

# Rising 8th Grade Curriculum Night

**January 16, 2025**

# Administrative Team



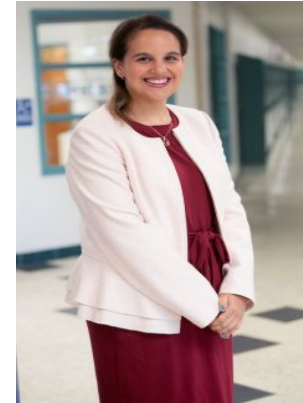
**Cindy Conley**  
**Principal**



**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



# Objectives

- Provide information about the 8th grade core classes at Irving
- Describe difference between general education and honors classes

# The Registration Process

- January 16 - Curriculum Night
- February 3 - Students get course selection sheets in Advisory
- February 10 - Course selection sheets due to English teacher
- February 18 - Students begin to enter classes into SIS during English classes
- March - Families will be asked to log into SIS to verify the classes students are registered to take are accurate. This shows the classes registered for, but not the actual schedule.
- March 31 - Last day for schedule change requests

\*We will continue to review class placements until school begins and will contact parents/guardians if we have a concern

## Classes at Irving

- All students must take English, social studies, math, science and health/physical education.
- Students will be choosing their electives at the same time as their core classes this year.

# 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.*



# Core Classes at Irving

## General Ed

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

## Honors

- Extensions to general education curriculum
- Open Enrollment

## AAP Level IV

### Honors

- Extensions to on level curriculum
- Only Level IV (Full Time) eligible students

# What is an honors class?

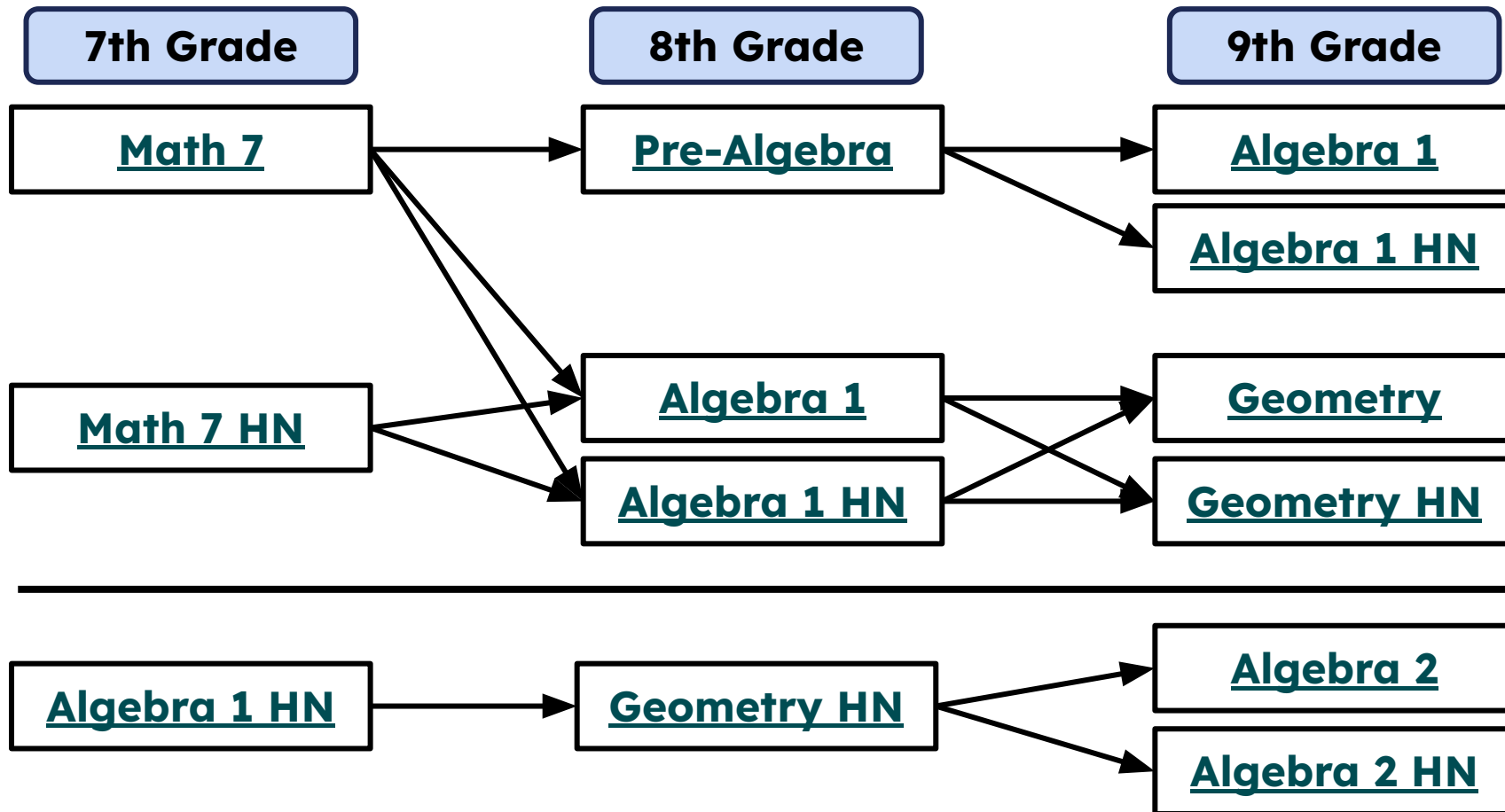
- Classes in the four core content areas of mathematics, English, social studies and science at every middle school
- An extended FCPS Program of Studies designed for high-ability and high-achieving learners
- Provides for ascending levels of intellectual demand and helps prepare for advanced classes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

## What else is an honors class?

- Uses advanced reading 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

# FCPS Math Course Pathways

[\\*Further sequence](#)



# Planning Ahead for High School Coursework

Considering Algebra 1 for 8th Grade Students



# Students Currently in Math 7 or Math 7 Honors

## Algebra 1

- High School Math Credit
- Covers all VDOE Alg Standards - SOL in the Spring
- Includes a Final Exam
- Mathspace curriculum supplemented with teacher created tasks
- Homework each class

## On-Level

- Structured scaffolding & support
- Reinforcement of pre-algebra concepts
- Extensions available to students who show readiness

## Honors \*required for TJ app\*

- 0.5 weighted GPA
- Extensions required: Depth, Complexity, and Additional Content
- Faster pace
- Requires more independence

# Supports available for Math 7 → Algebra 1

- Algebra Prep Lessons during school (post SOLs)
- Summer opportunities for reinforcement of pre-algebra skills
  - Boot camps (late July or early August)
  - Independent Work Available that includes video support
- Math Focused Advisories next year
- Math Support Center after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

# When to consider **Pre-Algebra** instead of **Algebra 1**

- May have gaps in math from previous years
- Struggling in Math 7 this year, especially with equations and functions
- Requires frequent reteaching or extra tutoring
- Often relies on retakes to sustain grade
- Not quite ready for Algebra 1, needs more time on foundational skills

**\*\* not an option for current Math 7 Honors students \*\***



## General Ed Civics

- Focus on vocabulary and skills that will help students understand concepts.
- Classwork is modeled as a class before moving to independent work.
- Students will work as a class to analyze charts, images and documents.
- More time is spent on fully understanding the concepts before applying them to real-world situations.
- Students will learn reading and writing strategies.

## Honors Civics

- Students learn concepts that need to be applied to real-life situations, which is different than the facts and events from history.
- The class moves quickly and students are expected to work independently on assignments.
- Students are expected to analyze charts, images, and documents on their own.
- Time spent on applying concepts to real world situations with greater depth.
- Students are challenged in their writing and class discussions with extensions.

# English

# English HN

**Grade Level Standards**

**Standards, Extension, & Enrichment**

**Reading comprehension of appropriately leveled texts and analysis**

**Reading comprehension of mid to higher range texts, analysis, and interaction with the text**

**More support, guided learning**

**Compacted curriculum, faster pacing, less support, more independent learning**

**Grade level writing, persuasive**

**Analytical writing, persuasive**

**Grammar Instruction and Application**

**Grammar Instruction and Application**

**Introduction to Project or Problem Based Learning (PBL)**

**Advanced PBL**

**Oral presentations, communication, & collaboration skills**

**More oral presentations, communication, and collaborative & independent projects**

# English: On-Level vs. Honors

Your child should consider **English 8 Honors** if they:

- Enjoy reading and does so on a regular basis without prompting
- Have strong reading stamina
- Have a strong foundation in writing and essay formation
- Have strong time management/executive functioning skills

# Physical Science

## General Ed

## Honors

Students learn essential standards

Students learn essential standards with extensions (deeper look into some topics)

Students engage in hands-on activities and experiments

Students engage in hands-on activities and experiments with an added level of independence and open-endedness

Students take assessments that target the levels of thinking such as remembering, understanding, and applying

Students take assessments that target the levels of thinking such as understanding, applying, and analyzing; assessments may include written components

Students practice and review concepts with more supports, such as guided notes, whole-class review activities, etc.

Students practice and review concepts in a more compacted manner, which allows time for extensions

Students in General Ed and Honors take an end-of-the-year Standards of Learning (SOL) test, covering material from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Science

# Physical Science: General Ed/On-Level vs. Honors

Your child should consider **Physical Science Honors** if they:

- Have an interest in physics and/or chemistry topics
- Desire an additional challenge in science
- Have strong reading/writing/math skills
- Have strong work habits/executive functioning skills  
(examples: note-taking, organization, time management, preparing for assessments outside of class time, etc.)

# 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 student services if you think your child would benefit from an intervention class.

# Course Catalog

[Link to 8th grade course catalog:](#)



Info



Requirements



Full



CTE



English



ESOL



Fine Arts



General



Health/PE



Languages



Mathematics



Science



Social Studies



Special Ed

# Questions?

- ✦ English: Ms. Boltuch at [kboltuch@fcps.edu](mailto:kboltuch@fcps.edu)
  - ✦ Civics: Mr. Dachille at [dmdachille@fcps.edu](mailto:dmdachille@fcps.edu)
  - ✦ Math: Ms. Rhodes at [jlrhodes@fcps.edu](mailto:jlrhodes@fcps.edu)
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