



REGISTRATION GUIDE 2025-26

Andrew Lewis Middle School

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Dear ALMS Families,

Welcome to the Andrew Lewis Registration Guide! Information contained within this document will be used to provide your student with important information about this school, as well as the City of Salem School Division.

Contained in this document are the following:

- Program of Studies
- Testing Information
- Graduation Requirements
- Types of Diplomas
- Opportunities to earn high school credits at ALMS
- Course descriptions and registration materials

As you can see, this document contains a great deal of information.

Students should always consult their parents/guardian, teachers, and their school counselor for assistance in making course selections. Our goal at Andrew Lewis Middle School is for every student to have the best educational experience possible. These important decisions should result in a thoughtful class registration that will contribute to an exciting and engaging year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Matthew Coe,
Principal

The Andrew Lewis Program

As the middle school for the City of Salem, Andrew Lewis provides a nurturing, yet academically rigorous program of studies for students in grades six, seven, and eight. Committed teachers, supportive parents, and generous community involvement make possible the challenging curriculum and instructional programs outlined on the following pages.

What follows in this guide is a listing of the many programs and opportunities available to students which can provide the support they need to be successful at Andrew Lewis Middle School.

Team Teaching at ALMS

Andrew Lewis Middle School utilizes a team teaching approach in grades six, seven, and eight. Each academic team has a team leader who serves as the contact person, or liaison, between the building principal and the team. The purpose of the team is to give teachers the opportunity to address students' academic and behavioral needs in a collaborative manner. Parents who need to meet with their student's team of teachers should contact the team leader, who will schedule a time for a parent-teacher conference between the family and the team teachers.

Gifted Program

The focus of the gifted program at the middle school is on differentiation, extension, and enrichment of the regular curriculum for those students identified as gifted in general intellectual abilities. Working together, the classroom teachers and the gifted education specialists will plan challenging educational activities for these students. The students may also attend after-school workshops and seminars in areas of interest as they are offered. In the fall of 8th grade, students have the option to visit and then apply for a place in the Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Math and Science.

Family Life Education

The Family Life Education program is implemented through health education classes. This abstinence-based program seeks to prepare students to make sound decisions regarding interpersonal relationships and behaviors. This will be accomplished through the use of factual information pertaining to the issues addressed in the family life education program. A copy of the family life curriculum is available at ALMS.

D.A.R.E. Program

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), part of the family life education program, is taught in health classes for both seventh and eighth grades. The School Resource Officer teaches it cooperatively with the physical education teacher. The seventh grade D.A.R.E. course consists of ten lessons instructing students on substance abuse prevention and strategies of violence prevention. The eighth grade D.A.R.E. curriculum consists of five lessons instructing students on the various types of drugs and their effects on the mind and body.

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Exploratory

Exploratory classes are designed for sixth grade students to explore areas in which they may have an interest. Students rotate through these six skill building classes, after which they may decide to pursue a more intensive study in the next grade level. For example, sixth grade students participate in art, career, engineering, keyboarding, exploratory 6, and family and consumer science exploratory I. If interested, sixth grade students may choose to register for a full year of band 6 or choir 6 rather than take the Exploratory classes.

Special Education

It is the policy of Salem City Public Schools to adhere to federal and state regulations, as they have been promulgated by the United States Department of Education and the Virginia Board of Education to implement special education programs for children with disabilities, consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Specifically, these mandates are detailed in the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia (Virginia Regulations) and any additional documents that the Virginia Department of Education publishes to address federal and state statutes and regulations for delivering special education and related services to children. 8 VAC 20-81-30 A; 8 VAC 20-81-230B.1.a

Grading Scale

- A - 90 - 100
- B - 80 - 89
- C - 70 - 79
- D - 60 - 69
- F - 59 or below

Procedures to Determine Promotion or Retention

School division Policy IKFC states the following regarding promotion and retention:

The decision to promote or retain a student in middle school shall be primarily based upon the recommendation of a committee of the student's teachers, counselor, and administrators. The parents of students who are not mastering the knowledge and skills of the curriculum shall be notified as early as is reasonable. At the school level, the final decision to promote or retain a student rests with the principal. Parents who wish to appeal the principal's decision shall direct their appeal in writing to the Superintendent.

Middle School: Grades 6 and 7

Students in grades 6 and 7 are enrolled in four courses in the core academic areas: reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and history and social science. They must demonstrate a proficient level of knowledge and skills in a minimum of three of the four academic courses in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Students who score below 400 on any SOL tests must successfully complete an approved remediation program.

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Middle School: Grade 8

Students in grade 8 must demonstrate a proficient level of knowledge and skills in three of the four core academic areas (English, mathematics, science, and history and social science) in order to be promoted to grade 9. In addition, the student must score 400 or more on the English and mathematics SOL tests. For students who score below 400 on the English or mathematics 8 SOL tests, but who meet all other requirements for promotion, the satisfactory completion of an approved remedial program will be the basis for promotion to the next grade level. Students who score below 400 on the history and social science or science SOL tests will be required to successfully complete an approved remediation program.

Effect of End-of-Course SOL Test Scores at Middle School

Students who take end-of-course SOL tests at the middle school are held to the same standards that apply to these courses if taken at the high school. Any student who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit in order to graduate will be required to participate in an approved remediation program. Students will be encouraged to retake failed SOL tests as permitted by the Board of Education.

Academic and Career Guidance Career Exploration & Planning

Developing a career plan means taking steps beginning in middle school to explore areas of career interests. To be prepared to attend a college or university you will also need to begin to plan in middle school. Remember that the grades you earn and the activities in which you participate are important factors when seeking college admission.

To assist in career development, school counselors will work with students in the following areas:

- Complete career interest inventories
- Review Virginia Department of Education's 16 Career Clusters:
 - Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
 - Architecture & Construction
 - Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
 - Business Management & Administration
 - Education & Training
 - Finance
 - Government & Public Administration
 - Health Science
 - Hospitality & Tourism
 - Human Services
 - Information Technology
 - Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 - Manufacturing
 - Marketing
 - Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
 - Transportation
- Develop an academic/career plan

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- Participate in your 7th Grade Career Day
- Provide information to parents regarding academic planning
- Utilize online programs to support career and college exploration

High School Credit Classes

Students wishing to enroll in high school credit classes at Andrew Lewis should do so only after careful consideration of the following:

1. When one enrolls in a credit class, the high school transcript is therefore begun. The grades earned in those classes will count toward the student's grade point average for graduation.
2. Students enrolled in credit classes are subject to the same course rules and regulations as students at the high school: e.g., dropping and adding classes. See the drop/add policy below.
3. Parents may request that a grade earned by a middle school student in a high school credit-bearing course be omitted from the student's record. "Request to Omit Grade" forms are mailed to parents/guardians at the end of each school year in which the credit would have been earned. These must be signed, dated, and returned to the Guidance Office by the dates specified in order to have the course grade omitted. Please note: An Algebra 1 course pass or Algebra 1 SOL pass is required to dual enroll a course at the high school (i.e. AP World History Modern for 9th grade) for Virginia Western Community College.

Credit toward high school graduation will be given only upon successful completion of any of the following courses:

Course:	Credit:	Course:	Credit:
Algebra I	1.0	Photoj8/Design, Multimedia & Web Tech	1.0
Geometry	1.0	Digital Applications	0.5
World Geography	1.0	Principles of Business and Marketing	0.5
French I	1.0	Computer Science Foundations	0.5
Spanish I	1.0	Design, Multi-Media & Web Tech	0.5
German I	1.0	Art Foundations	0.5
		Intro to Early Childhood Development	0.5
		Introduction to Culinary Arts	0.5
		Physical Education 9	0.5
		Health 9	0.5

Drop/Add Policy

Changes from one course to another will be made under the following circumstances only:

- A. Failure of a course which is a prerequisite for a scheduled course or a graduation requirement
- B. Human or computer error
- C. Change in program of study
- D. Grouping adjustments and balancing of class sizes
- E. Recommendation of screening committee and/or eligibility committee

Dropping a high school credit course:

Salem City Schools does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, or age in employment or in its educational programs and activities.

- a. Students who drop a credit course will receive no credit for that course.
- b. Students who transfer to a lower level class (ex.: moving from Algebra I to Pre-Algebra) will carry with them the grade they earned in the previous class.
- c. A signed and dated "Request to Omit Grade" form must be submitted to the Guidance Office at the close of the semester in which the credit would have been earned.

Adding a high school credit course:

- a. No student may add a semester credit course after the first 7 days of a semester.
- b. No student may add a full-year credit course after the first 7 days of the school year.
- c. Exception: Students moving from Algebra I to Pre-Algebra may move during the first semester.

Student athletes are reminded that they must carry a minimum of 5 credits at all times. Questions should be referred to the athletic director.

Transfer students from other accredited schools will be evaluated and placed based upon the merits of their individual cases.

Credits Required for Graduation with a Standard Diploma

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics ¹	3	1
Laboratory Science ²	3	1
History and Social Sciences ³	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education ⁴	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives ⁵	4	
Total	22	5

¹Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two different course selections from among: algebra I, geometry, algebra functions, and data analysis, algebra II, or other mathematics courses approved by the board to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.

² Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selection from at least two different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics, or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate SOL content from multiple academic areas. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.

³ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. History, Virginia and U.S. Government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

⁴ Credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical course credit.

⁵ Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives. (Sequential electives are a series of two related, one credit courses or a combination of four .5 credit courses in a related content area.)

Credits Required for Graduation with an Advanced Diploma

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Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics ¹	4	1
Laboratory Science ²	4	1
History and Social Sciences ³	4	1
World Language ⁴	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives ⁵	3	
Total	26	5

¹Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: algebra I, geometry, algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. An approved [computer science](#) course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.

²Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. An approved computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.

³Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. History, Virginia and U.S. Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

⁴Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages. A student who is pursuing an advanced diploma and whose IEP specifies a credit accommodation for world language may substitute two standard units of credit in computer science for two standard units of credit in a world language.

⁵Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives. (Sequential electives are a series of two related, one credit courses or a combination of four .5 credit courses in a related content area.)

Additional Requirements for Graduation

- AP, Honors, IB, Dual Enrollment, Work-Based Learning, or CTE Credential
- Virtual Course (done through Economics and Personal Finance)
- First Aid, CPR, and AED Training
- **Demonstration of the 5 C's** – In accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in Virginia's 5 C's: critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.

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Common Course Pathways

The following tables illustrate the common pathways that a student's course selections in math, science, history/social science, and language arts may follow. These pathways assume successful completion of the previous course as well as meeting other prerequisites that may apply. **This is intended as a planning guide only.**

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	English 8	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
			Adv. English	English 9 Honors	English 10 AP Seminar	English 11 CP	English 12 CP
						AP Language & Composition	AP Language & Composition or AP Literature
Science	Science 6	Life Sci 7	Physical Science	Environmental Science	Biology	Chemistry, AP Env. Sci., Earth Science 1 or 2, Physics, AP Physics 1	<i>(None Required for the Standard Diploma)</i>
				Biology	Chemistry	Environ Sci., AP Env. Sci., Physics, AP Physics 1, AP Biology, AP Chemistry	Environ Science AP Env. Science, Anatomy, Physics, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Physics C, AP Biology, AP Chemistry
Social Studies	Social Science 6	Social Science 7	World Geography	World History: Modern	<i>(None required for either diploma if World Geography earned at ALMS)</i>	Virginia and US History	Virginia and US Government
					World History: Ancient		
				AP World History: Modern	AP Human Geography	AP US History	AP Government and Politics

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Math	Math 6	Math 7	Pre-Algebra 8	Algebra I	AFDA	Geometry	Algebra 2
					Geometry	AFDA Algebra 2	Algebra 2 Trigonometry or Data Science
	Advanced Math 6	Pre-Alg 7	Algebra I	Geometry	AFDA	Algebra 2	Trigonometry or Data Science
					Algebra 2 Algebra 2 w/ Trig Honors	Trigonometry AP Pre-Calculus	AP Pre-Calculus or Data Science AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics
	Advanced Math 6	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra 2	Trigonometry	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics
				Algebra 2 w/ Trig Honors	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics	AP Calculus BC or AP Statistics

Registering for Courses

Included with course descriptions for grades 7 and 8 is a Registration Worksheet. Use the worksheet in this Registration Guide to plan your course requests for next year. Then copy your requests onto the Registration Form given to you by your counselor. Return this completed form (**with your parent's signature**) by the deadline listed.

The number of courses available to students will increase each year through high school. As early as seventh and eighth grades, course selections begin to affect the sequence of courses a student will follow through high school. For your reference, a chart showing the most common course pathways through language arts, math, science, and social studies is provided for you. Also provided for your information is a chart illustrating the different diplomas available and the corresponding requirement.

Although it is important to consider how course choices now will affect selections in the future, it is more important to consider the student's readiness, interest, and commitment. Registering for courses is only the first and easiest step. Successful completion of the selected course ultimately determines what choices a student will have in future years.

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Welcome to Andrew Lewis! Our 6th grade students are required to take the following courses:

English 6

Science 6

US History 1865-present

Math 6 or Advanced Math 6*

Physical Education/Health 6

*Math placement is based on a variety of factors including elementary school math grades, work habits, and standardized test scores. Teachers make recommendations for placement.

Sixth grade students choose one of the following elective options:

Choir 6

Band 6

Exploratory

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Math 6 (3110)

The math 6 curriculum is a transition from elementary arithmetic to the foundations of Algebra. There is a strong emphasis on rational numbers while covering the following topics: integer computations, recognizing fractions-decimals-percents as ratios; ratios to compare data sets; solving one step equations; operations with rational numbers; geometric relationships and measurements; probability and statistic; representation of relationships between two quantities using tables, graphs, equations. Students will also continue to develop problem solving skills throughout all areas of the curriculum.

Advanced Math 6 (3110A)

The sixth grade Advanced Math 6 class will transition to learning the foundations of Algebra by covering all sixth grade SOL objectives and the objectives in the number sense, computation, and patterns, functions and algebra strands of the seventh grade SOLs. A strong focus is placed on proportional reasoning while covering the following topics: integer computations, percent relationships, applying properties of real numbers, solving two-step equations/inequalities, geometry measurement and relationships, techniques to analyze and interpret data, and the representation of relationships between two quantities using tables, graphs, equations. Problem solving is integrated throughout the course and is a major goal of the mathematics program at every grade level. Students will be given the Math 6 SOL test.

English 6 (1109)

The sixth grade language arts program will incorporate the study of spelling, writing, grammar, reading, and oral language. Students will study words through a combination of the Words Their Way program and study of words found in grade level reading selections. Much emphasis will be placed on the writing process with students creating a variety of planned and impromptu papers. Students will study the composition of sentences. Increasing vocabulary and improving comprehension will be the main focus in reading a variety of selections, both fiction and nonfiction.

Science 6 (4105)

Science 6 provides a broad coverage of chemistry, physics, environmental, earth, weather, and space science. Establishing safe laboratory behavior and nurturing critical thinking skills are key focuses. Experimental design is taught directly and indirectly through hands-on activities. Students will make use of quality laboratory equipment, on-line technology and various presentation media during their exploration of content.

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US History 1865-present (2354)

Students will continue to use skills for historical and geographical analysis as they examine American history since 1865. The standards for this course relate to the history of the United States from the Reconstruction era to the present. Students should continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography within the context of United States history. Political, economic, and social challenges facing the nation reunited after the civil war will be examined chronologically as students develop an understanding of how the American experience shaped the world's political and economic landscapes.

Physical Education/Health 6 (7110)

This course combines physical activities and skills with basic knowledge for healthy and safe living. It will include physical activities that are primarily skill development in nature with emphasis on fitness. Health instruction will include disease prevention and control, mental health, nutrition, personal health and personal growth, first aid and safety, and family life education.

Exploratory 6

Exploratory 6 consists of instruction in approximately **six different areas** and **classes can change based on availability**. Students will rotate through each class to get an introduction to the topic.

Art Exploratory (9103E)

Introduces the students to the Elements of Art (line, shape/form, texture, color/value, and space). Various projects emphasizing these elements will be explored. Several famous artists are studied through discussion and powerpoint presentations.

Career Exploration (0118E)

Students will be introduced to the 16 career clusters, take interest inventories, learn about career pathways, and determine how to be successful in any career. A school counselor will come into the classroom to work with the students to begin the process of developing a career plan and introduce them to Naviance, a software program Salem City School uses to support college and career readiness. This class partners with Junior Achievement to further emphasize the importance of planning for life after high school.

Keyboarding Exploratory (6150E)

Keyboarding is designed to develop skill in proper technique and correct fingering of alphabetic keys using the touch system.

Family and Consumer Science Exploratory I (8249E)

The Family and Consumer Science course prepares students for the demands of 21st century living. This course provides a foundation for managing individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities. Students focus on areas of individual growth, goal setting, strengthening families, and awareness of personal safety and wellness. They also explore saving and spending practices, clothing care, food preparation, positive and caring relationships with others, and careers. Instruction emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts, where appropriate.

Introduction to Technology (8480E)

This course provides the student with basic concepts and hands-on experiences in thirteen different areas of technology. These areas include: engineering towers, research & design, energy, power & mechanics, applied physics, practical skills, electronics, engineering bridges, computer graphics & animation, rocketry & space technology, energy-power & mechanics, flight technology, forensic science, and audio broadcasting. Through problem solving, project building, computer application, and career exploration, students gain valuable information and practical experience pertaining to the technological world in which we live.

Band 6 (2930)

This full year course introduces and develops techniques of instrument playing and music reading. No prior musical experience is necessary. Students are responsible for providing their own instruments. There are school-owned instruments available for those with financial need. The emphasis in this course is on individual development of skills. There will be two sections offered: Beginning Woodwinds (Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone) Beginning Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone) - French Horn and Tuba will be auditioned mid-year. Percussion will be auditioned mid-year as well.

Choir 6 (9269)

This course introduces choral singing by developing proper singing techniques, music theory, ear training, music reading, and singing in harmony in a variety of musical styles. Choir also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class with multiple performance opportunities throughout the year.

SEVENTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Welcome to 7th grade! Our 7th grade students are required to take the following courses:

English 7
 Math 7, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra I*
 Life Science
 Civics and Economics
 Physical Education/Health 7

*Math placement is based on a variety of factors including math grades, work habits, and standardized test scores. Teachers make recommendations for placement.

Students will choose either *two* semester electives or *one* year long elective.

Year Long:

Band 7
 Choir 7
 Photojournalism 7

Semester Long:

Family Consumer Science Exploratory II
 Middle School Computer Science
 Computer Solutions
 Technological Systems
 7th Grade Visual Arts
 Make it Your Business
 Introduction to World Languages

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English 7 (1110)

Language Arts in the seventh grade is an integrated study of literature and language, which encourages students to become active, imaginative participants in reading and writing. Students learn to respond to literature both critically and creatively. Attention is concentrated on revision and editing skills in the writing process. Further development of skills continues in grammar and spelling as well as in listening skills and oral presentations.

Math 7 (3111)

The Math 7 curriculum continues to place special emphasis on the foundations of Algebra. A strong focus is placed on proportional reasoning while covering the following topics: integer computations, percent relationships, applying properties of real numbers, solving two-step equations/inequalities, geometry measurement and relationships, and techniques of data analysis to make predictions, inferences, and conjectures, and representation of relationships between two quantities using tables, graphs, equations. Students will also continue to develop problem solving skills throughout all areas of the curriculum.

Pre-Algebra 7 (31127)

This course will continue to emphasize the foundations of Algebra by covering all the seventh grade SOL objectives and the objectives in the number sense, computation, and patterns, functions and Algebra strands of the eighth grade SOLs. Topics will include proportional reasoning, integer computation, solving multi-step linear equations, and recognizing different representations for relationships. Students will apply the properties of real numbers in solving equations, solve inequalities, and use data analysis techniques to make inferences, conjectures, and predictions. They will represent relations and functions, using tables, graphs, and rules, and begin investigating slope and y-intercepts. Students will be given the Math 7 SOL.

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Algebra I – Credit 1.0 (3130_7) Prerequisite: Advanced Math 6 OR teacher recommendation

Algebra I is the beginning of the math sequence for high school credit. Students are encouraged to develop self-reliance, a questioning attitude and verbal precision relating to mathematical problems. Topics to be studied include fundamental algebraic language, the real number system, equations, and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, coordinate graphing, systems of linear equations and inequalities, rational expressions, radicals and quadratics. Students completing this course will take the Algebra I end-of-course SOL test.

Life Science (4115)

This course is designed to introduce interrelationships in the biophysical environment. Students will develop a better understanding of the interaction and interdependence of living organisms and the physical environment. Students will have an opportunity to develop microscope skills and practice safe dissection techniques. Opportunities will be provided for independent study throughout the year.

Civics and Economics (2357)

This course includes a study of the essential knowledge of the Constitutions of the United States and Virginia as well as the structure and functions of government at the local, state, and national levels. Students will learn directly about their roles in the American civic model, American economic principles, the structure of the American economic system, and the operation of the economy is also an important part of this course.

Physical Education/Health 7 (7120)

This course combines physical activities and skills coupled with basic knowledge for healthy and safe living. Sequential skill development and fitness continue to be emphasized. In addition, some team and individual sport activities and skills are included in instruction. Health instruction includes disease prevention and control, mental health, nutrition, personal health and personal growth, first aid and safety, and Family Life Education.

Photojournalism 7 (12207)

This course introduces the student to all phases of yearbook and newspaper production. Students enrolled in this class will actually produce the ALMS yearbook and the school newspaper using online programs, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop and other software, as needed.

Choir 7 (9270)

This course continues the development of choral singing through proper singing techniques, music theory, ear training, music reading, and the use of two and three part singing in a variety of styles. Choir also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class with many performance opportunities throughout the year.

Band 7 (9231B)

This full year course introduces and develops techniques of instrument playing and music reading. No prior musical experience is necessary. Students are responsible for providing their own instruments. There are school-owned instruments available for those with financial need. The emphasis in this course is on individual development of skills. Percussion will be accepted on an audition-only basis.

Seventh Grade Visual Arts

In seventh grade visual arts students will explore, analyze, and investigate the creative process. Students will have the opportunity to apply the elements of art and principles of design to solve art-making challenges using various processes: to include drawing, painting and sculpture. Students will be introduced to various techniques and media used in both two and three dimensional design while expanding their knowledge of art related vocabulary, in addition to discussing various artists as well as careers in art.

Family & Consumer Science Exploratory II (8208)

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The Family and Consumer Sciences exploratory class emphasizes personal responsibility for the demands of multiple life roles through hands-on, project-based instruction. Students focus on individual development, maintain their personal environments and the environment of their community, apply nutrition and wellness practices, safety, sanitation and food preparation, manage consumer and family resources, create textile, fashion, housing and interior design products, and explore careers related to Family and Consumer Sciences such as child care and students' own personal career goals and aspirations. Instruction in this course emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts, where appropriate.

Middle School Computer Science (10012 VA Ext. MS)

The middle school computer science elective is designed to build on the concepts of computer science developed in prior grade levels. The course includes an emphasis on computer programming, the history of computers and computer science, with a focus on the impact of Virginians. As well, students will complete one or more projects to include programming, hardware and software integration, and collaboration. Programmable computing tools will be used to facilitate design, analysis, and implementation of computer programs. Students for exploring and creating computer programs, facilitating reasoning and problem solving, and verifying solutions should use these tools.

Technological Systems (8463)

Students combine resources and techniques to create systems, attaining comprehension of how technological systems work. Students will explore, design, analyze, and evaluate technological systems. By simulating systems and assessing their impacts, students gain insight into how to approach the problems and opportunities of a technological world. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

Introduction to World Language (5700)

This semester course will provide an introduction to world languages and culture. Lessons will primarily focus on Chinese, French, German, and Spanish but will also include an overview of widely spoken languages such as Japanese and Arabic. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of having second language skills and what it means to be a global citizen. Different ways to learn, study, and process new language skills will be demonstrated and practiced in class to prepare students for further language study in the eighth grade. Students will be introduced to variations of food, art, music, and culture for each language and will be able to make comparisons to their own cultural experiences. An overview of the history and geography of countries where these languages are spoken will be included.

Make It Your Business (8114)

Students design, establish and operate a small-group or class business, producing a service or product that meets an identified school or community need. Emphasis is placed on the introduction and application of business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business principles. Basic academic skills (mathematics, science, English, and history/social science) are integrated into this course.

Computer Solutions (6609AL)

Computer Solutions is a course used to explore Computer Science. Exploring Computer Science is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of Computer Science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning a particular software tool or programming language, the course is designed to explore the conceptual ideas of computing and to introduce students to a variety of tools and languages that might be utilized to solve particular problems. It's an opportunity for rich cultural connections and integration with all subject-areas.

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Welcome to 8th grade! The following courses are required for our eighth grade students:

English 8 or Advanced English 8
 Math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, or Geometry)*
 Physical Science
 World Geography

*Math placement is based on a variety of factors, including math grades, work habits, and standardized test scores. Teachers make recommendations for placement.

In addition to our required courses, students can choose 2 year long electives, 1 year long and 2 semester long electives, or 4 semester long electives.

Year long:

Choir 8
 Band 8
 French I
 Spanish I
 German I
 Photojournalism 8 & Design, Multimedia, and Web Technology
 Technical Drawing and Design
 Inventions and Innovations
 Health and PE I
 Drama 8

Semester Long:

Introduction to Early Childhood Education
 Introduction to Culinary Arts
 Design, Multimedia, & Web Technology
 Digital Applications
 Principles of Business and Marketing
 Computer Science Foundations
 Art Foundations

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English 8 or Advanced English 8 (1120 or 1120A)

English 8 consists of the study of English grammar, composition, and reading comprehension. Students continue to develop reading skills and to study literature with special attention to the elements of fiction. Composition as a process, and the development of sentence mechanics, vocabulary, and usage skills are emphasized. Group participation and good listening habits are also stressed. To better meet the diverse needs of students in English, the eighth grade curriculum is divided into two levels: English 8 and Advanced English. English 8 places heavy emphasis on reading and writing workshops as well as enhancing vocabulary and grammar skills. Advanced English challenges students with more difficult reading, SAT-geared vocabulary, and fine tuning written/oral expression through presentations, research papers, writing portfolios, and literature discussions.

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Physical Science (4125)

The Physical Science standards continue to build on skills of systematic investigation with a clear focus on variables and repeated trials. Validating conclusions using evidence and data becomes increasingly important at this level. Students will plan and conduct research involving both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from written and electronic resources. The Physical Science standards stress an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. The standards place considerable emphasis on the technological application of physical science principles. Major areas covered by the standards include: the organization and use of the periodic table, physical and chemical changes, nuclear reactions, temperature and heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, and work, force, and motion.

Pre-Algebra 8 (31128)

This course will include all the eighth grade Standards of Learning for mathematics. The eighth-grade standards provide students additional instruction and time to acquire the concepts and skills necessary for success in Algebra I. The students will use variables and variable expressions in combining like terms, explore the relationship of the set and subsets of the real number system, and simplify expressions using absolute value and order of operations. They will solve problems using the properties of real numbers and evaluate formulas. Students will work with graphing on a number line, in a coordinate plane, and graphing linear equations in two variables. Students will investigate slope and y-intercepts. Various problem-solving strategies will be implemented throughout the course. Students will be given the Math 8 SOL test.

Algebra I – Credit 1.0 (3130) Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra OR teacher recommendation

Algebra I is the beginning of the math sequence for high school credit. Students are encouraged to develop self-reliance, a questioning attitude and verbal precision relating to mathematical problems. Topics to be studied include fundamental algebraic language, the real number system, equations, and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, coordinate graphing, systems of linear equations and inequalities, rational expressions, radicals and quadratics. Students completing this course will take the Algebra I end-of-course SOL test.

Geometry – Credit 1.0 (3143) Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the standards for Algebra I. The course includes an emphasis on developing reasoning skills through the exploration of geometric relationships including properties of geometric figures, trigonometric relationships, and mathematical proofs. In this course, deductive reasoning and logic are used in direct proofs. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Students completing this course will take the Geometry end-of-course SOL test.

World Geography - Credit 1.0 (2210)

World Geography provides students with an opportunity to study the cultural and physical environment of the people of the world. Various regions of the world are studied to develop an understanding of the differences and similarities, which occur culturally, politically, economically, and socially among the peoples of the world. The course includes fundamental geographic concepts and current world events. Upon completion students will take the World Geography end-of-course SOL test.

Physical Education I 9 - Credit 0.5 (7310)

This course focuses on the basics of personal fitness through movement and activity. The student will demonstrate achievement and maintenance of a health-enhancing level of personal fitness by designing, implementing, self-assessing, and modifying a personal fitness program. The student will set goals, devise strategies, and apply the FITT (Frequency, Intensity, Time, Type) principle and other principles of training such as overload, specificity, and progression, in accordance with personal goals. The student will use a variety of resources, including available technology, to assess, design, and evaluate a personal fitness plan.

Health Education Grade I 9 - Credit 0.5 (7320)

This course will focus on the following topics: Health and Wellness, Healthy Family relations, Consumer Health, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs, Communicable Diseases, Systems of the Body, Family Life, First Aid & CPR, Health Related Emergencies, Safety and Well-being, Internet Safety, Resolving Conflict and Preventing Violence. Students will also be able to earn Adult CPR certification through the Emergency Care and Safety Institute.

Photojournalism 8 & Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies - Credit 1.0 (6630)

This course introduces the student to all phases of yearbook and newspaper production. Students enrolled in this class will produce the ALMS yearbook and the school newspaper using online programs, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop and other software, as needed. Throughout the year students develop proficiency in designing and creating graphic design projects, multimedia presentations/projects, and websites, using industry-standard application software. Students learn and apply principles of layout and design in completing projects.

Art Foundations - Credit 0.5 (9120)

Art Foundations is a one-semester studio course designed to introduce students to various techniques and media used in both two- and three-dimensional design. *Only students who are serious about art should take this course. It is a prerequisite to art classes at Salem High School. Students will study and work in such areas as drawing, painting and art appreciation with emphasis on the elements of art and principles of design. Students are responsible for some art supplies. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch may request that the fee be reduced or waived.

Introduction to Early Childhood Education - Credit 0.5 (8233)

This course serves as an introductory class for the Early Childhood Education program. Students learn about parenting through the study of the intellectual, social-emotional, and physical growth and development of children in the ages of early childhood. This class also provides the opportunity to explore careers in the early childhood education field. Class activities include lecture-demonstrations, live events, and individual projects. Child Development students and their parents/guardians will be expected to sign and abide by the Early Childhood Education Code of Ethics contract. Students are encouraged to have active participation in FCCLA.

Digital Applications - Credit 0.5 (6617)

This course is designed for secondary school students to develop real-life, outcome-driven approach skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, application software (word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, databases), and career exploration. This course promotes skills that can be applied across the curriculum and offers preparation relevant to 21st century skills and postsecondary education. Students who successfully complete this course may be eligible for a rigorous and relevant industry certification examination. Student skills may be enhanced by participation in work-based learning activities and/or the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

Introduction to Culinary Arts - Credit 0.5 (8249)

The Introduction to Culinary Arts curriculum provides students with opportunities to explore career options and entrepreneurial opportunities within the food service industry. Students investigate food safety and sanitation, explore culinary preparation foundations, practice basic culinary skills, explore diverse cuisines and service styles, investigate nutrition and menu development, and examine the economics of food. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on science and mathematics knowledge and skills.

Drama 8 - (1390)

This class introduces the student to theater arts. He/she learns to use the body and voice for effective communication. Also, the student learns basic skills and concepts of acting, including pantomime. At the end of each semester, the students will perform a one-act play for an assembly.

Design, Multimedia & Web Technologies --Credit 0.5 (6632)

This semester course introduces the basics of desktop publishing using Adobe InDesign. Terminology, page layout and design will be addressed. Fonts, clip art, and graphic ideas will be studied and used. Digital photography and scanning will be addressed and incorporated into course work. Students will produce newsletters, programs, brochures, announcements, flyers, etc. Presentation portfolios will be developed.

Principles of Business and Marketing - Credit 0.5 (6116)

Students discover the roles of business and marketing in the free enterprise system and the global economy. Students examine basic financial concepts of banking, insurance, credit, taxation, and investments to provide a strong background for making sound decisions as consumers, wage earners, and citizens. The real-world effects of technology, effective communication, and interpersonal skills is evident throughout the course. This course also supports career development skills and explores career options.

Technical Drawing/Design - Credit 1.0 (8435)

In this year-long foundation course, students learn the basic language of technical drawing and design, and they design, sketch, and make technical drawings, models, or prototypes of real design problems. The course is especially recommended for future engineering and architecture students.

Inventions and Innovations - (21099)

Students apply the engineering design process to plan, build, and communicate inventions or innovations that address contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, and the world. This hands-on course allows students to apply creativity and innovation that emphasizes working in teams and the safe use of technological and engineering tools and equipment.

Computer Science Foundations – Credit 0.5 (10012)

Computer science foundations is a semester-long course that introduces students to various topics in computer science. Students will learn about problem-solving approaches, physical computing devices, Internet communication, designing interactive programs, data-centered decision-making, and the impact of technology on society. Students will develop a variety of projects throughout the course that utilize the skills covered in a way that is meaningful to students.

Choir 8 - FY(9271)

This course continues the development of choral singing through proper singing techniques, music theory, ear training, music reading, and the use of two and three part singing in a variety of styles. Choir also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class with many performance opportunities throughout the year.

Band 8 FY (9229)

This class is an advanced, performance-based ensemble where students continue to improve their instrumental skills learned in the first year of band. Only students who have successfully completed the Beginning Band course will be accepted. Emphasis is placed on learning to perform with a group of musicians at a higher level. After school rehearsals and outside performances are required.

World Language - (FY)

World languages are high school level classes; hence, student work is expected to be high school level work. Since world languages are credit-bearing courses, students should expect daily homework and study. A commitment to regular practice is essential for success. Taking a world language in 8th grade is recommended for students wanting five years of study in languages.

German I - Credit 1.0 (5210)

This course is designed to help students learn elementary German. Listening and speaking skills are stressed with limited reading and writing. Basic grammar is studied; therefore, a strong background in English grammar is recommended. Students learn to converse using everyday German vocabulary. The geography and culture of the German-speaking world is introduced through maps, readings, and videos.

Spanish I - Credit 1.0 (5510)

This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language. Listening and speaking skills are stressed. Students learn to converse in everyday Spanish, as well as how to read and write in the language. Basic grammar is taught; therefore, a strong background in English grammar is recommended. The geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries are introduced through maps, speakers, and videos.

French I - Credit 1.0 (5110)

This course is designed to help students learn elementary French. Listening and speaking skills are stressed with limited reading and writing. Basic grammar is studied; therefore, a strong background in English grammar is recommended. Students learn to converse using everyday French vocabulary. The geography and the culture of France and other French speaking countries are introduced through maps, readings, videos and DVDs.

**REGISTRATION WORKSHEET
2025-2026 School Year**

STUDENT NAME: _____ STUDENT #: _____
(Please print)

All rising 7th grade students are *required* take the following classes:

- English 7
- Life Science 7
- Civics & Economics
- Physical Education/Health 7

Math teachers will make recommendations for one of the following classes: Math 7, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra.

Students may take an elective class of their own choosing. List your choice of elective, but include only those classes you would be willing to take. List no fewer than six choices in order of preference, as you may not always receive your first choice. All class offerings are subject to change based on staffing requirements and student interest.

Elective Courses	Course # and Name		Length of Course
Music	9270	Chorus 7	FY
	9231	Band 7	FY
Other Electives	12207	Photojournalism 7	FY
	10012 MS	Middle School Computer Science	SEM
	8208	Family Consumer Science Exploratory11	SEM
	05187	7th Grade Visual Arts	SEM
	8463	Technological Systems	SEM
	5700	Intro to World Languages	SEM
	6609	Computer Solutions	SEM
	8114	Make It Your Business	SEM

YOUR CHOICES (List no fewer than six classes in order of preference.):
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

NOTE: Algebra I is a high school credit class and will become part of your official high school transcript and G.P.A.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

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REGISTRATION WORKSHEET
2025-2026 School Year

STUDENT NAME: _____ ID Number _____

All rising 8th grade students are *required* to take the following classes:

English 8 or Advanced English 8 (Teacher Recommendation)

Physical Science 8

World Geography (1.0 HS Credit)

Math teachers will make recommendations for one of the following classes: PreAlgebra, Algebra, or Geometry.

Electives are either a full year (FY) or a semester (SEM) in length. **List no fewer than six choices in order of preference, as you may not always receive your first choice. All class offerings are subject to change based on staffing requirements and student interest.**

Elective Courses	Course # and Name		Length of Course	H.S. Credit	YOUR CHOICES (List no fewer than six classes in order of preference.):
World Language	5110	French I	FY	1.0	1.
	5210	German I	FY	1.0	
	5510	Spanish I	FY	1.0	2.
Music	9229	Band 8	FY	n/a	3.
	9271	Choir 8	FY	n/a	
Other Electives	7320/ 7310	Health and PE 9	FY	1.0	
	6630	Photojournalism 8 & Design, Multimedia, and Web Technology	FY	1.0	4.
	8435	Technical Drawing/Design	FY	1.0	5.
	21099	Inventions and Innovations	FY	n/a	6.
	1390	Drama 8	FY	n/a	
	6116	Principles of Business and Marketing	SEM	0.5	7.
	8233	Intro. To Early Childhood Education	SEM	0.5	8.
	8249	Introduction to Culinary Arts	SEM	0.5	
	9120	Art Foundations	SEM	0.5	
	6617	Digital Applications	SEM	0.5	
	6632	Design, Multimedia, and Web Technology	SEM	0.5	
10012	Computer Science Foundations	SEM	0.5		

NOTE: High school credit classes will be part of your official high school transcript and G.P.A.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

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