



2026-2027

ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

Mr. Trent Liggett, Principal
Mrs. Heidi Reuss, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Rachel Ratz, Director of Student Services

By enrolling in Franklin County Middle School, each parent/guardian acknowledges that they, and their student, have read and understand the handbook and discipline policy at FCMS.

Franklin County Middle School

2026-2027 ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

Mission Statement:

Our mission at FCMS is to provide every student with the opportunity to receive a safe and quality education where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Vision Statement

All students will embrace learning, excel academically, and own their futures.

Expectations for Academic Success

For middle school academic success, students are expected to develop good work and study habits in order to come to school ready to learn and with all assignments completed. Homework reinforces what the student has learned under the instruction of the teacher and is important for practice of the concepts learned in class. Homework is also necessary for good preparation for projects, discussion, quizzes, presentations, etc. The following expectations are common throughout the school for all students:

- Students will arrive at class on time.
- Students will come to class prepared with completed assignments, pencils or pens, paper, texts, or other required materials to class each day.
- Students will request and return all work completed to the teacher after an absence.
- Students will follow directions given by the teacher.
- Students will participate in classroom discussions.
- Students will not disrupt the education of others.
- Students will take notes as appropriate for thorough understanding and reference.
- Students will be respectful of others in the class.
- Students will maintain good attendance in all classes.
- Students will not copy the work of others or allow other students to copy his/her work.

FRANKLIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING SCALE: Grades 6-8

98%-100%	A+
93%-97%	A
90% -92%	A-
88% -89%	B+
83% - 87%	B
80% -82%	B
77% -79%	C+
73% - 76%	C
70% -72%	C
67% -69%	D+
63% - 66%	D
60% -62%	D
59% and below	F

HOMWORK POLICY

Homework refers to an assignment to be completed during a period of supervised study in class, outside of class, or at home. It is the student's responsibility to return all completed work to the teacher by the date requested. Students are expected to make up work missed during an absence. Homework is assigned to enhance instruction and increase student understanding. Homework is also used as a formative assessment to provide information to teachers about student learning outcomes.

Homework may be defined as out of class preparation in a given subject area which is assigned, suggested, or approved by the student's teacher. The Franklin County Community School Corporation policy as well as individual teacher's homework policy shall be distributed and/or discussed with students and parents at the beginning of each semester and shall be reviewed as the need arises throughout the year. Homework shall be viewed as reinforcing teacher instruction, not a substitute for teacher instruction. The following is a list of suggestions and guidelines for homework implementation.

1. Homework assignments shall be specific and students shall know what is expected of them.
2. Homework shall be an integral part of the classroom activities. It shall never be "busy work" or construed as punishment, and it shall not be assigned for disciplinary reasons.
3. Teachers in a departmentalized situation shall be aware of their colleagues' assignment practices so that students are not overburdened with homework.
4. Since all homework shall be evaluated and the results shared with the students, the teacher shall develop a clearly understood procedure for evaluating assignments.
5. Cooperation by parents is a necessary factor in meaningful homework experiences. Parents are encouraged to support their children by showing interest and exhibiting helpful attitudes toward school and homework.
6. The students, with guidance from teachers and parents, have the responsibility to develop good work and study habits.
7. After a student is absent, **it is the student's responsibility to request, complete, and return all assigned work** to the teacher at a rate of two school days per day absent. Example: If a student misses Thursday and Friday the student would be expected to gather the work no later than Monday. The work would be due during school on Friday. Days when school is closed due to weather count as a day for work to be completed.
8. Many assignments can be accessed through Canvas when students are absent.
9. If there is a concern regarding homework, please communicate this concern to your child's teachers. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with his/her teachers to make up for any missed work.

HONOR ROLL

To provide students with the proper recognition for their academic achievements, administrative personnel will publish the honor roll at the end of each grading period. Students receiving A's and B's will earn Honor Roll status. Students who receive an Incomplete (I), except for documented health reasons in physical education, will not be placed on the honor roll.

FRANKLIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY

Franklin County Middle School Honor Society By-Laws

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students at Franklin County Middle School.

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Membership is an honor bestowed upon deserving eighth grade students based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, service, and citizenship.

Article III: Eligibility

Section 1. Students eligible for selection to the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society must be in eighth grade. Section 2. To be eligible for selection, students must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Franklin County Middle School.

Section 3. Students eligible for selection to the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 3.75 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted grade point average). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission.

Section 4. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and grade point average requirements, students shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character through an application and essay process.

Section 5. An active member of the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the Principal (alt., advisor)

Section 6. An active Honor Society (or National Junior Honor Society) member who transfers to this school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Article IV: Selection of Members

Section 1. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility (at least a 3.75 on a 4.0 scale).
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the application form and essay for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty advisor shall appoint at least two (2) faculty members to assist in determining eligibility of newly inducted students.

Section 2. The selection of new, active members shall be held once each year in the first semester. (Alternative or additional selection periods may be added.)

Section 3. Students become members when inducted at a special ceremony held in the first semester.

Article V: Obligations of Members

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be free.

Section 2. Each member is required to attend scheduled meetings. Additional meetings may be called based on the needs of specific committees on which various members may serve. Section 3. Each member is required to participate in at least two (2) school-sponsored community service projects each school year.

Section 4. Each member is required to maintain a quarterly grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale.

Article VI: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship, or service may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society. A member is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.75), he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the advisor and school administration. The action may include dismissal from the Honor Society.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. Section 4. Students cannot receive more than two (2) discipline slips during a school year or they will be considered for dismissal from the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society. Section 5. A member who resigns or is dismissed may never again be considered for membership in the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society.

Article VI: Building Administration

Section 1. The principal and/or assistant principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the

organization. Section 2. The principal and/or assistant principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as the advisor, who may serve consecutive terms. Co-advisors may be appointed where necessary.

Section 3. The principal and/or assistant principal shall receive appeals in cases of non selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

Article VII: The Faculty Advisor

Section 1. The faculty advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the organization and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community. Section 2. The faculty advisor shall maintain files on membership, activities, and financial transactions.

Section 3. The faculty advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with organization standards and obligations.

Section 4. The faculty advisor shall help elected student officers understand and carry out their duties.

Article VIII: Officers

Section 1. The Franklin County Middle School Honor Society shall elect one (1) president to carry out the meetings and collaborate with the faculty advisor; one (1) vice-president to preside in the absence of the president and shall keep record of the members' contributions to leadership and service; and one (1) secretary to record the meeting minutes.

Section 2. The election of student officers shall be conducted with self-nomination or peer-nomination. Then, the candidate receiving at least a majority (51%) of the vote will be elected to the position for one (1) year.

Article IX. Meetings

Section 1. Meetings shall be held at least once every two (2) weeks during the IMPACT period from 3:00-3:30p.m. Meetings may be added due to the workload of a service project. *Article X. Amendment*

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Honor Society, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members at least two (2) weeks prior to the vote. Sections dealing with revisions to the procedures for selection, disciplining, and dismissal of members can be changed only by the school administration and faculty advisor.

Statement of non-discrimination: the Franklin County Middle School Honor Society maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

If a student earns two or more F's on a midterm or quarterly report card, students will be placed on Academic Probation. Grades will be reviewed at the end of each midterm or quarter grading period to check the academic status of all students. Students who have earned grades which place them on academic probation, will not be permitted to participate in after-school activities, incentive field trips or other activities such as dances, extracurricular activities and other special events during or after school. Parents and students shall be notified of academic probation by email.

ACCESS TO ONLINE GRADES, MIDTERM REPORTS, AND REPORT CARDS

FCMS uses PowerSchool as the student information system. PowerSchool allows student and parent online access to grades. By logging into PowerSchool students may see their academic progress at any time. Students and parents/guardians who do not have access to the online grade book account may contact the school secretary for assistance. Midterm, Quarterly, and Semester report card grades will be emailed to parents. In addition, grades will be sent home each week through parents' emails that are in PowerSchool.

Grade 6

COURSE OFFERINGS

All FCMS six-grade students are required to take the following courses:

- Language Arts
- Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

SPECIALS COURSE OFFERINGS

- Specials -
 - Physical Education (9 Weeks)
 - Art (9 Weeks)
 - Computer Science (9 Weeks)
 - Exploring Music (9 weeks)
- Electives:
 - Instrumental Music (Band)

Students may choose to take instrumental music (band), vocal music (choir), or both instrumental music (band) and vocal music (choir).

Grade 6 - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Language Arts, grade six, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking, listening and media interest and age-appropriate content. Students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging text. Students interpret figurative language and words with multiple meanings. Students examine an author's choice of words and logic of statements in nonfiction works. Students critique the believability of characters and plots in fiction works. Students begin to read autobiographies. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment. Students apply language skills and strategies they learned in earlier grades. Using oral discussion, reading, writing, art, music, movement, and drama, students respond to fiction, nonfiction, and informational selections or reality-based experiences, multimedia presentations, and classroom or group experiences. Students apply their research skills by writing or delivering reports that demonstrate the distinction between their own ideas and the ideas of others. Students use simple, compound, and complex sentences to express their thoughts. Students deliver oral presentations on problems and solutions and show evidence to support their views. Students also listen to literature read aloud and write independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0420.6

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

READING AND LITERATURE 6 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Reading and Literature, grade six, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading in content that is interesting and age appropriate. Students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging text. Students interpret figurative language and words with multiple meanings. Students examine an author's choice of words and reasonableness of statements in nonfiction works. Students critique the believability of characters and plots in fiction works. Students begin to read autobiographies. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0480.06

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

LANGUAGE ARTS LAB 6 (Needs Based) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Language Arts Lab is supplemental to language arts to provide students with individualized or small group instruction designed to support success in completing language arts studies aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts in grades six through eight. ● Recommended Grade Level: grades six through eight.

- For students who need additional support in all the language arts areas (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)

- Note: This may also be used for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions in English/language arts.

IDOE Course Code: 0428.68

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on NWEA scores and classroom performance

Not For High School Credit

MATHEMATICS 6 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Mathematics, grade six standards are made up of five strands: Number Sense; Computation ; Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; and Data Analysis and Statistics. The skills listed in each strand indicate what students in grade six should know and be able to do in Mathematics. grade six begins the transition from the heavy emphasis on number and operations at the elementary school level towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level. Students connect previous knowledge of multiplication, division, and fractions to ratios and proportional relationships; extend previous understanding of the number system and operations to fractions and negative numbers; apply and extend previous understandings of the number line to plot coordinate pairs on a Cartesian (coordinate) plane; formalize algebraic thinking into algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities; apply their previous knowledge of geometry in real world and mathematics situations; and begin to develop understanding of statistical variability and distributions. Using the Process Standards for Mathematics in a planned and deliberate method to present the Mathematics content standards will prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of the mathematics. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0430.06

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

MATHEMATICS LAB 6 (Needs Based) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Mathematics Lab provides students with individualized instruction designed to support success in completing mathematics content aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for Mathematics. Mathematics lab is to be taken in conjunction with the study of mathematics, and the content of Mathematics lab should be tightly aligned to the corresponding content being studied. A mathematics lab should relate and reinforce mathematics skills students have learned previously, fill in gaps and misconceptions of previous content, and present the current content in concrete and hands-on methods.

- Recommended grade level: grades six through eight
- For students who need additional support in mathematics.
- Note: This may also be used for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions in Mathematics.

IDOE Course Code: 0432.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

SCIENCE 6 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and science and engineering practices, students in grade six investigate simple models of waves and how they are reflected, absorbed, and transmitted. They will observe how analog and digital transmission are different. Students will describe biodiversity, photosynthesis, resource availability, cycling of matter, and organismal interactions in ecosystems. Students will investigate lunar cycles, scale in the solar system and gravity in the universe.

IDOE Course Code: 0460.06

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Students in grade six compare the history, geography, government, economic systems, current issues, and cultures of the Western World with an emphasis on: (1) Europe, (2) North America, (3) South America, (4) Central America, (5) and the Caribbean region. Instructional programs for grade six students include experiences that foster the passage from concrete examples to abstract reasoning, concepts, ideas, and generalizations. Opportunities to develop skills include the use of a variety of resources and activities. Grade six students should acquire positive attitudes regarding active participation, cooperation, responsibility, open-mindedness, and respect for others. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the History/Social Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. This one-semester course should be taught to students during the first semester of their sixth grade year.

IDOE Course Code: 0470.06

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

CIVICS 6 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Students explain major principles, values, and institutions of constitutional government and citizenship, which are based on the founding documents of the United States and how the three branches of government share and check power within our federal system of government. This course is taught during the second semester of the sixth grade.

IDOE Course Code: 0471.06

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

Grade 6 - FINE AND PRACTICAL ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART 6 (9 Weeks) MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE AND PRACTICAL ARTS Visual Arts Grade Six Visual Arts in grades four through six is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Visual Arts. Students in the elementary art education program build on the sequential learning experiences of the early childhood program that encompass art history, criticism, aesthetics, and production. Through self-reflection, which includes dialogue, reading, and writing, students analyze each component of their arts education as well as their own personal growth. Throughout the program, students engage in various forms of communication, utilizing a rich vocabulary and a variety of technological resources. Students make connections between art and other disciplines. Students also utilize art community resources, explore career opportunities in art, and identify opportunities for involvement in the arts community. Beginning in grade six, along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum

of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0410.6

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

COMPUTER SCIENCE 6 (9 Weeks) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Computer science builds upon the computer science standards for grade bands K-2 and 3-5, and helps to provide a seamless transition to introductory high school coursework. The standards focus on Indiana's Six Core Computer Science Concepts: Data and Information, Computing Devices and Systems, Programs and Algorithms, Networking and the Internet, Impact and Culture, and Digital Literacy. Focusing on these domains, students engage in core practices to develop computational thinking skills as they experience and apply a variety of computer science concepts in order to build a solid foundation for more advanced and specialized studies.

IDOE Course Code: 0488.68

Not For High School Credit

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 (9 Weeks) MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE AND PRACTICAL ARTS Physical Education in grade six is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Physical Education. Students in grade six physical education continue to develop psychomotor skills through participation in a variety of developmentally appropriate sports (individual, dual, and team), rhythmic activities, lifetime recreational activities, and fitness activities. The focus is on the development of complex movement skill combinations and knowledge. The focus is on the development of complex movement skill combinations and knowledge. Students develop an understanding of physiological changes, which occur as a result of physical activity. Students expand their knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies as well as how other concepts like self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics affect learning and performance. Students learn to work cooperatively toward a common goal. Ongoing assessment is conducted throughout the curriculum. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching

IDOE Course Code: 0450.06

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

EXPLORING MUSIC 6 (9 weeks) MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE AND PRACTICAL ARTS

Exploring Music, Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music. Students are provided with activities that build on kindergarten through grade six musical knowledge and skills. Instruction is designed to enable students to perform and create music, respond to music, and integrate music study into other subject areas. Activities and experiences in music are designed to develop students' appreciation of music as an art form, to build the foundation for music literacy, and to understand music as it relates to history, culture, and the community. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (BAND) 6 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE

**Instrument rental is an additional cost.*

Instrumental Music, Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by beginning or continuing to play an instrument. The instrumental classes provide instruction in any of the following areas: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, and keyboard instruments, including electronic instruments. Ensemble and solo activities are designed for students to develop basic elements of musicianship including tone production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities include improvising; composing; reading, notating, and sight-reading music; listening; analyzing; evaluating; and experiencing historically significant styles of literature. Students are given opportunities to participate in performances outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0442.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

Grade 7

COURSE OFFERINGS

All FCMS seventh-grade students are required to take the following courses:

- Language Arts/Reading 7
- Mathematics 7
- Science 7
- Social Studies 7
- Computer Science 7
- Physical Education 7 (Exception offered at the discretion of administration.)

ELECTIVE COURSES

Fine and Practical Arts Electives (Exception offered at the discretion of administration.)

The Fine and Practical Arts Rotation classes include art, family and consumer science (FaCS), and exploring agriculture science and business. Seventh grade students will take each subject area for one semester of the school year.

Elective courses are courses that are not required, but you may participate by choosing to take one or more of them. FCMS offers the following electives at grade 7:

- Art 7
- Intermediate Art 7
- Computer Science 7
- Vocal Music (Choir) 7
- Exploring Agriculture Science and Business 7
- Instrumental Music (Band) 7
- Language Lab 7 (needs based)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Language Arts, grade seven, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Art, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media interest and age-appropriate content. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in reading. Students understand comparisons, such as analogies and metaphors, and they begin to use their knowledge of roots and word parts to understand science, social studies, and mathematics vocabulary. Students begin to read reviews, as well as critiques of both informational and literary writing. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in language. Using oral discussion, reading, writing, art, music, movement, and drama, students respond to fiction, nonfiction, and informational selections or reality-based experiences, multimedia presentations, and classroom or group experiences. Students write or deliver longer research reports that take a position on a topic, and they support their positions by citing a variety of sources. Students use a variety of sentence structures and modifiers to express their thoughts. Students deliver argumentative presentations that state a clear position in support of an argument or proposal. Students also listen to literature read aloud and write independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0420.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Language Arts, grade seven, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Art, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media interest and age-appropriate content. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in reading. Students understand comparisons, such as analogies and metaphors, and they begin to use their knowledge of roots and word parts to understand science, social studies, and mathematics vocabulary. Students begin to read reviews, as well as critiques of both informational and literary writing. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in language. Using oral discussion, reading, writing, art, music, movement, and drama, students respond to fiction, nonfiction, and informational selections or reality-based experiences, multimedia presentations, and classroom or group experiences. Students write or deliver longer research reports that take a position on a topic, and they support their positions by citing a variety of sources. Students use a variety of sentence structures and modifiers to express their thoughts. Students deliver argumentative presentations that state a clear position in support of an argument or proposal. Students also listen to literature read aloud and write independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0420.07 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements on page 24 and 25.

Not For High School Credit

READING AND LITERATURE (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Reading and Literature, grade seven, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, in content that is interesting and age-appropriate. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in reading. Students understand comparisons, such as analogies and metaphors, and they begin to use their knowledge of roots and word parts to understand science, social studies, and mathematics vocabulary. Students begin to read reviews, as well as critiques of both informational and literary writing. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0480.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HONORS READING AND LITERATURE 7 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Reading and Literature, grade seven, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, in content that is

interesting and age-appropriate. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in reading. Students understand comparisons, such as analogies and metaphors, and they begin to use their knowledge of roots and word parts to understand science, social studies, and mathematics vocabulary. Students begin to read reviews, as well as critiques of both informational and literary writing. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0480.07 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements on page 25 and 26.

Not For High School Credit

LANGUAGE ARTS LAB 7 (Needs Based) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Language Arts Lab is supplemental to language arts to provide students with individualized or small group instruction designed to support success in completing language arts studies aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts in grades six through eight.

- Recommended Grade Level: grades six through eight.
- For students who need additional support in all the language arts areas (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)
- Note: This may also be used for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions in English/language arts.

IDOE Course Code: 0428.68

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on NWEA scores and classroom performance

Not For High School Credit

MATHEMATICS 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Mathematics, grade seven standards are made up of five strands: Number Sense; Computation; Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability. The skills listed in each strand indicate what students in grade seven should know and be able to do in mathematics. Grade seven continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that began in grade six. Students extend ratio reasoning to analyze proportional relationships and solve real-world and mathematical problems; extend previous understanding of the number system and operations to perform operations using all rational numbers; apply properties of operations in the context of algebraic expressions and equations; create, describe, and analyze geometric figures and the relationships between them; apply understandings of statistical variability and distributions by using random sampling, making inferences, and investigating chance processes and probability models. Using the Process Standards for mathematics in a planned and deliberate method to present the mathematics content standards will prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of the mathematics. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0430.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HONORS MATHEMATICS 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Mathematics, grade seven standards are made up of five strands: Number Sense; Computation; Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability. The skills listed in each strand indicate what students in grade seven should know and be able to do in mathematics. Grade seven continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that began in grade six. Students extend ratio reasoning to analyze proportional relationships and solve real-world and mathematical problems; extend previous understanding of the number system and operations to perform operations using all rational numbers; apply properties of operations in the context of algebraic expressions and equations; create, describe, and analyze geometric figures and the relationships between them; apply understandings of statistical variability and distributions by using random sampling, making inferences, and investigating chance processes and probability models. Using the Process Standards for mathematics in a planned and deliberate method to present the mathematics content standards will prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of the mathematics. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0430.07 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements

Not For High School Credit

MATHEMATICS LAB 7 (Needs Based) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Mathematics Lab provides students with individualized instruction designed to support success in completing mathematics content aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for Mathematics. Mathematics lab is to be taken in conjunction with the study of mathematics, and the content of Mathematics lab should be tightly aligned to the corresponding content being studied. A mathematics lab should relate and reinforce mathematics skills students have learned previously, fill in gaps and misconceptions of previous content, and present the current content in concrete and hands-on methods.

- Recommended grade level: grades six through eight
- For students who need additional support in mathematics.
- Note: This may also be used for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions in Mathematics.

IDOE Course Code: 0432.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

SCIENCE 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and

science and engineering practices, students in grade seven apply Newton's third law, investigate what determines a change in an object's motion, determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces, investigate gravitational interactions and other forces. Students investigate how arrangement of objects changes the amount of potential energy in the system and what relationships affect kinetic energy in a system. Students will understand that all living things are 33 Indiana Department of Education: Elementary and Middle School Course Titles and Descriptions: 2023-2024 made of cells and be able to describe the structure, function, and overall interactions of cells. Students will investigate how rock strata tell the age of the planet, how geoscience processes have changed the Earth's surface, and how Earth's materials drive cycling and flow of energy. Students will learn how previous natural catastrophes inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.

IDOE Course Code: 0460.07

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on NWEA scores and classroom performance

Not For High School Credit

HONORS SCIENCE 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and science and engineering practices, students in grade seven apply Newton's third law, investigate what determines a change in an object's motion, determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces, investigate gravitational interactions and other forces. Students investigate how arrangement of objects changes the amount of potential energy in the system and what relationships affect kinetic energy in a system. Students will understand that all living things are 33 Indiana Department of Education: Elementary and Middle School Course Titles and Descriptions: 2023-2024 made of cells and be able to describe the structure, function, and overall interactions of cells. Students will investigate how rock strata tell the age of the planet, how geoscience processes have changed the Earth's surface, and how Earth's materials drive cycling and flow of energy. Students will learn how previous natural catastrophes inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.

IDOE Course Code: 0460.07 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements on page 25 and 26.

Not For High School Credit

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Students in grade seven explore the history, geography, government, economic systems, current issues, and cultures of the Eastern World with an emphasis on: (1) Asia, (2) Africa, (3) the Middle East, (4) the Pacific Islands, (5) Australia, and (6) New Zealand. Learning experiences for students in grade seven should help them to make the transition from concrete information to abstract ideas, concepts, and generalizations. In-depth studies provide greater understanding of environmental influences on economic, cultural, and political institutions. Opportunities to develop thinking and research skills include reading and interpreting maps, graphs, and charts. Decision-making and problem-solving activities should include the following: (1) identifying problems, issues and questions; (2) information gathering; (3) hypothesizing; and (4) evaluating alternative solutions and actions. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the History/Social Studies IDOE Course Code: 0470.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Physical Education in grade seven is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Physical Education. Students in grade seven physical education continue to refine complex combinations of movement in selected sports and activities. Students apply more advanced strategies in physical activities and try new sports and lifetime physical activities. The focus is on meeting challenges and making decisions in the context of expanded personal responsibility. Students learn about different cultures and how they relate to the physical activities and dances from those countries. Students continue to expand their knowledge of rules and strategies, sportsmanship, and cooperative skills as well as fitness concepts and the benefits of health-related fitness. Ongoing assessment includes both written and performance-based skill evaluations. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0450.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

COMPUTER SCIENCE 7 (1 semester) - MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Engineering and Technology Education, Middle Level provides students with hands-on, problem-based learning opportunities to develop, produce, use, and assess products related to engineering and technology. Students additionally develop individual and teamwork skills to participate in society and the workplace. The four domains included in these standards are general engineering and technology concepts, engineering design and development, producing and using technology, and technology careers. Activities should focus on content related to engineering and technology as a body of knowledge, using resources and actions to: (1) apply engineering design, (2) use processes to produce artifacts and systems, (3) used devices tools and systems safely and appropriately, (4) and assess impacts on society and the environment. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0490.68

Not For High School Credit

Grade 7 - FINE AND PRACTICAL ARTS ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART 7 (1 semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Visual Arts Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Visual Arts. Students in the middle level program build on the sequential learning experiences of the elementary program that encompass art history, criticism, aesthetics, and production. Through self-reflection, including dialogue, reading, and writing, students analyze each component of

their arts education as well as their own personal growth. Throughout the program, students engage in various forms of communication, utilizing a rich vocabulary and a variety of technological resources. Students continue to utilize their art knowledge and skills to make connections across the curriculum, study career options, and identify skills required for those careers. Additionally, students identify how to utilize resources of the arts community as well as how they can support the arts community. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code: 0410.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

INTERMEDIATE ART 7 (1 Semester) Middle School Elective Visual Arts Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Visual Arts. Students in the middle level program build on the sequential learning experiences of the elementary program that encompass art history, criticism, aesthetics, and production. Through self-reflection, including dialogue, reading, and writing, students analyze each component of their arts education as well as their own personal growth. Throughout the program, students engage in various forms of communication, utilizing a rich vocabulary and a variety of technological resources. Students continue to utilize their art knowledge and skills to make connections across the curriculum, study career options, and identify skills required for those careers. Additionally, students identify how to utilize resources of the arts community as well as how they can support the arts community. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code: 0410.07

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND BUSINESS 7 (1 semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE The Middle Level Exploring Agriculture Science and Business has flexibility in content due to the variety of local offerings. The nature of this course is to provide students with an overview of various aspects of the agriculture industry. Topics to be covered in this course can include: leadership, supervised agriculture experience, plant and soil science, natural resources, animal science, agribusiness, food science, and power, structure, and technical systems. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code:

0496.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (BAND) 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE *Instrument rental is an additional cost.*

Instrumental Music, Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by beginning or continuing to play an instrument. The instrumental classes provide instruction in any of the following areas: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, and keyboard instruments, including electronic instruments. Ensemble and solo activities are designed for students to develop basic elements of musicianship including tone production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities include improvising; composing; reading, notating, and sight-reading music; listening; analyzing; evaluating; and experiencing historically significant styles of literature. Students are given opportunities to participate in performances outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0442.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

VOCAL MUSIC (CHOIR) 7 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Vocal Music Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by participating in choral ensemble classes. Ensemble classes provide group and solo activities and are designed to develop students' musicianship including vocal production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities and experiences include improvising and composing music; listening to, analyzing, and evaluating music; and performing vocal literature of various styles, historical periods, and world cultures. Students also participate in performance opportunities outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code: 0444.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

Grade 8

Course Offerings

FCMS eighth-grade students are required to take the following courses:

- Language Arts/Reading 8 (2 Semesters)
- Mathematics 8 (2 Semesters)
- Preparing for College and Careers (1 high school credit - 1 semester course)
- Computing Foundations for a Digital Age (1 high school credit - 1 semester course)
- Science 8 (2 Semesters)
- Social Studies 8 (2 Semesters)
- Physical Education 8 (1 Semester)
- Health 8 (1 semester for 1 high school credit)

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students have the opportunity to select two semester courses or one full year course from the classes listed below.

- Art 8 (1 semester)
- Computing Foundations for a Digital Age 8 (1 semester for high school credit)
- Journalism 8 (1 semester)
- FACS - Family and Consumer Science 8 (1 semester for high school credit)
- Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (1 high school credit per semester - 2 semester course) *Prerequisite required.
- Introduction to Construction (1 high school credit per semester - 2 semester course)
- Digital Media (1 semester)
- Instrumental Music (Band) - (2 Semesters)
- Vocal Music (Choir) - (2 Semesters)

WHY ARE HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS IMPORTANT?

A credit means that a student passes the class with a C- or higher. One (1) credit per semester is earned for every class that is taken and passed. Students need 40 credits to graduate from FCHS with a Core 40 diploma. Forty-two(42) credits are needed to graduate from FCHS with an Academic Honors diploma. Credits must be earned in the appropriate courses. Grades for high school courses taken while in 8th grade will count towards your cumulative GPA at FCHS.

Grade 8 - PREREQUISITES (REQUIREMENTS) FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT CLASSES

Prerequisite means there is a requirement that must be met before you are allowed to be in a class. Introduction to Construction, Preparing for College and Careers, and Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources are classes for which successful completion will earn a high school credit as an eighth-grade student. Because these are high school level classes, the prerequisites are not negotiable and there is no process for appeal. Listed below are the high school classes you may select if you meet the requirements as listed.

Grade 8 - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT

Language Arts, grade eight, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media interest and age-appropriate content. Students begin to study the history and development of English vocabulary. Students begin to compare different types of writing as well as different perspectives on similar topics or themes. Students evaluate the logic of informational texts and analyze how literature reflects the backgrounds, attitudes, and beliefs of the authors. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment. Students get ready for the language challenges of high school materials. Using oral discussion, reading, writing, art, music, movement, and drama, students respond to fiction, nonfiction, and informational selections or reality-based experiences, multimedia presentations, and classroom or group experiences. Students not only write or deliver research reports but also conduct their own research. Students use subordination, coordination, noun phrases and other devices of English language conventions to indicate clearly the relationship between ideas. Students deliver a variety of types of presentations and effectively respond to questions and concerns from the audience. Students also listen to literature read aloud and write independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0420.8

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT

Language Arts, grade eight, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media interest and age-appropriate content. Students begin to study the history and development of English vocabulary. Students begin to compare different types of writing as well as different perspectives on similar topics or themes. Students evaluate the logic of informational texts and analyze how literature reflects the backgrounds, attitudes, and beliefs of the authors. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such

as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment. Students get ready for the language challenges of high school materials. Using oral discussion, reading, writing, art, music, movement, and drama, students respond to fiction, nonfiction, and informational selections or reality-based experiences, multimedia presentations, and classroom or group experiences. Students not only write or deliver research reports but also conduct their own research. Students use subordination, coordination, noun phrases and other devices of English language conventions to indicate clearly the relationship between ideas. Students deliver a variety of types of presentations and effectively respond to questions and concerns from the audience. Students also listen to literature read aloud and write independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0420.8 (H)

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

READING AND LITERATURE 8 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT

Reading and Literature, grade eight, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, in content that is interesting and age-appropriate. Students begin to study the history and development of English vocabulary. Students begin to compare different types of writing as well as different perspectives on similar topics or themes. Students evaluate the logic of informational texts and analyze how literature reflects the backgrounds, attitudes, and beliefs of the authors. Students read and respond to fiction selections, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy or science fiction, mystery or adventure, folklore or mythology, poetry, short stories, and dramas, and nonfiction selections, such as subject area books, biographies or autobiographies, magazines and newspapers, various reference or technical materials, and online information. Students self-select books of interest and read independently for enjoyment.

IDOE Course Code: 0480.8

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

LANGUAGE ARTS LAB 8 (Needs Based)

Language Arts Lab is supplemental to language arts to provide students with individualized or small group instruction designed to support success in completing language arts studies aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts in grades six through eight.

- Recommended Grade Level: grades six through eight
- For students who need additional support in all the language arts areas (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)

Note: This may also be used for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions in English/language arts.

IDOE Course Code: 0428.68

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on NWEA scores and classroom performance

Not For High School Credit

MATHEMATICS 8 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT

Mathematics (grade eight standards) are made up of five strands: Number Sense; Computation; Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability. The skills listed in each strand indicate what students in grade eight should know and be able to do in Mathematics. Grade eight continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that was started in grades 6 and 7. Students extend their understanding of rational numbers to develop an understanding of irrational numbers; connect ratio and proportional reasoning to lines and linear functions; define, evaluate, compare, and model with functions; build understanding of congruence and similarity; understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem; and extend their understanding of statistics and probability by investigating patterns of association in bivariate data. Using the Process Standards for Mathematics in a planned and deliberate method to present the mathematics content standards will prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of the mathematics. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0430.8

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HONORS ALGEBRA 1 (2 Semesters) ONE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PER SEMESTER

Replaces the eighth-grade math requirement.

Algebra I formalizes and extends the mathematics students learned in the middle grades. Algebra I is made up of six strands: Real Numbers and Expressions; Functions; Linear Equations, Inequalities, and Functions; Systems of Equations and Inequalities; Quadratic and Exponential Equations and Functions; and Data Analysis and Statistics. These critical areas deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will also engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. The eight Process Standards for Mathematics apply throughout the course. Together with the content standards, the Process Standards prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Recommended Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

2 semester course, 1 credit per semester

Fulfills a Mathematics course requirement for all diplomas

Fulfills the Algebra I/Integrated Mathematics I requirement for all diplomas

Students pursuing Core 40, Core 40 with Academics Honors, or Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma should receive credit for Algebra I by the end of Grade 9

IDOE Course Code: 2520 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements on page 24 and 25.

High school credit earned with a grade of "B-" or above.

HONORS GEOMETRY (2 Semesters) ONE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PER SEMESTER

Replaces the eighth-grade math requirement.

Geometry formalizes and extends students' geometric experiences from the middle grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. Seven critical areas comprise the Geometry course: Logic and Proofs; Points, Lines, Angles, and Planes; Triangles; Quadrilaterals and Other Polygons; Circles; Transformations; and Three-dimensional Solids. The eight Process Standards for Mathematics apply throughout the course. Together with the content standards, the Process Standards prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Recommended Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Required Prerequisites: See high ability requirements on page 25 and 26, Algebra I

2 semester course, 1 credit per semester

Fulfills a Mathematics course requirement for all diplomas

Fulfills the Geometry/Integrated Mathematics II requirement for the Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma.

IDOE Course Code: 2532 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements on page 24 and 25.

High school credit earned with a grade of "B-" or above.

MATHEMATICS LAB 8 (Needs Based) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE Mathematics Lab provides students with individualized instruction designed to support success in completing mathematics content aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for Mathematics. Mathematics lab is to be taken in conjunction with the study of mathematics, and the content of Mathematics lab should be tightly aligned to the corresponding content being studied. A mathematics lab should relate and reinforce mathematics skills students have learned previously, fill in gaps and misconceptions of previous content, and present the current content in concrete and hands-on methods.

- Recommended grade level: grades six through eight
- For students who need additional support in mathematics.
- Note: This may also be used for students who need Tier 2 and 3 interventions in Mathematics.

IDOE Course Code: 0432.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

SCIENCE 8 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and science and engineering practices, students in grade eight will understand basic chemistry including the atomic structure of simple elements and molecules, laws of conservation of mass, and simple chemical reactions. They will also learn that synthetic materials come from natural resources and how substances react when thermal energy is provided to a system. Students will learn about reproduction in plants, genetic factors that influence the growth of organisms, and basic statistics of genetic variation. They will analyze the fossil record for organisms that have gone extinct that resemble organisms present today and investigate how humans can manipulate genetic traits. Students will also investigate the interactions of the Earth's systems, its climate, and its weather and how humans impact Earth's systems.

IDOE Course Code: 0460.8

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HONORS SCIENCE 8 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and science and engineering practices, students in grade eight will understand basic chemistry including the atomic structure of simple elements and molecules, laws of conservation of mass, and simple chemical reactions. They will also learn that synthetic materials come from natural resources and how substances react when thermal energy is provided to a system. Students will learn about reproduction in plants, genetic factors that influence the growth of organisms, and basic statistics of genetic variation. They will analyze the fossil record for organisms that have gone extinct that resemble organisms present today and investigate how humans can manipulate genetic traits. Students will also investigate the interactions of the Earth's systems, its climate, and its weather and how humans impact Earth's systems.

IDOE Course Code: 0460.8 (H)

Prerequisite: See high ability requirements

Not For High School Credit

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT Students in grade eight focus on United States history. This study begins with a brief review of early history, including the Revolution and Founding Era, and the principles of the United States and Indiana constitutions, as well as other founding documents and their applications to subsequent periods of national history and to civic and political life. Students then study national development, westward expansion, social reform movements, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Period. Students examine major themes, issues, events, movements, and figures in United States history through the Reconstruction Period (1877) and explore relationships to modern issues and current events. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the History/Social Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0470.8

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

HEALTH AND WELLNESS (1 Semester)

Health and Wellness, grade six, grade seven, and grade eight, provides for the continued development of attitudes and behaviors related to becoming a health-literate individual as part of a planned, sequential, comprehensive health education curriculum that uses the Indiana Academic Standards for Health and Wellness to support student development of essential health skills within the ten health content areas. Developmentally appropriate concepts of personal and community health; safety and injury prevention; nutrition and physical activity, mental health; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and family life and human sexuality are areas used for skill development. The adolescent student has instructional opportunities to investigate how health behaviors impact health, well-being, and disease prevention and to accept personal responsibility for health-related decisions. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0452.68

Prerequisite: None

One (1) High School Credit

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT

Physical Education in grade eight based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Physical Education. Students in grade eight physical education further refine complex motor skills and competencies in selected individual and dual lifetime physical activities, team sports, aquatics, adventure, and rhythmic activities. Students work toward achieving competence in increasingly complex physical activity contexts. Students learn to apply interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g., anatomy, physics) to activity settings and focus on working as a team to solve problems. Students develop plans to enhance their own health-related physical fitness and participate in vigorous activities linked to their skills and levels of fitness. Physical activity is used as a venue for self-expression and for developing positive relationships. Ongoing assessment includes both written and performance-based skill evaluations. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code: 0450.08

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE & CAREERS (1 Semester) ONE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT Preparing for College and Careers addresses the knowledge, skills, and behaviors all students need to be prepared for success in college, career, and life. The focus of the course is the impact of today's choices on tomorrow's possibilities. Topics to be addressed include twenty-first century life and career skills; higher order thinking, communication, leadership, and management processes; exploration of personal aptitudes, interests, values, and goals; examining multiple life roles and responsibilities as individuals and family members; planning and building employability skills; transferring school skills to life and work; and managing personal resources. This course includes reviewing the 16 national career clusters and Indiana's College and Career Pathways, in-depth investigation of one or more pathways, reviewing graduation plans, developing career plans, and developing personal and career portfolios. A project based approach, including computer and technology applications, cooperative ventures between school and community, simulations, and real life experiences, is recommended. IDOE Course Code: 5394

Prerequisites: None

Special Notes: Course counts towards the Health and Safety credit. Graduation requirement starting with the class of 2022.

Diploma Fulfillment: Requirement/Elective/Health Waiver/QR Course

COMPUTING FOUNDATIONS FOR A DIGITAL AGE 8 (1 Semester) High School Credit

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

Required course for new IN diplomas

Elective Course Descriptions

ART 8 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE

Visual Arts Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Visual Arts. Students in the middle level program build on the sequential learning experiences of the elementary program that encompass art history, criticism, aesthetics, and production. Through self-reflection, including dialogue, reading, and writing, students analyze each component of their arts education as well as their own personal growth. Throughout the program, students engage in various forms of communication, utilizing a rich vocabulary and a variety of technological resources. Students continue to utilize their art knowledge and skills to make connections across the curriculum, study career options, and identify skills required for those careers. Additionally, students identify how to utilize resources of the arts community as well as how they can support the arts community. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code: 0410.08

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP 8 (1 Semester) No High School Credit

Digital Citizenship prepares students to use computer technology in an effective and appropriate manner. Students develop knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and communications software. Students establish what it means to be a good digital citizen and how to use technology appropriately. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science / Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0495.68

Prerequisites: None

FACS FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 8 (1 Semester) ONE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Middle level FACS prepares students to begin their journey toward becoming independent, productive citizens. The middle school curriculum includes standards for five units of study that are essential for ALL students: Life and Careers, Financial Literacy, Nutrition and Wellness, Human Development, and Relationships. Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS), Middle Level prepares students to acquire personal skills and plan ways to transfer those skills to the workplace; investigate and assume appropriate individual and family roles; understand and apply concepts of balancing work and family; and acquire skills and attitudes that lead them to contribute to the good of the community and society. FACS curriculum includes acquisition of problem-solving, decision-making, higher-order thinking, communication, literacy, and numerical skills in applied community, work, and family contexts. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE Course Code:

0492.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES (2 Semesters) ONE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PER SEMESTER

Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources is highly recommended as a prerequisite to and a foundation for all other agricultural classes. The nature of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the fundamentals of agricultural science and business. Topics to be covered include: animal science, plant and soil science, food science, horticultural science, agricultural business management, landscape management, natural resources, agriculture power, structure and technology, leadership development, supervised agricultural experience and career opportunities in the area of agriculture, food and natural resources.

IDOE Course Code: 5056

Prerequisite: None

Diploma Fulfillment: Elective

JOURNALISM 8 (1 Semester) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE

Journalism, a course based on the Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts and the Indiana High School Journalism Standards, is a study of news elements, journalism history, First Amendment law, ethics, fact, and opinion, copy editing, news, and features as they apply to print and digital media products. It includes a comparison study of journalistic writing to other types of English writing with practical application of news, features, editorials, reviews, columns, and digital media writing forms. For the second credit: Students continue to develop journalistic writing skills in addition to studying graphic design, advertising, public relations, photojournalism and emerging media development and design.

IDOE Course Code: None

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

INTRODUCTION TO CONSTRUCTION (2 SEMESTERS) ONE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PER SEMESTER

Introduction to Construction offers students hands-on activities and real-world experiences related to the skills essential in residential, commercial, and civil building construction. During the course students will be introduced to the history and traditions of construction trades. The student will also learn and apply knowledge of the care and safe use of hand and power tools as related to each trade. In addition, students are introduced to blueprint reading, applied math, basic tools and equipment, and safety. Students will demonstrate building construction techniques, including concrete and masonry, framing, electrical, plumbing, dry walling, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and painting as developed locally in accordance with available space and technologies. Students learn how architectural ideas are converted into projects and how projects are managed during a construction project in this course. Students study construction technology topics such as preparing a site, doing earthwork, setting footings and foundations, building the superstructure, enclosing the structure, installing systems, finishing the structure, and completing the site. Students also investigate topics related to the purchasing and maintenance of structures, special purpose facilities, green construction and construction careers.

IDOE Course Code: 4792

Recommended Grade(s): 9, 10

Required Prerequisites: None

Recommended Prerequisites: None

1 or 2 semester course, 1 credit per semester, 2 credits maximum

Counts as a directed elective or elective for all diplomas

When offered as applied: 2 units maximum; counts as an employability applied unit for alternate diploma

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (BAND) 8 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE

**Instrument rental is an additional cost.*

Instrumental Music, Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by beginning or continuing to play an instrument. The instrumental classes

provide instruction in any of the following areas: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, and keyboard instruments, including electronic instruments. Ensemble and solo activities are designed for students to develop basic elements of musicianship including tone production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities include improvising; composing; reading, notating, and sight-reading music; listening; analyzing; evaluating; and experiencing historically significant styles of literature. Students are given opportunities to participate in performances outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

IDOE Course Code: 0442.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

VOCAL MUSIC (CHOIR) 8 (2 Semesters) MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE

Vocal Music Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by participating in choral ensemble classes. Ensemble classes provide group and solo activities and are designed to develop students' musicianship including vocal production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities and experiences include improvising and composing music; listening to, analyzing, and evaluating music; and performing vocal literature of various styles, historical periods, and world cultures. Students also participate in performance opportunities outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development. IDOE

Course Code: 0444.68

Prerequisite: None

Not For High School Credit

Grades 7 and 8 - HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM

At FCMS we are proud to be able to offer an array of classes for high ability students. Research-based assessments are used to establish qualifying scores in an effort to preserve the integrity of our high ability courses. Students who qualify and desire to participate in high ability courses must earn at least a B- in each quarter to continue in that high ability class. Students who do not achieve at least a B- in a high ability course will be placed on high ability probation for the next grading period. If a student earns below a B- for two consecutive grading periods in a high ability course the student will be exited from that course the following grading period.

HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once a student is accepted into the Honors program, they are expected to maintain grades of 80% or higher throughout each course. Honors students' performance is reviewed at the following times during each school year: midterm of 1st quarter, end of 1st semester, end of 2nd semester. If a student shows deficiency (below 80%) at any performance review, the student may be subject to a placement change into the appropriate math level. Any student grade 9-12 that is removed from the Honors program will not be eligible for reinstatement. Any student grade 7-8 that is removed from an Honors course may be eligible for reinstatement into the same Honors course the following year. No student may advance to a higher Honors course without successful completion (80% minimum grade entire year) of the prerequisite Honors course and recommendation of the teacher.

Any middle school math student who has successfully completed Algebra I and/or Geometry (at the high school level) by maintaining a B minimum score for the entire year may earn 2 high school math credits per class. Algebra I and/or Geometry will be included on the high school transcript and the grades will be included in their cumulative GPA.

Grade 7 - HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM ADMISSION CRITERIA

Honors Language Arts 7

Criteria: (one of the following)

- NWEA 95% or "Above Proficiency" on ILearn
- Written Teacher Recommendation

Additional Criteria:

Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in language arts for the year.

- Once placed in the ELA Honors 7 class students must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class each quarter.
- Students who fall short of the B- for a quarter will be placed on probation.
- Students who earn grades below a B- for two consecutive grades will be removed from the honors ELA class and placed in a regular grade level ELA class.

Appeal Criteria (if space is available):

- NWEA Reading score of 219 or above at any point during sixth grade.

Additional Criteria:

Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in reading for the year.

- Students who enter the honors ELA program through the appeals process are admitted on a probationary status.
- Students on probation must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class through the first two quarters to continue in the class.

Honors Math 7 (for incoming 6th grader)

Students are automatically enrolled if they are “Above Proficient” on ILEARN and “C” or higher in the student’s math course work. If a student is automatically enrolled in a middle school advanced math course, the school corporation shall provide notice to a parent of the student that the:

- Student has been automatically enrolled; and
- Parents may provide notice to the school to opt the student out of the automatic enrollment.

Honors Math 7 (for incoming 7th grader)

Students are automatically enrolled if they are “Above Proficient” on ILEARN and “C” or higher in the student’s math course work. If a student is automatically enrolled in a middle school advanced math course, the school corporation shall provide notice to a parent of the student that the:

- Student has been automatically enrolled; and
- Parents may provide notice to the school to opt the student out of the automatic enrollment.

Criteria:

- “Above Proficiency” on the ILearn assessment
- Earns a “C” or higher in the student’s math course work

Additional Criteria:

- Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in math for the year.
- Once placed in the Math Honors 7 class students must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class each quarter.
- Students who fall short of the B- for a quarter will be placed on probation.
- Students who earn grades below a B- for two consecutive grades will be removed from the honors Math class and placed in a regular grade level Math class.
- Written teacher recommendation

Appeal Criteria (if space is available):

Additional Criteria:

- Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in Math for the year.
- Students who enter the honors Math program through the appeals process are admitted on a probationary status.
- Students on probation must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class through the first two quarters to continue in the class.

Honors Algebra I

Criteria:

- Successful completion of Honors Math 7 or Honors Math 8
- NWEA score of 230

Additional Criteria:

- Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in math for the year.
- Once placed in the Math Honors 7 class students must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class each quarter.
- Students who fall short of the B- for a quarter will be placed on probation. Students who earn grades below a B- for two consecutive grades will be removed from the honors Math class and placed in a regular grade level Math class.
- Written teacher recommendation
- NWEA score of 225 on winter and spring assessment

Appeal Criteria (if space is available):

Additional Criteria:

- Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in Math for the year.
- Students who enter the honors Math program through the appeals process are admitted on a probationary status.

- Students on probation must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class through the first two quarters to continue in the class.

Honors Science 7

Criteria: (Must meet all of the points below)

- NWEA 95% or “Above Proficiency” on ILearn
- Teacher Recommendation

Grade 8 - HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM ADMISSION CRITERIA

At FCMS we are proud to be able to offer an array of classes for high ability students. Research-based assessments are used to establish qualifying scores in an effort to preserve the integrity of our high ability courses. Students who qualify and desire to participate in high ability courses must earn at least a B- in each quarter to continue in that high ability class. Students who do not achieve at least a B- in a high ability course will be placed on high ability probation for the next grading period. If a student earns below a B- for two consecutive grading periods in a high ability course the student will be exited from that course the following grading period. Students who finish seventh grade in good standing will continue into the high ability program in that subject area in eighth grade. New enrollees to FCMS must meet the criteria listed below to be placed into the high ability program:

Honors Language Arts 8

Criteria:

- NWEA Reading score of 225 or above at any point during seventh grade.

Additional Criteria:

- Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in seventh-grade English/language arts for the year.
- Once placed in the ELA Honors 8 class students must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class each quarter. Students who fall short of the B- for a quarter will be placed on probation.
- Students who earn grades below a B- for two consecutive grades will be removed from the honors ELA class and placed in a regular grade level ELA class.

Appeal Criteria (if space is available):

- NWEA Reading score of 223 or above at any point during sixth grade.

Additional Criteria:

- Students must achieve at least one of the above criteria and earn a grade point average of 3.0 in seventh grade English/language arts for the year.
- Students who enter the honors ELA program through the appeals process are admitted on a probationary status.
- Students on probation must maintain a minimum of a B- in the class through the first two quarters to continue in the class.

Honors Math 8

- NWEA score of 240 or “Above Proficiency” on ILearn
- Written Teacher Recommendation

Honors Math 8 *For incoming 7th grade students*

- NWEA score of 240 or “Above Proficiency” on ILearn
- Successful completion of Honors Math 7
- Written Teacher Recommendation

Honors Algebra 1

FCSC students may be eligible to enroll in Algebra 1 Honors upon successful completion of Honors Math 7 or 8. Students must meet the following requirements to be considered for acceptance into Algebra 1 Honors:

Criteria:

- NWEA score of 90%+
- Minimum grade of 80% each quarter of Honors Math 7
- Written Teacher Recommendation.

Honors Geometry

Criteria:

- Must have successfully completed Honors Algebra 1 with a grade of at least an 83% average for the second semester grade.
- Note: Students are placed in Honors Geometry according to excellent performance in Algebra 1 and therefore students may not appeal for entrance into the course.

Honors Science 8

Criteria:

- Successful completion of Honors Science 7 or Successful completion of Science 7 with a minimum first semester science grade of A.
- A written teacher recommendation is required for placement.