



VALOR
PREPARATORY ACADEMY



7-8 JUNIOR HIGH |
2024-25 COURSE CATALOG

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Introduction

This catalog lists the junior high courses offered at Valor Preparatory Academy. Students need to carefully consider the information in this catalog so they can make informed decisions about their course of study while attending VPA. A Student Services Advisor is available to assist students with course selections and to answer questions about their schedules. Please be sure to review [graduation requirements](#) *before making course decisions*.

Definitions

- **Honors Courses:** All students are eligible to enter honors courses with teacher and/or parent approval. All Honors placement is subject to administrative approval.
 - Honors courses are designed to provide acceleration and enrichment. The pace is designed to challenge students and provide exploration and discovery at greater depth. Consider student capacity and desire when making course selections.
- **Cumulative Grading:** Cumulative grading is a system for calculating a student's grade in a class that counts each new assessment at its assigned weight in a cumulative fashion throughout the year. The course final grade is not based on the average of four quarters of separate grades but rather on the cumulation of points through the year.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The purpose of continuous improvement is to reduce the need for credit retrieval, to mitigate failure, and increase mastery. Students will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery with all state standards for each class, recognizing that students learn at different rates and times.
- **AIG Program:** A student may be referred to the AIG program by parents, teachers, or administration. Students who demonstrate an intellectual aptitude at the 95% percentile or higher on the CogAT test will be considered intellectually gifted and will be eligible for gifted curriculum. Students who demonstrate academic achievement 2 or more grade levels above their current grade level in reading and/or math will be considered academically gifted and will be eligible for gifted services. Gifted curriculum includes Honors, CCP, and/or AP courses. CogAT testing occurs only once per calendar year. Other considerations for gifted placement include students who receive a private evaluation or a psychologist's assessment or a student already identified formally by another school district for gifted services that has transferred to the school. Student transfers will need a record from the prior school showing the Aptitude test used, test scores, and eligibility criteria that were used for identification.
- **Prerequisites or Requirements:** Some courses have prerequisite requirements. Students must complete the Prerequisites or Requirements before enrolling in these classes.
- **Catalog Listings:** Although a course is listed, it will not be offered unless a sufficient number of students register for the class. VPA reserves the right to add and remove classes at its discretion. It is important that students make thoughtful course selections in the spring pre-registration period because course offerings and teacher assignments are based on spring registration numbers.
- **Transfer Courses:** Acceptance of transfer courses from schools outside VPA is not automatic. Please meet with a Student Services Advisor to determine whether credits will be transferred *before enrolling*.
- **Minimum Course Load:** Seventh and Eighth graders are required to enroll in (7) courses daily at VPA. Students should review courses with a Student Services Advisor to ensure they are on track to meet all promotion requirements.

Course Grading

All courses taught for credit receive a letter grade or a pass/fail. Grading is based on year long cumulative grades.

All other course grades are based on the following grading allocations:

Classwork	20%
Homework	10%
Assessment	50%
Final Assessment	20%

Percentage Letter Grade point value is listed below.

Percentage	Grade	GPA	Weighted GPA
90-100%	A	4.0	5.0
80-89%	B	3.0	4.0
70-79%	C	2.0	3.0
60-69%	D	1.0	2.0
Below 59.5%	F	0.0	0.0
Withdrawal	W or W/D	0.0	0.0
Pass / Fail	P or F	N/A	N/A

Continuous Improvement and Assessment Retakes

- All students are provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in each course, recognizing that students learn at different rates and times. Assessment retakes are required for any item in the 50% Assessment Category (unit exams, chapter tests, timed writes, essential tasks, quizzes) for students who score below a 70%. Students who score above 70% on assessments may retake all or portions of that exam as determined by the teacher to demonstrate proficiency.. Assessment grades will be based on the highest assessment score achieved by the student.
- For a student to retake a specific assessment, either in whole or in part, the student needs to demonstrate readiness through additional practice as determined by the teacher. Students will work with the teacher to schedule a time to retake the assessment at a time that will best meet the needs of both the teacher and student such as during class, before or after school, or during lunch.
- Retakes must be completed before the end of the current quarter unless approved by the teacher. Retakes are only authorized for formal assessments (unit exams, chapter tests, essential tasks). Retakes are not eligible for State Assessments.

Program Planning

All students, in consultation with their families, must develop a two-year plan to prepare them to enter high school. To assist with this planning, review the [requirements chart](#) provided in this catalog that lists the course requirements for junior high completion and high school graduation. Students with an IEP are required to complete the course of study as prescribed in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Schedule Changes

Please make your pre-registration choices well. If you do not choose your electives, they will be chosen for you. Elective choices are not guaranteed. Any schedule changes should be completed prior to the first day of the school year. Class changes may only be considered by filling out a Class Request Change Form obtained from your Academic Advisor, may be signed by parent/guardian, and change must take place within the first 20 days of the school year. After this time, administrative approval will be required. ***Not all schedule changes can be honored due to scheduling conflicts.***

Schedules will only be changed for the following reasons:

- Missing courses required for graduation
- Open period in schedule
- Duplication of a class
- Lacking prerequisite
- Unsuccessful completion of an accredited course
- Successful completion of accredited course prior to the beginning of the current semester (i.e. summer school)
- Documented health reasons

Approved withdrawals from courses will be posted on the student's transcript according to the following timeline:

- Schedule changes made within the first ten (20) days of the year will not be reflected on the transcript.
- Withdrawals made on the eleventh (21st) day and beyond grades will be posted with a "W/F". *Receiving a "W/F" will result in a "0" being factored into a student's GPA.*
- A "W/F" will make the student ineligible to participate in school sponsored activities for the remainder of the year.
- Modifications to this process may be reviewed on an individual basis with the student, parent, counselor, and administrator.

Education and Career Action Plan

Valor Preparatory students will fill out an Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) in eighth grade (or upon enrollment at VPA). An ECAP reflects a student's current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop the student's individual academic and career goals. ECAP forms can be found on our website. Please speak with your Student Services Advisor to schedule a meeting.

New Students

New students to VPA in grades 7 & 8 must provide proof of the successful completion of the previous grade level to be placed in the correct grade level upon enrollment. Proof can be provided by the end-of-year report card or other documents provided by the previous school.

Junior High School Transfer Credit

High school course credit will be given to junior high school students who take or have previously taken and passed NC Math 1, and/or NC Math 2. Students who complete high school level foreign language in junior high may qualify for high school foreign language credit by completing the course with a passing grade. High school transcripts will reflect the credit earned by the student. The grade earned by a junior high student will not be calculated in the student's high school GPA. Any other coursework taken at the Junior High level may be reviewed for application toward high school credit.

State Assessments

Students enrolled in public education in North Carolina are required by state law to participate in state assessments. Students in 7th and 8th grade will be required to take the End of Grade assessments (EOG), or End of Course (EOC) assessment at the end of the respective academic year as required by the course.

Attendance Requirements

Since regular attendance is crucial for academic success, students must be in attendance daily. School attendance is the responsibility of the student and their family. Please review the attendance/tardiness policy listed in the [VPA Parent Student Handbook](#) for additional information.

- Failure to meet the attendance policy standards may lead to withholding of credit for that class. Cases involving prolonged illness or unusual circumstances will be reviewed by the school administration. Additional documentation may be requested.
- Teachers are responsible for recording daily attendance and tardiness.
- Students are responsible for making up missed work.

Teacher Qualifications

Resumes for all instructional staff may be viewed upon request at the school front office.

Accreditation

Valor Preparatory Academy campuses are accredited institutions based upon the standards and assurances of the Cognia (previously AdvancEd) accreditation commission. This accreditation is recognized by all post-secondary institutions.

Junior High Completion Requirements

VPA Junior High Completion Requirements

VPA requires 14 credits for junior high completion. Minimum requirements in the content areas below are as follows:

English English 7, English 8	2 credits
Math Math Grade 7, Math Grade 8, OR High School NC Math 1	2 credits
Science Science 7, Science 8	2 credits
History and Social Sciences History 7, History 8	2 credits
Physical Education	2 credits
Technology (7th grade requirement)	1 credit
Electives	3 credits
Total	14 credits

VPA High School Graduation Requirements

VPA requires 24 credits for graduation. Minimum requirements in the various content areas are as follows:

English English I, English II, English III, English IV	4 credits
Math NC /Math 1, NC Math 2, NC Math 3, one additional math course	4 credits
Science Earth Science, Physical Science, Chemistry, Biology	3 credits
History and Social Studies World History, Founding Principles of the US & NC: Civic Literacy, American History, Economics & Personal Finance	4 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
CTE/Fine Arts/Language <i>2.0 Foreign Language credits are required for university entrance</i>	2 credits
Leadership & Entrepreneurship	1 credit
Computer Science	1 credit
Electives	4 credits
Total	24 credits

Suggested Course Progression

Suggestions below demonstrate a typical progression path for each junior high completion track. The progressions are only suggestions and could vary depending on the academic level and credit achievement of a student. The Student Services Department is a resource in addition to the course catalog to ensure students have the correct courses and credit for graduation.

Standard track

	7th Grade	8th Grade
English	ELA 7	ELA 8
Math	Math 7	Math 8
History/Social Studies	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
Science	Science 7	Science 8
Elective	Technology	PE
Elective	PE	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

Honors track

	7th Grade	8th Grade
English	ELA 7 Honors	ELA 8 Honors
Math	Advanced Math 7	Math 1 Honors
History/Social Studies	Social Studies 7 Honors	Social Studies 8 Honors
Science	Science 7 Honors	Science 8 Honors
Elective	Technology	PE
Elective	PE	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

Core Courses at a Glance

Grade		Course Name
7	8	
X		ELA 7
X		ELA 7 Honors
	X	ELA 8
	X	ELA 8 Honors
X		Math 7
X		Advanced Math 7
	X	Math 8
X	X	NC Math 1 Honors
	X	NC Math 2 Honors
X	X	Success Lab
X		Science 7
X		Science 7 Honors
	X	Science 8
	X	Science 8 Honors
X		Social Studies 7
X		Social Studie 7 Honors
	X	Social Studies 8
	X	Social Studies 8 Honors

ELA 7

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	English

English 7 emphasizes essential reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills. Students in this course will study composition techniques, literary analysis, spelling, vocabulary acquisition, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. In addition, study skills and leadership are taught to ensure the success of students across the curriculum. Students will follow MLA formatting and NCDPI WIDA Writing rubrics to develop their academic writing skills. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 English.

ELA 7 Honors

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 English

English 7 Honors emphasizes an in-depth study of reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills. Students in this course will study composition techniques, literary analysis, spelling, vocabulary acquisition, and grammar at both a rigorous pace and depth. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. In addition, study skills and leadership are taught to ensure the success of students across the curriculum. Students will follow MLA formatting and NCDPI WIDA Writing rubrics to develop their academic writing skills. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 English.

ELA 8

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 English

English 8 involves the study of composition skills, as well as short stories, novels, informational text, and poetry. This course will build on student's prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, speaking and listening, and the mechanics of writing to develop their critical thinking and writing skills. Composition instruction includes but is not limited to narratives, poetry, research and argumentative essays. This course will also expose students to the writing process as it applies to literature and informational text. Students will follow MLA formatting and NCDPI WIDA Writing rubrics to develop their academic writing skills. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 English.

ELA 8 Honors

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 English

English 8 Honors involves the in depth and rigorous study of composition skills, as well as short stories, novels, informational text, and poetry at an accelerated pace. This course will build on student's prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, speaking and listening, and the mechanics of writing to develop and deepen critical thinking and writing skills. Composition instruction includes but is not limited to narratives, poetry, research and argumentative essays. This course will also expose students to the writing process as it applies to literature and informational text. Students will follow MLA formatting and NCDPI WIDA Writing rubrics to develop their academic writing skills. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 English.

Math 7

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Math

Math 7 builds on the foundations of Grade 6 Math and teaches students to develop an understanding of proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers and work with expressions, inequalities and linear equations. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 Math.

Advanced Math 7

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Math

In addition to the four critical areas described for study in Math 7, the course includes majority the content from Math 8: 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. The additional content demands a faster pace for instruction and learning.

Math 8

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Math

This Math 8 course is an extension of the concepts taught in previous math courses. This course will emphasize the application of pre-algebraic concepts to prepare for advanced high school math courses. Students will develop an understanding of irrational numbers, expressions and equations, and the concept of a function. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 Math.

NC Math 1 (High School Course)

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Credit</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 HS Math

NC Math 1 is a high school level course offered to accelerated junior high students. Topics include solving equations and systems, linear and nonlinear relationships, quadratic functions and linear models. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Math 1. Students in NC Math 1 will still be required to take the Math 1 End of Course assessment. *Students will receive 1.0 **High School Math** credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).*

NC Math 2 (High School Course)

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Credit</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 HS Math

NC Math 2 students will apply trigonometry to general triangles, explain volume formulas, understand and apply theorems about circles, translate descriptions and equations for conic sections, and use Cavalieri's principle to solve volume problems. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for NC Math 2. *Students will receive 1.0 **High School Math** credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).*

Success Lab

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Elective

The Success Lab provides students with individualized math and ELA support using research-based adaptive software. The goal of the course is to ensure mastery of foundational math and ELA skills so that students are equipped for college and career. Students enter and exit the lab based upon data from the mathematics statewide assessments.

Science 7

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Science

Students will explore science concepts using an inquiry-based approach with emphasis on the skills of observation and hypothesis generation, scientific testing, and analysis and interpretation of scientific data. Topics will include the cycling of water and gasses in the atmosphere; the impact of weather and climate

on Earth; the comparison of structures and functions in single-celled and multicellular organisms including the systems of humans; genetics; forces and motion; forms of energy, the transfer of energy, and the transformation of energy within mechanical processes. Topics will include a study of the historical and social perspective. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 Science.

Science 7 Honors

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 Science

Students will explore science concepts using an inquiry-based approach with emphasis on the skills of observation and hypothesis generation, scientific testing, and analysis and interpretation of scientific data. Topics will include science and technology in society, living systems and ecosystems, diversity, adaptation and behavior, matter, motion, forces and energy, and the processes of the earth. Topics will include a study of the historical and social perspective. Honors students will enhance their understanding through exploratory labs and analysis of scientific information for the purpose of proving phenomena in the world around them. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 Science.

Science 8

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Science

Students will explore science concepts using an inquiry-based approach with emphasis on the skills of observation and hypothesis generation, scientific testing, and analysis and interpretation of scientific data. Topics will include the structure of the hydrosphere and the impact of human interactions; ecosystem dynamics; the history of the Earth, the rock cycle, and geology; the dynamics of population survival, the characteristics, treatment and prevention methods of diseases; food as a source of energy and for growth and repair; properties and changes of properties in matter; energy resources; and uses of biotechnology. Topics will include a study of the historical and social perspective. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 Science.

Science 8 Honors

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 Science

Students will explore science concepts using an inquiry-based approach with emphasis on the skills of observation and hypothesis generation, scientific testing, and analysis and interpretation of scientific data. Integrated topics will include reproduction and heredity; diversity, adaptation and behavior; properties and changes of properties in matter; and motion and forces. Topics will include a study of the historical and social perspective. Honors students will apply their knowledge of forces and motion through the study of circuits in preparation for AP Physics. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 Science.

Social Studies 7

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 History

The seventh-grade social studies course is designed to introduce students to the study of the interconnected global world through an analysis of major political, social, cultural, economic, and geographic events. Students will begin their course of study in the 17th century with the advent of new approaches to learning and thinking. This focus on new ideas and change will allow students to connect how events in one part of the world can dramatically impact and shape other parts of the globe, leading to the creation of new political systems, conflict and global warfare, and the emergence of the 21st century era of globalization. Students will be introduced to numerous literary sources both primary and secondary to develop their ability to think critically, research and write. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 Social Studies.

Social Studies 7 Honors

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 History

The seventh-grade social studies honors course is designed to introduce students to the study of the interconnected global world through an analysis of major political, social, cultural, economic, and geographic events. Students will begin their course of study in the 17th century with the advent of new approaches to learning and thinking. This focus on new ideas and change will allow students to assess how events in one part of the world can dramatically impact and shape other parts of the globe, leading to the creation of new political systems, conflict and warfare, and the emergence of the 21st century era of globalization. Students will be introduced to numerous literary sources both primary and secondary to develop their ability to analyze, research, and write. The pace and rigor of this course is increased to allow students to develop as advanced learners and critical thinkers. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 7 Social Studies.

Social Studies 8

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 History

The eighth-grade social studies course provides students with the ability to make connections between historical and current events, identifying how and why change occurs. Students will examine the relationship between historic events/major turning points and: people, new ideas, and beliefs through the lens of United States history and civic engagement. Students will begin the course by exploring the philosophical antecedents upon which the US is based through primary source analysis, research, debate, and writing. Students will continue their course of study evaluating the application of American constitutional principles to modern society. Additionally, students will evaluate how humans have shaped both the political and environmental landscape. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 Social Studies.

Social Studies 8 Honors

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Teacher and/or Parent approval	None	1.0 History

The eighth-grade social studies honors course provides students with the ability to make connections between historical and current events, identifying how and why change occurs. Students will examine the relationship between historic events/major turning points and: people, new ideas, and beliefs through the lens of United States history and civic engagement. Students will begin the course by exploring the philosophical antecedents upon which the US is based through primary source analysis, research, debate, and writing. Students will continue their course of study evaluating the application of American

constitutional principles to modern society. Students will also evaluate how humans have shaped both the political and environmental landscape. Additional independent work and depth of rigor is utilized to prepare students for their upcoming enrollment in high school Honors courses. This course was designed to address the requirements of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grade 8 Social Studies.

Fine Arts Electives

Grade		Course Name
7	8	
X	X	JH Art I
X	X	JH Art II
X	X	JH Band I
X	X	JH Band II
X	X	JH Band III
X	X	JH Jazz Band
X	X	JH Choir I
X	X	JH Choir II
X	X	JH Choir III
X	X	JH Dance I
X	X	JH Dance II
X	X	JH Marching Band
X	X	JH Orchestra I
X	X	JH Orchestra II
X	X	JH Orchestra III
X	X	JH Theatre I
X	X	JH Theatre II

**Fees are assessed per semester and do not include uniform or performance attire.*

JH Art I

Prerequisites or Requirements	Fees	Requirement
None	None	1.0 Elective

This year-long course is an introduction to the elements of art, principles of design, and art critique. The students will further apply these concepts to the visual art forms of drawing, painting, sculpture, and expand into the additional forms of textiles, ceramics, printmaking, decorative arts, photography, mixed media, illustration and graphic arts. Class projects will include learning the proper use of additional art media, the history of each art form, and the study of the application of different art forms in society. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Art II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
JH Art I	None	1.0 Elective

This year-long course will continue the study of the Elements of Art, Principles of Design, and Art Critique. The students will further apply these concepts to the visual art forms of drawing, painting, sculpture, and expand into the additional forms of textiles, ceramics, printmaking, decorative arts, photography, mixed media, illustration and graphic arts. Class projects will include learning the proper use of additional art media, the history of each art form, and the study of the application of different art forms in society. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Band I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, performance attire	None	1.0 Elective

JH Band I is a year-long course open to any student. Students may participate in pep band and concert band performances, as well as at least one festival annually. A wide variety of music for winds and percussion will be studied and performed throughout the year. Students are encouraged to attend private or semi-private lessons on a regular basis. In addition, students may have individual opportunities to participate in optional events like Solo and Ensemble Contests. Attendance at all band performances is a course requirement. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Band II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire, Teacher approval	None	1.0 Elective

JH Band II is a year-long course that requires an audition and/or teacher approval. Students may participate in pep band and concert band performances, as well as at least one festival annually. A wide variety of music for winds and percussion will be studied and performed throughout the year. Students are encouraged to attend private or semi-private lessons on a regular basis. In addition, students may have individual opportunities to participate in optional events like Solo and Ensemble Contests. Attendance at all band performances is a course requirement. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Band III

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire, Audition	None	1.0 Elective

JH Band III is a year-long course that requires an audition and/or teacher approval. Students may participate in pep band and concert band performances, as well as at least one festival annually. A wide variety of music for winds and percussion will be studied and performed throughout the year. Students are encouraged to attend private or semi-private lessons on a regular basis. In addition, students may have individual opportunities to participate in optional events like Solo and Ensemble Contests. Attendance at

all band performances is a course requirement. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts. .

JH Jazz Band

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire, Audition	None	1.0 Elective

JH Jazz Band is open to any student with previous instrumental music experience on the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, bass, or guitar who passes the standard audition. Students will participate in quarterly Jazz Band performances, as well as at least one festival annually. Music will cover jazz, swing, rock, funk, and other styles. Students are encouraged to attend private or semi-private lessons on a regular basis. Attendance at all band performances is a course requirement. In addition, the group may attend a jazz festival if circumstances allow. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Choir I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Performance attire	None	1.0 Elective

JH Choir I is an introduction to the art of choral singing, including fundamental techniques of voice production, breathing, phrasing, interpretation, and harmonization. This course will also explore introductory studies in music theory and history providing a good foundation for the beginner or intermediate musician to be able to comfortably move on to high school level music courses. Performances will provide an opportunity to demonstrate growth and participation is required. Performance attire required. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Choir II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Performance attire, Teacher approval	None	1.0 Elective

JH Choir II is a continuation to the art of choral singing, building upon fundamental techniques of voice production, breathing, phrasing, interpretation, and harmonization. This course will also continue to explore studies in music theory and history providing a good foundation for the intermediate musician to be able to comfortably move onto high school level music courses. Performances will provide an opportunity to demonstrate growth and participation is required. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Choir III

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Performance attire, Audition/Teacher approval	None	1.0 Elective

Choir III is an advanced level course that will provide students the opportunity to study a wide variety of music, including chamber literature and more challenging choral works. It will involve advanced vocal techniques and musicianship skills. It will further explore studies in music theory and history preparing the student for college level courses. Depending on course demand enrollment, Choir III may be a men's, women's, or mixed ensemble. Students must audition and/or have teacher approval for this course. This

course may involve travel and competition in out-of-state and local events. Performance attire will be required. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standards for the Arts.

JH Dance I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Dance attire	None	1.0 Physical Education or Elective

This dance class introduces beginning dancers to the rules, procedures, etiquette and vocabulary that is necessary for safe and effective participation in dance. This course provides a sequential introduction to dance techniques such as warm up, cool down, conditioning, stretching and injury prevention. Students are introduced to a variety of dance styles including Ballet, Modern, and Jazz. Students conduct creative movement studies using dance concepts and choreographic elements such as relationships, levels, speed, direction, and pathways in individual and group activities. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances may be required. Students are required to be in full uniform or approved PE attire. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina Physical Education Content Standards.

JH Dance II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Dance attire, Audition	None	1.0 Physical Education or Elective

This course is a continuation of Dance I. Specific genres include Jazz, Contemporary, Lyrical, Ballet and Hip Hop. Daily class curriculum includes progression work, technique training, and choreography for concerts. Students will focus on extensions, creating lines and overall individual progression. Students will gain concepts and verbiage of choreography and create their own final projects for the semester concerts. Students are required to be in approved dance attire. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina Physical Education Content Standards.

JH Dance III

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Dance attire, Audition	None	1.0 Physical Education or Elective

This is a Junior High/High School-Performance team where competitive routines will be learned. A strong emphasis will be placed on choreography as well as Leadership and Community. Students will dig deeper into the dance genres of Lyrical, Contemporary, Ballet, Jazz and Hip Hop; as well as develop strong concepts of Teamwork and unity. Students' code of conduct and overall GPA must adhere to the eligibility standards held at Valor Preparatory Academy regarding team sports and leadership roles and opportunities. Students will perform in the showcases at the end of every semester, as well as in numerous opportunities throughout the community and school, all year. Students are required to be in full uniform or approved PE attire. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina Physical Education Content Standards.

JH Marching Band

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire, Audition	None	1.0 Elective

This course is designed for students who have had at least one year of playing experience. They will be taught to march in a collegiate-style show for football halftime performances. After marching season is

over, the class will focus on the Winter Concert Band performance in December. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Orchestra I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire	None	1.0 Elective

JH Orchestra I is for those students who have played an orchestra instrument for a year or less. Students will learn instrument specifics including technique, note recognition, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, and tonal development. Music history will also be fundamental in their development of music expression. Performances are required. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Orchestra II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire/Audition	None	1.0 Elective

JH Orchestra II is for those students who have played an orchestra instrument for at least one year and requires an audition and/or teacher approval. Students will expand instrument specifics including technique, note recognition, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, and tonal development. Music history will also be fundamental in their development of music expression. Performances are required. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Orchestra III

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Instrument rental or purchase, Performance attire/Audition	None	1.0 Elective

Students who are proficient with their instruments and with approval from the teacher should register for Orchestra III. Students will be challenged through music theory and may be given the opportunity to perform within the community including at school events, community events, and festivals. Performances are required. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Theatre I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Elective

This course is an exploration into the role of the Actor in the Theater. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of theater history, theater styles, and acting techniques to their various performances of monologues, duo scenes, and group scenes. Skills of self-evaluation and adjustment as well as director evaluation and adjustment will be practiced. This course may culminate in a performance that is written, produced, directed, and acted by the students. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina's Standards for the Arts.

JH Theatre II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Theatre I	None	1.0 Elective

This year-long course is an introduction to the role of an Actor in the Theatre. The student will study and explore the various techniques for acting, roles within the theater, theater history, understanding of the organizational structures and historical and cultural influences on theatre and its literature. Students will have opportunities to strengthen skills in critical listening and thinking, as well as stage presence, monologue work, ensemble work, and gain an understanding of self and peer evaluation and adjustment. Skills in such areas as time management, critical analysis, leadership, and collaboration will be used. Students will be required to participate in performance rehearsals and performances. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Standards for the Arts.

Other Electives

Grade		Course Name
7	8	
Languages		
X	X	American Sign Language 1
	X	American Sign Language 2
X	X	Spanish 1
	X	Spanish 2
Leadership		
X	X	JH Leadership
X	X	JH Speech & Debate
X	X	JH Student Government
Physical Education		
X	X	JH PE I
X	X	JH PE II
Technology		
X		JH Technology I (Required)
	X	Intro to Computer Science

**Fees are assessed per semester and do not include uniform or performance attire.*

American Sign Language 1 (High School Course)

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Credit</i>
None	None	1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective

This is an introductory class focusing on beginning conversational skills. The course is based on a natural acquisition approach to language education. The class focuses on developing basic knowledge of and beginning skills in the conversational use of American Sign Language. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the world and native language standards. *Students will receive 1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).*

American Sign Language 2 (High School Course)

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Credit</i>
Sign Language 1 or equivalent	None	1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective

ASL 2 is based on a natural acquisition approach to language education. The class focuses on expanding the knowledge and skills gained in American Sign Language 1 and in the conversational use of American Sign Language. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the world and native language standards. *Students will receive 1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).*

Spanish 1 (High School Course)

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Credit</i>
None	None	1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective

This course is an introduction to the language and culture. In Spanish 1 the student learns vocabulary and grammar through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is on listening and reading comprehension and simple conversational skills through role-playing, skits and other interactive methods. **This class is not designed for native speakers.** This course meets the requirements of North Carolina World and Native Language Content Standards. *Students will receive 1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective Credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).*

Spanish 2 (High School Course)

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Credit</i>
Spanish 1 or equivalent	None	1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective

Spanish 2 includes more practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. New vocabulary and grammar are presented. Students will improve their writing skills through simple compositions. They will continue to explore the culture of the Hispanic world. This course may be taught concurrently with junior high courses whose students have comparable skills. **This class is not designed for native speakers.** This course is designed to meet the requirements of the world and native language standards. *Students will receive 1.0 High School Foreign Language or Elective credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).*

JH Leadership

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Elective

This course is designed to introduce the student to tasks, strategies, and skills of effective leadership. Course activities will move the student from theory to the practical processes of leadership. Basic concepts essential to personal skills development and leadership behavior are included. All course content will be based on the work of Dr. Stephen R. Covey and the Arbinger Institute.

JH Speech and Debate

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Elective

This course is an elective course that provides students with the opportunity to write, speak and think critically focusing efforts on forming sound arguments, citing evidence across multiple sources and forming counter arguments based on evidence. Students will learn speech writing, argumentation, philosophy, research and delivery, preparing them for both presentation and competition. This course is designed to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Language Arts Standards.

JH Student Government

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Election & After-school activities	None	1.0 Elective

This course is for activities related to student government and leadership. This course may be repeated in the fall of the following school year. Elections will be held for this class.

JH PE I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
PE Attire	None	1.0 PE or Elective

This course offers students a foundation in physical education by exposing them to a variety of individual and team sports. A strong emphasis on lifetime sports is stressed. Students are required to be in full uniform or approved PE attire. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina Physical Education Content Standards.

JH PE II

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
PE Attire & a lock	None	1.0 PE or Elective

This is an athletics survey course that focuses on the skills and conditioning needed to effectively participate in athletics at a high level. Course will introduce students to a variety of sports, the rules associated with those sports, basic strategy, and the basic principles of safe and effective conditioning. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina Physical Education Content Standards.

JH Technology I

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
None	None	1.0 Technology or Elective

In this required course, students will learn the fundamentals of keyboarding as well as all aspects of MS Office software applications. An overview and history of the Internet and its resources along with various Internet communication, resource discovery, and information retrieval tools will be taught. Beginning HTML and CSS programming as in introduction to markups and layout design. Students will also explore careers in different career areas and examine how to choose a career, based on their own unique personalities and interests. This course meets the requirements of North Carolina Technology Content Standards.

Intro to Computer Science

<i>Prerequisites or Requirements</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
JH Technology I	None	1.0 Technology or Elective

Students will focus on the ways that computing can help to solve problems using JavaScript programming to build apps, animations and games, HTML and CSS to build websites, and basic logic and data analysis. This course is designed to help students nurture creativity and problem-solving skills and prepare students for a future in any field. The class focuses on engaging students in computer Science through creativity, communication and problem-solving. Students will receive 1.0 Elective credit upon completion of this full year course (1 credit).

Occupational Course of Study Program Outline

This Occupational Course of Study may be available to students in high school whose IEP requires an alternate course of study. Please speak with your Academic Advisor for more information and full requirements. The Occupational Course of Study follows the [NCDPI requirements](#).

<i>VPA requires 24 credits for graduation. Minimum requirements in the various content areas are as follows:</i>	
English <i>English I, English II, English III, English IV</i>	4 credits
Math <i>Intro to Math, Algebra 1/Math 1, Financial Management, Employment Preparation IV: Math</i>	4 credits
Science <i>Applied Science, Biology, Employment Preparation 1: Science</i>	3 credits
History and Social Studies <i>Founding Principles of the US & NC: Civic Literacy, Economics & Personal Finance, Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A & 1B</i>	4 credits
Physical Education	1 credits
CTE	4 credit
Leadership & Entrepreneurship	1 credit
Computer Science	1 credit
Electives This includes two Employment Preparation Education credits, 600 work hours, a career portfolio	2 credits
Total	24 credits

English as a Second Language (ESL)

English as a Second Language courses are designed to develop and grow English language proficiency among English Learners. These courses provide intensive language instruction to prepare students for success in mainstream courses.

Grade		Course Name
7	8	
X	X	English as a Second Language (ESL) I
X	X	English as a Second Language (ESL) II
X	X	English as a Second Language (ESL) III

English as a Second Language (ESL) I

Prerequisites or Requirements	Fees	Requirement
WIDA Composite 1.0-2.9	None	1.0 Elective

English as a Second Language (ESL) I focuses on the language skills and knowledge of how English functions within the four domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course is designed to support students' acquisition of the English language specifically through discourse practices, grammatical structures, writing, vocabulary, and reading skills necessary for successful participation in academic tasks across the content areas. Students who are determined to be at the Entering and Emerging levels (composite scores of 1.0-2.9) as determined by WIDA are placed in this course. Students may earn 1.0 elective for this full year course. *This course is for elective credit only. Students should also be placed in an English class.*

English as a Second Language (ESL) II

Prerequisites or Requirements	Fees	Credit
WIDA Composite 3.0-3.9	None	1.0 Elective

English as a Second Language (ESL) II focuses on the language skills and knowledge of how English functions within the four domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course is designed to support students' acquisition of the English language specifically through discourse practices, grammatical structures, writing, vocabulary, and reading skills necessary for successful participation in academic tasks across the content areas. Students who are determined to be at the Developing level (composite scores of 3.0-3.9) as determined by WIDA are placed in this course. Students may earn 1.0 elective for this full year course. *This course is for elective credit only. Students should also be placed in an English class.*

English as a Second Language (ESL) III

Prerequisites or Requirements	Fees	Credit
WIDA Composite 4.0 or Greater	None	1.0 Elective

English as a Second Language (ESL) III focuses on the language skills and knowledge of how English functions within the four domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking. The course is designed to support students' acquisition of the English language specifically through discourse practices, grammatical structures, writing, vocabulary, and reading skills necessary for successful participation in academic tasks across the content areas. Students who are determined to be at the Expanding and Bridging levels (composite scores of 4.0 or greater) as determined by WIDA are placed in this course. Students may earn 1.0 elective for this full year course. *This course is for elective credit only. Students should also be placed in an English class.*