

# Rising 7th Grade Curriculum Night Core Information

**January 10, 2024**

# Administrative Team



**Cindy Conley**  
**Principal**

**Shawn Spear**  
**Assistant**  
**Principal**

**Katie Shea**  
**Assistant Principal**

**Sarah Padilla**  
**Assistant Principal**

**Meg Gollinger**  
**Dir. Student Services**

# Student Services Team



**Suzy Kiefaber**



**Dave Frenck**



**Cynthia Pareja**



**Ashlee Nelson**

# Empowered. Skilled. Fulfilled.

## WIMS Mission:

Irving Middle School prepares students with a strong foundation academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally for rigorous learning. We promote lifelong learning for students and staff by providing a variety of learning opportunities and ways to showcase learning.

## WIMS Vision:

The Irving Middle School community is committed to providing a strong foundation for all students set in the attributes of Fairfax County Public School's Portrait of a Graduate.

## PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



COMMUNICATOR



ETHICAL AND GLOBAL CITIZEN



CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKER



COLLABORATOR



GOAL-DIRECTED AND  
RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL



# The Registration Process

- January 10 – Curriculum Night
- January 10, 11, 17 – 6th grade students visit Irving for a tour and learn about classes
- January – Students will select courses on a course selection sheet and return it to their elementary school. Elementary teachers and counselors will review and provide academic advising.
- February 5-9 – Students will register for their classes through SIS StudentVue
- Late February – Irving will send a message for families to review the choices in SIS

# The Registration Process

- February/March/April – Elementary teachers and Irving staff review course requests. If there is a concern that a class might be too difficult or too easy, a staff member will reach out to parents/guardians.
- June – Mock schedules will be shared. These show the classes registered for, but not the actual schedule.
- June 7 – Last day for schedule change requests
- Summer Review by Irving for support class placement

## Create a SIS ParentVue Account

If you don't already have a SIS ParentVue account set up, please reach out to your elementary school to do this. You will be able to see the courses your child has registered to take along with their attendance, grades once they get to Irving, standardized test scores and several other items about your child.

# Selecting Classes

- ✳ Students will plan their course requests and mark them on the course selection sheet. They return this to their elementary school.
- ✳ 6th grade students will enter these classes in SIS.
- ✳ Parents can see the classes in SIS. They can contact Irving if a change needs to be made.



## Classes at Irving

- ✳ All students must take English, social studies, math, science and health/physical education.
- ✳ Students can choose elective classes to fill 2 periods (2 year-long, 1 year-long and 2 semester or 4 semester classes). Students will also choose 4 alternate classes.
- ✳ We do our best to give the top choices, however alternate classes may be substituted.

# Classes at Irving

## General Ed

- Use VA Standards of Learning and FCPS Program of Studies
- Open Enrollment

## Honors

- Extensions to general curriculum
- Open Enrollment

## AAP Level IV

### Honors

- Extensions to general curriculum
- Only Level IV eligible students

## What is an honors class?

- ✳ Classes in the four core content areas of mathematics, English, social studies and science at every middle school
- ✳ An extended FCPS Program of Studies designed for high-ability and high-achieving learners
- ✳ Provides for ascending levels of intellectual demand and helps prepare for advanced classes in high school

## What else is an honors class?

- ✴ Uses advanced reading, writing and research materials
- ✴ Accelerates the pace of teaching and learning which allows students to explore deeper understanding and apply new knowledge
- ✴ Assigns work that requires greater levels of independence

# English, History & Science: On Level vs. Honors

Your child should consider On Level if he/she:

- Resists leisure/choice reading
- Doesn't enjoy writing, writes to fulfill requirements
- Requires prompting to complete work
- Reading on or below grade level

Your child should consider Honors if he/she:

- Enjoys reading/writing and does so on a regular basis
- Is comfortable expressing and explaining ideas in writing
- Has an interest in seeking more information in that subject
- Reads higher level texts
- Enjoys being challenged

# English

On-Level English 7	English 7 HN
Grade Level Standards	Grade Level Standards and Extension
Reading comprehension of appropriately leveled texts and analysis	Reading comprehension of mid-range texts, analysis, and interaction with the text
Grade level writing, variety of purposes and audiences	Grade level writing with extension, variety of purposes and audiences
Grammar instruction	Grammar instruction with extension
Introduction to Project Based Learning (PBL)	Some PBL
Oral presentations, communication, & collaboration	Oral presentations, class-led discussions, communication & collaboration

## Honors:

- Less scaffolding
- Faster pace
- Assignments with additional components and complexity
- More student-led discussion and analysis
- More independent reading and writing

## Examples:

### Reflection writing assignment

- *On-Level English 7* - 2 paragraphs
- *English 7 HNs* - 3 paragraphs with dialogue incorporated

### Text-based discussion

- *On-Level English 7* - Discussion generally focuses on teacher-created questions
- *English 7 HNs* - Students also prepare questions and lead the discussion

# General Education vs. Honors: US History II

## US History II On Level

Cover US History 1865 to Present

- Notes in class are more scaffolded and more about knowledge and fact based.
- Unit assessments are multiple choice. Questions focus more on knowledge, understanding and application.
- Performance Assessments are created with scaffolding and support for writing. Sentence starters are provided and we spend more time on the writing process.

## US History II Honors

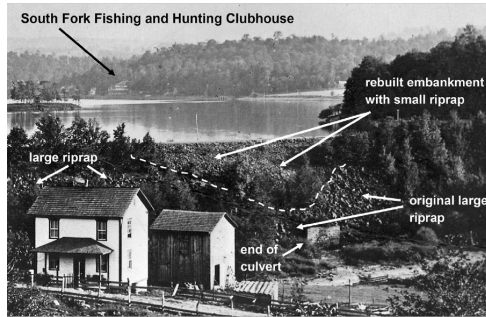
Cover US History 1865 to Present

- Notes in class are main ideas and the students write complete sentences to answer questions. They control more of the reading and writing on their own.
- Unit assessments are multiple choice. The questions are some knowledge and application but also analyzing and evaluating primary source information.
- Performance Assessments are created but there is less guidance as to what is the “right answer” or how to find the main ideas. There is an expectation that students can read and write on or above grade level due to the rigor and grading requirements.

# Examples of Primary Sources used in US History Classes

**Prompt** – Should Andrew Carnegie be remembered in history as a hero or villain?

On level writes a 3 paragraph essay with 3 pieces of evidence while the HN classes write 4 paragraphs with 6 pieces of evidence to support their thesis.



Industry	Average Hours per Day	Average Daily Wage	Hourly Wages
Textile	10.20	\$1.09	11 cents
Shoe Making	9.81	\$1.58	16 cents
Paper Making	10.87	\$1.33	12 cents
Machine shop Workers	10.06	\$1.87	19 cents
Iron and Steel Workers	10.67	\$1.81	17 cents
Average Industries	10.04	\$1.46	14 cents


Note: In 1900 Andrew Carnegie personally made \$23,000,000. Figuring that Carnegie worked a 50-hour week and a 50-week year, Carnegie's hourly "wage" in 1900 would have been equal to \$9,200. His daily "wage" was therefore about \$92,000.

## A Peaceful Philanthropist


The Oxford Dictionary states the definition of the word "hero" as, "a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities". Andrew Carnegie had all of these traits. Carnegie, a lifelong philanthropist and steel tycoon, was born in Scotland and then immigrated to America with his family where they settled in Pennsylvania. He started working as a bobbin boy, but by the time he was 37, he had plans for a steel business in the United States. Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy, along with his drive for world peace, undoubtedly makes him a hero.

Carnegie was a innate philanthropist and believed that the rich had an obligation to donate their money. Carnegie donated approximately \$310 million, around 90 percent of his earnings, to causes around the world. He spent over 18 years solely giving away money. Carnegie did not just donate money, he also started many organizations. One was The Carnegie Hero Fund, which recognizes people who have performed remarkable acts of heroism and financially supports families of people who have died while attempting to save another civilian. Andrew Carnegie is known to have said, "A man who does thus rich dies disgraced," and he unflinchingly lived by that statement.

Andrew Carnegie had a passion for peace and spent the later years of his life making the world a better place. He deeply valued education and built around 1,700 libraries along with funding the Tuskegee Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Carnegie Corporation which supported schools and colleges around the United States. Carnegie also donated around \$10 million to funding teachers in small-town schools. Andrew Carnegie longed for world peace and helped fund the Anti-Imperialist League. As part of the league, he attempted to pay \$20 million in hope that the U.S. would not take over the Philippines. In 1910, Carnegie founded the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace which is a think tank that helps to provide non-partisan views on issues and promotes world peace around the globe.



This picture depicts Andrew Carnegie dressed as a Sectionman. He is walking while pouring money on the ground. This image shows that he was a philanthropist and gave away immense amounts of money.



Every dot on this map shows a library and Andrew Carnegie funded. This proves that he valued education and helped Americans all over the United States.

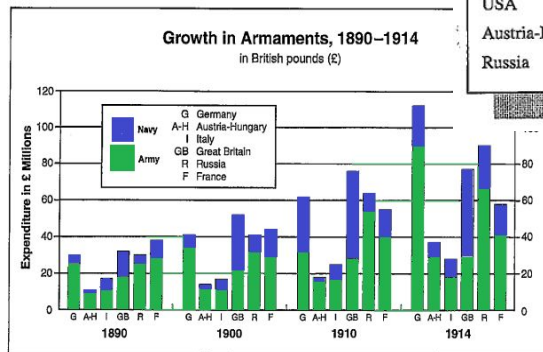
Some people call Carnegie a terrible person due to how he treated his employees working at his steel factories. They claim that Carnegie would make his workers labor tirelessly for countless hours for little pay. In 1892, Carnegie's workers went on strike and he cut their pay. Eventually, Carnegie won his workers back and began to pay them much more than other steel companies. He thought that having a dependable workforce made him stand out among his competitors. Carnegie did a lot for his workers besides just paying them for working. He also built homes and schools for them. Carnegie donated \$4 million to homestead relief. His numerous donations and his work toward peace for everyone make him an admirable hero.





# Examples of Primary Sources used in US History Classes

**Prompt** – Out of the 4 M.A.I.N. causes of WWI, which M.A.I.N. cause was to blame? What nation was most to blame for the outbreak of WWI?



Note: By 1914 the Entente Powers could field 2.23 million men, Germany and Austria-Hungary 1.2 million.

Size of Colonial Empires in 1913		
	Area (sq. miles)	Population of Colonies
Britain	12,740,000	400,000,000
France	4,440,000	56,000,000
Germany	1,139,000	12,000,000
Belgium	927,000	15,500,000
Italy	579,000	
USA	125,000	
Austria-Hungary	0	
Russia	0	

**The Hammer or the Anvil**

In our nineteenth century, England has increased its colonial empire – the largest the world has seen since the days of the Romans,... the French have put down roots in North Africa and East Africa,... Russia has begun its mighty course of victory in Asia,... We don't want to step on the toes of any foreign power, but at the same time we don't want our own feet tramped by any foreign power.... We don't ever again want to become ... the 'slaves of humanity.' But we'll only be able to keep ourselves at the fore if we realize that there is no welfare for us without power, without a strong army and a strong fleet. The means, gentlemen, for a people of almost 60 million – dwelling in the middle of Europe and, at the same time, stretching its economic antennae out to all sides – to battle its way through in the struggle for existence without strong armaments on land and at sea, have not yet been found. In the coming century the German people will be a hammer or an anvil.

# 7th Grade Life Science

- Inquiry-based curriculum
- Higher-level thinking skills
- Academic discourse

## On Level

- More Scaffolding/Supports
- More time reviewing key concepts
- More guided questioning

## Honors

- Self-driven, more autonomous learner
- More time on connections and extensions; less review
- More rigorous analytical skills
- Greater amount of reading/writing required (on or above grade level)

# Math 7 vs. Math 7 Honors - Recommended skills

## Math 7

- All operations with integers (adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing)
- Long division
- Place value of decimals (tenths, hundredths, thousandths, etc.)
- Identify basic polygons
- Understand measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode, range)
- Probability of simple events (picking a card, rolling dice)

## Math 7 Honors

- Fraction, Decimal, Percent math sense: ordering, calculating, converting
- Able to solve 1-step and 2-step equations
- Able to solve and graph one-step inequalities
- Proportional reasoning
- General understanding of consumer math (tax, tip, discount)
- Foundation of geometry: polygon vocabulary
- Understand measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode, range)
- Probability of an independent event

# Is your child ready for Math 7 HN?

- Is very interested in any mathematical problems and seeks those that pose a challenge
- Completes homework, class work and other assignments in a timely manner
- Completes the majority of their homework without additional help
- Contributes insightful and salient points to class discussions about problems
- Is prepared to learn and use effective strategies for approaching any mathematical problem
- Is an *independent* learner who is eager to improve their skills
- Responds well to constructive criticism
- Can manage the accelerated pace of the mathematics curriculum
- Will be ready to take the math 8 SOL as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student

# Considerations when deciding about the core classes

- ✱ Enjoys the subject area and is interested in gaining a deeper knowledge of the subject.

- ✱ The 6th grade teachers have included their suggestion on the course selection sheet. If you have questions about the suggestion they made, please speak to the teacher to understand what they are seeing in the classroom. Remember, we have open enrollment and the final decision is left up to the families.

- ✱ Consider the number of honors courses with your child's commitments outside of school.

## Core options for rising 7th grade students.

- \_\_\_ English 7 (111000)
- \_\_\_ English 7 Honors (111036)
- \_\_\_ English 7 Honors (AAP) (111038)
- \_\_\_ English 7 Team Taught (111071)
- \_\_\_ English 7 Small Group (111081)

- \_\_\_ History 7 (235500)
- \_\_\_ History 7 Honors (235536)
- \_\_\_ History 7 Honors (AAP) (235538)
- \_\_\_ History 7 Team Taught (235571)
- \_\_\_ History 7 Small Group (235581)

- \_\_\_ Science 7 (411500)
- \_\_\_ Science 7 Honors (411536)
- \_\_\_ Science 7 Honors (AAP) (411538)
- \_\_\_ Science 7 Team Taught (411571)
- \_\_\_ Science 7 Small Group (411581)

- \_\_\_ Math 7 (311100)
- \_\_\_ Math 7 Honors (311136)

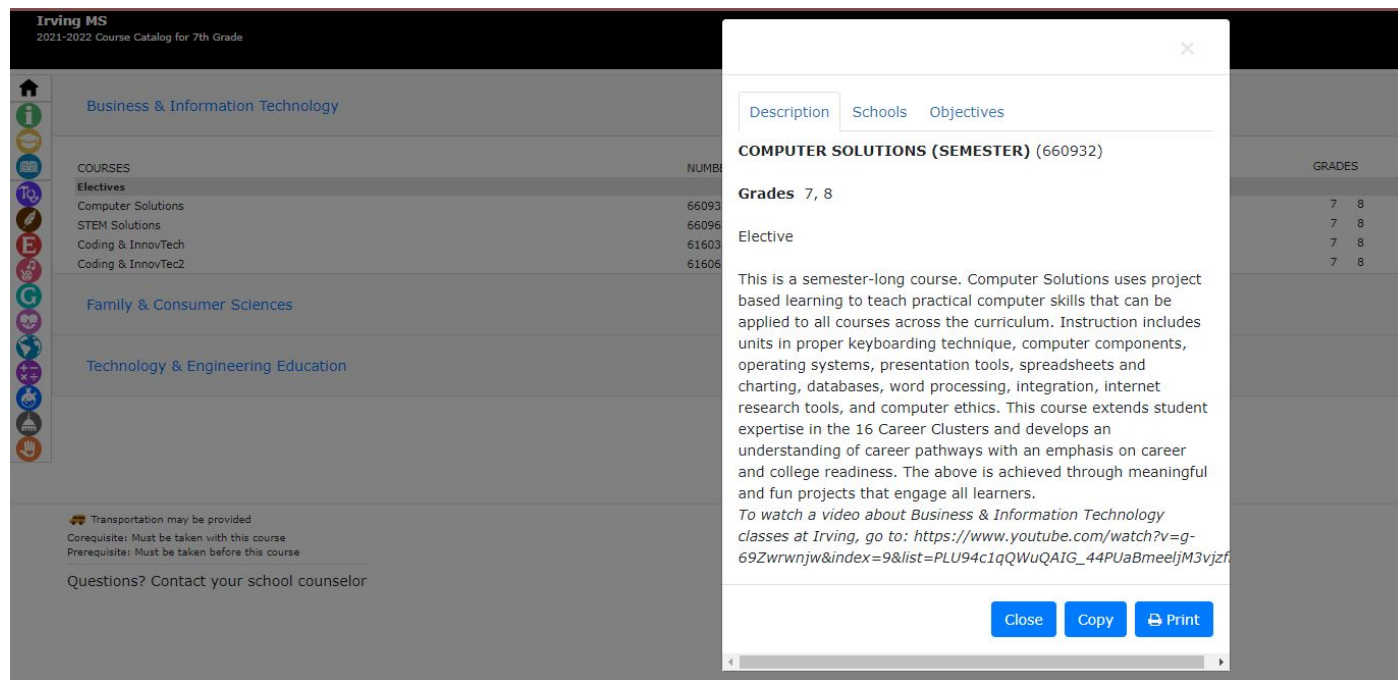
Information about Algebra I Honors will be sent following the SOL's in the spring and schedules will be adjusted for students who qualify (for now, these students can select Math 7 Honors).

# Intervention Classes

- Irving offers intervention classes in the areas of reading, math, and executive function skills for students that need additional support.
- Intervention classes take the place of one elective and may be semester or year long depending on student need.
- Irving will review student data and reach out to families if we think your student could benefit from one of these classes. You can also reach out to Irving counselors if you think your child would benefit from an intervention class.

# Additional Resources

Link to 7th Grade [Course Catalog](#)



The screenshot displays the Irving MS 2021-2022 Course Catalog for 7th Grade. The main interface features a sidebar with icons for various subjects and a central content area. The 'Business & Information Technology' section is selected, showing a list of courses under the 'Electives' category. A pop-up window is open, providing detailed information about the 'COMPUTER SOLUTIONS (SEMESTER) (660932)' course.

**Irving MS**  
2021-2022 Course Catalog for 7th Grade

**Business & Information Technology**

COURSES	NUMBER
<b>Electives</b>	
Computer Solutions	66093
STEM Solutions	66096
Coding & InnovTech	61603
Coding & InnovTec2	61606

**Family & Consumer Sciences**

**Technology & Engineering Education**

Transportation may be provided  
Corequisite: Must be taken with this course  
Prerequisite: Must be taken before this course

Questions? Contact your school counselor

**COMPUTER SOLUTIONS (SEMESTER) (660932)**

**Grades 7, 8**

Elective

This is a semester-long course. Computer Solutions uses project based learning to teach practical computer skills that can be applied to all courses across the curriculum. Instruction includes units in proper keyboarding technique, computer components, operating systems, presentation tools, spreadsheets and charting, databases, word processing, integration, internet research tools, and computer ethics. This course extends student expertise in the 16 Career Clusters and develops an understanding of career pathways with an emphasis on career and college readiness. The above is achieved through meaningful and fun projects that engage all learners.

To watch a video about Business & Information Technology classes at Irving, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-69Zwrwnjw&index=9&list=PLU94c1qQWuQAIG\\_44PUaBmeelJM3vjzf](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-69Zwrwnjw&index=9&list=PLU94c1qQWuQAIG_44PUaBmeelJM3vjzf)

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# Grading at Irving Middle School

## Standards-Based Grading

Class grade based on **current levels of mastery** or proficiency on course **standards**.

**Only current** mastery scores count in the class average.

Students have the opportunity (and responsibility) to demonstrate mastery of any standard at any time.

This should more **clearly** and **accurately** communicate what your student has mastered and what they still need to work on.

# Jump Start/Irving Academy

In June, Ms. Duncan will share information regarding registering for our Jump Start/Irving Academy where rising 7th graders spend time learning about Irving and meeting other students, get to know the building and learn other strategies that are helpful in middle school.

Date: **August 5 - 7**

More information will be sent in mid-May

**Where can I join?** *(in July . . .)*

**Where can I buy spiritwear?**

**Where can I see the calendar of upcoming events?**

**How can I volunteer?**



**<https://irvingms.memberhub.com/>**



# Transition to Middle School Presented by WS Pyramid Family Liaisons

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**Tuesday, January 30**

**In-Person**

**In-Person**

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## **Topics Include**

- Intro to Middle School
- Things to do to prepare for Middle School



# Principal's Coffee for Rising 7th Grade Parents/Guardians

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**Tuesday, May 16**

**9:00 am and 6:30 pm**

**(Same Information - Two Sessions)**

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## **Topics Include**

- Intro to Middle School
- After School Activities
- Irving Summer Academy

**In-Person**



**In-Person**

# Questions

English: Dr. French at [slfrench@fcps.edu](mailto:slfrench@fcps.edu)

History: Mr. Croce at [ajcroce@fcps.edu](mailto:ajcroce@fcps.edu)

Math: Ms. Gollinger at [magollinger@fcps.edu](mailto:magollinger@fcps.edu)

Science: Mr. Cohn at [amcohn@fcps.edu](mailto:amcohn@fcps.edu)

Counselors:

Ms. Pareja at [cspareja@fcps.edu](mailto:cspareja@fcps.edu)

Mr. French at [djfrench@fcps.edu](mailto:djfrench@fcps.edu)