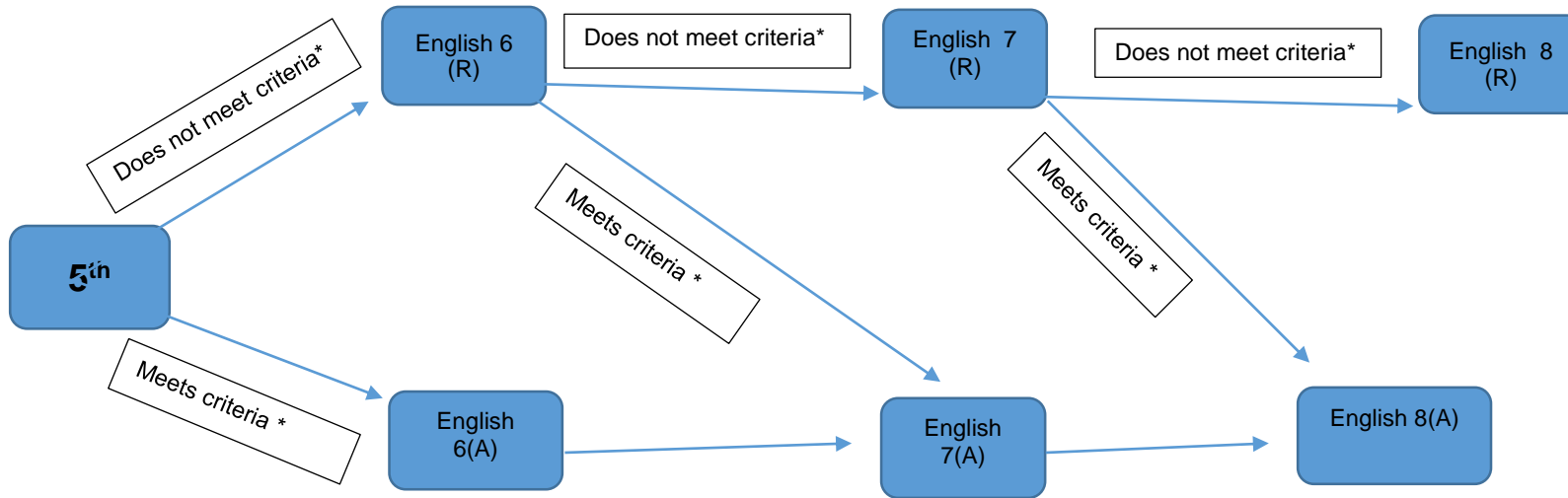
*CRITERIA

Meets 1 or more:

- Average of 5th grade Fall & Spring Benchmarks of 70 or better or a score of 450 or above on the 5th Grade Math SOL
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent request

*In order to take Algebra I in the 7th grade, students are required to complete the 8th Grade Placement Test with a 70 or better.

ENGLISH PLACEMENT

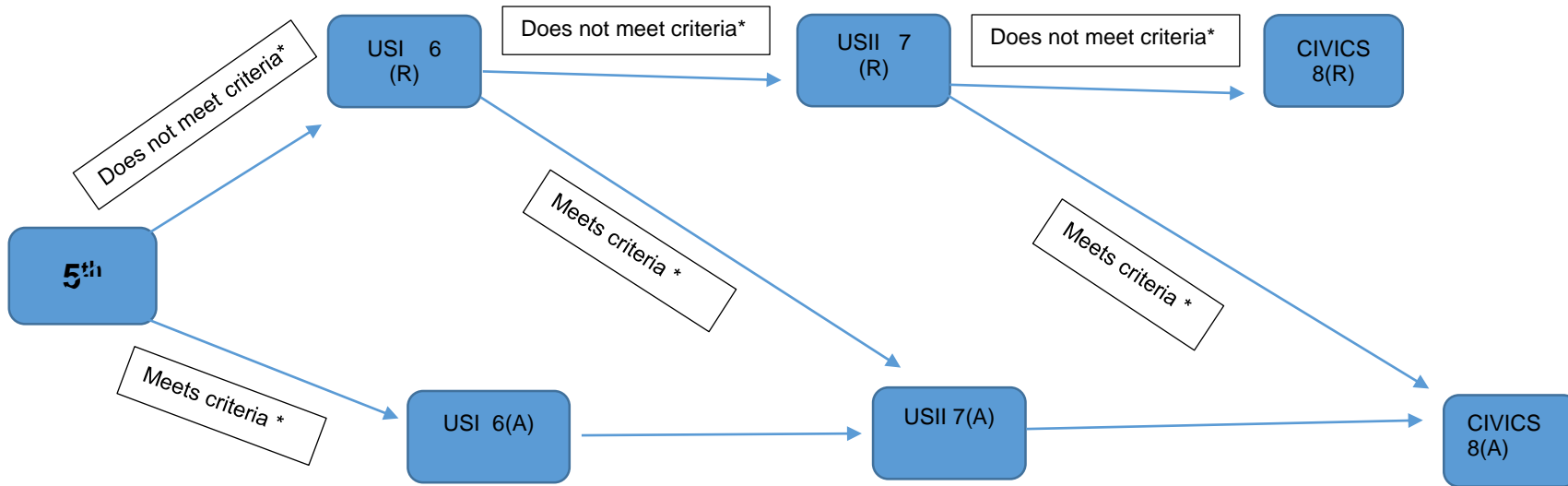


*CRITERIA

Meets 1 or more:

- Average of 5th grade Fall & Spring Benchmarks of 70 or better
- A score of 450 or above on the 5th Grade English SOL
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent request

SOCIAL STUDIES PLACEMENT

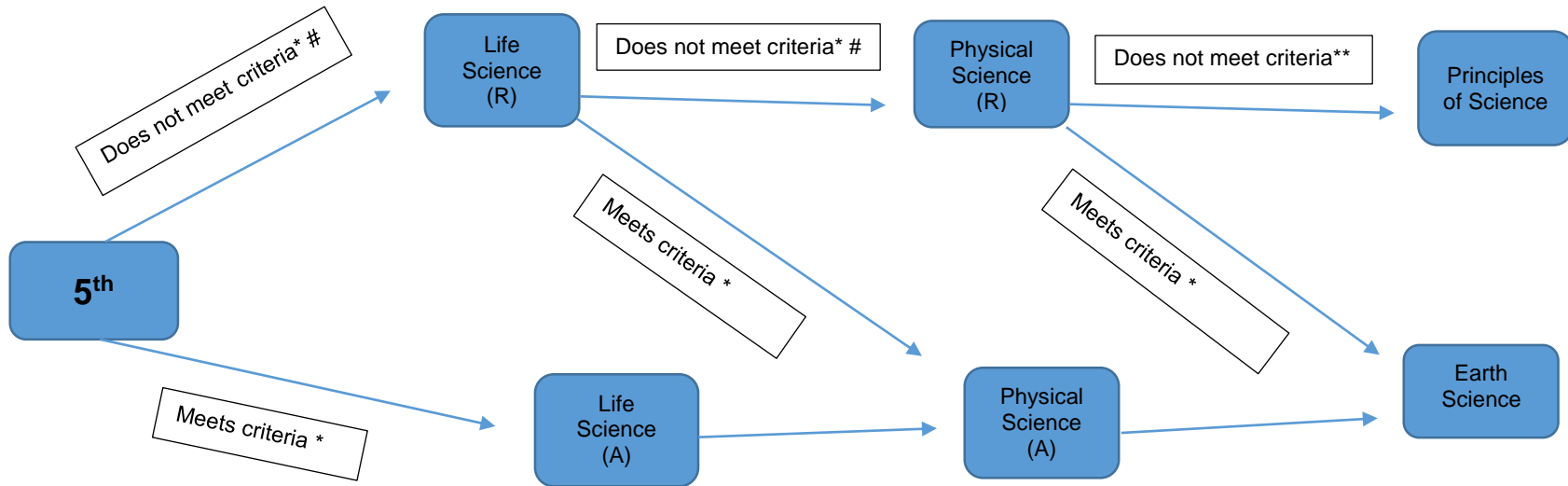


*CRITERIA

Meets 1 or more:

- Average of 5th grade Fall & Spring Benchmarks of 70 or better
- A score of 450 or above on the 5th Grade Social Studies SOL
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent request

SCIENCE PLACEMENT



*CRITERIA

Meets 1 or more:

- Average of 5th grade Fall & Spring Benchmarks of 70 or better
- A score of 450 or above on the 5th Grade Science SOL
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent request

Specialized Programs

Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation

This magnet school draws from an applicant pool of students in all three middle school attendance zones. Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation offers innovative programs not available at the other middle schools. The school offers an extensive curriculum in foreign languages including Spanish, Latin, French and German. Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation also offers a diverse drama curriculum and schedules a variety of performances throughout the school year. The school is also home to *Earth Zone*, a program that allows for hands-on herpetology and marine biology classes. Inquiries regarding the school for innovation applications to Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation should be directed to the Department of Information Technology, School Administration Building, 515-5017. The application period closes in Mid-March.

Gifted Education

The middle school program for gifted education is designed to serve students who demonstrate a specific academic aptitude. The program is provided primarily through advanced courses offered in English, math, science, and social studies as well as through differentiated instruction within the classroom. Eighth graders have the opportunity to accelerate their program of studies by taking high school credit courses in the areas of math, science, and foreign language. Additional gifted course offerings may be available during exploratory periods. *The Lynchburg City Schools Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted* provides information on referral and identification processes, as well as the services provided for identified students. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the school principal to learn more about all the gifted services available to middle school students and the opportunities they provide.

Special Education

Programs available for students with disabilities are provided according to the student's *Individualized Education Plan*. Referrals for special services are routinely made by parents/guardians, counselors, and teachers through the school principal; however, a student can only be considered after authorization is secured from the parent or legal guardian.

Placement in a special education class or program is contingent upon the results of extensive diagnostic testing and evaluation. Scheduling is done on an individual basis according to the needs of each student.

Since the instructional program in all special education classes is based on each student's individual needs, individual educational programs are developed by the school in conjunction with parental permission and input.

The Lynchburg City School Division does not discriminate in admission to, or access to, or treatment or employment in its educational programs, services, or activities based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to the Director of Personnel Services, 915 Court Street, P.O. Box 2497, Lynchburg, Virginia 24505-2497; telephone number (434) 515-5050.

Appendix A



Lynchburg City Schools
 915 Court Street
 Lynchburg, VA 24504

REQUEST TO EXPUNGE GRADE FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

-INCOMPLETE FORMS CANNOT BE PROCESSED-

(PRINT)

FULL NAME OF STUDENT
ADDRESS
NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN
PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE NUMBER
NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WILL ATTEND FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR (HHS or ECG)

- I wish to expunge the following high school credit-bearing course taken by my child while in middle school during grades 6, 7, and/or 8.
- I understand that my child will receive no high school credit toward graduation for this course and may have to repeat this course if it is a required prerequisite course.
- I understand that the SOL verified credit will not be awarded to my child until course is passed and credit awarded.
- **I further understand that decision is irreversible and must be made prior to enrollment in high school.**

NAME OF COURSE	GRADE LEVEL/YEAR IN WHICH COURSE WAS TAKEN	WILL THE CLASS BE REPEATED?
SAMPLE: ALGEBRA I	2015-2016/Grade 8	Yes

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:

*Return this form to the Middle School Counseling Department **before or by June 30th.***
Or
*Return this form to the High School Counseling Department **before or by August 1st.***