

FAMS Students and Parents/Guardians,

It is that time of the year again when we will be scheduling classes for the 2026-2027 school year. This year, you should watch [the video to explain the selection of electives for the 2026-2027 school year](#).

- As middle school is a time for growth, development, and exploration, it is the perfect time for students to try various electives to help them decide what their interests are. One of the things that sets FAMS apart from other middle schools is the array of electives we offer within the areas of art, health/physical education, library/media, music, technology education, world language, and academic support.
- Each 4th through 7th grade student will need to complete the [elective request form](#) in order for us to create their schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. This packet provides an overview of the electives offered the corresponding descriptions for the courses. Students are only allowed to take an elective course once during middle school, with the exceptions being band, chorus, and orchestra. Music teachers approve the final lists for band/chorus/orchestra.
- For [7th and 8th grade advanced classes](#), student data will be utilized to identify students enrolling in an advanced course. We will use course grades, teacher recommendation, iReady data, Lexia data, PSSA scores, and PVAAS projection data. These data sources will provide a comprehensive picture of a student's academic readiness for an advanced class. If parents have questions about a student's eligibility for an advanced course or interest in an advanced course, please contact the school.

If you have any questions about the schedule, electives, or process, please feel free to email your counselor or school administrators

The chart outlines required core and elective courses at each grade level

5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<u>Required Courses:</u> 5th grade ELA 5th grade math 5th grade science 5th grade social studies WIN Time Physical Education Intro to Manufacturing Digital Tigers (*taken in 5th or 6th) Introduction to Manufacturing	<u>Required Courses:</u> 6th grade ELA 6th grade math 6th grade science 6th grade soc. Studies WIN Time Health & Wellness Physical Education Digital Tigers (*taken in 5th or 6th)	<u>Required Courses:</u> 7th grade ELA or 7th Advanced ELA 7th grade Math or 7th Advanced Math 7th grade Science or 7th Advanced Sci 7th grade Social Stud or 7th Advanced SS WIN Time Physical Education	<u>Required Courses:</u> 8th grade ELA or 8th Advanced ELA 8th grade Math or Algebra 1 8th grade Science or 8th Advanced Sci 8th grade Social Stud or 8th Advanced SS WIN Time Physical Education

This chart outlines elective courses that are offered at each grade level. Some courses have prerequisites and course fees. No electives are guaranteed. Please see the following pages for descriptions on each of the elective options.

	<u>Art</u>	<u>Health, PE, FCS</u>	<u>Library Media</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Tech Ed</u>	<u>World Language</u>
5th	Art Thru Time Elements of Art	Physical Education* FCS Foundations	Digital Tigers*	Band Chorus Orchestra Instrument Lessons Music	Intro to Manufacturing* STEM Discovery	5th Grade Spanish
6th	3D Art Multicultural Art	Physical Education* Nutrition Health & Wellness*	Digital Tigers*	Band Chorus Instrument Exploration Instrument Lessons Introduction to Theatre Music Technology Orchestra World Drumming	Exploring Technology Transportation Tech	Exploratory Spanish I
7th	Drawing Me and My Art Painting	Physical Education* Nutrition & Food Prep	Creative Journaling Digital Detectives	Band Chorus Instrument Exploration Instrument Lessons Intro to Guitar Music-Movies/TV/Comm/Vid Game Music Technology Orchestra World Drumming	Invention & Innovation Foundations in Design	Exploratory Spanish I Exploratory Spanish II
8th	Digital Art Digital Photography Drawing Painting	Physical Education* Nutrition & Food Prep Sewing Basics	Creative Journaling Creative Media Digital Detectives	Band Chorus Instrument Exploration Instrument Lessons Intro to Guitar Music-Movies/TV/Comm/Vid Game Music Technology Orchestra World Drumming	Engineering Design Foundations in Design Intro to Production	Spanish I Exploratory Spanish I Exploratory Spanish II

Art Electives

Course: 3D Art	Grade Level: 6th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> We live in three dimensions so why not make art that fits the way we live? Here is your chance to step off of the paper and enter a visual three dimensional space. In this class we will create 3D projects using materials such as paper, paper mache, wire, and cardboard. We will manipulate basic materials into ideas that have personal meaning to ourselves and the world around us. By using these materials we will be fine tuning old skills as well as learning new ones. Looking into our personal past and through art history will allow us to use old ideas for new projects and new inspiration that have meaning to us and the world we live in. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		
Course: Art Thru Time	Grade Level: 5th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will be learning about art history while creating their own original artwork in that style. The timeline that will be focused on is from Prehistoric Cave Painting to current day. Students will learn how technological advances and inventions have impacted the artist's role in the development of styles of art. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		
Course: Digital Art	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will be introduced to a newer type of art form, digital art. Students will start by learning the basics of Google Drawing and expand their knowledge and skill as we progress through projects. Students will learn about the importance of graphic arts and how they are used in today's world. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		
Course: Digital Photography	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/Business, Finance, and Information Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> Digital Photography is a class that will allow you to branch out from the typical artmaking processes and look deeper at real life and the beauty that surrounds us everyday. The majority of classes will be outside observing and capturing the natural world as we become familiar with our cameras and the procedures of class. As comfort sets in, new techniques will be learned as we explore compositional techniques to capture more interesting photos, digital organization, and time management. We will role play being the photographer and the client to better understand how to work with others and express emotions through the lens. To conclude our class we will work digitally to organize our photos to be presented to our viewers. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i> * Note: This course has a lab fee of \$10.		
Course: Drawing	Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> This class helps students draw with greater ability and confidence. Students of all abilities will produce work they can be proud of as they improve their drawing fundamentals and work on projects which inspire the imagination. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		

Course: Elements of Art	Grade Level: 5th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Students explore their creativity and curiosity while reviewing prior knowledge from elementary school art. This course will take the artists interests and ideas to dig deeper into art concepts, further technical skills, and use their own lives as inspiration for art. We will work with a variety of materials and continue to explore art in different forms and expand our understanding of the elements of art. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		
Course: Me and my Art	Grade Level: 7th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> YOU are the most important person on this planet, so why not make art that means something to YOU?! In this class you will create personal artworks using an array of mixed media and text to express yourself and to convey messages to others through your art. We will be discussing famous works of art, how that piece got the artists' through a difficult time, and use that inspiration to persevere during our own real life situations. This class will allow you to have an artistic outlet for things going on in your life, how to handle them through art making, and learn the ability to understand the lives of those around us. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		
Course: Multicultural Art	Grade Level: 6th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
Course Description: Art forms from different cultures will be examined and discussed. Students will create an artwork that is visually influenced by that culture and uses the same techniques those artists also used. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		
Course: Painting	Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will develop and refine skills needed in painting, use a variety of types of paint, and combine painting skills/techniques with their own sense of style to express their thoughts and feelings. Students will also examine and discuss a variety of painting styles. Color theory will be explored in depth while students experience the process of painting. <i>(a minimum of 2 artworks will be kept to be presented at the FAMS Art Show)</i>		

Health, PE, & Family & Consumer Science Electives

Course: Family & Consumer Science Foundations	Grade Level: 5th Grade	Career Pathway: Human Services/Health and Science
<u>Course Description:</u> Get ready to learn real-life skills you can use every day! In this hands-on course, students explore cooking basics, food safety, and how to build healthy meals. They'll learn how to make smart choices as consumers, manage money and resources, and stay organized at home and school. Students will also discover how families work, build positive communication skills, and practice teamwork and leadership. Along the way, they'll explore different career paths and see how these skills connect to their future. This fun and interactive class helps students become more confident, responsible, and prepared for everyday life! Please note: This course is in development by the new FCS teacher and may change somewhat from the course description		

Course: Nutrition, Health and Wellness	Grade Level: 6th Grade-Required	Career Pathway: Human Services/Health and Science
<u>Course Description:</u> This course is designed to provide 6th graders with a foundation of positive health behaviors by presenting the most current information related to physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. Areas of focus may include body functioning, personal hygiene, nutrition, substance abuse, communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as current health issues. <i>**This course is required for all 6th graders.**</i>		
Course: Nutrition and Food Prep	Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Human Services/Health and Science
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will learn how to evaluate foods for nutritional value as well as how to safely prepare foods in the kitchen. USDA's MyPlate and the Nutrition Facts Label will guide class discussions about healthy eating. Students will further participate in food preparation labs that correlate to each food group, emphasizing the following principles: food and kitchen safety, measuring and mixing techniques, recipe reading, proper kitchen tool and appliance use, and clean-up. <i>A \$10 lab fee is required to participate in this course. This course is NOT recommended for students with severe food allergies. A doctor's clearance will be required for students who have food allergies on file.</i>		
Course: Physical Education	Grade Level: 5th-8th-Required	Career Pathway: Human Services/Health and Science
<u>Course Description:</u> Physical Education for grades 5–8 is designed to promote lifelong health, fitness, and wellness through active participation and skill development. Students engage in a variety of individual and team activities that build fundamental movement skills, coordination, and physical fitness. The program emphasizes personal goal setting, sportsmanship, teamwork, and responsible decision-making. Students also develop an understanding of the components of fitness, the importance of regular physical activity, and strategies for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Instruction is developmentally appropriate and encourages all students to build confidence, stay active, and foster positive attitudes toward physical activity. <i>**This course is required for all students each year in grades 5-8.**</i>		
Course: Sewing Basics	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/Human Services
<u>Course Description:</u> We have all experienced a time when we needed something stitched back up or a button sewn back on. Being able to sew equips students with lifelong skills they can use for practical means and may even lay the foundation for a future hobby...or possibly a career! In this project-based course students will learn the basics of hand-sewing: threading a needle, basic hand stitches, and sewing on buttons. They will also learn the ins and outs of using a sewing machine and complete two functional machine-sewn projects. <i>Note: This class includes a \$10 lab fee AND students supply materials for one project (¾ yard of one fabric plus ⅓ yard of another fabric).</i>		

Library/Media Electives

Course: Creative Media	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communications
<u>Course Description:</u> In this course, students will transform into a professional media team by mastering the art of journalistic writing, graphic design, and strategic digital communication. Through the hands-on production of the school yearbook, newsletters, and social media, they will learn to tell the story of their community with clarity, creativity, and ethical integrity.		
Course: Creative Journaling	Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communications
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will express themselves by responding to thought-provoking journal prompts and by exploring their thoughts and emotions through various creative writing projects.		
Course: Digital Detectives	Grade Level: 7th & 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/Human Services/ Business, Finance, and Information Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> Students today are faced with a vast amount of information. This complex world is often full of mis-, dis-, and malinformation, creating some of the greatest threats we are facing today. Students will discover four “lenses” to help them become information sleuths to actively pursue clues to credibility. By examining information through these multiple lenses, students will think critically about the information they consume, how that information affects them, and how their behavior online affects others and our world.		
Course: Digital Tigers	Grade Level: 5th or 6th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/Human Services/ Business, Finance, and Information Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> In Digital Tigers, students will master the research process using the Big 6 Method. They will learn to locate and evaluate resources, analyze information, take notes, and create a bibliography. Students will apply these skills to produce a final project using Google Suite. Throughout the course, students will also practice safe and responsible internet use through Digital Citizenship lessons, develop typing skills, create and format Google Docs and Google Slides, and organize their Google Drive for improved efficiency. <i>**This course is required and students must take in 5th OR 6th**</i>		

Music & Performing Arts Electives

Course: Band	Grade Level: 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
In 5th grade, Band is referred to as 5th Grade Band, in 6th Grade it is called Concert Band, and in 7th/8th Grade it is called Symphonic Band*.		
<u>Course Description:</u> Participation in band is open to students who have already played a band instrument for at least one year and plan on continuing to play that same instrument. Students must provide their own band instrument. Students will receive small group lessons approximately once per cycle and full group band class three times per cycle. At each grade level, expectations and levels of proficiency increase as well as complexity of musical pieces. Music of many styles and		

genres will be explored, from original compositions to rock/pop arrangements, film music, as well as classical arrangements. Each band will perform at the Winter Concert, Presto, and the Spring Concert. Students may be assigned homework in the band Google Classroom.

**Students in Symphonic Band (7th/8th) will have the opportunity to audition for Jr. County Band in February of each year.*

Course: Chorus	Grade Level: 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
In 5th Grade, Chorus is referred to as 5th Grade Chorus, in 6th it is called Double Treble, and in 7th/8th grade it is called Mixed Chorus* <u>Course Description:</u> Choral groups at each grade level are open to all students, regardless of prior experience, who are interested in singing. Students will learn skills from beginning singing techniques, musicianship, sight-singing skills, to performing for an audience. At each level the musical pieces and singing techniques advance to high levels. The courses include a variety of repertoire, including classic rock, pop, folk song, classical pieces, and music in other languages. Each choral group performs in the Winter Concert, Presto, and the Spring Concert. <i>*Students in Mixed Chorus are eligible to audition for Jr. County Chorus.</i>		
Course: Instrument Exploration	Grade Level: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communications
<u>Course Description:</u> Students with no prior experience will learn basic proficiency on a woodwind, brass, and percussion instrument.		
Course: Instrument Lessons	Grade Level: 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Students who are learning to play a band or orchestra instrument for the first time should sign up for an additional elective while taking this course. Students must provide their own band or orchestra instrument (If needed-Links to Order an Instrument: BAND or STRINGS). Students will receive small group lessons approximately once per cycle. Students may enroll in their grade level band or orchestra in a future semester after they have successfully completed at least one semester of instrument lessons and demonstrated a basic level of competency. <i>PLEASE NOTE: This will not appear on your child's schedule for the 1st semester. The music teachers will reach out in early fall to get you started with 25-minute pull-out lessons. If you are signing up for instrument lessons, please also complete this google form.</i>		
Course: Introduction to Theatre	Grade Level: 6th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/ Human Services/Health and Science
<u>Course Description:</u> The focus of this class is to provide an enjoyable introduction to the theatre and to develop a variety of skills needed to act out a story in front of an audience. The class will include various activities and games designed to encourage collaboration, creativity, imagination, and teamwork. Students will learn about the stage, blocking for the audience, communicating through facial expressions, gestures, voice, and developing interesting characters. Students will study and perform different styles of the theatre including: pantomime, improv, and scripted performances.		
Course: Introduction to Guitar	Grade Level: 7th & 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communications
<u>Course Description:</u> The focus of this class is to provide an enjoyable introduction to playing the guitar. Students with no prior experience will learn basic guitar techniques including chord strumming and limited melodic playing. Students do not need to purchase their own guitar as the school will provide a guitar for each student in the class. Students will be actively playing guitar throughout the class time and learning new guitar chords and songs as the class progresses. By the end of the course students will be able to play the following chords: D, A7, G, A, E, Em, C, D7, B7, E7, and Am.		

Course: Music	Grade Level: 5th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/Human Services
<u>Course Description:</u> The focus of this class is to provide many enjoyable experiences in music and opportunities to learn and develop a variety of music-related skills. Students will be exploring how instruments make sound and will be constructing their own instrument. Other units of study include music technology and musical theatre.		
Course: Music in Movies, TV, Commercials, and Video Games	Grade Level: 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Have you ever really listened to the music in movies, tv shows, commercials, and video games? It has a powerful influence on the show and how it makes the viewer feel. Students will investigate, evaluate, and respond to music from movies, television, commercials, and video games.		
Course: Music Technology	Grade Level: 6th, 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> The focus of this class is to provide an enjoyable introduction to composing music through the use of technology. The class is open to all students regardless of prior music knowledge or instrument experience. Students will be largely using GarageBand along with other web-based programs. Students will be creating music with pre-recorded loops, sound effects, and recordings captured by piano and/or microphone. Units of study include: The Loop Library, Telling a Story through Sound Effects, Found Sound Songs, I Got the Blues, and Creating Music for the Movies.		
Course: Orchestra	Grade Level: 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
Orchestra in 5th grade is called 5th Grade Orchestra, in 6th grade Overture Strings, and in 7th/8th grade it is called Encore Strings*. <u>Course Description:</u> Our Orchestra groups are open to any students who have already played a string instrument for at least one year and plan on continuing to play that same instrument. Students will receive small group lessons approximately once per cycle and full group orchestra class three times per cycle. Orchestra groups perform at the Winter Concert, Presto, and the Spring Concert. We play a variety of styles from movie music, fiddle/folk music, all the way to classical. Students may be assigned homework in their Orchestra Google Classrooms. <i>*Students in Encore Strings also have the opportunity to audition for Junior County Orchestra; students in Overture and Encore Strings can also audition for Chamber Orchestra.</i>		
Course: World Drumming	Grade Level: 6th, 7th, & 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication/ Human Services/Health and Science
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will learn African and Caribbean drum grooves while playing in large drum circles as well as small groups. While in small groups, students will also create several of their own grooves that are based on African drumming characteristics. Students will also learn about what life can be like living in a developing country in Africa. Concepts such as cooperation, ensemble, teamwork, focus, community, and respect are embedded into the musical activities done in class.		

Technology Education Electives

Course: Engineering Design	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will be provided a number of opportunities to put the Engineering Design Process into action in team based design challenges that allow them not just to design and implement a solution, but spend a greater amount of time than provided in prior courses to test and refine their designs into operational solutions to problems. Students will be required to journal their process and prepare a presentation of their work from start to finish.		
Course: Exploring Technology	Grade Level: 6th Grade	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will learn about the different categories of technology as well as how technology is developed to suit human wants and needs. We will discuss the impacts of invention and innovation on history. Students will also be introduced to the engineering design process, and put that process to use to develop solutions to a number of real world problem scenarios. Specific projects may vary depending on whether students take this course in 5th or 6th grade.		
Course: Foundations in Design	Grade Level: 7th and 8th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication, Engineering and Industrial Technology/Business, and Information Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> In this course, students will be introduced to various facets of design and technology, providing a hands-on approach to learning through practical projects and applications. Topics covered: Design Thinking Process, Graphic Design, Computer-Aided Design, 3D Printing, and Electronics.		
Course: Introduction to Manufacturing	Grade Level: 5th	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> Students will gain an understanding of hand tool usage, some power tool usage, laboratory safety, project planning, sanding, and finishing. <i>**This course is required for all 5th graders.</i>		
Course: Introduction to Production	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology/Business, Finance, and Information Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> In this course, students will learn how products are made and have their own production run to produce a product that they design. They will learn about tools and machines in greater detail. * Note: This course has a lab fee of \$10.		
Course: Invention and Innovation	Grade Level: 7th Grade	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> This course is a continuation of the 6th Grade Exploring Technology course. Students will continue to learn about human innovation and the Engineering Design Process. Students will focus this year on taking existing items they use and interact with often and finding ways to improve or modify them to suit a given need. This course may also include an introduction to electronics.		
Course: STEM Discovery	Grade Level: 5th Grade	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology/Arts and Communication/Business, Finance, and Information Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> In this STEM Discovery class, 5th graders will become innovators, problem-solvers, and creators as they explore a variety of hands-on		

engineering challenges. Using the engineering design process, students will design and build **Rube Goldberg-style machines**, experiment with **chemical reactions**, and **develop coding** and **animation skills** with Scratch. Through these projects, they will deepen their understanding of STEM concepts while fostering creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Course: Transportation Technology	Grade Level: 6th Grade	Career Pathway: Engineering and Industrial Technology
<u>Course Description:</u> Transportation Technology introduces students to the engineering and technology behind land, air, and sea transportation systems. Students apply the engineering design process through hands-on projects and design challenges. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation.		

World Language Electives

Course: 5th Grade Spanish	Grade Level: 5th	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> Learn some basic phrases in various topics in this beginner's Spanish course. Students will discover how Spanish and English have both similarities and differences.		
Course: Exploratory Spanish I	Grade Level: 6th, 7th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> This is a beginning Spanish course covering topics such as alphabet, greetings, numbers, colors/shapes/animals, and weather.		
Course: Exploratory Spanish II	Grade Level: 7th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communication
<u>Course Description:</u> In this Spanish course students will study the topics of days and dates, family, parts of the body, clothing, and foods. Prerequisite: Exploratory Spanish I		
Course: Spanish I	Grade Level: 8th Grade	Career Pathway: Arts and Communications
<u>Course Description:</u> This is a full year (every day) high school Level I course in preparation for Spanish Level II at the high school. There will be a Mid-term Exam and a Final Exam given in this course. Successful completion of Spanish I will result in a high school credit given for the course. Prior experience is helpful, but not required.		