

Rising 7th Grade Curriculum Night Core Information

January 16, 2025

Administrative Team



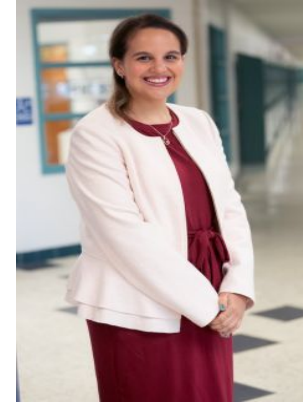
Cindy Conley
Principal



Danielle Tillman
**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



COLLABORATOR



ETHICAL AND GLOBAL CITIZEN



GOAL-DIRECTED AND
RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL



CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKER



The Registration Process

- January 16 - Curriculum Night
- January 15, 21, 24 - 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 3-7 - 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.
- Mid-March – Mock schedules will be shared. These show the classes registered for, but not the actual schedule.
- March 31 – 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

On Level

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

Honors

- Extensions to On Level curriculum
- Open Enrollment

Full Time

AAP (Level IV) Honors

- Extensions to On Level 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 Courses 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

The Virginia Literacy Act

Based on the current Virginia Literacy Act K-3, which is set to expand to grades 4-8 in the 2025-26 school year, students who demonstrate below-grade level reading will be provided:

- *an evidenced-based literacy intervention approved by the state*
- *a Reading Plan in SIS to monitor their progress*

Currently, our criteria are students who score below benchmark on both the Reading SOL AND iReady Reading Assessment. VDOE has not yet shared the criteria for the 2025-26 school year.

US History II On Level

- Materials, notes, and assignments are more scaffolded/supported - accommodations like read aloud, definitions, and sentence starters might be provided to all students.
- Assessments focus more on knowledge, understanding and application. Students work with fewer primary sources.
- Performance Assessments include more whole class instruction/group work and we spend more time on the writing process.
- Students read shorter/simplified passages, are expected to write less and fulfill fewer requirements.

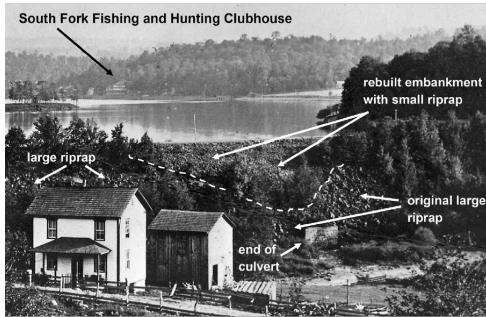
US History II Honors

- Materials, notes, and assignments expect students to write full sentences and analyze ideas.
- Assessments focus more on analyzing and evaluating primary source information.
- Performance Assessments have less guidance and more independent work time.
- Students read longer passages and primary sources, write more and are expected to fulfill more requirements.
- Honors materials are created with the expectation that students can read and write at or above grade level.

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 \$392,000.

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 an innate philanthropist and believed that the rich had an obligation to donate their money. Carnegie donated approximately \$350 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 dies thus rich dies disgraced," and he unambiguously 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 lusted 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 Soldier. 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.

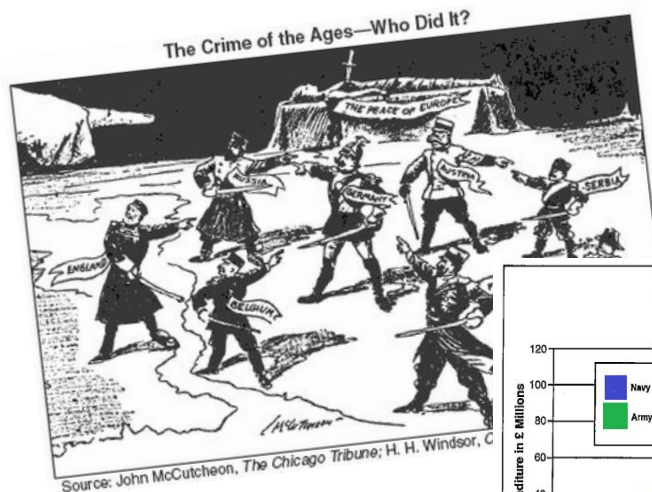
Some people call Carnegie a terrible person due to how he treated his employees working at his steel factories. They claim that Carnegie would make his workers labor tirelessly for countless hours for little pay. In 1892, Carnegie's workers went on strike and he cut their pay. Eventually, Carnegie won 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. 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.



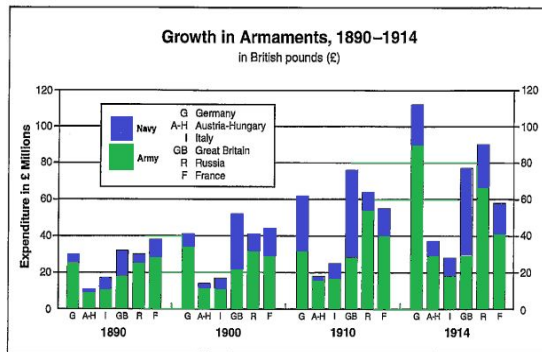
Examples of Primary Sources used in US History Classes

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?

Honors may have more difficult primary sources or less guidance in analyzing them.



	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	1,000,000
U.S.A.	125,000	100,000,000
Japan	375,000	10,000,000
Spain	1,000,000	10,000,000
Portugal	1,000,000	10,000,000
Sweden	450,000	1,000,000
Norway	350,000	1,000,000
Denmark	175,000	1,000,000
Switzerland	40,000	1,000,000
Austria	375,000	1,000,000
Hungary	375,000	1,000,000
Poland	375,000	1,000,000
Czechoslovakia	375,000	1,000,000
Slovenia	375,000	1,000,000
Croatia	375,000	1,000,000
Serbia	375,000	1,000,000
Romania	375,000	1,000,000
Greece	375,000	1,000,000
Turkey	375,000	1,000,000
China	3,700,000	400,000,000
India	1,900,000	300,000,000
Japan	375,000	10,000,000
U.S.A.	125,000	100,000,000
Canada	3,700,000	10,000,000
Argentina	1,700,000	10,000,000
Chile	375,000	1,000,000
Peru	1,200,000	10,000,000
Bolivia	375,000	1,000,000
Paraguay	375,000	1,000,000
Uruguay	375,000	1,000,000
Venezuela	375,000	1,000,000
Colombia	375,000	1,000,000
Ecuador	375,000	1,000,000
Panama	375,000	1,000,000
Cuba	375,000	1,000,000
Haiti	375,000	1,000,000
Dominican Republic	375,000	1,000,000
San Marino	375,000	1,000,000
Monaco	375,000	1,000,000
Liechtenstein	375,000	1,000,000
San Marino	375,000	1,000,000
Monaco	375,000	1,000,000
Liechtenstein	375,000	1,000,000



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

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 guided questioning
- More time reviewing key concepts

Honors

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

Grade 7 Mathematics Course Options

Mathematics 7
7th grade standards

Mathematics 7 Honors

8th Grade standards +
extensions

(Open access)

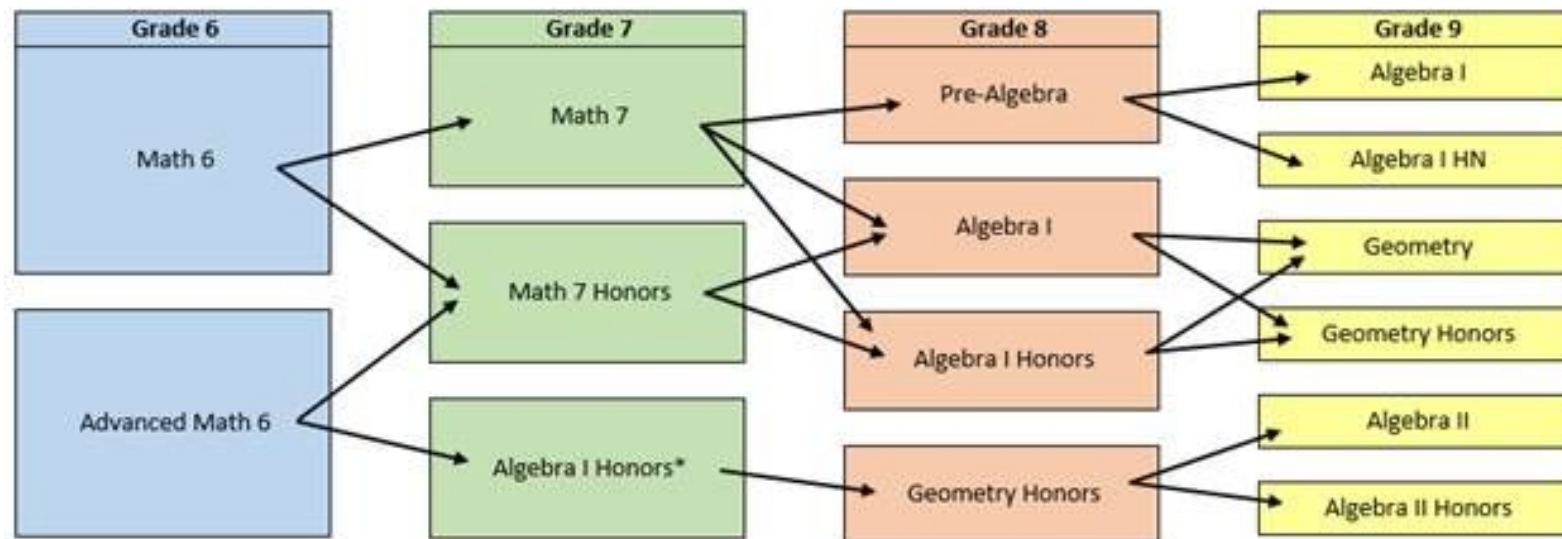
Algebra I Honors
criteria:

- Advanced Math in 6th grade,
- 500+ on 7th grade SOL, AND
- 91st percentile on Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test

(Algebra I is a high school credit course.)

Grade 7 Mathematics Course Options

Mathematics Course Sequence



Math 7 vs. Math 7 Honors

Math 7

- 7th Grade Standards
- The typical next course is Pre-Algebra or Algebra I
- KEY Pre-Algebra Topics Covered: solving two step equations, combining like terms, and slope

$$10 = -4x - 8$$

$$\frac{y+6.75}{-4} = 17$$

$$10p + 8 - 20p + 4 + 2p = 24$$

Math 7 Honors

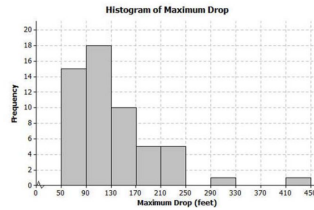
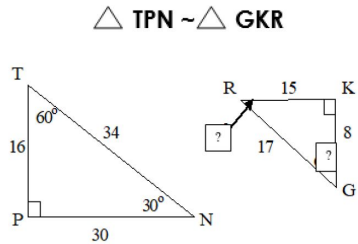
- 8th Grade Standards
- The typical next course is Algebra I HNs and allows the student to apply to TJHSST
- KEY Pre-Algebra Topics Covered: multi-step equations, combining like terms AND distributing, slope AND y-intercept

$$3(2x - 6) - 14x = 2x + 7$$

$$\frac{-x + 51}{3} + 4 < -x - 9$$

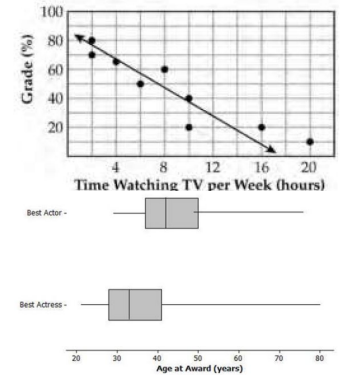
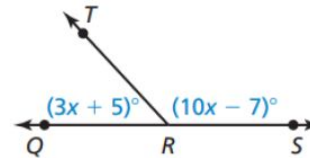
Math 7 vs. Math 7 Honors

Math 7



- Probability: Theoretical vs Experimental
- Geometry: Similar Figures, properties of polygons, cylinders and rectangular prisms
- Statistics: Histograms

Math 7 Honors



- Probability: Compound probability (like rolling a die and landing on a 6 twice)
- Geometry: Focus on Pythagorean Theorem and solving for angle measures using multi step equations
- Statistics: Scatter Plots and Box & Whisker Plots

Is your child ready for Math 7 HN?

Skills:

- are comfortable with 6th grade standards before going to 8th grade standards
- order fractions, decimals, percents, positive, and negative numbers
- add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and integers
- graph linear equations (i.e. $y=-2/3x$)
- solve two-step equations

Scores:

- 475 or higher on previous math SOLs
- mostly 4's in previous math courses

Work Habits:

- excellent attendance
- completes assignments

Math Supports Offered at Irving Middle School

1. **Math Support Center:** After school support from two Math teachers on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Located in the Library
2. **Just In Time Support:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, students can make a pass to seek support from their math teacher during advisory.
3. **Reassessments:** All summative assessments can be retaken.
4. **Advisory Intervention Cycles:** Each quarter, teachers select students to join their advisory class and receive extra support on Tuesdays and Thursdays
5. **Mathspace Textbook:** All students have access to an online textbook with videos, practice problems, instant feedback, and hints.

Considerations when deciding about the core classes

- ✦ Enjoys the subject area and is interested in gaining a deeper knowledge of the subject.
- ✦ It is up to families to decide which course the student will take. If you have questions, we suggest speaking with your child's teacher to get their thoughts. 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 page lists various course categories, including Business & Information Technology, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Technology & Engineering Education. A detailed view of the 'COMPUTER SOLUTIONS (SEMESTER)' course is shown in a pop-up window.

Irving MS
2021-2022 Course Catalog for 7th Grade

Business & Information Technology

COURSES	NUMBER
Electives	
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

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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 4 - 6**

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 In SPANISH!



In-Person

Tuesday, January 22

In-Person

Cancelled

Topics Include

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

**Please note an English version of this program will happen in May*



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



In-Person

Tuesday, May 13
9:00 am and 6:00 pm
(Same Information - Two Sessions)

In-Person

Topics Include

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

Questions

English: Dr. Frenck at slfrenck@fcps.edu

History: Ms. Patchan at jepatchan@fcps.edu

Math: Ms. Roeske at cjroeske@fcps.edu

Science: Mr. Cohn at amcohn@fcps.edu

Counselors:

Ms. Nelson at aenelson@fcps.edu

Ms. Kiefaber at smkiefaber@fcps.edu