

JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL

RISING 9TH GRADE PARENT INFORMATION

Frederick County Public Schools

IGNITE 2030

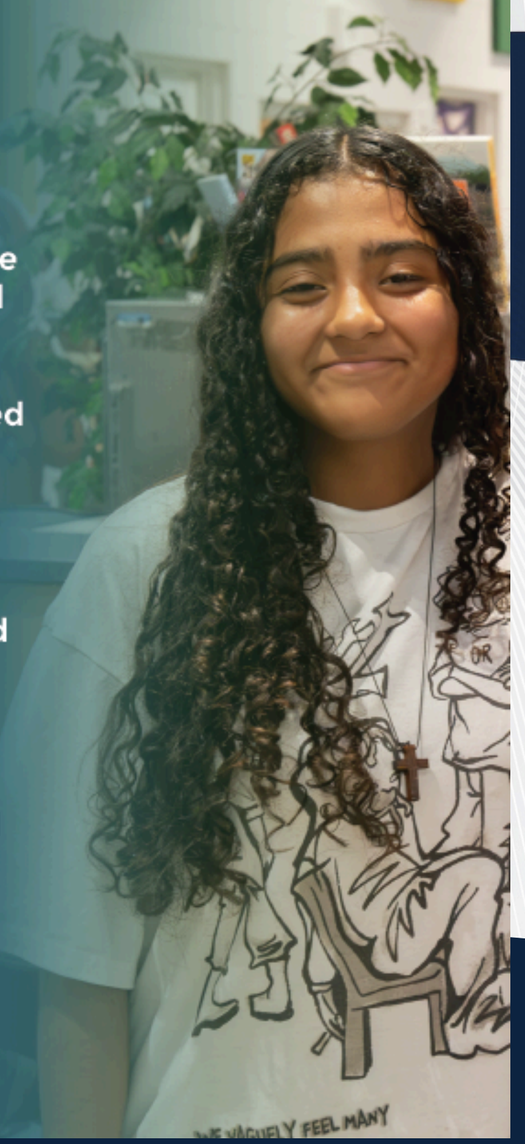
Excellence For All–
A Future-Ready Education Community

VISION

We envision schools where every student, supported by a connected learning community, is equipped and empowered to succeed and lead lives of which they are proud.

MISSION

We are FCPS–a dedicated community of educators whose mission is to empower every learner by fostering meaningful and rigorous educational experiences that help them confidently shape their futures in an ever-changing world.



Frederick County Public Schools

IGNITE 2030

FCPS FUTURE-READY

FCPS Future-Ready Graduates Will Be:

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS AND COLLABORATORS

Able to express ideas clearly in verbal, written, and visual formats, and work productively in all teams to solve problems, make decisions, and achieve shared goals.

STRATEGIC THINKERS AND PROBLEM SOLVERS

Capable of analyzing situations, applying critical thinking, and developing practical, innovative solutions to real-world challenges.

SELF-AWARE AND REFLECTIVE LEARNERS

Skilled in metacognition, using feedback and self-assessment to set ambitious goals, monitor progress, and adapt their learning strategies.

RESILIENT AND ADAPTABLE LEADERS

Prepared to lead with integrity, navigate change, overcome setbacks, and remain flexible in the face of evolving academic, social, and career demands.

DIGITALLY AND CULTURALLY FLUENT CITIZENS

Literate in current technologies, able to learn new tools, and respectful of different perspectives with a strong sense of civic responsibility and global awareness.

DIGITALLY LITERATE AND TECHNOLOGICALLY AGILE

Fluent in using digital tools ethically and effectively, with the capacity to learn emerging technologies as needed.

LIFELONG LEARNERS WITH PURPOSE

Motivated by curiosity, a commitment to growth, and a desire to make meaningful contributions in their personal, professional, and community lives.



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PRIORITIES

1 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND POST-SECONDARY READINESS

Ensure every student engages in rigorous, real-world learning experiences that foster intellectual curiosity and student ownership that effectively prepares students for enrollment, employment, or enlistment.

2 SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Create physically and emotionally safe, respectful, and well-structured school environments that foster strong relationships, consistent behavior expectations, and responsive systems of support for all students.

3 SKILLED AND SUPPORTED WORKFORCE

Cultivate a well-prepared, collaborative, and resilient workforce by strengthening leadership capacity, streamlining systems, and ensuring consistent communication and support at every level.

4 INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE WELLNESS

Foster a culture of wellness where students and staff feel valued, supported, and empowered to thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally—through intentional structures that promote health, voice, trust, and balance.

COLONELS

LEAD WITH SAFETY,

BUILD THROUGH COMMUNITY, AND

GROW WITH CONSISTENCY.

HOW DOES HIGH SCHOOL DIFFER FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL?

HIGH SCHOOL DIFFERS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL IN TERMS OF ACADEMIC RIGOR, STRUCTURE, SELF RELIANCE, AND SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. HIGH SCHOOL FEATURES MORE CHALLENGING COURSEWORK, A GREATER EMPHASIS ON COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION, AND MORE INDEPENDENCE FOR STUDENTS WITH MORE CHOICES IN ELECTIVES.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



MS. R. SHELLY ANDREWS
PRINCIPAL



MR. BRET CLOVIS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MR. ETHAN WATERS
COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES



MS. MELISSA HAMMAN
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MRS. ALYSSA MCKEE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MRS. WENDY AL-ZUBI
DIRECTOR &
LAST NAMES A-BR



MS. KIM STAUTZENBACH
LAST NAMES BU-DE



MS. LISA GEISLER
LAST NAME DH-H



MS. JENNY CARSON
LAST NAMES I-M



MR. KEVIN UNGER
LAST NAMES N-SE



MRS. KAMA DAWSON
LAST NAMES SH-Z

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

DIPLOMA TYPES

	STANDARD DIPLOMA	ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA
ENGLISH	4 CREDITS	4 CREDITS
MATH	3 CREDITS	4 CREDITS
SOCIAL STUDIES	4 CREDITS	4 CREDITS
SCIENCE	3 CREDITS	4 CREDITS
HEALTH & PE	2 CREDITS	2 CREDITS
ECONOMICS & PERSONAL FINANCE	1 CREDIT	1 CREDIT
FINE ARTS, CTE, OR WORLD LANGUAGE	2 SEQUENTIAL CREDITS	
FINE ARTS OR CTE		1 CREDIT
WORLD LANGUAGE		3 CREDITS IN ONE LANGUAGE OR 4 CREDITS IN TWO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
ELECTIVES	3 CREDITS	3 CREDITS (2 SEQUENTIAL CREDITS)
Total Credits	22 Credits	26 CREDITS

VERIFIED CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

THE ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA AND THE STANDARD DIPLOMA REQUIRE A TOTAL OF 5 VERIFIED CREDITS (PASSING SOLS) IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- 1 WRITING (11TH GRADE)
- 1 READING (11TH GRADE)
- 1 MATH
- 1 SCIENCE
- 1 SOCIAL STUDIES

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

- COMPLETE AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSE, HONORS COURSE OR EARN A CTE CREDENTIAL
- COMPLETE A VIRTUAL COURSE – REQUIREMENT IS MET THROUGH ECONOMICS/PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE
- TRAINING IN EMERGENCY FIRST AID, CPR, AND THE USE OF AED – REQUIREMENT IS MET THROUGH HEALTH II/DRIVER'S EDUCATION COURSE
- DEMONSTRATION OF THE 5 C'S – STUDENTS SHALL ACQUIRE AND DEMONSTRATE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS IN CRITICAL THINKING, CREATIVE THINKING, COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, AND CITIZENSHIP.

SPECIALTY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

DOWELL J. HOWARD CENTER

AUTO BODY
AUTO TECHNOLOGY
CARPENTRY
NURSE AIDE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CYBERSECURITY
PATIENT CARE TECH
PHARMACY TECH
CULINARY ARTS
DATA SCIENCE LAB



DUAL ENROLLMENT

WHAT IS DUAL ENROLLMENT?

- DUAL ENROLLMENT IS A PROGRAM WHICH ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ENROLL IN SPECIFIC COURSES AND EARN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CREDIT SIMULTANEOUSLY.
- IN FCPS, DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT IS AWARDED THROUGH LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

SPECIALTY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

FUTURE EDUCATORS ACADEMY (FEA)

THE FUTURE EDUCATORS ACADEMY (FEA) IS A DUAL-ENROLLMENT LAB SCHOOL FOR RISING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS INTERESTED IN BECOMING ELEMENTARY OR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS. STUDENTS EARN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE WHILE COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL, THEN TRANSFER TO A PARTNER UNIVERSITY TO FINISH THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND TEACHER LICENSURE WITHIN TWO YEARS.

SPECIALTY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

DATA SCIENCE & COMPUTING LAB SCHOOL AT DOWELL J HOWARD CENTER

THE DATA SCIENCE & COMPUTING LAB SCHOOL OFFERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN FREE COLLEGE CREDITS AND INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS WHILE EXPLORING CUTTING-EDGE FIELDS IN COMPUTING AND DATA SCIENCE. STUDENTS CAN COMPLETE A COMPUTER SCIENCE GENERALIST CERTIFICATE OR PURSUE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE OR SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN DATA SCIENCE THROUGH LAUREL RIDGE AND GMU.

MOUNTAIN VISTA

REGIONAL GOVERNORS SCHOOL

- ACADEMICALLY TALENTED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED 10TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THIS HALF-DAY PROGRAM, AND THEN RETURN TO THEIR BASE HIGH SCHOOL.

- INTEGRATED PROGRAM OF COURSES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MATHEMATICS, HUMANITIES, AND RESEARCH.

- PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT THROUGH A SMART PATH (DUAL ENROLLMENT) PROGRAM ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS.



HONORS & AP COURSES

HONORS & ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES ARE DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS WHO WISH TO ACCELERATE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY TO INCLUDE COURSES THAT MAY BE TAKEN FOR COLLEGE CREDIT. HONORS & AP COURSES ARE FASTER PACED COURSES THAT REQUIRE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS OF SUBJECT MATTER. STUDENTS ATTEMPTING AN HONORS OR AP COURSE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL SHOULD HAVE STRONG STUDY HABITS. STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT RIGOROUS COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

9TH GRADE COURSES

8 COURSES

- ENGLISH 9
- WORLD HISTORY
- MATH
- SCIENCE
- PE 1 & HEALTH 1
- WORLD LANGUAGE
- ELECTIVE
- SCOPE

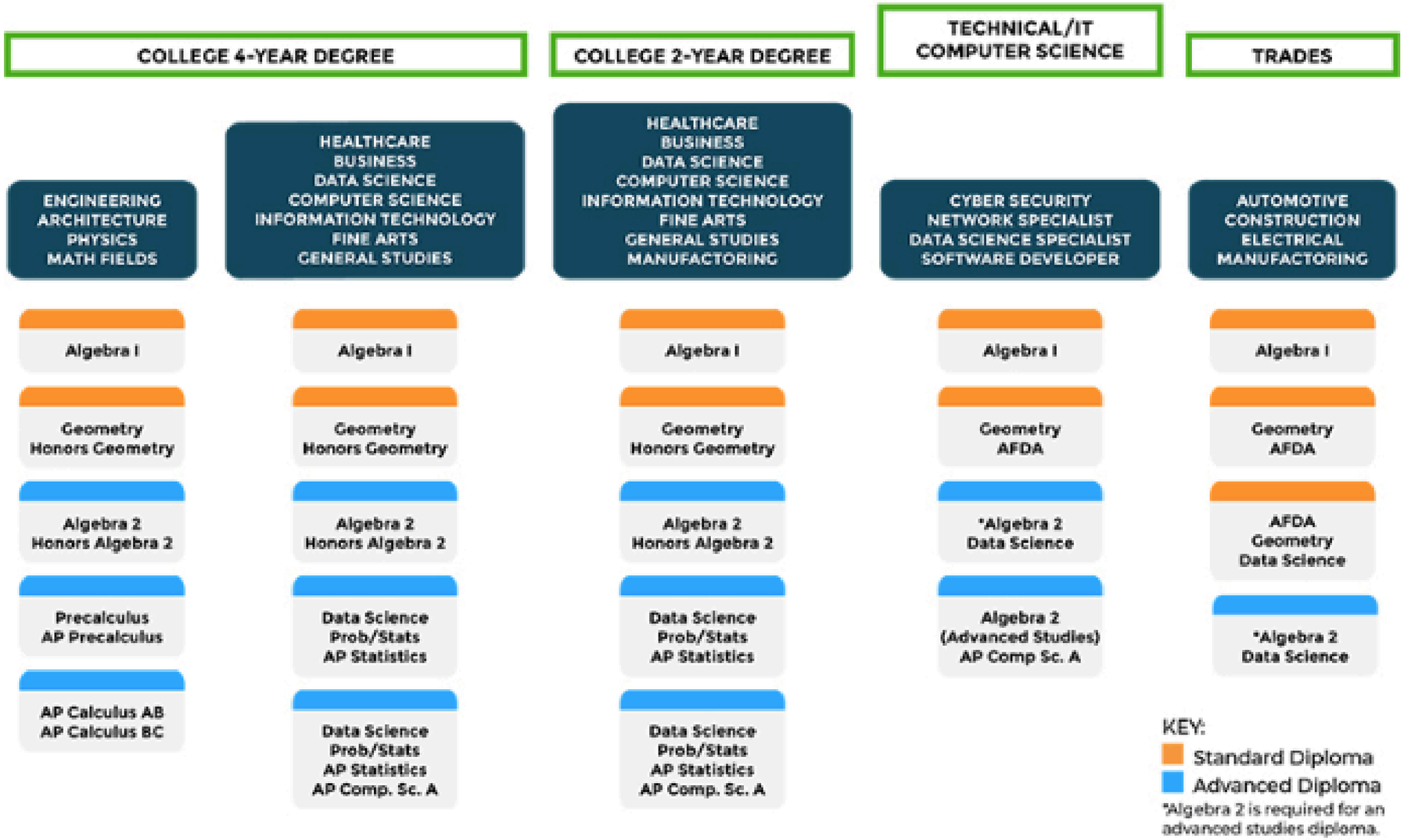
9TH GRADE COURSES

- ENGLISH – SELECT ENGLISH 9 OR HONORS ENGLISH 9
- WORLD HISTORY– SELECT WORLD HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1 OR HONORS WORLD HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1

9TH GRADE COURSES

8TH GRADE MATH	→	9TH GRADE MATH
MATH III	→	ALGEBRA I
ALGEBRA I	→	GEOMETRY OR HONORS GEOMETRY
GEOMETRY	→	ALGEBRA II OR HONORS ALGEBRA II

High School Math Pathways



Science Pathways

High School Science Pathways

KEY:
- Standard Diploma—3 credits in 2 disciplines
- Advanced Diploma—4 credits in 3 disciplines

GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Biology (Honors or General)	**Earth Science I (Honors or General)** **Chemistry (Honors or General)**	**Earth Science I* (Honors or General)** **Chemistry* (Honors or General)** **Physics I** **Biology II** **AP/DE as available** ***if not already taken**	**If 3 content areas have already been taken, any course from the above list may be taken.**
Environmental Science	**Biology (Honors or General)**		

The 4 science disciplines are: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics.
Environmental Science may count as a Biology or Earth Science as a discipline.

9TH GRADE COURSES

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION – BOTH COURSES NEED TO BE SELECTED

- **HEALTH 1**
- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – SELECT PE 1 OR PE 1 STRENGTH CONCENTRATION**

9TH GRADE ELECTIVES

- FRENCH
- LATIN
- SPANISH
- SPANISH FOR FLUENT SPEAKERS

WORLD LANGUAGE IS AN ACADEMIC ELECTIVE. IT IS REQUIRED FOR AN ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA, NOT A STANDARD DIPLOMA

9TH GRADE AGRICULTURE ELECTIVES



INTRODUCTION TO PLANT SYSTEMS

- LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- TURF GRASS
- FLOWER ARRANGING
- GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO POWER SYSTEMS

- AGRICULTURE MECHANICS, FABRICATION, AND CONSTRUCTION.
- HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES USING TOOLS, BUILDING AG STRUCTURES, WELDING, WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY AND CARPENTRY
- OPERATING, MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING AGRICULTURE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

9TH GRADE AGRICULTURE ELECTIVES CONT.

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL SYSTEMS

- CARE & MANAGEMENT OF LARGE ANIMALS
- REPRODUCTION AND NUTRITION OF SPECIFIC SPECIES
- MARKETING OF FOOD ANIMALS

APPLIED AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS

- PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, PREPARATION AND PRESERVATION OF MEATS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- FOOD HANDLING & SAFTY PARAMETERS
- SOILS FOR GARDENING AND ESTABLISHING LAWNS
- CARPENTRY, ELECTRICAL PLUMBING, MASONRY, METAL WORKING PROJECT DESIGN, PLANNING AND LANDSCAPING
- PRACTICAL LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE WILL BE STRESSED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THIS COURSE



9TH GRADE BUSINESS & MARKETING ELECTIVES

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- INTRODUCTION TO WINDOWS ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE USE OF MICROSOFT WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT AND ACCESS

CYBERSECURITY FUNDAMENTALS

- CYBERSECURITY ETHICS, COMPUTER NETWORKS, CYBER THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES
- PERSONAL SECURITY, COMPUTER SECURITY AND INTERNET/MOBILE SECURITY
- CYBERSECURITY CAREERS

DESIGN, MULTIMEDIA AND WEB TECHNOLOGIES

- USING VARIOUS APPLICATIONS, STUDENTS DEVELOP AND INCORPORATE MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS INTO WEBSITES, VIDEO GAMES AND ANIMATIONS. COURSE TOPICS ARE HTML 5 AND CSS, ADOBE, PHOTOSHOP, GAMEMAKER STUDIO & SCRATCH

9TH GRADE BUSINESS & MARKETING ELECTIVES CONT.

PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS AND MARKETING	• INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP, HUMAN RESOURCES, MARKETING STRATEGIES, COMMUNICATION, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND BUDGETING
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES	• THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO BE THE EQUIVALENT OF A FIRST SEMESTER INTRODUCTORY COLLEGE COURSE. THIS COURSE INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO THE FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND EXPLORES THE IMPACT COMPUTING AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE ON OUR SOCIETY. • PREREQUISITE : ALGEBRA 1
EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT 1	• THIS COURSE IS FOR STUDENTS WHO REQUIRE INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

9TH GRADE FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE ELECTIVES





INDEPENDENT LIVING

- FOOD SAFETY/SANITATION
- NUTRITION AND COOKING
- CAREER EXPLORATION
- PERSONAL FINANCE & BUDGETING
- CLOTHING CARE (SEWING PROJECT)
- INTERIOR DESIGN
- RENTING VS BUYING A HOME

INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING

- FOSTERS STUDENTS' INTEREST, UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION
- INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS IN EDUCATION
- EXPLORATION OF THE TOPICS SUCH AS CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN, AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE THAT SUPPORTS CHILD DEVELOPMENT

9TH GRADE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION ELECTIVES



TECHNICAL DRAWING & DESIGN

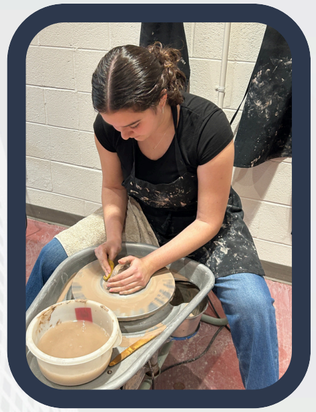
- STUDENTS LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF DRAFTING 3D MODELING, MODEL MAKING AND ARCHITECTURE

INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC DESIGN

- STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE COMPUTER AND VISUAL LITERACY, VIDEO PRODUCTION AND TYPOGRAPHY
- INTRODUCTIONS TO ANIMATION AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

9TH GRADE
FINE ARTS ELECTIVES







ART 1

- TOPICS INCLUDE DRAWING, PAINTING, CERAMICS, ELEMENTS OF PAINT AND DESIGN, PRINT MAKING AND MIXED MEDIA

BAND

- CONCERT BAND 1
- MARCHING BAND - EXTRACURRICULAR AFTER SCHOOL
- JAZZ BAND 1 - OFFERED BEFORE SCHOOL (0 PERIOD)

CHOIR

- TREBLE ENSEMBLE 1 - TREBLE VOICES
- CONCERT CHOIR - TENOR & BASS VOICES
- OTHER CHOIRS BY AUDITION

9TH GRADE
COURSE REGISTRATION PROCESS

- COUNSELORS WILL MEET WITH STUDENTS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN JANUARY. THERE WILL BE A SHORT PRESENTATION THAT INCLUDES REVIEWING THEIR COURSE SELECTIONS, ENSURING THEY MEET GRADUATION AND COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS AND HOW HIGH SCHOOL DIFFERS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.
- STUDENTS WILL THEN REGISTER FOR CLASSES
- COURSE VERIFICATION FORMS WILL BE SENT OUT TO PARENTS TO REVIEW IN EARLY MARCH

9TH GRADE
COURSE REGISTRATION DATES

REGULAR DATE:

JANUARY 13TH- FCMS

JANUARY 15TH-JWMS

SNOW DATE:

JANUARY 20TH-FCMS

JANUARY 22ND-JWMS

MASTER SCHEDULE

A HIGH SCHOOL MASTER SCHEDULE IS A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT ORGANIZES A SCHOOL'S COURSES, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND CLASSROOMS TO CREATE A FUNCTIONAL DAILY TIMETABLE. IT IS THE "ROADMAP" FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR THAT ENSURES STUDENTS ARE PLACED IN THE CLASSES THEY NEED, TEACHERS ARE ASSIGNED APPROPRIATELY, AND THE SCHOOL'S RESOURCES ARE USED EFFICIENTLY.

COURSE OFFERINGS AND PLACEMENT IN THE MASTER SCHEDULE ARE DETERMINED BY STUDENT COURSE REQUESTS, SO THEY NEED TO BE ACCURATE.

GPA CALCULATION AND QUALITY POINTS

BEGINNING WITH THE 2026-2027 9TH GRADE CLASS, FCPS WILL CHANGE THE CALCULATION OF GPA AND QUALITY POINTS EARNED IN COURSES.

Letter Grade	Range	Meaning	Quality Pts General	Quality Pts. Honors	Quality Pts. AP/DE
A+	97-100	Excellent	4	4.5	5
A	94-96	Excellent	4	4.5	5
A-	90-93	Excellent	4	4.5	5
B+	87-89	Very Good	3	3.5	4
B	84-86	Very Good	3	3.5	4
B-	80-83	Very Good	3	3.5	4
C+	77-79	Satisfactory	2	2.5	3
C	74-76	Satisfactory	2	2.5	3
C-	70-73	Satisfactory	2	2.5	3
D+	67-69	Minimum Passing	1	1.5	2
D	64-66	Minimum Passing	1	1.5	2
D-	60-63	Minimum Passing	1	1.5	2
F	0-59	Failing	0	0	0

SEALS OF ACHEIVEMENT

- THE GOVERNOR'S SEAL
- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SEAL
- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION SEAL
- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) SEAL
- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN CIVICS EDUCATION
- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SEAL OF BILITERACY
- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

ACCESS THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM OF STUDIES ON THE FCPS WEBSITE.

- **GO TO *FREDERICKCOUNTYSCHOOLSVA.NET***
- **CLICK ON THE LEARNING TAB**
- **SELECT COURSE DESCRIPTION**
- **SELECT 2025-2026 PROGRAM OF STUDIES**