

Fishers Junior High Scheduling Information

Incoming 8th Graders

2026-2027

In February, a school counselor will be visiting with seventh graders during the school day to make elective course selections. In order to begin our scheduling process, we need an accurate count of enrollees for the elective classes. Course descriptions for all eighth-grade courses are included in this information.

Seventh grade math, science, and English teachers will be asked to make recommendations for placement for the eighth grade. Students currently in Advanced Math 7 will be recommended for Math 8 (Pre-Algebra) or Honors Algebra I. Students currently in Honors Algebra I will take Honors Geometry next year (pending teacher recommendation). Students currently in Math 7 will take Math 8 (Pre-Algebra). English and science teachers will recommend students for placement in the advanced sections of eighth grade English and science. Students will receive high school credit in Honors Algebra and Honors Geometry. If you have questions concerning how your child will be recommended for math, science and English, please contact your child's math, science or English teacher.

A high school World Language Level I course is offered as an elective to those students who intend to study five years of World Language prior to graduating high school. Students will have a choice between French, German and Spanish. Successful completion of the class in eighth grade qualifies students for the next level of their chosen language in ninth grade. Important update regarding world language courses: **Due to new high school diploma requirements, 8th grade world language courses will count for high school placement but will not appear on the high school transcript for credit, as they have in previous years. Students taking 8th grade world language will still follow the high school level one curriculum. Upon completion, students will be recommended for either level 2 or level 2 honors at the high school level. This change will not limit any opportunities for students once in high school. Further, it will allow students to take two years of world language (completing level 3) at the high school toward the new Honors Seal (previously known as an Academic Honors Diploma).**

Students will be submitting their elective choices on their iPad during the school day at FJH. If you have questions, or would like to make changes to your child's course requests once they've been submitted, please contact the guidance office. Please remember that your student is choosing these courses for the entire school year. **Schedule changes will not be made after May 22, 2026.**

Sample Schedules Attached

Fishers Junior High School

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2026-2027

English 8 – The major areas studied in English 8 are literature, writing, and oral communication. Grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary are integrated throughout the course in all areas. Students will delve into the world of poetry, novels, short stories, and drama. Students will participate in debates, drama, historical fiction studies, oral presentations, essays, creative writing, reader response, research papers and long-term projects. Writing standards are stressed more heavily in 8th grade English.

Advanced English 8 – Students in advanced English at the junior high must have BOTH above-average reading skills and a *desire to read* academically and personally. The keys to making the course rigorous for the students will be in the relevancy of the texts and the differentiation of instruction that is implemented by the teacher. This includes, but is not limited to, numerous literary devices (irony, tone, mood, allegory, figurative language, theme, point of view) and certain AP skills such as how to annotate a text and an introduction to dialectical journals. As in all language arts classes, a wide range of texts, including many that are above grade level, will be used to teach these concepts, but at the advanced level a greater emphasis will be placed on critical thinking skills, higher level questions and literary analysis. The specifics of these will come from the 8th grade Standards, but there is an expectation that students will be asked to go above grade level when appropriate. Because there is not a required composition class in 8th grade, the writing standards will be stressed more heavily in the 8th grade classes. *It is the expectation of HSE schools that students in the advanced in classes in junior high will continue to the honors level and AP courses in high school. Admittance into this course is predetermined at the seventh grade level.*

English Composition 8 – The writing process is the major area of focus in this course. Grammar, mechanics and oral communication are integrated throughout the course. Students will engage in a study of journalism, literature circles, essay writing and presenting oral essays. This is a semester course.

Journalism – Through this course students will gain an understanding of the principles and practice of journalism. Students will learn how to recognize good stories, gather facts through interviewing and research, develop sources, craft engaging leads and satisfying endings and create news and feature articles that inform and entertain readers. During the second half of the course, students will put skills learned to use to create a classroom newspaper with each student responsible for different kinds of articles. This is a semester course.

Film Theory – In this semester course, students will analyze, write about, and create their own films. Students will use movies as a lens to sharpen their critical thinking skills. Stylized as an English class, Film Theory will teach students about the meaning behind the film industry, cinematography, various film techniques, and some of the narrative strategies filmmakers use to bring their visions to life. Students will learn the movies are not just a spectacle for our entertainment, but carefully crafted pieces of art with their own set of challenges. The semester will end with students producing their own short films. Films presented in class with range from G to PG-13.

High School World Language – Students will have a choice between French, German and Spanish. The courses are aimed at students who intend to study five years of World Language prior to graduation from high school. Successful completion of high school world language classes in 8th grade qualifies the student for the next level of their chosen language in 9th grade.

Math 8 – The eighth-grade math class prepares students to take Algebra I in their freshman year. The curriculum consists of patterns and measurements in geometry, algebraic concepts, problem solving, real numbers (rational and irrational), probability and statistics, coordinate graphing, solving equations and

inequalities, percent and applications, and number theory.

Honors Algebra I – This is a high school Algebra I class. After successful completion of this course, students will go into Honors Geometry as freshmen. The curriculum consists of real numbers, variable expressions, linear equations, inequalities, polynomials, factoring polynomials, probability and statistics, algebraic fractions and fractional equations. **Students will receive high school credit for this course.** *Placement is based on grades and teacher recommendation.*

Honors Geometry – This course covers primarily plane geometry with some solid geometry topics. It includes deductive and inductive reasoning; the ideas of proof and logic are stressed. Properties and relationships of geometric figures including the study of angles, lines, planes, triangles, parallel lines, circles, coordinate geometry, trigonometric ratios, polygons, and special drawings are all included. **Students will receive high school credit for this course.** *Placement is based on grades and teacher recommendation.*

Science 8 – In eighth grade science, students will study chemistry and physics. Students will gain a better understanding of the different concepts involving chemistry and physics through a hands-on approach. Major projects include the egg-drop project, the Rube Goldberg project, an element database project, an element brochure, and a formula spreadsheet project.

Advanced Science 8 – In eighth grade science, students will study chemistry and physics. Students will gain a better understanding of the different concepts involving chemistry and physics through a hands-on approach. Major projects include the egg-drop project and the Rube Goldberg project. A student in this class should have a strong interest in science, be willing to work daily in preparation for the next day, be a critical thinker in the science world, be able to apply concepts and skills being taught, and utilize higher level thinking skills while acquiring knowledge. *Placement is based on grades and teacher recommendation.*

Social Studies 8 – Eighth grade social studies will focus on United States history from the original inhabitants of North America through the reconstruction of the South after the civil war. As we chronologically work our way through history, we pause to look a little more in depth at our Constitution and election process. Geography is incorporated throughout the year.

Art 8 – Students will have the opportunity to work with painting and drawing, as well as plaster cast masks and sculpture, clay sculpting, using the potter's wheel, printmaking and other creative experiences. Students will also learn about a variety of artists and their art. Sketchbook assignments will be used to supplement art projects.

Digital Design

Digital Design is geared toward highly motivated, independent, and creative students. The course teaches students about graphic design in marketing, advertising, and publishing. Students will be introduced to art and graphic design vocabulary as well as layout, typography, and photography applications and will use these concepts to create our school's yearbook. By producing this publication, students learn about photography, cropping, design, computer applications (Adobe Photoshop, Online Design), proofreading, captions, headlines, and writing creative copy. In addition, students learn important life skills such as organization, meeting strict deadlines and working in and with a team. Students must be able to work before and after-school. Students should also have strong writing skills. *Digital Design is a semester-long course for 8th graders.*

Art Survey – Students will create both two and three-dimensional art projects. Drawing, painting and papier-mâché are some of the media explored. This is a semester course.

Choir

Charger Sound is made up of 8th grade girls and is an advanced choral ensemble that builds foundational vocal and musical skills while encouraging expression and independence. Students will refine vocal technique, sight-reading, and performance skills through a diverse repertoire of choral music.

Leadership, collaboration, and musical excellence are emphasized. Students from each choir are required to perform at quarterly school performances. Students have the opportunity to participate in additional school and community events outside of the regular school day such as Indiana All-State Honor Choir, Circle the State with Song, and ISSMA Solo & Ensemble. Some out-of-school performances may be required, including (but not limited to) Veterans Day performances, National Anthem performances, community performances, and ISSMA organizational festivals.

C-Force is made up of 7th & 8th grade boys and is a developing choral ensemble focused on building vocal strength, musicianship, and confidence, with special attention given to the changing male voice. Students will learn proper vocal technique, music reading skills, and ensemble performance through a variety of musical styles. This choir provides a supportive environment that encourages growth and leadership. Students from each choir are required to perform at quarterly school performances. Students have the opportunity to participate in additional school and community events outside of the regular school day such as Indiana All-State Honor Choir, Circle the State with Song, and ISSMA Solo & Ensemble. Some out-of-school performances may be required, including (but not limited to) Veterans Day performances, National Anthem performances, community performances, and ISSMA organizational festivals.

Band –

Symphonic Band is for band students who display leadership qualities through practice habits, playing skill, and daily class work ethic. Performances include Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts as well as band contest and solo and ensemble contest. *The junior high directors select membership.* **Concert & Varsity Band** are intermediate groups. Performances include Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts as well as band contest and solo and ensemble contest. *The junior high school directors select membership.* **Beginning Band** is for students wishing to learn a band instrument. The first few weeks will consist of instrument try outs and selection. Students will perform at a Winter and Spring Concert.

Orchestra – There are four orchestra classes – **Allegro Orchestra** is for beginning orchestra students and offers beginning instruction on violin, viola, cello and string base instruments. **Symphonic Orchestra** is for intermediate orchestra students who already have an understanding of basic music reading, instrument assembly and maintenance, correct playing position and sound tone production. **Chamber and Philharmonic Orchestra** are the advanced string groups and are comprised of students who have two or more years of playing experience. These classes concentrate on advanced technical and expressive skills in an advanced ensemble-focused setting. All orchestra students will participate in regular concerts and string activities outside of school (Contest, Regional Orchestra Festival, etc.). *The junior high school director will determine placement.*

General Music – This class provides students with opportunities to sample hand chimes, keyboards, and guitars. Music history will also be visited. This is a semester course.

Wellness – This year-long course will focus on practicing healthy habits daily to improve the interrelatedness of physical, mental/emotional and social health, improving overall well-being to ensure that students are thriving not just surviving. Wellness lessons will include such topics as personal wellness, mental health, healthy relationships/human development, substance abuse prevention and introduction to various life-long skills and activities. **This course will be for high school credit.**

Engineering and Technology Education – Eighth grade Technology Education is a Project Lead the Way introduction to mechanisms, robots, design and modeling and architecture. This semester long class will include for major projects involving CADD and three dimensional modeling using resources in our lab. The engineering design process will be the process we use to develop solutions to problems. Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint will be utilized to analyze and present solutions. This is a semester course.

Computing Foundations - Computers and the internet have revolutionized the way we access and disseminate information. As technology continues to change at an ever-increasing pace, the need for students to gain a foundational understanding of computer science is clear. Computing Foundations for a Digital Age is designed to introduce students to five major topics within computer science including computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and planning, and impacts of computing. The course introduces foundational computing concepts while exploring current events and building critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, and other important skills that are invaluable for life in a global and technologically advancing society. **Computing foundations is a high school course and will count towards the Computer Science diploma requirement.**

Advanced Lego Robotics

This hands-on, project-based course gives students the opportunity to explore the dynamic fields of robotics and automation in greater depth. Using LEGO SPIKE Prime, students will build on previously learned skills while advancing their coding knowledge. Working collaboratively in teams, students will engage in multi-day projects that tackle increasingly complex challenges, strengthening their abilities in coding, design, and engineering. Many projects will be open-ended, encouraging creativity, thoughtful planning, and perseverance through problem-solving. Enrollment is limited, and successful completion of a previous introductory course may be required for eligibility.

Sample Schedules Attached

Special Notes:

1. Advanced courses by teacher recommendation.
2. English/Math labs (May be required based on ILearn scores).
3. Resource Classes (determined at case conferences).
4. If you would like to take TWO full year fine arts, please reach out to your school counselor.
5. Aide positions are also available for eligible students.
6. *Priority for FACS placement will be given to 7th graders.

Sample Schedules – 8th Grade

(Courses will not be in this order.)

Without High School World Language

No Fine Arts

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Wellness – Full Year
6. Composition – Sem / Computing Foundations – Sem
7. Semester Elective / Semester Elective
8. Semester Elective / Semester Elective

Semester Electives – Choose 4
 Art Survey – Sem / Film Theory – Sem
 Gen Mus – Sem / Journalism – Sem / Tech Ed – Sem
 Digital Design – Sem / FACS* - Sem / Advanced Robotics

Fine Arts

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Wellness – Full Year
6. Composition – Sem / Computing Foundations – Sem
7. Fine Arts Electives – (Choose One)
 Band/Choir/Orchestra/Art – Year
8. Semester Elective / Semester Elective

Semester Electives – Choose 2
 Art Survey – Sem / Film Theory – Sem
 Gen Mus – Sem / Journalism – Sem / Tech Ed – Sem
 Digital Design – Sem / FACS* - Sem / Advanced Robotics

With High School World Language

No Fine Arts

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Wellness – Full Year
6. Composition – Sem / Computing Foundations - Sem
7. World Language
8. Semester Elective / Semester Elective

Semester Electives – Choose 2
 Art Survey – Sem / Film Theory – Sem
 Gen Mus – Sem / Journalism – Sem / Tech Ed – Sem / Digital
 Design / Sem / FACS* - Sem/ Adv Robotics

Fine Arts

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Wellness – Full Year
6. Composition – Sem / Computing Foundations – Sem
7. World Language
8. Fine Arts Elective – (Choose One)
 Band/Choir/Orchestra/Art/ – Year