

Kate Collins Middle School Program of Studies

2022-2023



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Kate Collins Middle School

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Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Office of the Principal
Phone: 540-946-4635

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Dear Student/Parent/Guardian:

I am pleased to present the 2022-2023 Program of Studies for Kate Collins Middle School. It is important that we communicate the academic choices available to our students so that you can help your child make informed decisions. The choices made at the middle school level impact those that can be made once a student enters high school. These choices likewise affect opportunities that come after high school graduation.

Although students are required to take particular classes at each grade level, there are many additional options that lend themselves toward a particular educational or vocational path. For example, students who enter our advanced level courses of English, mathematics, and world languages will receive a more rigorous academic program with specific expectations for performance. Choices in technology, computers, and family and consumer sciences also allow our students to explore many types of careers and may lead to successful post-graduation opportunities.

The most important reason for reading and understanding this Program of Studies is for us to continue our partnership with you and your child. If you have questions about courses and options for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for being a part of Kate Collins Middle School.

Sincerely,

Marcia Nester

Marcia Nester
Principal

Bell Schedule for the 2022-2023 School Year

8th	Badger Time	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	FLEX	LUNCH	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
	8:15 – 8:30	Core 8:30 – 9:25	Core 9:28 – 10:23	Elective 10:26 – 11:21	11:24 – 11:54	11:57 – 12:17	Elective 12:20 – 1:15	Core 1:18 – 2:13	Core 2:16 – 3:10
7th	Badger Time	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	FLEX	Period 4	LUNCH	Period 5	Period 6
	8:15 – 8:27	Elective 8:30 – 9:25	Elective 9:28 – 10:23	Core 10:26 – 11:21	11:24 – 11:54	Core 11:57 – 12:52	12:55 – 1:15	Core 1:18 – 2:13	Core 2:16 – 3:10
6th	Badger Time	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	LUNCH	FLEX	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
	8:15 – 8:30	Core 8:30 – 9:25	Core 9:28 – 10:23	Core 10:26 – 11:21	11:24 – 11:44	11:47 – 12:17	Core 12:20 – 1:15	Elective 1:18 – 2:13	Elective 2:16 – 3:10

Key:

Core..... English, Math, Science, or Social Studies

Elective.....Exploratory/Elective and/or Health and Physical Education

Badger Time.....Homeroom/Advisory

Flex Time.....Teacher Choice

Visit the Virginia Department of Education website at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/> for details on individual courses.

Sixth Grade English 6

Course Description: In English 6, the student will present personal opinions, understand differing viewpoints, distinguish between fact and opinion, and analyze the effectiveness of group communication. The student will begin the study of word origins and continue vocabulary development. The student will independently read a variety of both fiction and nonfiction. The student will deepen their reading comprehension skills by applying critical reading and reasoning skills to reading across the content areas. The student will also plan, draft, revise, and edit narratives, descriptions, and explanations, with attention to composition and style as well as sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. The student will also demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. In addition, reading and writing will be used as tools for learning academic concepts, and available technology will be used as appropriate.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Oral Language (6.1, 6.2); Reading (6.3, 6.4, 6.5); Writing (6.6, 6.7)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Advanced English 6

Course Description: Advanced English 6 uses an American Studies approach which links the middle school social studies curricula with the English program. In addressing SOLs in English, the course places particular emphasis on higher order thinking, on vocabulary development, and on reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students wrestle with a variety of topics and controversial subjects in ways which develop their problem-solving and reasoning abilities and help them appreciate multiple points of view on difficult issues. Students are expected to demonstrate willingness to tackle complex and challenging assignments; expectations for quantity and quality of work are high.

Prerequisites: Eligibility is determined by the Placement Committee recommendation. Factors that will be used (but not limited to) include; 5th grade English grades, 5th grade English SOL score, and teacher recommendations. Additional important information about Advanced English eligibility and expectations is on page 20.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Oral Language (6.1, 6.2); Reading (6.3, 6.4, 6.5); Writing (6.6, 6.7)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Math 6

Course Descriptions: The Math 6 mathematics program is designed for all students as a transition from elementary to middle school mathematics. Students who consistently demonstrate conceptual and procedural knowledge of Math 6 may be recommended to enter our accelerated math course in grade 7.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Number and Number Sense (6.1, 6.2a*b*, 6.3a-c, 6.4) Computation and Estimation (6.5a*bc,6.6a* bc*) Measurement and Geometry (6.7a-c, 6.8a-b, 6.9) Probability, Statistics (6.10a-c,6.11a-b) Patterns, Functions, and Algebra (6.12a-d, 6.13, 6.14a-b)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Science 6

Course Description: This course will continue to focus on student growth in understanding the nature of science using observation, experimentation, models, evidence, and systematic processes. Methods are studied for testing the validity of predictions and conclusions. Scientific methodology, particularly in stating hypotheses and defining dependent and independent variables, is covered. The concept of change is explored through the study of transformations of energy and matter. The standards present an integrated focus on the role of the sun's energy in the Earth's systems, on water in the environment, on air and atmosphere, and on basic chemistry concepts. A more detailed understanding of the solar system and space exploration is a unit of instruction. Natural resource management, its relation to public policy, and cost/benefit tradeoffs in conservation policies are introduced.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Scientific Investigation, Reasoning, & Logic (6.1); Force, Motion, & Energy (6.2, 6.3); Matter (6.4, 6.6); Living Systems (6.7); Interrelationships in Earth/Space Systems (6.8); Resources (6.9)

SOL End of Course Test: No

Social Studies: United States History: 1865 to the Present

Course Description: Beginning in sixth grade, a two-year study of American history is initiated. The standards for this course relate to the history of the United States from pre-Columbian times until 1865. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography as they study United States history in chronological sequence and learn about change and continuity in our history. They also will study documents and speeches that laid the foundation of American ideals and institutions and will examine the everyday life of people at different times in the country's history through the use of primary and secondary sources. The study of history must emphasize the intellectual skills required for responsible citizenship. Students practice these skills as they extend their understanding of the essential knowledge defined by the standards for history and social science.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Skills (USI.1); Geography (USI.2); Exploration to Revolution (USI.3-USI.5); Revolution & the New Nation (USI.6, USI.7); Expansion & Reform (USI.8); Civil War (USI.9)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Health 6

Course Description: Students in grade six develop more sophistication in understanding health issues and practicing health skills. They apply 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. Injury prevention behaviors are demonstrated at school and elsewhere. Students are resourceful and discriminating in accessing and critiquing health information. Other units include: Family Life and Nutrition.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Knowledge/Skills (6.1-6.5); Information Access/Use (6.6); Community Health/Wellness (6.7)

SOL End of Course Test: No

Physical Education 6

Course Description: Students assess their health-related fitness status and set goals for development, maintenance, and improvement. Students learn to solve problems and make responsible decisions as they work together. They exhibit a physically active lifestyle at school and outside the school environment. Students in grade six will combine fundamental skills into more complex movement forms in modified game, dance, and recreational activities. Students will participate in cooperative and competitive small-group games, with emphasis being on developing skills and tactical understanding.

Prerequisites: None

Students are required to purchase a uniform for PE.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Skilled Movement (6.1); Movement Principles & Concepts (6.2); Personal Fitness (6.3); Responsible Behaviors (6.4); Physically Active Lifestyle (6.5)

SOL End of Course Test: No

6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art Exploration – 1 Credit

In this class, you will create 2D & 3D art. Lessons will focus on learning about the seven Elements of Art & acquiring art vocabulary. You will work with paint, clay & other fun materials.

Band – 4 Credits

Learn how to play an instrument in the band! Students explore the different instruments while learning how to play and read music. Don't have an instrument? No problem– Mr. Echols has instruments that you can use! This class meets every day all year long.

Careers, Computers & Coding – 1 Credit

This class is a foundation for all future computer classes. Students are introduced to input and output devices, Internet use and safety, and basic formatting of documents.

Chorus Half Year – 2 Credits

This chorus class meets every day half of the school year. Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Chorus Year-Long – 4 Credits

This is a year-long chorus class that meets every day. Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Exploring Technology – 1 Credit

This class introduces the basics of technology to include communications, manufacturing, agriculture, and transportation. This course follows the engineering design process to problem solve and think critically, creatively, and collaboratively.

Fitness for Life – 1 Credit

We will focus on fitness programs that will increase cardiovascular, muscular endurance and flexibility. We will also focus on nutrition to understand how it relates to fitness. This is an elective class taken in addition to your regular PE class.

International World Languages – 1 Credit

This course introduces students to world languages: Latin, Spanish, and French. This course provides students with a sample of world languages. Time will be spent studying each language and culture.

TEEN LIVING 6 – 1 Credit

This course is based on increasing student knowledge of skills necessary for everyday living. We will cover goal setting, workplace readiness, communication, conflict resolution, nutrition & wellness, kitchen safety, recipes, COOKING, child care, clothing care and SEWING.

Theater Half-Year – 1 Credit

Theater at KCMS explores all facets of the theatrical arts, including acting, lighting, costuming, makeup, set building, and prop creation. This is a performance based class with required performances each semester.

Theater Year-Long – 2 Credits

Theater at KCMS explores all facets of the theatrical arts, including acting, lighting, costuming, makeup, set building, and prop creation. This is a performance based class with required performances each semester. This class is a year-long class.

Seventh Grade

English 7

Course Description: The seventh-grade student will continue to develop oral communication skills and will become more knowledgeable of the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in oral communication. The student will read a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry while becoming more independent and analytical. The student will continue to refine written composition skills. Written explanations will utilize informational writing skills. The student will continue vocabulary development through a study of figurative language and continuing study of roots and affixes. Knowledge of the impact of media on public opinion will be introduced. The student will increase proficiency in the use of print and electronic information resources and will learn ways to give credit to reference sources. The student will also demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Oral Language (7.1, 7.2, 7.3); Reading (7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7); Writing (7.8, 7.9)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Advanced English 7

Course Description: Advanced English 7 incorporates language arts skills into a collection of thematic units. In addressing SOLs in English, the course places particular emphasis on higher order thinking, on vocabulary development, and on reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students wrestle with a variety of topics and controversial subjects in ways which develop their problem-solving and reasoning abilities and help them appreciate multiple points of view on difficult issues. Students are expected to demonstrate willingness to tackle complex and challenging assignments; expectations for quantity and quality of work are high.

Prerequisites: Eligibility is determined by the Placement Committee recommendation. Factors include, but are not limited to, 6th grade English grades, 6th grade English SOL score, and teacher recommendations. Important information about Honors English/Advanced English eligibility and expectations is on page 20.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Oral Language (7.1, 7.2, 7.3); Reading (7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7); Writing (7.8, 7.9)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Math 7

Course Description: The seventh-grade standards place emphasis on solving problems involving consumer applications, using proportional reasoning, and gaining proficiency in computations with integers. The students will gain an understanding of the properties of real numbers, solve one-step linear equations and inequalities, and use data analysis techniques to make inferences, conjectures, and predictions. Two- and three-dimensional representations, graphing transformations in the coordinate plane, and probability will be extended. Students will identify real-life applications of the mathematical principles they are learning and apply these to science and other disciplines they are studying. The development of problem-solving skills is a major goal of the Kate Collins mathematics program.

Prerequisites: Math 6 successfully completed.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Number & Number Sense (7.1-7.2); Computation & Estimation (7.3-7.4); Measurement (7.5-7.6); Geometry (7.7-7.8); Probability & Statistics (7.9-7.11); Patterns, Functions, & Algebra (7.12-7.16)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Pre-Algebra

Course Description: This course places emphasis on solving problems involving consumer applications, using proportional reasoning, and gaining proficiency in computations with integers. The students will gain an understanding of the properties of real numbers, solve one-step and two-step linear equations and inequalities, multistep equations, and use data analysis techniques to make inferences, conjectures, and predictions. Two- and three-dimensional representations, graphing transformations in the coordinate plane, and probability will be extended. Students will identify real-life applications of the mathematical principles they are learning and apply these to other disciplines they are studying.

Prerequisites: Eligibility will be determined by the Placement Committee recommendation. Factors that will be used (but not limited to) include; 6th grade Math grades, 6th grade Math SOL score, benchmark test scores and teacher recommendations.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Real Number System (8.2); Comparing & Ordering Numbers (8.1, 7.1); Simplifying Expressions (7.3, 7.13, 7.16, 8.1, 8.4); Proportional Relationships (7.4, 7.6, 8.3); Probability (7.10, 8.12); Equations & Inequalities (7.15, 8.15); Linear Relationships (8.14, 8.16, 8.17); Statistics (8.13); Angle Relationships (8.6); Perfect Squares & Pythagorean Theorem (8.5, 8.10); Comparing 2-D Figures (8.11); Orthographic Projections (8.9); Surface Area & Volume (7.5, 8.7); Transformations (7.8, 8.8)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Science: Life Science

Course Description: The Life Science standards emphasize a more complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. Inquiry skills at this level include organization and mathematical analysis of data, manipulation of variables in experiments, and identification of sources of experimental error. The nature of science includes the concepts that scientific explanations are based on logical thinking; are subject to rules of evidence; are consistent with observational, inferential, and experimental evidence; are open to rational critique; and are subject to refinement and change with the addition of new scientific evidence.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Scientific method (LS.1); Cell structures & processes (LS.2-3); Classification (LS.4); Photosynthesis (LS.5); Ecosystems (LS.6); Population & community (LS.7-8); Organisms' adaptations (LS.9); Life changes (LS.10 & LS.13); Ecosystems & human activity relationships (LS.11); Genetics & Heredity (LS.12).

SOL End of Course Test: No

Social Studies: World Studies

Course Description: World Studies covers concepts involving basic geography, history, vocabulary, and current events. Students will be examining the relationship between the United States and other regions/peoples from around the world. Students will consider the relationships between people and places and will debate and discuss various global issues. Students will be assessed throughout the course but there is not a state required SOL test associated with this class. The course is modeled on the 10 Themes of Social Studies, according to the National Council for Social Studies.

Prerequisites: None

SOL End of Course Test: No

Health 7

Course Description: Students, in grade seven, 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 (e.g., nutritional, physical activity) to alertness, feelings, and performance at school or during physical activity. Students exhibit a healthy lifestyle, interpret health information, and promote good health. Other units include: Family Life and Nutrition.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: SOL 7.1 – 7.5

SOL End of Course Test: No

Physical Education 7

Course Description: In grade seven, students continue to develop competence in modified versions of games/sports, dance, and recreational activities. They vary movement during dynamic and changing game situations. Recreational pursuits become an additional curriculum option, broadening lifetime physical activity options. The ability to analyze skill performance through observing and understanding critical elements (isolated, small parts of the whole skill or movement) is increasingly apparent, as is the application of basic scientific principles of movement and personal fitness. Students relate the importance of physical activity to health, focusing particularly on obesity and stress. Students continue to develop responsible personal social behaviors by demonstration decision-making and maintain personal fitness standards and set reasonable and appropriate goals for improvement to maintenance of health-related fitness.

Students are required to purchase a uniform for PE.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Skilled Movement (7.1); Movement Principles and Concepts (7.2); Personal Fitness (7.3); Responsible Behaviors (7.4); Physically Active Lifestyles (7.5)

SOL End of Course Test: No

7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art Exploration 7 – 1 Credit

In this class, you will gain experience using a variety of materials to create 2D and 3D artworks. Lessons will focus on learning about the seven Elements of Art and acquiring vocabulary to describe and explain works of art and art making techniques. You will have opportunities to work with paint, clay and other fun materials.

Art Journaling – 1 Credit

Have fun drawing, painting and sketching while writing about various subjects including your favorite people, pets, emotions, dreams and goals! We will learn to use various art materials including watercolors, permanent markers, papers, specialty pens and MANY others to create a visual journal (which can be described as a combination of a scrapbook and a diary). You can keep adding to your art journal even after you complete this class!

Beginning Band – 4 Credits

Learn how to play an instrument in the band! Students explore the different instruments while learning how to play and read music. Don't have an instrument? No problem- Mr. Echols has instruments that you can use!

Chorus Year Long – 4 Credits

Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Chorus Semester Long – 2 Credits

Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Computer Solutions – 1 Credit

In this class students use the computer as a problem-solving tool to complete a variety of projects. Students receive an introduction to word processing, spreadsheets, database, graphics, telecommunication applications and coding in this course.

Digital Media – 1 Credit

Students in this class will explore the use of graphics, digital page design and layout. Students will use digital cameras and learn to use basic photo editing software.

Discovering Technology – 1 Credit

This class is a STEM and career exploratory course for 7th graders that follows the engineering design process to problem solve and think critically, creatively, and collaboratively. Students use tools and machines to solve their innovation problem while learning about manufacturing, agriculture, power and energy, transportation, and communication technologies.

Drawing – 1 Credit

Have you always wanted to know how to draw more realistically? Then this class is for you! In Drawing 1, you will be able to experiment with a variety of drawing tools including specialty pencils, charcoal, pastels, as well as inks, paint pens and more. Drawing skills and techniques will be practiced and explored.

Fitness for Life – 1 Credit

This class will focus on fitness programs that will increase cardiovascular, muscular endurance and flexibility. We will also focus on nutrition to understand how it relates to fitness. This is an elective class taken in addition to your regular PE class.

Intermediate Band - 4 Credits

Continue in the band by learning new notes and new scales. Students will progress on their instruments and explore great music!

Intermediate Band and Chorus - 4 Credits

Students in this class will spend half of their class in band and the other half in chorus. Continue in the band by learning new notes and new scales. Students will progress on their instruments and explore great music! Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Introduction to Spanish - 1 Credit

This course will prepare the student for Spanish I. It will cover topics including foods, music, and more. The student will practice reading and writing as well as honing their abilities with speaking and listening comprehension.

International World Languages - 1 Credit

This course introduces students to world languages: Latin, Spanish, and French. This course provides students with a sample of world languages so that they will be able to make a more educated decision about which world languages they wish to pursue. Time will be spent studying each language and culture.

STEM, Robotics & Programming - 1 Credit

This course uses the Engineering Design Process and Technology Student Association standards to creatively solve hands-on challenges.

TEEN LIVING 7 - Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory II - 1 Credit

This is a Family & Consumer Science course based on skills necessary for everyday living. This class will cover: goal setting, workplace readiness skills, communication, conflict resolution, time management skills, dealing with peer pressure, problem solving and decision making, nutrition and wellness, food safety, kitchen safety, COOKING, etiquette, babysitting knowledge, clothing maintenance and SEWING.

Theater - 1 Credit

Theater at KCMS explores all facets of the theatrical arts, including acting, lighting, costuming, makeup, set building, and prop creation. This is a performance based class with required performances each semester.

Theater Year Long - 2 Credits

Theater at KCMS explores all facets of the theatrical arts, including acting, lighting, costuming, makeup, set building, and prop creation. This is a performance based class with required performances each semester.

Woodworking - 1 Credit

This course allows students to build woodworking projects. Safety and proper use and maintenance of tools will be expected. Technical drawing will be introduced

Eighth Grade

English 8

Course Description: An overarching goal in English 8 is to foster and cultivate a life-long love of reading and writing to prepare them for future educational endeavors or pursuits. Students will plan, draft, revise, and finalize writing through a variety of mini lessons incorporated through Writers Workshop. Particular attention is given to planning, drafting, and revising in order to improve the piece. The student will apply reading and writing skills in all subjects, as well as respond critically to literature. The student will study vocabulary by reading a variety of self-selected literature through Readers Workshop.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Oral Language (8.1, 8.2, 8.3); Reading (8.4, 8.5, 8.6); Writing (8.7, 8.8)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Advanced English 8

Course Description: The Advanced English 8 program is designed to challenge the most capable students within the area of language arts. English 8 SOLs are addressed and built upon in a variety of written assignments and units enriched by interdisciplinary instruction. The students will study a variety of topics and literary forms that require them to think critically, draw conclusions, and make applications. These topics may include, but are not limited to: current event issues eras of change in the twentieth century, and figures that have made significant contributions to society. This writing-intensive course includes persuasive and expository forms. Products may include: completing an annotated research project, interviewing related to research topics, multimedia projects, group research and presentations, and creation of original and collaborative pieces of narrative writing.

Prerequisites: Eligibility is determined by the Placement Committee recommendation. Factors include, but are not limited to: 7th grade English grades, 7th grade English and math SOL scores, and teacher recommendations. Additional information about Advanced English 8 is on page 20.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Oral Language (8.1, 8.2, 8.3); Reading (8.4, 8.5, 8.6); Writing (8.7, 8.8)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Pre-Algebra

Course Description: Pre-Algebra contains content that reviews or extends concepts and skills learned in previous grades and new content that prepares students for more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry. Students will gain proficiency in computation with rational numbers and will use proportions to solve a variety of problems. New concepts include, solving multistep equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, visualizing three-dimensional shapes represented in two-dimensional drawings, and applying transformations to geometric shapes in the coordinate plane. Students will verify and apply the Pythagorean theorem and represent relations and functions, using tables, graphs, and rules.

While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technologies. Students will also identify real-life applications of mathematical principles that can be applied to science and other disciplines. The course provides a more solid foundation in Algebra 1 for those students not ready for Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Math II

Standards of Learning Addressed: Number & Number Sense (8.1, 8.2); Computation & Estimation (8.3-8.5); Measurement (8.6, 8.7); Geometry (8.8-8.11); Probability & Statistics (8.12, 8.13); Patterns, Functions, & Algebra (8.14-8.17)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Algebra I

Course Description: Algebra I is a one-year course offered only to those students who have successfully completed Pre-Algebra. Students will make connections and build relationships between algebra and arithmetic, geometry, and probability and statistics. Connections will also be made to other subject areas through practical applications that will help students attach meaning to the abstract concepts of algebra.

Students will use algebra as a tool for representing and solving a variety of practical problems. Tables and graphs will be used to interpret algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities and to analyze functions. Appropriate technology tools will be used to assist in teaching and learning. Graphing utilities enhance the understanding of functions. They provide a powerful tool for solving and verifying solutions to equations and inequalities.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra. Important information about earning high school credit is on page 18.

Standards of Learning Addressed: Expressions & Operations(A.1-A.3); Equations & Inequalities(A.4-A.6); Functions(A.7, A.8); Statistics(A.9-A.11)

End of Course SOL Test: Yes

High School Credit: 1 Unit

Science: Physical Science

Course Description: The Physical Science standards continue to build on skills of systematic investigation with a clear focus on variables and repeated trials. Validating conclusions using evidence and data becomes increasingly important at this level. Students will plan and conduct research involving both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from written and electronic resources. Research methods and skills highlight practical problems and questions. Students will share their work, using written reports and other presentations.

The Physical Science standards stress an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. The standards place considerable emphasis on the technological application of physical science principles and focuses on student growth in understanding the nature of science. This scientific view defines the idea that explanations of nature are developed and tested using observation, experimentation, models, evidence, and systematic processes. The nature of science includes the concepts that scientific explanations are based on logical thinking, are subject to rules of evidence, are consistent with observational, inferential, and experimental evidence, are open to rational critique, and are subject to refinement and change with the addition of new scientific evidence.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: PS.1-PS.11

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Social Studies: Civics and Economics

Course Description: This course examines the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students will examine the constitutions of Virginia and the United States, identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. Students will investigate the process by which decisions are made in the American market economy and explain the government's role in it. The standards identify personal character traits, such as patriotism, respect for the law, willingness to perform public service, and a sense of civic duty, that facilitate thoughtful and effective active participation in the civic life of an increasingly diverse democratic society. Civic education will emphasize the intellectual and practical skills required for responsible citizenship. Students will practice these skills both inside and outside the classroom as they extend their understanding of the essential knowledge defined by the standards for Civics and Economics.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: Civics (CE .1 – CE .10); Economics (CE .11 – CE .14)

SOL End of Course Test: Yes

Health 8

Course Description: 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. Other units include: Family Life and Nutrition.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: SOL 8.1 – 8.5

SOL End of Course Test: No

Physical Education 8

Course Description: Students demonstrate competence in skillful movement in modified, dynamic game situations and in a variety of recreational activities. They transition from modified versions of movement forms to more complex application during activities – game/sport, dance, and recreational pursuits. Students demonstrate the ability to assume responsibility for guiding their own learning as they apply their knowledge and abilities to create a practice plan to improve performance in a selected game/sport, dance, or recreational pursuit and have a repertoire of abilities across a variety of game/sport, dance, and recreational pursuits and begin to develop competence in specialized versions of lifetime game/sport activities.

Students are required to purchase a uniform for PE.

Prerequisites: None

Standards of Learning Addressed: SOL 8.1-8.5

SOL End of Course Test: No

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

ADULTING 101 – Independent Living – 2 Credits – High School Level

This is a Family & Consumer Science year-long, high school credit class. Our focus is increasing student knowledge of skills necessary for everyday living. This class will cover goal setting, workplace readiness skills, critical thinking, problem solving, respect for diversity, professionalism, career choices and preparation, decision making, time management and information technology systems. We will also learn about strengthening families, caregiving, interpersonal relationships, human growth and development, conflict resolution, finances, investing, saving, credit and debt management, housing options, maintenance and design, clothing selection, clothing maintenance, grocery shopping strategies, nutrition, wellness, food safety, kitchen sanitation and COOKING

Advanced Band – 4 Credits

Continue in the band and explore more music literature. Students will also perform in the Waynesboro Holiday Parade and one football game with the Waynesboro High School Band.

Applying Technology – 2 Credits – High School Level

This is a hands on course that provides a basic foundation for computer programming and uses the Engineering Design Process to creatively solve problems. Students will learn about the history and components of computers and the basics of programming using Code.org and Scratch. Students will then utilize your programming skills to work with external devices such as the Finches and Boe Bots.

Art Exploration 8 – 1 Credit

In this class, you will gain experience using a variety of materials to create 2D and 3D artworks. Lessons will focus on learning about the seven Elements of Art and acquiring vocabulary to describe and explain works of art and art making techniques. You will have opportunities to work with paint, clay and other fun materials.

Art Journaling – 1 Credit

Have fun drawing, painting and sketching while writing about various subjects including your favorite people, pets, emotions, dreams and goals! We will learn to use various art materials including watercolors, permanent markers, papers, specialty pens and MANY others to create a visual journal (which can be described as a combination of a scrapbook and a diary). You can keep adding to your art journal even after you complete this class!

Beginning Band – 4 Credits

Learn how to play an instrument in the band! Students explore the different instruments while learning how to play and read music. Don't have an instrument? No problem- Mr. Echols has instruments that you can use!

Chorus Year Long – 4 Credits

Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Chorus Semester Long – 2 Credits

Chorus is a place to explore your voice, to build your skills as a musician, and to join a legacy of musical excellence within your community. This is a performance based class with required concerts each semester.

Computer Applications – 2 credits – High School Level

In this class students develop or review correct keyboarding techniques. They will focus on mastering basic computer operations such as documents, spreadsheets, databases, graphics, and telecommunication applications. Students will have the opportunity to incorporate digital images, use digital cameras, and produce presentations using Microsoft Office.

Drawing - 1 Credit

Have you always wanted to know how to draw more realistically? Then this class is for you! In Drawing 1, you will be able to experiment with a variety of drawing tools including specialty pencils, charcoal, pastels, as well as inks, paint pens and more. Drawing skills and techniques will be practiced and explored.

Fitness for Life - 1 Credit

This class will focus on fitness programs that will increase cardiovascular, muscular endurance and flexibility. We will also focus on nutrition to understand how it relates to fitness. This is an elective class taken in addition to your regular PE class.

Guitar - 1 Credit

Learn music fundamentals in Beginning Guitar. Students read and play music using standard notation and tablature. Students learn to play melody and chords in Beginning Guitar.

Introduction to American Sign Language - 1 Credit

This course is designed to acquaint students with the methods and techniques of learning and using American Sign Language (ASL). It will also introduce students to Deaf culture and its history by comparing and contrasting ASL with spoken English.

Make It Your Business: Yearbook - 2 Credits

Students design, establish, and operate a class business, producing and selling a yearbook. This class will cover the concepts of journalism including reporting, writing, interviewing, photography, and photo editing. Students will be expected to occasionally work after school to cover school events and meet deadlines.

Spanish I - 2 Credits - High School Level

In this course listening, comprehension, speaking, reading and writing are emphasized. Structure and vocabulary are orally presented and mastered through use of dialogues, conversational situations, and drill. Games, pictures, and songs are used. Reading begins with the materials already learned orally. Writing consists primarily of writing exercises involving manipulation of structure, taking dictation, and rewriting very simple dialogues and paragraphs.

STEM, Agriculture & Renewable Energy - 1 Credit

This course uses the Engineering Design Process and Technology Student Association standards to creatively solve hands-on challenges

TEEN LIVING 8 Semester - Family and Consumer Sciences Exploratory III - 1 Credit

This is a Family & Consumer Science course based on skills necessary for everyday living. This class will cover: workplace readiness skills, conflict resolution, responsible interaction with peers, teamwork skills, time management, professionalism, career & life management skills, entrepreneurship, internet safety, responsible citizenship, cultural awareness, strengthening families, money management, health & wellness, food safety, COOKING and SEWING

Theater - 1 Credit

Theater at KCMS explores all facets of the theatrical arts, including acting, lighting, costuming, makeup, set building, and prop creation. This is a performance based class with required performances each semester.

Woodworking - 1 Credit

This course allows students to build woodworking projects. Safety and proper use and maintenance of tools will be expected. Technical drawing will be introduced.

Opportunities for Gifted and High Ability Students

The needs of gifted students are addressed in a variety of ways. In the areas of math and English, students may be placed in accelerated or enriched classes, which allow them to progress more rapidly through the required courses and to be challenged intellectually as they do so. Eighth graders may take certain elective classes for high school credit (see below). Additional opportunities for advanced students may be provided through club activities and through support in the core subject classrooms. In all academic subjects, teachers work to create stimulating lessons and to differentiate instruction through individualized projects and other assignments. In order to be successful in the accelerated and/or honors classes, students must have motivation, commitment, and maturity for taking on advanced work.

Gifted/High Ability English Offerings: Advanced English 6, Advanced English 7, and Advanced English 8.

Gifted/High Ability Math Offerings: Pre-Algebra and Algebra I.

Gifted/High Ability Elective Offerings (high school credit): Adulting 101: Independent Living, Keyboarding 8: Computer Applications, Applied Technology 8: Tech. Foundations, and Spanish I.

Gifted Enrichment: Provided individually through either advanced course offerings or through differentiated instruction within an inclusive classroom model.

High School Credit for Middle School Courses

Certain high school-level courses are offered for credit at the middle school level. These credits and grades transfer onto the students' high school transcripts. Parents/guardians may elect to have any high school credit taken at middle school level omitted from their child's transcript. This request must be made in writing prior to the beginning of the ninth grade year.

Kate Collins Middle School Advanced English

The Advanced English classroom is designed to provide challenging experiences. Advanced students are expected to demonstrate rich, divergent thinking during inquiry-based discussion and reflect this in their work.

Students who are not flourishing in this environment will be assigned to a more appropriate setting.

In order to be selected for Advanced English, a student must have:

- academic teacher recommendation(s)
- passing scores for all SOL tests
- passing grades from the previous year (A - B in English, nothing below a C in other areas)
- an attendance record that positively impacts academic success

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR HONORS ENGLISH STUDENTS:

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Working as a Team	- Students will carry out their teacher-assigned roles in a group. Their work will be judged both by the teacher and their teammates based on a rubric designed to measure such things as teamwork, academic skills and content knowledge.	- Students will select the roles within their cooperative groups. Their work will be judged both by the teacher and their teammates based on a rubric designed to measure such things as teamwork, academic skills, and content knowledge.	- Students will be given a task as a cooperative group. They will organize themselves to complete and evaluate the task. Their work will be judged based on criteria established in a rubric.
Goal-Setting/ Creative, student-driven	- Students will develop goals with teacher-led and teacher monitored activities. - Within clearly defined structures, students will be guided to exercise choices for content, process, product and assessment.	- will develop goals with support and monitoring of the teacher. - Students will accept increased responsibility in choosing a plan for content, process, product and assessment.	- Students will develop and monitor goals independently. - Given teacher expectations, students will clearly articulate steps and rationale for their choices in execution of content, process, product and assessment.
Critical reflection and problem-solving	- Students will accept mistakes as part of the learning process. - Students will be able to attack problems and entertain alternative solutions. - Students will develop increasing facility with using self- and peer-evaluation and with gracefully offering and accepting constructive criticism. - Students will demonstrate an ability to be independent thinkers and show confidence in their own sometimes controversial ideas.	- Students will accept mistakes as part of the learning process. - Students will be able to attack problems and entertain alternative solutions. - Students will develop increasing facility with using self- and peer-evaluation and with gracefully offering and accepting constructive criticism. - Students will demonstrate an ability to be independent thinkers and show confidence in their own, sometimes controversial ideas.	- Students will accept mistakes as part of the learning process. - Students will be able to attack problems and entertain alternative solutions. - Students will develop increasing facility with using self- and peer-evaluation and with gracefully offering and accepting constructive criticism. - Students will demonstrate an ability to be independent thinkers and show confidence in their own sometimes controversial ideas.
Fulfilling high expectations in work ethic and quality of work.	- Students demonstrate mastery of 5th grade Standards of Learning. - Students demonstrate their investment in academic success. - Able to work independently both in and outside of class.	- Students demonstrate mastery of 6th grade Standards of Learning. - Students demonstrate their investment in academic success. - Able to work independently both in and outside of class.	- Students demonstrate mastery of 7th grade Standards of Learning. - Students demonstrate their investment in academic success. - Able to work independently both in and outside of class.