



Gunston
MIDDLE SCHOOL

BUILDING
OUR
LEGACY

Rising 7th & 8th Grade Academic Planning



Gunston Administrators



Carolyn Jackson
Principal

Assistant Principals

Erika Sanchez - Rising 7th
Brandon Burnett - Rising 8th

Director of Counseling Services

Dr. Kevon Bruce

Dean of Students

Tyrone Stewart

Instructional Technology Coordinator

Rayla Parquet

Activities Coordinator

Luis Matos

Facilities Manager

Kathy Harris-Thomas





Gunston Student Services Team

School Counselors

**Lindsay Carr,
Traditional/Montessori
Marlene Cordero, EL
Sharon Kolody, Immersion**



Follow Us on Social Media

 Twitter: GMS_Counselors
 Instagram: Gunston_Counseling
 TikTok: GMS_Counseling

Additional Staff Include:

Social Worker, Psychologist, Interlude Therapist, Substance Abuse Counselor



Agenda

- * **Welcome & Introductions**
- * **Academic Programs/Elective Options**
- * **Course Planning**
- * **Planning for High School**
- * **Q & A**



Inclusion Question

Picture your child in 10 - 15 years. What career do you see your child possibly pursuing?



Academic Programs



Intensified Classes

Intensified English, Science, and Social Studies courses will offer a chance to go deeper into content/standards. These classes don't require prerequisites.

English/Language Arts

- English 7, Intensified
- English 8, Intensified

Science

- Grade 7 Life Science, Intensified
- Grade 8 Physical Science, Intensified

Social Studies

- Civics and Economics, Intensified (Grade 7)

What are the benefits of taking intensified classes?

- Gives a sense of accomplishment
- Increases self-esteem
- Improves study skills
- Increases the chances for success in future advanced classes







What are some habits for success in intensified classes?

- Doing more than the minimum requirements - projects or other enrichment activities
- Completing assignments without prompts or reminders
- Meeting deadlines
- Asking for help or putting in extra time when needed



Intensified Classes: What they are and what they are not



	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will offer a chance to go deeper into content/standards		Intensified English, science, and social studies courses are <u>NOT accelerated courses</u> that go beyond grade level content
	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses <u>are open to all students who feel ready.</u>		There will be flexibility of <u>opting into</u> the intensified English, science, or social studies courses at any point in middle school <u>without needing prerequisites.</u>
	Teachers will use <u>resources designed for rigor and critical and creative thinking strategies regularly</u> to add depth and complexity within the existing curriculum.		Intensified courses will use the <u>same existing curriculum map</u> and have <u>built in extensions</u> to support going deeper into the standards

Traditional Program

English 8
Math**
+ World Geography
Physical Science
Health/PE 8

English 7
** Math
Civics & Economics
Life Science
Health/PE 7

- ☐ Intensified Options: English, Science, and Civics & Economics
- ☐ + High School Credit
- ☐ **See Math Pathways



Spanish Immersion

English 8
Math**
+ Immersion World Geography
Immersion Physical Science
+Spanish Language Arts 8
Health/PE 8

English 7
** Math
Immersion Civics & Economics
Immersion Life Science
+ Spanish Language Arts 7
Health/PE 7

- ❑ Courses in the Spanish Immersion program are considered intensified. Families can choose either Regular English or Intensified English.
- ❑ + High School Credit
- ❑ **See Math Pathways



Montessori

Montessori English 8
Math**
+ World Geography
Montessori Physical Science
Health/PE 8

English 7
** Math
Civics & Economics
Life Science
Health/PE 7

- ❑ All core classes in the Montessori program are considered Intensified.
- ❑ + High School Credit
- ❑ ** See Math Pathways



English Language Development Program (ELD)

EL sheltered students are grouped by English language proficiency into four levels:

ELD 1

- * English
- * ELD (Formerly ELD Reading)
- * Social Studies
- * Science
- * Math
- * Health & Physical Education
- * Electives

ELD 2

ELD 3

ELD 4

- * English
- * ELD (Formerly ELD Reading)
- * Math
- * Social Studies
- * Science
- * Health & Physical Education
- * Electives



Academic Resources

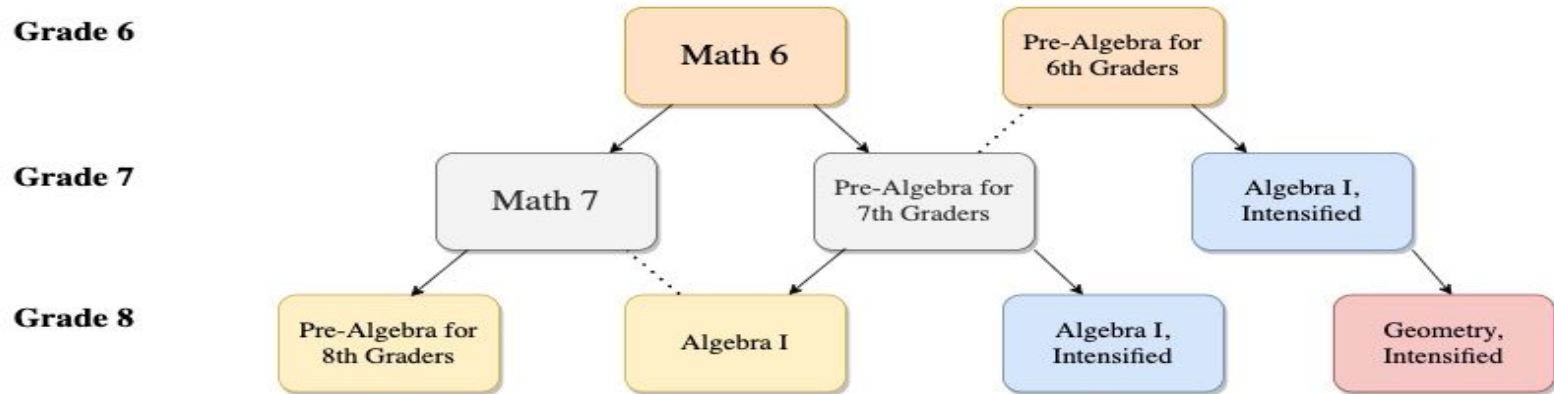
Math Pathways

Instructional Services



APS Math Pathways

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



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

Math Placements

- * **Recommendations for math placements are determined by the APS Math Secondary Math Office.**

- * Information considered for math placements include:
 - Overall performance in previous grade
 - Math readiness for the next level
 - VA Growth Assessments
 - SOL scores



Mrs. Almerie Campbell, Math Coach



Instructional Services

Special Education Services

- * Support is provided in all academic programs.
- * Annual IEP meetings will continue.
- * Quarterly progress reports will be provided to parents/guardians.

Advanced Academics - Jawana Washington

- * Students are placed into small gifted clusters with peers with similar identifications.
- * The Resource Teacher for the Gifted supports both students and teachers with differentiated instruction.

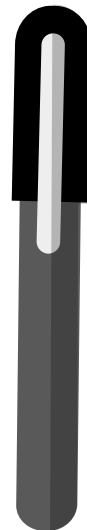
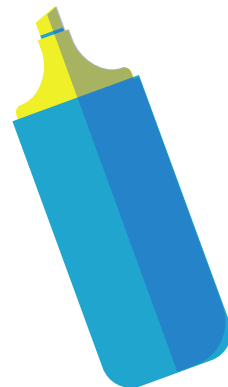




Arlington
Public
Schools



GIFTED SERVICES IN 6-8 CLASSROOMS



Collaborative Cluster Model at GMS Grades 6-8



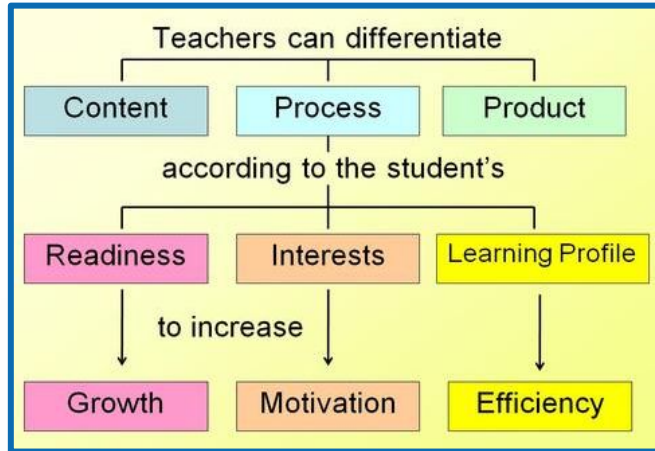
- Students can self-select to enroll in Intensified English, Science, or Social Studies classes.
- Students will be cluster grouped (at least 10 students identified as gifted) in selected intensified courses.
- Teachers are responsible for delivering comprehensive services for gifted learners with ongoing coaching and support from the Advanced Academics Coach (AAC)

THU

FRI

WKND

DIFFERENTIATION



"Differentiation is simply a teacher attending to the learning needs of a particular student or small groups of students, rather than teaching a class as though all individuals in it are basically alike." -Carol Ann Tomlinson

- **Content:** What is to be learned
- **Process:** How students acquire information
- **Product:** How students demonstrate learning
- **Learning Environment:** Where and with whom students learn

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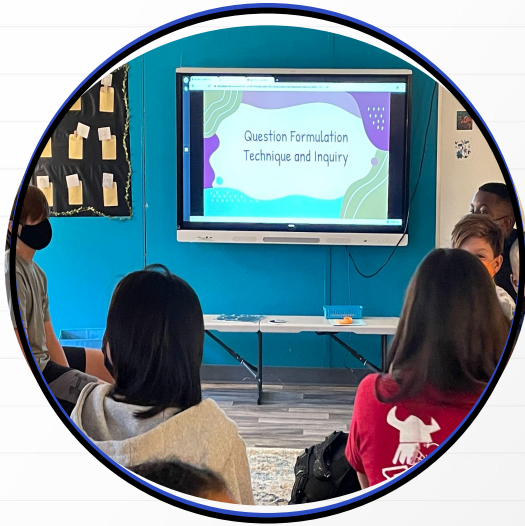
WED

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COLLABORATIVE TEACHING



Collaborative Teaching
may involve:

- Whole group team teaching with classroom teacher
- Small group teaching in classroom, coordinated and co-planned with classroom teacher
- Co-planning with classroom teacher to support differentiation on days when gifted resource teacher is not in the classroom
- Flexible grouping, which may be determined by
 - Pre-assessment data
 - Needs of students and/or the classroom teacher
 - Difficulty of unit/topic

Critical & Creative Thinking Framework



Arlington Public Schools

K-12 Critical and Creative Thinking Models & Strategies

Critical Thinking Teaching Models

- Concept Development Model (Change, Patterns, Systems, Perspective, Cause/Effect)
- Future Problem Solving
- Jacob's Ladder
- Paul's Reasoning Model
- Problem-Based Learning
- Project-Based Learning
- Research Model
- Socratic Seminar
- William and Mary Teaching Models (Vocabulary & Literature Web, Persuasive Writing, Analyzing a Historical Situation)

Creative Thinking Models

- Creative Problem Solving (CPS)
- SCAMPER

Categories of Thinking Strategies

Decisions and Outcomes

- Habits of Mind
- PMI
- Visualization

Making Connections

- Analogies
- Encapsulation
- FFOE (Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, Elaboration)
- Mind-Mapping
- Synectics

Point of View (Different Perspectives)

- Debates
- deBono's Hats
- RAFT
- Socratic Seminar/Junior Great Books
- Structured Academic Controversy

Questioning

- Question Formulation Technique (QFT)
- Levels of Questioning
- Revised Bloom's Taxonomy

Elective Options

**Full-Year
Semester**



Full-Year Electives

7th Grade

Intermediate Band
Advanced Band
Intermediate Orchestra
Advanced Orchestra
Advanced Chorus
Guitar

+World Languages

8th Grade

Intermediate Band
Advanced Band
Intermediate Orchestra
Advanced Orchestra
Advanced Chorus
Guitar
Media Journalism

+World Languages
+Computer Programming MS
+Technology of Robotic Design

+ High School Credit



*American Sign Language (ASL) meets public Virginia university and community college entrance requirements as a world language. Some out-of-state post-secondary institutions do not recognize ASL as a world language. ASL is **not** an International Baccalaureate, (IB), language.

World Languages

7th and 8th Grades

American Sign Language I or II

French I or II

Spanish I or II

Spanish For Fluent Speakers I or II

Spanish Immersion - 7th and 8th grade

Arabic I or II

Chinese I or II

Latin I or II



All World Languages count as high school credits.

Level I classes for 7th grade

Level I/II classes for 8th grade



Semester Electives

7th Grade

Beginning Chorus
Digital Input Technologies
Inventions & Innovations
Media (Video) Journalism
Teen Living
Theatre Arts/Drama
Visual Arts I

8th Grade

Beginning Chorus
Computer Applications & Internet Technologies
Technological Systems
Life Management
Theatre Arts/Drama
Visual Arts I/II



Instructional Support

Reading Strategies - Recommended by Reading Specialist

- * Focuses on specific reading skills
- * Recommendations based on: Growth Assessments, SOL's

Instructional Studies - Recommended by Case Carrier

- * Extra support for students in Special Education focusing on academic skills, organization, and work completion



Instructional Support classes will replace an elective period.



Course Request Form (CRF)

Due: February 3rd

- The CRF can only be completed **ONCE**.
- Student must be logged into APS Google account to complete the CRF.
- Both student and parent should complete the form together.
- Links to CRF can be accessed on . . .
 - Gunston's **website**
 - The **parent letter from TA teacher**

Course descriptions can be found in the APS Middle School Program of Studies.



Steps to Completing the CRF



STEP 1:

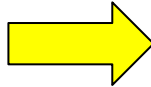
Complete the **DEMOGRAPHIC** information.

STEP 2:

Choose the **ACADEMIC PROGRAM**.

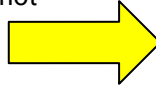
STEP 3:

Choose **ONE FIRST CHOICE ELECTIVE**.



STEP 4:

Choose an **ALTERNATE ELECTIVE** if first choice is not available. It must be different than first choice.



STEP 5:

STUDENT must **VERIFY** information. There are 3 questions.

STEP 6:

PARENT/GUARDIAN must **VERIFY** information. There are 3 questions.

Elective Options by Program

<u>Traditional or Montessori</u>	<u>Immersion or English Learners</u>
2 Full-Year OR 1 Full-Year + 2 Semester OR 4 Semesters	1 Full-Year OR 2 Semesters



Academic Planning

**Diploma Options
High School Options**



Purpose of Academic Planning

- * With the support of counselors, **Naviance** is the resource tool for students and parents to plan and prepare for post-secondary options
- * Sequence of required courses in middle school and high school
- * Diploma options
- * Rigorous opportunities based on individual interests and abilities
- * Connection between career interests and intended courses

Example of Course Planner in Naviance

ENDORSEMENT: Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics				
✓ 4/4 credits Edit Courses				
REQUIREMENTS	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
Check for Alerts				
English 4 Credits 4 Credits in Plan edit courses		English 9 1 credit	English 10 1 credit	English 11 1 credit
Mathematics 4 Credits 4 Credits in Plan edit courses	Algebra I 1 credit	FULFILLS PATHWAY Statistics 1 credit	FULFILLS PATHWAY Geometry I 1 credit	FULFILLS PATHWAY Algebra II 1 credit
Science 4 Credits 4 Credits in Plan edit courses		Science II 1 credit	Lab Science 1 credit	Earth Sciences 1 credit
Social Studies 4 Credits 4 Credits in Plan edit courses		Government I 1 credit	U.S. History 1 credit	State History 1 credit
World Languages & Cultures 2 Credits 2 Credits in Plan edit courses				Spanish I 1 credit

High School Definitions to Know



Credit: Unit earned upon successful completion of a high school course

Verified Credit: Unit earned by passing end-of-course SOL's in high school courses

Transcript: Document that lists all of the high school courses that were taken and the grades earned

Grade Point Average (GPA): It is calculated by the **number of classes taken** and **grades earned** in high school courses

***Advanced Placement (AP):** Rigorous high school courses that offer the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits

***Dual-Enrolled Courses:** Courses that allow a high school student to be enrolled in high school and college courses at the same time

***AP and Dual Enrollment are available at all APS high schools.**



Diploma Options



	Advanced	Standard	Verified
Subject	Credits	Credits	SOL credits
English (Reading & Writing)	4	4	2
Math	4	3	1
History / Social Sciences	4	3	1
Science	4	3	1
World Language (required for Advanced Diploma)	3 or 4 3 years of one language OR 4 years = 2 years of 2 languages	Language is optional	
Fine Art OR CTE (required for both diplomas)			
Health/PE	2	2	
Electives	3	4	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	1	
TOTAL	26	22	5

High School Options

**Arlington Tech
H-B Woodlawn
Wakefield
Washington-Liberty
Yorktown**

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



Arlington Tech



- * Rigorous, project-based learning, high school program that prepares students to succeed in college and in the workplace through collaborative problem solving
- * **Focuses on:** STEM, Career & Technical Education (CTE), College-Prep

Eligibility Requirements:

- * Preferred: **Algebra I in middle school**
- * If not taken in middle school, then students must take a double block of math in 9th grade: **Integrated Algebra I/Geometry in 9th grade**



H-B Woodlawn



- * All APS students are eligible to apply; selections are made through a lottery
- * Central focus is ***Student Choice***:
 - **Use of Time & Personal Behavior**
 - **Educational Goals**
 - **School Governance**



Wakefield High School



Spanish Immersion Program

- * Continuation of middle school program: Language Arts, Science, Math
- * Seal of Biliteracy and Certificate of Excellence from Embassy of Spain upon completion
- * **Students from Gunston automatically transfer to Wakefield unless they choose their neighborhood school or a different program**

Advanced Placement Network (AP)

- * Offers high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses in high school and receive credit, advanced placement, or both when they enter college
- * **Students who live outside of attendance area for Wakefield must apply to the program**

Foundation for Academic Excellence Program

- * Uses a team approach by grouping 9th graders with the same content teachers to support with transition to high school



Washington-Liberty High School



Washington-
Liberty
HIGH SCHOOL

- * The International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma curriculum offers a rigorous and comprehensive education based on a global perspective focusing on intercultural understanding and respect.

Eligibility Requirements for Pre-IB:

- * **Algebra I** in middle school
- * World Language - **Level I (7th) and Level II (8th) in middle school**
 - **Please note:** American Sign Language does not count toward the IB Diploma
- * **A's and B's in all subjects**
- * Short answer/essay questions as part of application



Yorktown High School



- * Students in Immersion or Montessori who plan to attend their neighborhood school

Focus Areas:

- * R.O.C.S. - Respect Others, Community, Self
- * Community Leadership and Engagement



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology



- * A comprehensive, college-prep **STEM** program in Fairfax County
- * APS is a participating jurisdiction and 8th graders can apply
- * Transportation is provided if accepted

- * **Eligibility Requirements:**
 - Intensified Algebra I in middle school
 - Other honors or higher level classes in middle school
 - GPA: 3.5 or higher in math, science, social studies, English, World Language



Middle School Resources

[23 - 24 APS Middle School Program of Studies](#)

High School Resources

[Arlington Tech](#)

[The H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program](#)

[IB Resources for Students & Parents - Washington - Liberty](#)

[Spanish Immersion at Wakefield High School](#)

[Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology \(TJHSST\) Admissions](#)



