

LCS Middle School

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2020-21

Every Child, By Name and By Need, to Graduation.

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

*School Board Approved: January 14, 2020*



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## MIDDLE SCHOOLS OF LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES OVERVIEW

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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. 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, and world language.

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 and/or quarterly assessments).
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 an advanced course instead of a regular level course. The request is typically honored unless prior achievement suggests the student may experience a high degree of difficulty in that course. If this is the case, the school may establish a plan with the student and parent for staying on track in the advanced course.

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.

## Registering for Classes at Middle School

The registration process for rising 6th graders and current 6th, 7th, and 8th graders generally begins early in the spring semester. School counselors initiate the process and involve teachers in making recommendations for the upcoming 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 return 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.

## 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 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 for ranking graduating students and determining if the student achieves Summa Cum Laude honors. 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 Courses
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.

Students are ranked based on their overall earned GPA. Students are considered for the distinction of Summa Cum Laude, based on their cumulative GPA. Summa Cum Laude is considered the highest level of academic performance and this distinction will be noted on the academic transcript. 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 or higher

## Retention and Remediation

Students in middle school are expected to pass all courses. Report cards are sent home at the end of each nine-week grading period. Students who are earning any grade below a C may also receive an interim report in the middle of the grading period to have signed by the parent/guardian. A proactive approach will be in place to minimize the possibility a student may fail a course by its conclusion. Various supports and options for remediation are available to students who are struggling academically.

Examples of options for remediation may include the following:

- RISE courses in math and English
- After school tutoring sessions
- In class differentiation
- 21st Century Program
- Saturday School
- Summer School

Additional information regarding the retention policy will be found in Policy IGBE-Z.

## 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 deleted, 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. The 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.

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# CORE CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS SIXTH GRADE

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The sixth grade student will have four required core classes (English, math, science, and social studies), health/physical education, English and/or math remediation (if needed), 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.

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## English

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### English 6

Course: 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.

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### English 6A

Course: 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 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.

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## Mathematics

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### Math 6

Course: 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..

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### Math 6A

Course: 962AY

This advanced course covers the 7th grade math SOL. Students will be required to identify applications of the mathematical principles that can be applied to science and other disciplines. Appropriate technologies such as calculators, videos, and computers will 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.

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### PETAL Math Block 6/6A (Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated Learning)

Course: 962AYP

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 based on factors which include the following: math achievement in fifth grade, elementary math SOL test scores, scores on LCS Division quarterly assessments 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 supervisor of secondary mathematics, science, and gifted at (434) 515-5065.

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### Pre-Algebra 7A

Course: 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. Placement testing is required for this course to ensure no significant gaps are present prior to this double acceleration. (See page 23 for further details)

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## Science

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### Life Science 6

Course: 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.

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### Life Science 6A

Course: 963XY

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.

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## Social Studies

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### United States History 6 (Part I)

Course: 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.

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### United States History 6A (Part II)

Course: 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.

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## Physical Education

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### 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. Through the health curriculum, students develop more sophistication in understanding health issues and practicing health skills. They apply physical, emotional, social, and environmental health skills and strategies to improve or maintain personal and family health. Students begin to understand adolescent health issues and concerns and the relationship between choices and consequences. They understand how to be a positive role model and the impact of positive and negative peer pressure. Students also learn injury-prevention behaviors at school and elsewhere. Sixth grade family life deals with the physical, social, emotional, and psychological changes that occur at the time of puberty, reproduction basics, sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, and identifying abusive behaviors.

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## Academic Support

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### RISE English 6

Course: 961YE

This course provides an opportunity for selected students to build their foundational skills in order to be successful in English 6. 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 to help them become more proficient in their abilities to read, write, and be better critical thinkers.

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### RISE Math 6

Course: 962YE

This course provides an opportunity for 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 to help them become more confident/proficient/successful in their abilities to do mathematics and be better mathematical problem solvers

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# CORE CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS SEVENTH GRADE

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The seventh grade student will have four required core classes (English, math, science, and social studies), health/physical education, English and/or math remediation (if needed), 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.

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## English

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### English 7

Course: 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.

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### English 7A

Course: 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 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.

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## Mathematics

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### Math 7

Course: 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.

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### PETAL Math Block 7/7A (Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated Learning)

Course: 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.

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### Pre-Algebra 7A

Course: 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.

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### Advanced Algebra I

Course: 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. A placement test score of 70% or higher is required to be placed in this course to ensure no significant gaps are present prior to this double acceleration.

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## Science

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### Physical Science 7

Course: 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.

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### Physical Science 7A

Course: 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 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.

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## Social Studies

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### United States History 7 (Part II)

Course: 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.

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### United States History 7A (Part II)

Course: 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 enrichment of the curriculum. Throughout the year, students complete performance assessments to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course content.

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## Physical Education

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### 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.

Through the health curriculum, students learn to generate and choose positive alternatives to risky behaviors. They use skills to resist peer pressure and manage stress and anxiety. Students are able to relate health choices to alertness, feelings, and performance at school or during physical activity. Students exhibit a healthy lifestyle, interpret health information, and promote good health. Family life topics include family roles, saying no to premarital sex and abusive relationships, types of sexually transmitted diseases, consequences of premarital sex and pregnancy, importance of family planning, healthy dating and peer relationships, internet safety, and recognizing and appreciating differences.

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## Academic Support

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### RISE English 7

Course: 971YE

This course provides an opportunity for 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 to help them become more proficient in their abilities to read, write, and be better critical thinkers.

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### Rise Math 7

Course: 972YE

This course provides an opportunity for 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 to help them become more confident/proficient/successful in their abilities to do mathematics and be better mathematical problem solvers.

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# CORE CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS EIGHTH GRADE

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The eighth grade student will have four required core classes (English, math, science, and social studies), health/physical education, English and/or math remediation (if needed), 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.

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## English

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### English 8

Course: 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.

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### English 8A

Course: 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 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.

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## Mathematics

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### Foundations of Algebra 8

Course: 982XY

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.

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### Advanced Algebra I

Course: 238Y

**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.

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### Advanced Algebra II

Course: 239Y

**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.



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## Science

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### Principles of Science 8

Course: 983XY

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

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### Advanced Earth Science 8

Course: 3387Y

**High School Credit (1.0 Credit). Prerequisite: Advanced 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.

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## Social Studies

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### Civics and Economics 8

Course: 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.

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### Civics and Economics 8A

Course: 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 enrichment of the curriculum. Near the end of the school year, students take the Civics/Economics SOL test.

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## World Languages

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### Spanish I

Course: 1880Y

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#### 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. (This may require transport to high school.)

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### French I

Course: 1580Y

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#### 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. (This may require transport to high school..)

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### Latin I

Course: 1780Y

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#### 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. (This may require transport to high school.)

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### German I

Course: 1680Y

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#### High School Credit (1.0 credit). Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation only.

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. (This may require transport to high school.)

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## Physical Education

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### 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. Through the health curriculum, students in grade eight have an understanding of the origins and causes of diseases, including the relationship between family history and certain health risks. They begin to relate short- and long-term consequences of health choices and apply health skills to specific personal, family, and community health concerns. Students can discern relationships among all components of health and wellness and knowledgeably use consumer information. Family life topics include family roles, saying no to premarital sex and abusive relationships, types of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV), consequences of premarital sex and pregnancy, importance of family planning, healthy dating and peer relationships, internet safety, and the importance of positive decision making.

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## Academic Support

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### RISE English 8

Course: 981YE

This course provides an opportunity for 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 to help them to become more proficient in their abilities to read and write and be better critical thinkers

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### Rise Math 8

Course: 982YE

This course provides an opportunity for 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 to help them to become more confident/proficient/successful in their abilities to do mathematics and be better mathematical problem solvers.

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# EXPLORATORY, ELECTIVES & CAREER-TECH

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## **Middle School Exploratory Overview**

Exploratory courses are offered in 6th grade. The courses are offered in the areas of world language, cultural arts, technology, 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, and 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 (CTE) courses are offered at each middle school. Each middle school is unique in the CTE offerings available. A full list of CTE courses are available through the school counseling department at each school.

Examples of middle school CTE courses are listed below.

- 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 (CAD)
- Digital Photography
- TV and Media Production
- Career Investigation
- Project Lead the Way
- Robotics

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# HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES OFFERED AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

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## World Languages

Spanish I (1880Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 12 for course description.

French I (1580Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 12 for course description.

Latin I (1780Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 12 for course description.

German I (1680Y) High School Credit (1.0 credit): See page 12 for course description.

## Drama

### Introduction to Theatre

Course: 5610Y

**High School Credit, 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

Course: 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.

### Advanced Algebra II

Course: 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

Course: 3387Y

**High School Credit (1.0 Credit).**

Prerequisite: Advanced 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.

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## MATH INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCES

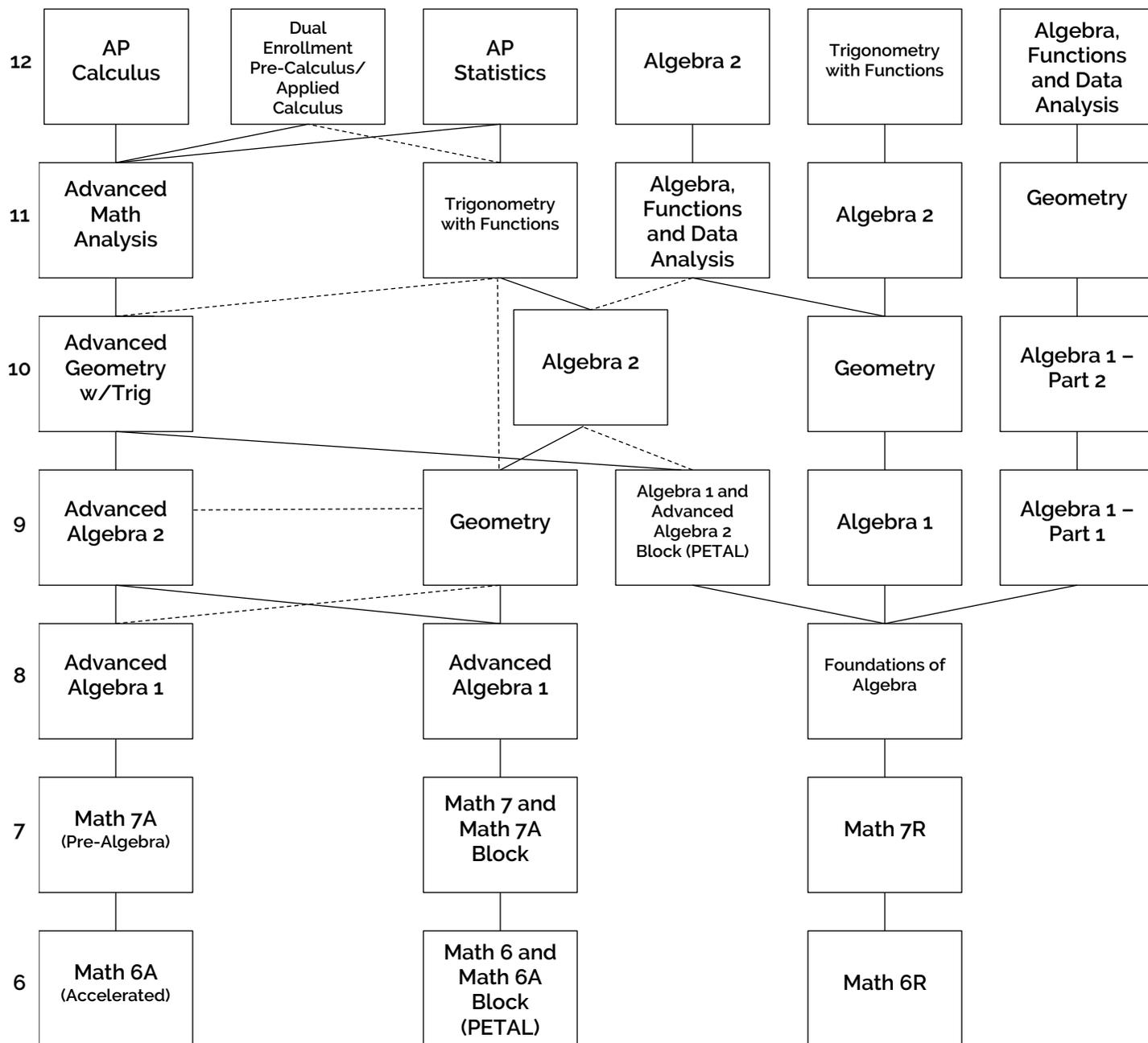
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The following chart illustrates possible math course sequences and placement for the courses in middle school. Each student should select courses within the sequences which are most closely related to his or her strengths and educational/career goals 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 frequently review the graduation and diploma requirements. Graduation and diploma requirement information can be found in the high school program of studies and at [www.lcsedu.net/departments/curriculum/program-of-studies](http://www.lcsedu.net/departments/curriculum/program-of-studies).

## Mathematics Instructional Sequence 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.

Note: Dotted lines indicate possible, yet infrequently chosen, options.

## Math Course Placement Criteria Overview

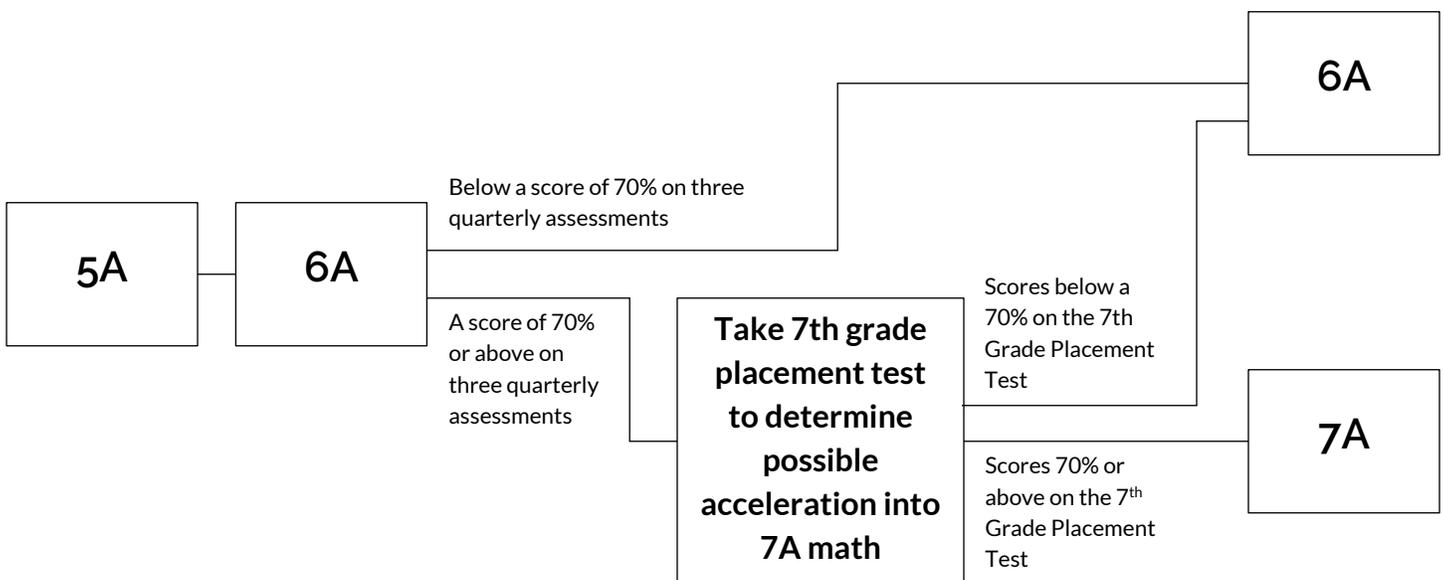
The following charts illustrate the criteria used to determine advanced or accelerated placement in math courses. Each chart shows possible pathways to an advanced/accelerated course such as:

1. Achievement score - The student scores at or above a certain score on an achievement test (usually an SOL and/or quarterly assessments).
2. Teacher recommendation - The teacher recommends the student for a more rigorous course based on the student's achievement in their current 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 an advanced course instead of a regular level course. The request is typically honored, unless prior achievement suggests the student may experience a high degree of difficulty in that course. If this is the case, the school may establish a plan with the student and parent for staying on track in the advanced course.

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

### 5th Grade Advanced (5A) Math Class to 6th Grade

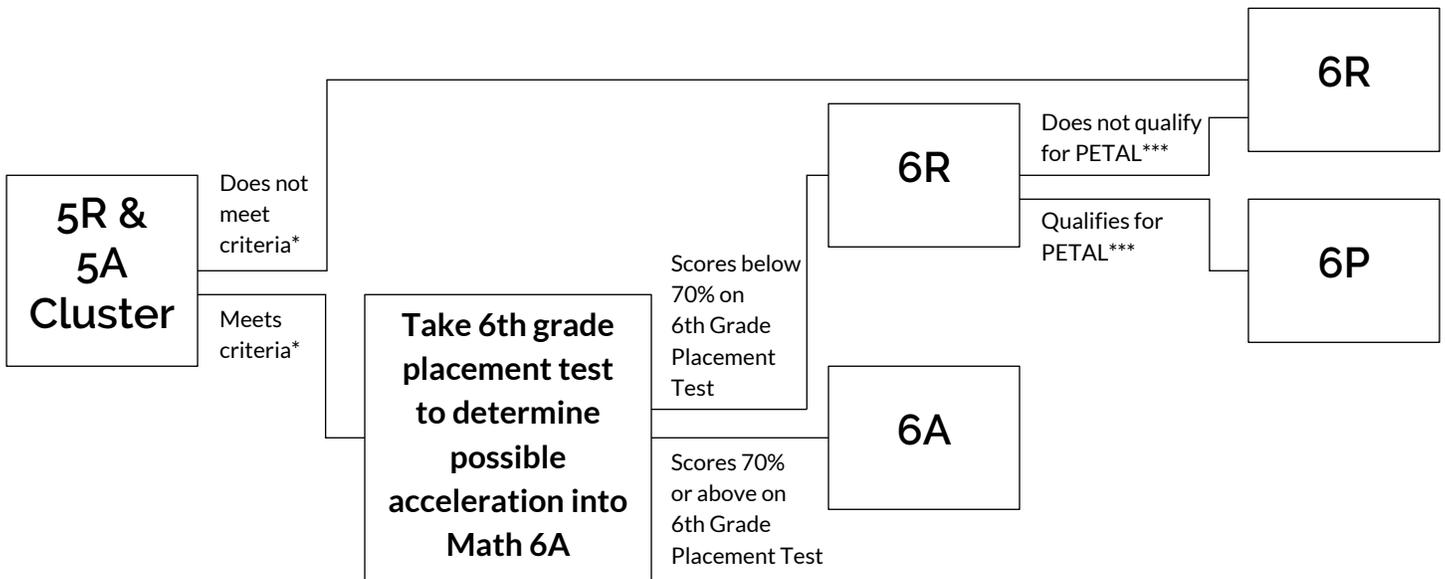


#### CRITERIA for Consideration for 7A Math (follows Grade 8 Pre-Algebra standards)

Meets one or more:

- Average of 70% or higher on three quarterly assessments
- Teacher recommendation
- History of "Pass Advanced" scores on previous math SOL tests
- Parent request to take 7th Grade Placement Test

**5th Grade Regular (5R) and 5A (Cluster) Math Class to 6th Grade**



**\*CRITERIA**

Meets one or more:

- Average score of 70% or higher on three quarterly assessments
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent request to take 6th Grade Placement Test

**\*\*\*PETAL CRITERIA**

A student scheduled to take Math 6R can be placed in the PETAL program based on:

1. Proven achievement in math in 5<sup>th</sup> grade
2. History of passing SOL math scores
3. Teacher recommendation
4. Previous participation in Summer PETAL Academy (optional)

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

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## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

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### **Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation**

This magnet school draws from an applicant pool of eligible students in all three middle school attendance zones. Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation offers innovative programs focused on problem based learning and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math (STEAM). The school offers an extensive curriculum in foreign languages including Spanish, French and German. Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation also offers a diverse drama after-school 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 aquatic biology classes. Inquiries regarding the school for innovation applications to Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation should be directed to the secondary supervisor of counseling at (434) 515-5091. 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**

Special education programs and services are available to students with disabilities. The special education services are provided based on an individualized education plan which is developed by a student's parent(s) and a school-based instructional team. When a parent, teacher, or counselor suspects a student is disabled, a referral is processed through the building principal to the school-based child study committee. Upon receipt of a referral, the child study committee meets within 10 working days. If the child study committee suspects the child may have a disability, a comprehensive evaluation is completed after securing parent written permission to evaluate. Placement in a special education program or class is contingent on the results of extensive diagnostic testing and assessment as well as the decision of a school-based eligibility committee's review of the assessment results and the eligibility criteria set forth in the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs in Virginia*.

*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



## 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 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE	GRADE LEVEL/YEAR IN WHICH COURSE WAS TAKEN	WILL THE CLASS BE REPEATED?

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Parent/Guardian: Date:

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



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS