



New Kent Middle School

Program of Study

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Introduction to the Program of Study

Introduction

We welcome you to New Kent Middle School's Program of Study. This guide has been developed in order to provide you with a comprehensive resource outlining any questions you may have about the many academic opportunities available to students at New Kent Middle School. Our hope is that this guide empowers you and your family to make the best educational decisions for your middle school student that will lead to their future success.

We believe that the academic planning decisions that are made during the middle school years are foundational for success in high school and beyond. Early in middle school, we offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of courses that will help them narrow their interests and pursue their passions in their later middle school years. Using Xello, we help students (a) identify and explore their interests and (b) receive personalized career match results to consider throughout the course planning process. You will find opportunities in this guide that will empower students to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed after graduating high school.

Parents and Guardians: If you have any questions about the information in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school counselor. We are here to help you navigate this information and provide you with the information and resources you need to best meet your child's needs.

Contact Information

The NKMS School Counseling Office can be reached at (804) 966-8544. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:20-2:50 p.m. during the school year, and Monday through Thursday from 7:00-5:00 p.m. during the summer.

Class of 2033 (Rising 6th Grade)	Ms. Tori Outhous youthous@nkcps.k12.va.us
Class of 2032 (Rising 7th Grade)	Mr. Sean Hodge shodge@nkcps.k12.va.us
Class of 2031 (Rising 8th Grade)	Mrs. Elizabeth Malone emalone@nkcps.k12.va.us



College, Career, and Life Readiness

Portrait of a New Kent Graduate



Portrait of a New Kent Graduate



Communicator

Reads and listens effectively to acquire knowledge and broaden perspective.

Speaks and writes with clarity and purpose to inform, influence, motivate, and entertain listeners.

Creates an online footprint that contributes positively to the global community.

Mediates conflicts without compromising one's values.



Collaborator

Understands multiple points of view.

Accepts responsibility and constructive criticism to grow and learn.

Models integrity and ethical leadership.

Works productively in groups to deliver timely results.



Ethical and Global Steward

Understands the monetary and social impact of decisions on the environment.

Demonstrates empathy, compassion, and respect for diverse values, perspectives, and cultures.

Makes decisions that serve to positively impact the community.



Creative and Critical Thinker

Engages in problem-solving and the design of innovative solutions to persevere through obstacles.

Values the relevance of artistic expressions.

Applies reason and research practices to problem-solve and reach logical conclusions.

Uses technological skills and contemporary digital tools to appropriately explore and exchange ideas.



Goal Directed, Persistent, and Resilient Individual

Promotes positive relationships and actions that support physical, emotional, and mental wellness.

Develops self-empowerment and advocacy skills to overcome academic, career, and personal challenges.

Utilizes strategies, resources, and skills to effectively plan his/her academic and occupational future.

Adapts to and manages transitions and changing situations.



New Kent County Public Schools' 3 E's: Enrolled, Enlisted, Employed



About Course Recommendations

Overview

Course recommendations are collaboratively developed by a team of staff at New Kent Middle School, including general education teachers, exceptional education teachers, school counselors, administrators, and specialists (e.g. reading specialist, math coach.) Our goal is to develop course recommendations that are comprehensive in nature and based on a wide variety of data points, not solely depending on a single grade or test score. Some data points considered include classroom grades, benchmark scores, scores earned on Virginia Standards of Learning assessments (SOLs), and reading skill data. Teachers also provide feedback about the level of critical thinking that they see each student demonstrate in the classroom. Course recommendations are developed at the end of the first semester and are monitored through the end of the school year. They are developed for English and Math courses.

Math Pathways

Math pathways differ based on when students started their middle school career at NKMS. Please find the correct pathway for your student below using the descriptions located above each chart.

Students entering middle school during the **2026-27 school year** can refer to the following guide with updated math pathways offered at New Kent Middle School.

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3
6th Grade Note: All 6th grade students participate in Foundations of Math 6 in addition to one of the following courses.	Math 6	Math 6 Advanced (All Math 6, Half of Math 7) *Math 6 SOL	Math 6 Advanced (All Math 6, Half of Math 7) *Math 6 SOL
7th Grade	Math 7 (with or without Foundations of Math 7)	Pre-Algebra 7 (Half of Math 7, All of Math 8) *Math 8 SOL	Advanced Pre-Algebra (Half of Math 7, All of Math 8 Semester 1), Algebra 1



			<i>(Semester 2)</i> *Math 8 SOL in Fall, Algebra 1 SOL in Spring
8th Grade	Pre-Algebra 8 (with or without Foundations of Pre-Algebra)	Algebra I High School Credit Course (1.0)	Geometry High School Credit Course (1.0)

Students entering middle school during the **2025-26 school year** can refer to the following guide with updated math pathways offered at New Kent Middle School.

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3	Pathway 4
6th Grade Note: All 6th grade students participate in Foundations of Math 6 in addition to one of the following courses.	Math 6	Math 6 Advanced <i>(All Math 6, Half of Math 7)</i> *Math 6 SOL	Math 6 Advanced <i>(All Math 6, Half of Math 7)</i> *Math 6 SOL	Math 6 Accelerated <i>(All Math 6, 7, and 8)</i> *Math 8 SOL
7th Grade	Math 7 (with or without Foundations of Math 7)	Pre-Algebra 7 <i>(Half of Math 7, All of Math 8)</i> *Math 8 SOL	Advanced Pre-Algebra <i>(Half of Math 7, All of Math 8 Semester 1),</i> Algebra 1 <i>(Semester 2)</i> *Math 8 SOL in Fall, Algebra 1 SOL in Spring	Algebra I High School Credit Course (1.0)
8th Grade	Pre-Algebra 8 (with or without Foundations of Pre-Algebra)	Algebra I High School Credit Course (1.0)	Geometry High School Credit Course (1.0)	Geometry High School Credit Course (1.0)



Students that entered middle school during the **2024-25 school year** can refer to the pathway guide below.

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2
6th Grade Note: All 6th grade students participate in Foundations of Math 6 in addition to one of the following courses.	Math 6 and Foundations of Math 6	Accelerated Math 6 and Foundations of Math 6
7th Grade	Math 7 (with or without Foundations of Math 7)	Pre-Algebra 7 *Math 8 SOL
8th Grade	Pre-Algebra 8 (with or without Foundations of Pre-Algebra)	Algebra I High School Credit Course (1.0)

Questions about Course Recommendations

If a parent or student has questions about a course recommendation in Math or English, they are encouraged to contact their teacher and school counselor. The data points considered in the course recommendation process are typically available for review through the Parent PowerSchool portal. It is important to note that math recommendations cannot be changed unless specified in a plan for exceptional education, as each math course builds on the math course offered previously in the math pathway.



Course Opportunities

Sixth Grade

Core Courses (Required)

English

English 6

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: In sixth grade, students will work respectfully in diverse teams and take on roles as both leaders and contributors. They will read more complex texts, focusing on fluency, plot, author's style, and using evidence to make inferences and summaries. These skills support critical thinking across subjects. Students will write multi-paragraph compositions with clear focus, elaboration, and proper conventions. They will develop thesis statements and improve editing skills. Research will involve evaluating sources, citing correctly, and following ethical guidelines—preparing them for future academic and career success.

English 6 Advanced

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: This course covers English 6 standards of learning (see English 6 course description) and is designed to meet the needs of students demonstrating strong critical thinking skills and a high level of academic achievement in the areas of reading and writing.

Lion Reading 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: All sixth grade students in English 6 and English 6 Advanced will participate in Lion Reading 6. This course is designed to provide students with enrichment opportunities as well as opportunities for intervention or remediation.



Math

Math 6

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Grade 6 math marks a shift from whole number arithmetic to algebraic thinking, with a focus on solving single- and multi-step problems involving integers and positive rational numbers. Students compare decimals, fractions, and percents; solve problems with area and perimeter; and begin graphing on the coordinate plane. They explore data through circle graphs, study measures of center, solve linear equations, write inequalities, and use algebraic vocabulary. Proportional reasoning and ratios lay the groundwork for understanding linear functions. Technology supports learning by enhancing problem-solving, reasoning, and real-world applications, but it is not a substitute for foundational skills. Students must develop fluency with various tools, including mental math, paper and pencil, and calculators. As they advance, students build mathematical vocabulary and deepen understanding through complex problem-solving and critical thinking.

Math 6 Advanced

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: In this course, students will progress through Math 6 Standards of Learning (see Math 6 course description) as well as the first half of the Math 7 Standards of Learning (see Math 7 course description.) Students will take the Math 6 SOL upon the conclusion of this course and will be prepared to take Pre-Algebra 7 during their seventh grade school year. Students may also be recommended for Advanced Pre-Algebra and Algebra I during their seventh grade year at the conclusion of this course.

Foundations of Math 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: All sixth grade students will participate in Foundations of Math 6. This course is designed to provide students with enrichment opportunities as well as opportunities for intervention or remediation.

Science

Science 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will explore the characteristics of their world, from the Earth's placement in the solar system to the interactions of water, energy, air, and ecosystems on the Earth. As students more closely examine the use of resources, they also consider how their



actions and choices affect future habitability of Earth. Students continue to develop scientific skills and processes as they pose questions and predict outcomes, plan and conduct investigations, collect and analyze data, construct explanations, and communicate information about the natural world. Mathematics and computational thinking gain importance as students advance in their scientific thinking. Students continue to use the engineering design process to apply their scientific knowledge to solve problems.

Social Studies

U.S. History to 1865

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will apply historical and geographical analysis to explore U.S. history from pre-Columbian times to 1865, focusing on events that strengthened the union. They will study civics, economics, and geography in chronological context, examining key documents and speeches that shaped American ideals. Using primary and secondary sources, students will explore everyday life across different eras. The course emphasizes critical thinking skills essential for responsible citizenship as students deepen their understanding of history and social science.

Health and PE

Health and PE 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will deepen their understanding of health by applying physical, emotional, social, and environmental skills to improve personal and family well-being. They explore adolescent health topics, responsible decision-making, and the influence of peer pressure while learning to be positive role models. Physically, students build competence and confidence through diverse activities, including cooperative games, sports, fitness, dance, and outdoor pursuits. They use feedback to refine skills, assess fitness levels, and set personal health goals. Students connect nutrition, energy balance, and heart health, while developing teamwork and problem-solving skills to navigate complex social interactions. Opportunities for regular physical activity at school and beyond are emphasized to promote lifelong wellness.



Elective Courses

Year Long Elective Options

Beginning Band 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Beginning Band is for students in their first year of playing an instrument. Student activities will include performing at the Winter and Spring Band Concerts. Students select from a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. We have fun learning to play an instrument and making music together! After a year in this course you will be ready to enter Concert Band or Symphonic Band and participate in all of the fun activities that are part of being a member of the NKMS Band.

Beginning Choir

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Beginning Choir is a year-long introductory performance class designed to build fundamental singing skills, music literacy, and confidence. Students learn proper vocal technique, music reading, and ensemble skills while exploring a variety of musical styles. Students will participate in three performances a year: Veteran's Day, Winter and Spring Concerts.

Wheel Elective Options

Art 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will use a variety of media and techniques to explore their individual creativity and expression. Students will learn about a range of artists from art history as well as pertinent art vocabulary to create their own unique body of work and improve visual literacy skills.

Business Skills and Keyboarding

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The basic keyboarding skills which one uses in personal life and work are emphasized in this course. Students will develop proper computer keyboarding skills by practicing keying on a computer keyboard and numeric keypad. Emphasis is on the development of proper touch typing skills, building accuracy and speed. In addition, students will learn basic computer terminology, identify online safety tips, and explore the use of a variety of software including word processing.



Exploratory Language

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: In this course, students will explore the languages and cultures of French and Spanish-speaking countries. Students will learn basic vocabulary and communications skills of each language and explore the geography, customs and traditions of these countries.

Exploratory Theatre Arts

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will practice dramatic expression through creative story building, improvisations, and performance experiences. In addition, students will also explore various theater arts such as tableau, pantomime, puppet making, and commercial filming/editing. This course is designed to teach students the basics of creating, rehearsing, and presenting a performance while also teaching many other useful skills such as: collaboration, creative problem-solving, public speaking, and more.

Gifted Seminar 6

Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted in New Kent County Public Schools.

Course Description: Gifted Seminar is an elective course for identified gifted students who are curious, motivated, and enjoy thinking deeply. This class blends hands-on, project-based learning with opportunities to explore personal interests and real-world problems. Students will engage with interesting enrichment topics that go beyond the regular curriculum and spark curiosity and creativity. Through collaborative and independent projects, students will strengthen critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and research skills, while learning to ask big questions, try innovative ideas, and confidently share their learning in meaningful ways. **This course will last for one semester (two quarters.)**

Introduction to Choir

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Introduction to Choir is a short, quarter-long introductory class designed to introduce students to the basics of singing and choral music. Students learn essential skills such as proper posture, breath support, matching pitch, and reading simple music notation.

Introduction to Technology and Engineering

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course familiarizes the students with the resources of technology, technology systems and the evolution of technology. Students will be taught the design process and use it to explore the concept of design. They will be introduced to common materials and



processes as they challenge themselves to solve innovative problems. The class is very interactive and consists of hands-on activities and working in teams.

World Drumming

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: In this class, students will learn how to use several different kinds of drums and be able to play music from West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Seventh Grade

Core Courses (Required)

English

English 7

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Seventh-grade students will give presentations, interpret media, and collaborate effectively. They'll expand vocabulary through word roots and connotations and read complex texts to analyze point of view, style, and use of evidence. Reading and writing are integrated, with students using texts as models to improve their own work. They'll write for different purposes, support claims with evidence, and refine grammar and style. In research, students will evaluate sources, and apply quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing skills—preparing them for future academic and workplace success.

English 7 Advanced

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: This course covers English 7 standards of learning (see English 7 course description) and is designed for students demonstrating strong critical thinking skills and a high level of academic achievement.

Lion Reading 7

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Lion Reading 7 is a required supplemental reading course paired with English 7 for students in need of additional reading support. This course is designed to support reading development and success with grade-level learning.



Math

Math 7

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Grade 7 math builds on algebra foundations by exploring rational numbers through exponents, scientific notation, and square roots. Students deepen their skills with operations, proportional reasoning, volume, surface area, and properties of quadrilaterals. They apply the data cycle to histograms and study probability by comparing experimental and theoretical results. Linear equations and inequalities in one variable are further developed, alongside an introduction to slope as a rate of change. Technology supports learning but complements, not replaces, understanding and basic skills. Students use diverse methods—including mental math, paper, and technology—to solve problems. Throughout grades 6–8, students expand mathematical vocabulary and tackle increasingly complex problems to enhance critical thinking.

Pre-Algebra 7

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Math 6 Advanced.

Course Description: Pre-Algebra 7 prepares students for high school Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics by exploring real numbers and advanced proportional reasoning. Students calculate volume and surface area of complex 3D shapes, apply geometric transformations, and use the Pythagorean Theorem. They represent data with boxplots and scatterplots and continue practicing algebraic skills like simplifying expressions, solving multistep equations, and graphing linear functions. Technology is integrated to support learning but does not replace fundamental understanding or basic computation skills. Students use a variety of tools, including mental math, paper, and digital resources, to solve problems. Throughout grades 6–8, students develop mathematical vocabulary and tackle increasingly complex problems to enhance critical thinking and communication.

Foundations of Math 7

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: This course is designed to provide identified students with opportunities for intervention and remediation as they further develop their foundational math skills.

Algebra I

Potential High School Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Math 6 Accelerated as well as the Math 8 SOL.

Course Description: Mastering Algebra 1 is essential for success in higher-level math, building on algebraic thinking that begins in early education. The curriculum progresses through



patterns, proportional reasoning, and representing relationships with tables, symbols, and graphs. All students are expected to achieve proficiency, using algebra to model real-world situations and connect concepts across geometry and statistics. Concrete materials help bridge numeric and symbolic understanding, while contextual applications give meaning to abstract ideas. Students use tables and graphs to interpret expressions, equations, inequalities, and analyze functions, including transformational graphing to link algebraic and graphical views. Technology, especially graphing tools, supports visualization, problem-solving, and deepens understanding throughout learning.

Science

Life Science 7

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The Life Science standards emphasize a more complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. Students build on scientific investigation skills by independently identifying questions and planning investigations. Students evaluate the usefulness and limits of models and support their conclusions using evidence. Mathematics, computational thinking, and experience in the engineering design process gain importance as students advance in their scientific thinking.

Social Studies

U.S. History: 1865 to Present

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will apply historical and geographical analysis to study U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present. They will investigate the nation's political, economic, and social challenges after the Civil War and explore how the American experience influenced global politics and economics. The course emphasizes critical thinking skills needed for geographic analysis, economic decisions, and responsible citizenship.

Health and PE

Health and PE 7

Prerequisites: None



Course Description: In seventh grade, students develop skills to make responsible health decisions, resist peer pressure, and manage stress. They connect health choices to school and physical activity performance while promoting a healthy lifestyle. Physically, students refine skills in games, sports, and recreational activities, applying scientific principles to improve fitness. They set personal fitness goals and understand physical activity's role in weight and stress management. Social skills like problem-solving, communication, and respect support positive cooperation.

Elective Courses

Semester Long Elective Options

Agriscience Exploration 7

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Introduction to Agriscience.*)

Course Description: Students explore science as it relates to agriculture and develop an understanding of human relations, communication, the importance of agriculture to the economy, and key scientific terms related to the field of agriculture.

Art 7

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Intermediate Art or Sculpture and Crafts.*)

Course Description: Students in Art 7 use a variety of media and techniques to explore their individual creativity and expression. Students will learn about a range of artists from art history as well as pertinent art vocabulary to create their own unique body of work and improve visual literacy skills.

Computer Solutions 7

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students are introduced to the world of business using computer software as a problem-solving tool. Emphasis is placed on using correct touch typing skills to complete a variety of projects incorporating both Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel software. Workplace Readiness Skills, Proofreading, and Digital Literacy and Responsibility will also be a component of this course.

Creative Writing 7

Prerequisites: None



Course Description: Creative Writing explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Students will develop writing skills in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

General Music 7

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will learn about basic forms of music, exploring a variety of musical genres and styles of music throughout history. Students will apply their knowledge by creating music using a variety of musical instruments. No musical experience is required for this course, and students will not need an instrument. Performances are not required of students taking general music, but optional performances may become available throughout the semester.

Gifted Seminar 7

Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted in New Kent County Public Schools.

Course Description: Gifted Seminar is an elective course for identified gifted students who are curious, motivated, and enjoy thinking deeply. This class blends hands-on, project-based learning with opportunities to explore personal interests and real-world problems. Students will engage with interesting enrichment topics that go beyond the regular curriculum and spark curiosity and creativity. Through collaborative and independent projects, students will strengthen critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and research skills, while learning to ask big questions, try innovative ideas, and confidently share their learning in meaningful ways.

Inventions and Innovations 7

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students learn technological inventions throughout history to the present day. Specifically, students study tools and machines, power and energy, and communication and manufacturing. Students apply both knowledge and creativity to create designs and models.

Theatre Arts 7

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Intermediate Theatre Arts.*)

Course Description: Students will practice dramatic expression through creative story building, improvisations, and performance experiences. In addition, students will also explore



various theater arts such as vocal acting, Costume Design, Improv Theatre, and Playwriting. This course is designed to teach students the basics of creating, rehearsing, and presenting a performance while also teaching many other useful skills such as: collaboration, creative problem-solving, public speaking, and more.

Year Long Elective Options

Beginning Band 7/8

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Beginning Band is for students in their first year of playing an instrument. Activities include playing at the Winter and Spring Band Concerts. Students select from a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. We have fun learning to play an instrument and making music together! After a year in this course you will be ready to enter Concert Band or Symphonic band and participate in all of the fun activities that come along with those bands.

Concert Band

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Beginning Band.

Course Description: The Concert Band is generally made up of students who are in their second year of playing. Concert Band students perform in both the Winter and Spring concerts. They also have the opportunity to audition for honor bands throughout the year. Additional activities may include a Spring trip to Music in the Parks, participation in pep band, and other exciting performance opportunities.

French I, Part A

Potential High School Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: Although not required, priority will be given to students who have earned an A or B in English 6.

Course Description: This foreign language course will introduce students to culture, elementary grammar, conversational skill development, and introductory reading and writing of French. This course is the first half of French I, a high school credit course that is completed over two years.

Intermediate Art

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Intermediate Art. *(Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Art 7 or Sculpture and Crafts.)*

Course Description: Intermediate Art centers on the elements of art and principles of design, including: line, shape, form, space, color, and texture in addition to balance, proportion,



variety, symmetry, unity, emphasis, and rhythm. This course is designed for students to apply complex technical skills and previously learned concepts to their artwork.

Intermediate Theatre Arts

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Intermediate Theatre Arts. (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Theatre Arts 7.*)

Course Description: This is a year-long class for students interested in building stronger skills in Theatre production. Students must apply with a performance or tech based interest for a spot in this class. The first semester will be focused on building basic Theatre skills such as vocal acting, Costume Design, Improv Theatre, and Playwriting. The second semester will be centered around play production where students will rehearse and perform a one-act play in the Spring.

Introduction to Agriscience

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Agriscience Exploration 7.*)

Course Description: Students will explore the importance of plant and animal agriculture, scientific principles, agricultural mechanics, natural resources management, and career opportunities related to agriculture, agriscience, and agribusiness.

Lion Choir

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Lion Choir is a year-long course for 7th and 8th grade students who are ready to advance their vocal and musical skills. Students will strengthen vocal technique, develop part-singing abilities, improve music-reading skills, and perform a wide variety of choral repertoire. Students will participate in three performances a year: Veteran's Day, Winter and Spring Concerts. Students will also have the opportunity to attend the Busch Garden's Music in the Parks event.

Multimedia Journalism

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will focus on the process of collecting, writing, editing, and publishing print news. Students may participate in a culminating activity of publishing a school newspaper or similar journalistic publication. Students will also have an opportunity to learn the craft of photography and digital editing.

Sculpture and Crafts



Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Intermediate Art 7 or Art 7.*)

Course Description: This course will introduce students to creating 2- and 3-dimensional art and crafts, while working with a multitude of different materials and media. This is an introduction to the tools and techniques used in the industry of crafts and craft making.

Spanish I, Part A

Potential High School Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: Although not required, priority will be given to students who have earned an A or B in English 6.

Course Description: This foreign language course will introduce students to culture, elementary grammar, conversational skill development, and introductory reading and writing of Spanish. This course is the first half of Spanish I, a high school credit course that is completed over two years.

Symphonic Band

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Beginning Band. In addition, students must audition and be selected in order to participate in Symphonic Band.

Course Description: Symphonic Band is our most advanced Band course opportunity. This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Concert Band. Students who are excelling in Beginning Band may also audition for Symphonic Band. Additional activities for Symphonic Band students may include a Spring trip to Music in the Parks, participation in pep band, and other exciting performance opportunities.

Vox Anima

Prerequisites: Students must audition and be selected in order to participate in Vox Anima.

Course Description: Vox Anima is an advanced, auditioned choir for 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrate strong vocal technique, music-reading skills, and a high level of musical commitment. This year-long ensemble studies challenging multi-part repertoire and focuses on refined vocal production, artistic expression, and advanced ensemble skills. Members of Vox Anima are expected to model leadership within the choral program. Students will participate in three performances a year: Veteran's Day, Winter and Spring Concerts. Students will also have the opportunity to attend the Busch Garden's Music in the Parks event, along with other field trips.



Eighth Grade

Core Courses (Required)

English

English 8

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Eighth-grade students will create media messages and presentations for specific audiences, collaborate effectively, and expand vocabulary through word study. They will compare literary and informational texts, analyze themes, author styles, and viewpoints, and use mentor texts to guide their writing. Students will write expository and persuasive pieces using claims, evidence, and counterclaims, while refining grammar and structure. In research, they'll evaluate source credibility, identify bias, and cite using MLA or APA, building skills for future academic and career success.

English 8 Advanced

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: This course covers English 8 standards of learning (see English 8 course description) and is designed for students demonstrating strong critical thinking skills and a high level of academic achievement.

Lion Reading 8

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Lion Reading 7 is a required supplemental reading course paired with English 7 for students in need of additional reading support. This course is designed to support reading development and success with grade-level learning.

Math

Pre-Algebra 8

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: Pre-Algebra 8 prepares students for high school Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics by exploring real numbers and advanced proportional reasoning. Students calculate volume and surface area of complex 3D shapes, apply geometric transformations, and use the Pythagorean Theorem. They represent data with boxplots and scatterplots and continue practicing algebraic skills like simplifying expressions, solving multistep equations, and



graphing linear functions. Technology is integrated to support learning but does not replace fundamental understanding or basic computation skills. Students use a variety of tools, including mental math, paper, and digital resources, to solve problems. Throughout grades 6–8, students develop mathematical vocabulary and tackle increasingly complex problems to enhance critical thinking and communication.

Algebra I

Potential High School Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Pre-Algebra 7 as well as the Math 8 SOL.

Course Description: Mastering Algebra 1 is essential for success in higher-level math, building on algebraic thinking that begins in early education. The curriculum progresses through patterns, proportional reasoning, and representing relationships with tables, symbols, and graphs. All students are expected to achieve proficiency, using algebra to model real-world situations and connect concepts across geometry and statistics. Concrete materials help bridge numeric and symbolic understanding, while contextual applications give meaning to abstract ideas. Students use tables and graphs to interpret expressions, equations, inequalities, and analyze functions, including transformational graphing to link algebraic and graphical views. Technology, especially graphing tools, supports visualization, problem-solving, and deepens understanding throughout learning.

Foundations of Pre-Algebra

Prerequisites: Course Recommendation

Course Description: This course is designed to provide identified students with opportunities for intervention and remediation as they further develop their foundational math skills.

Science

Physical Science 8

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The Physical Science standards stress an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. Major areas covered by the standards include the particle nature of matter, the organization and use of the periodic table; physical and chemical changes; energy transfer and transformations; properties of longitudinal and transverse waves; electricity and magnetism; and work, force, and motion. The standards build on skills of systematic investigation with a clear focus on variables and repeated trials. Validating conclusions with evidence and data becomes increasingly important at this level. Mathematics, computational thinking, and experience in the engineering design process gain importance as students advance in their scientific thinking.



Social Studies

Civics and Economics

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Civics and Economics standards focus on citizens' roles in U.S. political, governmental, and economic systems. Students study foundational documents, citizen rights and responsibilities, and government structure at all levels. They compare the U.S. economy to others and examine government involvement in the market. The course promotes civic traits like patriotism, respect for law, public service, and civic duty. Students develop intellectual and practical skills for responsible citizenship and explore personal strengths to inform future decisions.

Health and PE

Health and PE 8

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: In eighth grade, students understand the origins and causes of diseases, including the impact of family history on health risks. They relate short- and long-term consequences of health choices and apply health skills to personal, family, and community concerns. Physically, students demonstrate competence in complex game, sport, rhythmic, and recreational activities, applying knowledge of body systems and nutrition to explain movement and energy balance. They practice socially responsible behaviors such as respect, integrity, and resisting peer pressure, while setting goals to improve health-related fitness. Students build a broad skill set across various activities, preparing for lifelong physical engagement.

Elective Courses

Semester Long Elective Options

Agriscience Exploration 8

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Introduction to Agriscience or Agriscience and Technology I.*)

Course Description: Students explore science as it relates to agriculture and develop an understanding of human relations, communication, the importance of agriculture to the economy, and key scientific terms related to the field of agriculture.

Art 8



Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Art I or Drawing and Painting.*)

Course Description: Students continue to gain an appreciation for art, its history, aesthetics and criticism. Using a variety of art media and techniques, students will create and explore artistic expression. Students will explore art vocabulary, visual literacy and cultural art.

Creative Writing 8

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Creative Writing explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Students will develop writing skills in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Design Multimedia

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will learn how to create, format, edit, and design a variety of word processing, desktop publishing, and slide presentations using Microsoft Office software. In addition, students will work to improve their touch typing skills and define/practice Workplace Readiness Skills.

Gifted Seminar 8

Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted in New Kent County Public Schools.

Course Description: Gifted Seminar is an elective course for identified gifted students who are curious, motivated, and enjoy thinking deeply. This class blends hands-on, project-based learning with opportunities to explore personal interests and real-world problems. Students will engage with interesting enrichment topics that go beyond the regular curriculum and spark curiosity and creativity. Through collaborative and independent projects, students will strengthen critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and research skills, while learning to ask big questions, try innovative ideas, and confidently share their learning in meaningful ways.

Technological Systems with Project Design

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Students will explore technological systems through hands-on activities. The class will explore occupational areas for technology-oriented careers. In addition, students will learn about technological systems and their impact on humans. Topics included

for discussion involve production, construction, and transportation with technological systems and improving life through biotechnology.

Theatre Arts 8

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Advanced Theatre Arts.*)

Course Description: Students will practice dramatic expression through creative story building, improvisations, and performance experiences. In addition, students will also explore various theater arts such as Melodrama, Shakespeare, Prop Design, Set Construction, and scene work. This course is designed to teach students the basics of creating, rehearsing, and presenting a performance while also teaching many other useful skills such as: collaboration, creative problem-solving, public speaking, and more.

Year Long Elective Options

Advanced Publications

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Advanced Publications. (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Multimedia Journalism.*)

Course Description: Students will gain skills in advanced publishing techniques, including: marketing, page design, journalistic writing, editing and photography. Participants gain useful, real world skills as they collaborate to produce a yearbook and other school-wide news publications, with the purpose of recording school memories and events. Priority will be given to students who have taken Multimedia Journalism.

Advanced Theatre Arts

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Advanced Theatre Arts. (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Theatre Arts 8.*)

Course Description: Advanced Theatre Arts 8 is a year-long class for students interested in building stronger skills in Theatre production. Students must apply with a performance or tech based interest for a spot in this class. The curriculum is production-based, and will center around long-term theatre projects designed to teach students the many ins-and-outs of producing a play. The students will rehearse and perform a one-act play in the Fall, as well as write and perform their own one-act play in the Spring. This class also features several other projects including Set Design, Stage Makeup, Scene Work, Monologue Work, Musical Theatre, and more.

Agriscience and Technology I

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Introduction to Agriscience or Agriscience Exploration 7. (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Agriscience Exploration 8.*)



Course Description: Through classroom instruction and hands-on laboratory activities, students will explore the fields of agriculture, food, and natural resources, to include: global agriculture; new and emerging technologies; agricultural mechanics; and careers in agribusiness; animal systems; environmental services; food products and processing; natural resources systems; plant systems; and power, structural, and technical systems.

Art I

Potential High School Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Intermediate Art 7.

Course Description: Students will be introduced to a variety of exciting opportunities in using the artistic thinking process to learn to think conceptually and realize potential as a creative and critical thinker in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Explore personal interests, while developing skills and techniques in the following areas: drawing, painting, graphics, fibers, ceramics, art history, and three-dimensional design. Course content includes art production, art appreciation, and studies in visual culture.

Beginning Band 7/8

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Beginning Band is for students in their first year of playing an instrument. Activities include playing at the Winter and Spring Band Concerts. Students select from a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. We have fun learning to play an instrument and making music together!

Concert Band

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Beginning Band.

Course Description: The Concert Band is generally made up of students who are in their second year of playing. Concert Band students perform in both the Winter and Spring concerts. They also have the opportunity to audition for honor bands throughout the year. Additional activities may include a Spring trip to Music in the Parks, participation in pep band, and other exciting performance opportunities.

Drawing and Painting

Prerequisites: None (*Note: This course cannot be taken concurrently with Art I or Art 8.*)

Course Description: Students will develop observation and accuracy skills as they progress through a variety of classroom assignments such as still life drawings, perspective drawings, portraiture, figure drawing, and landscape paintings. A wide range of drawing and painting media may be used including: graphite, charcoal, pastels, oil pastels, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylic, and tempera paint.



French I

Potential High School Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Although not required, priority will be given to students who have earned an A or B in English 7.

Course Description: This foreign language course will introduce students to culture, elementary grammar, conversational skill development, and introductory reading and writing of French.

French I, Part B

Potential High School Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed French I, Part A.

Course Description: This foreign language course will introduce students to culture, elementary grammar, conversational skill development, and introductory reading and writing language. This course is the second half of French I, a high school credit course that is completed over two years.

Helping Hands

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Helping Hands.

Course Description: Helping Hands are warm, helpful, compassionate students who will be assigned to assist a student with special needs during one class period on a given day (A Day or B Day). Helping Hands will interact and develop friendships with the students they are assigned to work with at New Kent Middle School. Although not a requirement, this course is an excellent opportunity for students that have an interest in pursuing a career in special education.

Introduction to Agriscience

Prerequisites: None (*Note: Students that have already completed Introduction to Agriscience in 7th grade should not request this course in 8th grade, as Agriscience and Technology I is designed for students needing the next level course. This course cannot be taken concurrently with Agriscience Exploration 8.*)

Course Description: Students will explore the importance of plant and animal agriculture, scientific principles, agricultural mechanics, natural resources management, and career opportunities related to agriculture, agriscience, and agribusiness.

Lion Choir

Prerequisites: None



Course Description: Lion Choir is a year-long course for 7th and 8th grade students who are ready to advance their vocal and musical skills. Students will strengthen vocal technique, develop part-singing abilities, improve music-reading skills, and perform a wide variety of choral repertoire. Students will participate in three performances a year: Veteran's Day, Winter and Spring Concerts. Students will also have the opportunity to attend the Busch Garden's Music in the Parks event.

Lion Helpers

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Lion Helpers.

Course Description: This is a year-long opportunity for students to mentor and work with kindergarten through fifth-grade students at New Kent Elementary School. Students are paired with an elementary school teacher and assist with planning for and implementing various classroom activities. Although not a requirement, this is an excellent opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in education.

Lion Interns

Prerequisites: Students must apply and be selected in order to participate in Lion Interns.

Course Description: Lion Interns are highly organized, responsible, and helpful students that are assigned to assist a specific teacher or staff member at New Kent Middle School. Students will assist with assigned classroom tasks and activities, such as preparing paint brushes for use in art class, organizing returned books in the library, and more.

Multimedia Journalism

Prerequisites: None (*Note: Students having already completed Multimedia Journalism in 7th grade should not request Multimedia Journalism again in 8th grade. Please consider applying for Advanced Publications if you are interested in continuing in this program.*)

Course Description: Students will focus on the process of collecting, writing, editing video-based news. Students may participate in an on-going activity of creating a school-wide news program. Students will also have an opportunity to learn the craft of videotaping and digital editing.

NJROTC I

Potential High School Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course introduces students to the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, the importance of citizenship, the elements of leadership, the U.S. government, and the value of scholarship in attaining life goals. Additional instruction includes the principles of health and first aid, geography, orienteering, map reading skills, survival



skills, financial skills, and an overview of the U.S. Navy, naval ships, and aircraft. The importance and promotion of a healthy lifestyle, including physical fitness, proper diet, controlling stress, and drug awareness, are pursued at the fundamental level.

Spanish I

Potential High School Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Although not required, priority will be given to students who have earned an A or B in English 7.

Course Description: Spanish I introduces students to the culture of countries that speak the language, elementary grammar, conversational skill development, and introductory reading and writing language.

Spanish I, Part B

Potential High School Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Spanish I, Part A.

Course Description: This foreign language course will introduce students to culture, elementary grammar, conversational skill development, and introductory reading and writing language. This course is the second half of Spanish I, a high school credit course that is completed over two years.

Symphonic Band

Prerequisites: Students must have taken and passed Beginning Band. In addition, students must audition and be selected in order to participate in Symphonic Band.

Course Description: Symphonic Band is our most advanced Band course opportunity. This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Concert Band. Students who are excelling in Beginning Band may also audition for Symphonic Band. Additional activities for Symphonic Band students may include a Spring trip to Music in the Parks, participation in pep band, and other exciting performance opportunities.

Vox Anima

Prerequisites: Students must audition and be selected in order to participate in Vox Anima.

Course Description: Vox Anima is an advanced, auditioned choir for 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrate strong vocal technique, music-reading skills, and a high level of musical commitment. This year-long ensemble studies challenging multi-part repertoire and focuses on refined vocal production, artistic expression, and advanced ensemble skills. Members of Vox Anima are expected to model leadership within the choral program. Students will participate in three performances a year: Veteran's Day, Winter and Spring Concerts.

Students will also have the opportunity to attend the Busch Garden's Music in the Parks event, along with other field trips.

Sample Student Schedules

Sixth Grade

Sample Schedule A	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	Foundations of Math 6	Lion Reading 6	Math 6 Advanced	Health and PE 6
B Day	English 6	Science 6	U.S. History to 1865	Quarter 1: Art 6
				Quarter 2: Exploratory Theatre Arts
				Quarter 3: Business Skills and Keyboarding
				Quarter 4: Introduction to Choir

Sample Schedule B	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	U.S. History to 1865	Math 6	Lion Reading 6	Beginning Band
B Day	Science 6	Foundations of Math 6	English 6 Advanced	Health and PE 6

Seventh Grade

Sample Schedule A	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	U.S. History: 1865 - Present	English 7	Health and PE 7	Math 7
B Day	Lion Reading 7	Life Science 7	Semester 1: Creative Writing 7	Foundations of Math 7
			Semester 2: Computer Solutions 7	

Sample Schedule B	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	U.S. History: 1865 - Present	English 7	Health and PE 7	Math 7
B Day	Life Science 7	Vox Anima	Semester 1: Art 7	Lion Reading 7
			Semester 2: Inventions and Innovations 7	

Sample Schedule C	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	Pre-Algebra 7	English 7 Advanced	Semester 1: Gifted Seminar 7	Life Science 7
			Semester 2: Theatre Arts 7	
B Day	Introduction to Agriscience	Spanish I, Part A	Health and PE 7	U.S. History: 1865 - Present

Eighth Grade

Sample Schedule A	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	Pre-Algebra 8	Health and PE 8	Civics and Economics 8	English 8
B Day	Foundations of Pre-Algebra	Semester 1: Design Multimedia	Lion Reading 8	Physical Science 8
		Semester 2: Theatre Arts 8		

Sample Schedule B	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	Physical Science 8	Semester 1: Technological Systems with Project Design	Civics and Economics 8	Lion Reading 8
		Semester 2: Agriscience Exploration 8		
B Day	Symphonic Band	Health and PE 8	Pre-Algebra 8	English 8

Sample Schedule C	First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Fourth Period
A Day	English 8	Semester 1: Art 8	Algebra I	Beginning Band 7/8
		Semester 2: Creative Writing 8		
B Day	Spanish I	Health and PE 8	Civics and Economics 8	Physical Science 8



General Scheduling Information

Applying and Auditioning for Electives

Starting January 5, 2026, students can stop by the school counseling office to pick up more information about how to apply or audition for certain electives. Auditions must be completed and applications must be submitted by the end of the school day on Friday, January 16, 2026. Please refer to the Course Opportunities section to see if the elective your child is interested in requires an audition or application.

Submitting Course Requests

Parents and Guardians of returning students will receive information by email about how to submit elective requests for the 2026–27 school year as a family. Course requests will be submitted through the Parent/Student PowerSchool portal between Monday, February 2, 2026 and Friday, February 6, 2026. All rising 6th grade students will request one year long elective or four quarter long electives, in addition to one alternate elective. All rising 7th and 8th grade students will request their top two year-long and top two semester-long electives, along with two alternates for each category. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss prior to submitting course requests, please contact your child's school counselor.

Parents and Guardians of new students will receive a packet with elective information that includes a course request form upon enrollment at New Kent Middle School. Elective requests can be submitted to Ms. McWhorter, school registrar, at the time of enrollment or soon after.

Drop/Add Policy

If you would like to drop or add a class from your student's schedule, this must be submitted through the Course Change Request Form that is sent by email in August when schedules are published. Course change requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Some elective courses have limited space due to high demand. As a result, many students may see their second choice electives on their schedules.

All course change requests will be processed by the end of the day on the day before the first day of school. No changes can be made to student schedules after this date. Course changes due to extenuating circumstances must be approved by a school counselor and an administrator.



Exceptional Education Needs

Gifted Education Services

Students identified as gifted receive gifted education services through the course that aligns with their gifted identification, including Math and/or English. Students identified as gifted in Math are placed on an advanced math pathway in order to provide them with the appropriate level of challenge. Students identified as gifted in reading/language arts are placed in an Advanced English course. Gifted students are also encouraged to request Gifted Seminar as an elective each year for further support. For more information on New Kent Middle School's gifted and talented program, please visit New Kent County Public Schools' website.

Special Education Services

Our special education teachers serve on the course recommendation committee and utilize data collected throughout the school year to ensure that students are placed in the most appropriate courses based on their level of need in each unique subject area.

Planning for High School

High School Credit Courses Offered (2026-27)

Course Name	Grade Level	Potential High School Credit
Algebra I	7th Grade, 8th Grade	1.0
Art I	8th Grade	1.0
French I, Part A	7th Grade	0.5
French I, Part B	8th Grade	0.5
NJROTC I	8th Grade	1.0
Spanish I	8th Grade	1.0
Spanish I, Part A	7th Grade	0.5
Spanish I, Part B	8th Grade	0.5

Grades earned in courses bearing high school credit will be factored into student grade point averages, unless the grade is expunged. They will also be included in students' transcripts.

Grade Point Average Scale

Percent Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Point Average
97-100%	A+	4.3
93-96%	A	4.0
90-92%	A-	3.7
87-89%	B+	3.3
83-86%	B	3.0
80-82%	B-	2.7
77-79%	C+	2.3
73-76%	C	2.0



70-72%	C-	1.7
67-69%	D+	1.3
63-66%	D	1.0
60-62%	D-	0.7
59% or Below	F	0.0

Expunging Grades for High School Credit Courses

Expunge letters are distributed to students who have received a C or below in a high school credit course during the final month of school, outlining your child's school counselor's recommendations. Expunging a grade means that the grade will not factor into their grade point average. If a parent or guardian chooses to expunge a grade, this allows the student to retake the course and work towards a higher grade. The expunged grade will remain on record in a student's academic history. All signed forms must be submitted to the School Counseling office by the end of the school day on the final day of school.

Development of Academic and Career Plans (8th Grade)

Each year, the 8th grade school counselor visits 8th grade classrooms to assist students in developing Academic and Career Plans. In these visits, the school counselor covers information such as high school diploma opportunities, high school course opportunities, and how to begin planning for a future career. Once students have received this information in class, they will come home with a printed Xello portfolio and a diploma planning worksheet for families to review together. Families are encouraged to discuss these plans with their 8th grade student(s) in order to help prepare them for high school and beyond. More information is provided by email to families in the late fall.

High School Diploma Requirements

Key Terms

- Standard Credit: Credit earned for taking and passing a high school level course
- Verified Credit: Credit earned for taking and passing a high school course's Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment



Standard Diploma Course and Verified Credit Requirements

Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	Specifications
English	4	2	N/A
Mathematics	3	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two different course selection from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses approved by the board to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.
Laboratory Science	3	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selection from at least two different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics, or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Standards of Learning content from multiple academic areas. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit. Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association, or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for either a laboratory science or history and social science verified credit when



			the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the board as an additional test to verify student achievement.
History and Social Sciences	3	0	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history, Virginia and U.S. government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association, or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for either a laboratory science or history and social science verified credit when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the board as an additional test to verify student achievement.
Health and Physical Education	2	0	N/A
World Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	2	0	Credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical course credit.
Economics & Personal Finance	1	0	N/A

Electives	4	0	Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives. More information is provided in the Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the SOA (8VAC-20-131).
Total	22	5	

Additional Requirements for Standard Diploma

- AP, Honors, IB, Dual Enrollment, Work-Based Learning, or CTE Credential – Students shall (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment course; or (ii) complete a high-quality work-based learning experience, as established by Board guidance on work-based learning; or (iii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.
- Virtual Course – Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online. Guidance on this requirement is provided in the Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the SOA (8VAC20-131) (Word).
- First Aid, CPR, and AED Training – Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED), including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420(B).
- Demonstration of the 5 C's – In accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in Virginia's 5 C's: critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.



Advanced Diploma Course and Verified Credit Requirements

Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	Specifications
English	4	2	N/A
Mathematics	4	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: algebra I, geometry, algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.
Laboratory Science	4	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Standards of Learning content from multiple academic areas. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.
History and Social Sciences	4	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history, Virginia and U.S. government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.
World Language	3	0	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.
Health and Physical Education	2	0	N/A



Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1	0	An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical course credit.
Economics & Personal Finance	1	0	N/A
Electives	3	0	Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives. More information is provided in the Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the SOA (8VAC-20-131).
Total	26	5	

Additional Requirements for Advanced Diploma

- AP, Honors, IB, Dual Enrollment, Work-Based Learning, or CTE Credential – Students shall (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment course; or (ii) complete a high-quality work-based learning experience, as established by Board guidance on work-based learning; or (iii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies 5 diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.
- Virtual Course – Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online. Guidance on this requirement is provided in the Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the SOA (8VAC20-131).
- First Aid, CPR, and AED Training – Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED), including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420.



- Demonstration of the 5 C's – In accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in Virginia's 5 C's: critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.