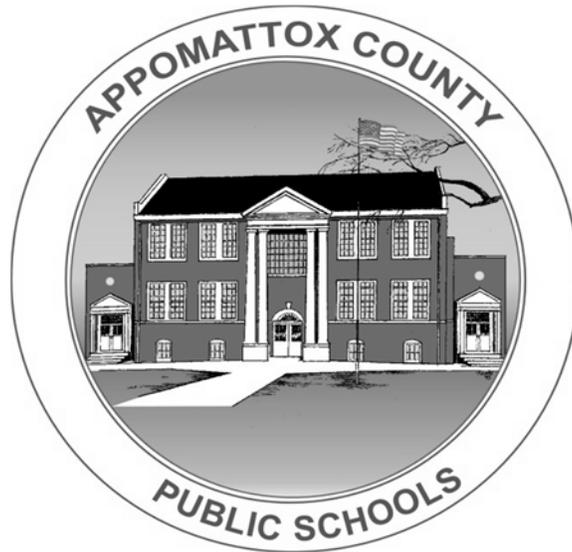


Appomattox County Public Schools



STUDENT COURSE RESOURCE GUIDE FOR ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

Revised for Re-Print - Spring 2016

www.appomattox.schoolfusion.us

APPOMATTOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

316 Court Street
Appomattox, Virginia 24522
(434) 352-8251

www.appomattox.schoolfusion.us

Appomattox County High School

198 Evergreen Avenue
Appomattox, Va. 24522
Phone: 434-352-7146
Fax: 434-352-0822
Cafeteria: 434-352-5022

Appomattox Middle School

2020 Church Street
Appomattox, Va. 24522
Phone: 434-352-8257
Fax: 434-352-5621
Guidance: 434-352-2135
Cafeteria: 434-352-5519

Appomattox Elementary School

176 Kids Place
Appomattox, Va. 24522
Phone: 434-352-7463
Fax: 434-352-8134
Cafeteria: 434-352-5583

Appomattox Primary School

185 Learning Place
Appomattox, Va. 24522
Phone: 434-352-5766
Fax: 434-352-8074
Cafeteria: 434-352-7476

Appomattox Alternative Education Center

131 Price Lane
Appomattox, Va. 24522
Phone: 434-352-2078
Fax: 434-352-3015

The Appomattox County School Division shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability or gender in educational programs or activities.

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been prepared for use in planning a program of studies. The suggested course outlines include, at the appropriate grade levels, the courses that are required by the State Board of Education and Appomattox County School Board of all students receiving a high school diploma. In addition, there are suggestions offered for a variety of choices at each grade level in keeping with the planned course of study.

All courses and programs listed in this course resource guide are subject to change or may not be offered based on master schedule, student schedule, annual budget, teacher availability, and/or student interest. Due to the cost of printing, a hard copy of this document will not be distributed to all students every year. The most up-to-date course resource guide will be maintained on the division webpage and parents can expect annual addendums (with changes only) to be available.

Graduation requirements and other standards are subject to change based on actions of the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia General Assembly and the Appomattox County School Board.

Students will be required to plan a program of studies for grades 9-12 during their 7th grade year. Students entering grades 9-12 will be required to update their program of studies. As students progress in school they may make changes in courses previously selected. Conferences with counselors and consent from parents will be required prior to making a change.

Each year, your student will receive a separate grade specific registration packet from which specific courses should be selected. **Parents are urged to carefully read all sections of this booklet before their students make his/her selections with parent approval. Questions may be directed to the student's counselor at the school. Counselors may be contacted either by telephone, e-mail, or by arranging a personal appointment.**

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth grade levels are currently using an 80-minute block schedule. Science and Social Studies are blocked for one semester while English and Math are blocked all year. Algebra I, Geometry, and Foreign Language are available for high school credit.

Block scheduling used in Grades 9-12 arranges the school day into four 95-minute blocks for more effective use of time and resources. The 4x4 block semester schedule offers each student at the high school an opportunity to take eight courses a year - four courses each semester. Subjects are studied in greater depth and there is opportunity for more student participation and interaction. The time extension promotes higher-order thinking and application of concepts. The high school also offers a number of courses that are scheduled to meet for 45 minutes all year long. These courses are offered to provide a more continuous instructional focus in subjects that require sequential skills development. Their availability will be determined by student need, master schedule options and teacher resources.

Choices of subjects, which are made after consultation with school counselors, will be used to schedule classes and to determine personnel needed each year. **Therefore, the choice of subjects for the coming school year will be considered final. Any further changes will not be made unless it is determined that there are very unusual circumstances.** If a student selects a course that will not be offered due to lack of enrollment, a student will be given an opportunity to make another selection. Counselors will notify students in regard to such changes. **All subjects will not be offered each semester.**

To provide fairness in course enrollments, seniors will have first choice in selecting classes, except in cases where underclassmen need to enroll in a continuing career and technical education course to satisfy graduation requirements. If necessary, students will be notified when classes are full and assisted in making alternative choices.

PLANNING FOR A CAREER AND EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

What does the future hold for me?

One of the most important questions asked by graduating seniors is, “What am I going to do now that I’m leaving high school?” There are so many opportunities and unknowns. It is both frightening and exciting.

Due to changing technology and increased global competition, all workers must be prepared to adapt and must be committed to life-long learning. Many of the careers which will be available in the future have not yet been invented! By the time you graduate from Appomattox County High School (ACHS), entry-level jobs will require training beyond high school level. This additional training may include two years of college toward a four-year baccalaureate degree, a two-year associate degree, apprenticeship training or specialty training.

In order to be successful in the global competitive job market, students must have a long-range educational and career plan. An increasing number of jobs will require a technical degree rather than a bachelor’s degree. These jobs will require a solid academic foundation in math, science and communications. Employers also will stress the importance of reasoning, teamwork, and interpersonal communications skills.

How can I prepare?

All high school graduates can expect to work, earn a living, and build a career. To do this successfully requires planning and selecting a career goal that is right for you. You need to set personal goals that will give focus to your high school years. These goals should be outlined in a career and educational plan developed with the assistance of a school counselor and your parents. Your career and educational plan provides a strategy for accomplishing goals. Consider the following as you develop your plan and select courses:

- Your abilities, interests, likes and dislikes;
- Curriculum in the career area of your choice, including dual-enrollment courses and work-related options;
- Cost, transportation and your extracurricular activities, especially for off-campus and dual enrollment classes.

What are my options?

Exciting and diverse careers are open to qualified applicants. Possibilities are limitless. Your school counselor will help you to learn more about the following opportunities:

- Advanced Placement
- Apprenticeship
- Career and Technical Programs
- Dual Enrollment
- Early College
- Tech Prep
- Many more options

AWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Students who demonstrate academic excellence and/or outstanding achievement may be eligible for one or more of the following awards:

1. **Honors Graduates** – seniors graduating with a 3.500 or better overall G.P.A.
2. **National Honor Society** membership is offered to qualified juniors and seniors who meet and maintain all of the following criteria:
 - **Scholarship** – Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better and be eligible for a standard or advanced diploma.
 - **Character** – Students should exemplify good citizenship, integrity, positive behavior, cooperation and ethics. Advisors will check discipline files and faculty recommendations. Candidates cannot have any recorded incidents of cheating, fighting, destruction of school property, intimidation, theft, violation of alcohol/drug/tobacco policies and laws, possession of weapons, or assault.
 - **Service** activity documentation is submitted to the selection committee. Each student must be involved in at least three service projects in or out of school.
 - **Leadership** – Documentation of leadership activities is also submitted to the selection committee. Members must have held at least one elected office and/or must be actively involved in two or more school organizations.
3. **National Technical Honor Society** – recognizes outstanding students in the Career and Technical Education field. Membership will be extended to all juniors and seniors meeting the following selection criteria:
 - **Scholastic achievement** – any student under consideration for membership must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all Career and Technical Education courses and at least a 2.5 GPA in all core academic subjects.
 - **Service/Citizenship** - documented community service within recognized organizations.
 - **Character** – demonstrated honesty, responsibility, cooperation, initiative, dependability and a desire to develop a personal career pathway in a Career and Technical Education field of their choice.
4. Students who complete the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma with an average grade of “B” or better, and successfully complete at least nine transferable credits in advanced placement courses (AP), international baccalaureate (IB) or college-level courses for credit, will receive the **Governor’s Seal** on the diploma.
5. Students who complete the requirements for a Standard Diploma with an average grade of “A” will receive a **Board of Education Seal** on the diploma.
6. Additional Diploma Seals:
 - Students will receive recognition in the **Governor’s Early College Scholar Program** upon graduation with an Advanced Studies Diploma, if they have earned a Governor’s Seal AND have earned at least 15 transferable college credits while enrolled in high school. College credits may be earned through dual enrollment courses (with at least a “C” or better); completing Advanced Placement courses and scoring a “3” or higher on the AP examinations; or, by completing college-level courses and documenting credit awarded. Early College Scholars must have applied and been accepted into a college or university.

- The Board of Education’s **Career and Technical Education Seal** will be awarded to students who earn a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma and complete a prescribed sequence of courses in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that they choose and maintain a “B” or better average in those courses; or (i) pass an examination in a career and technical education concentration or specialization that confers certification from a recognized industry, trade or professional association or (ii) acquire a professional license in that career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The Board of Education’s **Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology** will be awarded to students who earn either a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma and (i) satisfy all the mathematics requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma (four units of credit including Algebra II; two verified units of credit) with a “B” average or better; and (ii) either (a) pass an examination in a career and technical education field that confers certification from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association; (b) acquire a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia; or (c) pass an examination approved by the Board that confers college-level credit in a technology or computer science area.
- The Board of Education’s **Seal for Excellence in Civics Education** will be awarded to students who earn either a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma and: (i) complete Virginia and United States History and Virginia and United States Government courses with a grade of "B" or higher; and, (ii) have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions as determined by local school board policies and, (iii) complete 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities.
- The Board of Education’s **Seal of Biliteracy** will be awarded to students who earn either a Board of Education-approved diploma and (i) pass all required End-of-Course Assessments in English reading and writing at the proficient or higher level; and (ii) be proficient at the intermediate-mid level or higher in one or more languages other than English, as demonstrated through an assessment from a list to be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Beginning with the class of 2013, the following plan is used.

In an effort to recognize exemplary student achievement, Appomattox County High School uses three levels of distinction for our honor graduates.

Summa Cum Laude – This describes those students who have earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 or higher.

Magna Cum Laude – Describes students with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.99.

Cum Laude – Awarded to students who’s GPA is 3.25 to 3.49.

Grade point average for these graduation honors will be calculated at the end of the 3rd nine weeks of the senior year.

Class rank will continue to be shown on students’ official transcript for college applications and scholarship opportunities.

Specifics related to the graduation ceremony such as speakers or other designations for honor graduates will be determined annually by the school administration, teachers, and school counselors in collaboration with the graduating class student leadership.

Credit Expunging for GPA Calculations

Seniors will have the opportunity to expunge certain high school credit bearing classes that were taken at the middle school level from the high school GPA calculation if those grades negatively impact the GPA calculation. The course and grade earned will continue to show on the high school transcript to document diploma requirements but a letter will accompany the transcript requests explaining why the course is not calculated into the student's GPA and class rank.

Beginning with the 2016-17 9th grade class, credit earned at the Middle School level will be reflected on the student transcript, but GPA calculations will begin with 9th grade level courses.

COURSE WITHDRAWALS

On a four by four block schedule, it is necessary for placement decisions to be made very early in the semester. Students and teachers should make a collaborative decision within the first three (3) days of a semester so that changes to the student's schedule do not adversely affect his/her success in the course to which he/she is re-assigned. Respectively, withdrawal from a yearlong course can be made up to the 6th day. Beyond this timeframe, administrative approval is required for a course withdrawal.

A student's electronic record will accurately reflect any changes made to course assignment and/or program placement. This reflection may include an F for the ACHS transcript for the dropped class made after the designated date.

Withdrawal Failing (WF) or Withdrawal Passing (WP) will appear on a student's transcript when an administrative withdrawal is made. This will document the student's academic status in the class at the time of the withdrawal. Neither WP nor WF is calculated into the student's GPA.

Transferring Credits into ACHS

Students who transfer into Appomattox County High School and are requesting credit towards graduation, must provide official transcripts from the public school, private school, or educational program from which the credit was earned. Should students not be able or willing to provide an official transcript, a student will be required to complete course assignments to verify the credits and/or have grades assigned. Certain courses require verification through the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessment program.

School Counselors will make every effort to work with students who are transferring from a non 4X4 block schedule to achieve the best outcome for the student. However, due to the seat time requirements for credit bearing classes, it is not always possible to match the previous school's schedule or award credit for courses in progress at the time of the transfer.

Students transferring into Appomattox County High School who are entering a Virginia Public high school for the first time have different Standards of Learning (SOL) requirements. The School Counselor will meet with the student to determine how to fulfill the requirements below. Requirements may be different based on whether the transferring student is planning on obtaining a standard or advanced diploma.

First-time Transfers to a Virginia Public School

Standard Diploma Verified Credit Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-60.G1 and H)

Students transferring into a Virginia public school for the first time

During 9th Grade OR Beginning of 10th Grade:	Must Earn	Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond
	6 Verified Credits:	2
	English	1
	Mathematics	1
	Science	1
	History and Social Science	1
	Student Selected	1
During 10th Grade OR Beginning of 11th Grade:	Must Earn	Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond
	4 Verified Credits:	
	English	1
	Mathematics	1
	Science	1
	History and Social Science	1
	Student Selected	
During 11th Grade OR Beginning of 12th Grade:	Must Earn	Ninth Graders in 2003-04 and beyond
	2 Verified Credits:	
	English	1
	Student Selected	1
During 12th Grade:	Students should be given every opportunity to earn a diploma; if this is not possible, arrange to have the previous school award the diploma; or seek a waiver of the verified credit requirement from the DOE.	

Advanced Studies Diploma Verified Credit Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-60.G1 and H)

Students transferring into a Virginia public school for the first time

During 9th Grade OR Beginning of 10th Grade:	Must Earn		
	9 Verified Credits:		
	English	2	
	Mathematics	2	
	Science	2	
	History and Social Science	2	
	Student Selected	1	
During 10th Grade OR Beginning of 11th Grade:	Must Earn		
	6 Verified Credits:		
	English	2	
	Mathematics	1	
	Science	1	
	History and Social Science	1	
	Student Selected	1	
During 11th Grade OR Beginning of 12th Grade:	Must Earn		
	4 Verified Credits:		
	English	1	
	Student Selected	3	
During 12th Grade:	Students should be given every opportunity to earn a diploma; if this is not possible, arrange to have the previous school award the diploma; or seek a waiver of the verified credit requirement from the DOE.		

EARLY GRADUATION

Except in extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Superintendent or designee of Appomattox County Public Schools, students will not be allowed to graduate early. Students working towards a standard or advanced studies diploma will not be allowed to enroll in required high school English or Social Studies courses before the grade level in which the subjects are normally required of students.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students shall meet the following requirements established by the Virginia Board of Education and the Appomattox County School Board.

Credit Requirements for Graduation with a Standard Diploma:

	Students entering Ninth Grade in or after 2011-12	
	Required Total Credits	Required Verified Credits
English 8, 9	4	2
Mathematics 1 (1a)	3	1
Laboratory Science 2, 6, 10, 11	3	1
History & Social Science 3, 6, 11	3	1
Health & Physical Education	2	
Foreign Language, Fine Arts or CTE 7, 12	2	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives 4, 14	7	
Student Selected Test 5		1
Total	25	6

*To earn a Verified Credit, a student must successfully complete the requirements of the course and achieve a passing score on the end-of-course (EOC) SOL test for that course or additional tests as described in the notes below.

State Board of Education Requirements: (8 VAC 20-131-50.B)

¹Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of algebra and shall include at least two [different (1a)] course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra and geometry. The board may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

²Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least two different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics. The board may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

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

⁴Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.

⁵A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education or other areas as prescribed by the board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

⁶Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for (i) the student selected verified credit and (ii) either a science or history and social science verified credit when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education as an additional test to verify student achievement.

★⁷Pursuant to Section 22.1-253.13:4, Code of Virginia, credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.

Local Notes:

⁸Students will be required to take the following English courses in sequence: English 9, Introduction to Literature, Survey of American Literature, and Survey of British and Western Literature (or College English).

⁹The Verified Credits in English must be in English 11 Reading and English 11 Writing.

¹⁰Students pursuing a Standard Diploma may be eligible for Locally Awarded Verified credits in science and/or social studies in certain cases. School counselors will work with eligible students.

¹¹This requirement may be met by earning at least one unit in a career/technical music, or art course classified for grades 9-12.

¹²When students below the 9th grade successfully complete ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade courses, credit shall count toward meeting the units required for graduation in Grades 9-12.

¹³ACPS requires elective credits in addition to those required by the Virginia Board of Education for all Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas.

Credit Requirements for Graduation with an Advanced Studies Diploma:

	Students graduating after 2014	
	Required Total Credits	Required Verified Credits
English ⁶	4	2
Mathematics ^{1, 8}	4	2
Laboratory Science ^{2, 8}	4	2
History & Social Science ^{3, 8}	4	2
Health & Physical Education	2	
Foreign Language ⁴	3	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical ⁷	1	
Economics and Personal Finance	1	
Electives ^{4, 9}	4	
Student Selected Test ⁵		1
Total	27	9

*To earn a Verified Credit, a student must successfully complete the requirements of the course and achieve a passing score on the end-of-course (EOC) SOL test for that course or additional tests as described in the notes below.

State Board of Education Requirements: (8 VAC 20-131-50)

¹Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of algebra and 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 may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

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 or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The board may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

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

⁵A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education or other areas as prescribed by the board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

Local Notes:

⁶The Verified Credits in English must be in EOC Reading and EOC Writing.

⁷This requirement may be met by earning at least one unit in a career/technical, music, or art course classified for Grades 9-12.

⁸When students below the 9th grade successfully complete ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade courses, credit shall count toward meeting the units required for graduation in Grades 9-12.

⁹This requirement may be met by earning at least one unit in a career/technical, music, or art course classified for Grades 9-12.

¹⁰ACPS requires elective credits in addition to those required by the Virginia Board of Education for all Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas.

Graduating with an Applied Studies Diploma - Grades 9-12

This diploma is intended for certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and do not meet the requirements of other diplomas. The student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team and the student's parents determine eligibility and participation in this diploma program. For a student to earn an Applied Studies Diploma, he/she must complete the requirements of his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP).

STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOL) ASSESSMENT

SOL tests are administered to students beginning in grade 3. For middle and high school students the following tests are administered:

Middle School	High School – End-of-Course Tests
English – grades 6-8 Math: Grade 6, Math 6 Grade 7, Math 7 Grade 8, Math 8, Alg I, or Geometry Science – grade 8 Social studies – grade 8	English 11 (Reading and Writing tests) Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry Biology, Chemistry, and Earth Science World History I, World History II, and US History

In order to receive a Standard or Advanced Studies diploma, high school students must earn a minimum number of verified credits by passing both the high school course and the End-of-Course test for the required subjects. The specific number and subjects in which Verified Credits must be earned are noted under the diploma requirements on the following pages. SOL tests are administered each semester as well as in the summer for students who need to take the test more than one time. Students may re-take a test in summer if they have been involved in a tutorial program in the weeks prior to the test administration.

Students who fail a required SOL for graduation may be required to repeat the same course the following semester. This will provide students content specific instruction in order to pass the needed SOL. In some instances, students will be scheduled into a Project Graduation course which will include direct small group instruction and study skills curriculum. Credit will be awarded on a Pass/Fail basis.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN VHSL EVENTS

To be eligible to compete in any Virginia High School League sponsored sport or event, students must be enrolled in three new classes each semester and have passed at least three courses in grades 10 through 12 in the previous semester. In addition to the VHSL eligibility rule, each ACHS student must pass three subjects each grading period to maintain eligibility.

PROMOTION

Promotion and grade classification require completion of a minimum number of credits at the end of the school year as follows:

9 th grade to 10 th grade	6 credits earned
10 th grade to 11 th grade	12 credits earned
11 th grade to 12 th grade	18 credits earned
Graduation	Must satisfy all diploma requirements

DETERMINATION OF GRADE POINT AVERAGES FOR CLASS RANK

A student's grade point average (GPA) in the Appomattox County Schools is computed on a four-point scale for all courses except certain identified weighted classes. This computation is made from the final course averages in all high school subject credits.

Weighted courses will be computed on 4, 4.5, and 5 point scales. (Approved by the School Board Spring, 2012)

Identified weighted courses include:

- Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology courses (one credit earned at end of year for each course)
- Certain college dual enrollment courses offered at ACHS or local 2 and 4 year colleges.
- Advanced Placement and Pre AP courses

All courses granting credit are utilized in the computation of the GPA. Point values are determined as follows:

<u>4.0 Scale</u>		<u>4.5 Scale</u> (Pre AP, Dual Enrollment)		<u>5.0 Scale</u> (AP, Governors School)				
A	=	4.0	A	=	4.5	A	=	5.0
B	=	3.0	B	=	3.5	B	=	4.0
C	=	2.0	C	=	2.5	C	=	3.0
D	=	1.0	D	=	1.5	D	=	2.0
F	=	0.0	F	=	0.0	F	=	0.0

The class rank is determined by the GPA of each student. Students will be ranked in numerical order beginning with the highest GPA and continuing to the lowest GPA. The student(s) with the highest grade point average will be ranked first in the class. Students who have been home instructed in grades 9-12 will need to comply with the provisions of Appomattox County School Board Policy LBD. Credits transferred to Appomattox County High School must be from an accredited public or private school. Courses with only a pass/fail designation will not be computed for purposes of grade point average or class ranking. Questions concerning GPA and rank in class should be addressed to the school counselors.

Grading Scale

A = 93 – 100
B = 85 – 92
C = 77 – 84
D = 70 – 76
F = 0 – 69

Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement courses use a 10 point grading scale.

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
D = 60 – 69
F = 0 – 59

STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS and GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Policy IFK revised July 2014, the Appomattox County School Board requires the following:

Each student in middle and secondary school will take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the course and achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test will be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course. Students may earn verified credits in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade.

The standard unit of credit for graduation is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction and successful completion of the requirements of the course.

A verified unit of credit for graduation is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of the requirements of the course, and the achievement by the student of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL test for that course. Additional ways to earn verified credits are outlined the ACPS Policy IKF and IKFA (Locally Awarded Verified Credits).

Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit (Alternatives to the 140-Clock-hour Requirement)

Pursuant to HB 1675 and SB 982 (2015), effective with students enrolled in the 2015-2016 school year and beyond, school divisions may waive the requirement that a student receives 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit.

For the most current local policy related to this waiver please see the course resource document on-line @ www.appomattox.schoolfusion.us

Alternative Education Programs

Appomattox County Public Schools offer some non-traditional programs to meet the needs of all students. The following programs provide students with choices in their educational program to earn a high school diploma, or other credential and be prepared for life in the 21st century.

Appomattox Alternative Education Center is an alternative school located off of the high school campus. The program offers a highly structured classroom environment that allows the student to complete high school required courses or pursue a GED through the ISAEP* program. Students develop skills to assist them in making safe and healthy choices. A referral from the principal or school team is necessary for program participation.

***Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (ISAEP) Program**

- Serves eligible students who are between 16 and 18 years old.
- Targets students with strong academic skills who have not been successful in a traditional school setting.
- Provides two to three days of tutoring per week.
- Provides instruction for the GED (General Educational Development) Certificate.

- Provides career-counseling and occupational skills training through participation in work-based learning and exploration of post-secondary opportunities.

ACHS Non Traditional Education Program

Certain high school students who are unable to attend school for a well-documented, extenuating reason or those who need an alternative option within the school day may be eligible for an opportunity to take courses online. Online courses are monitored closely by school staff and are taken along with regularly scheduled work sessions at the high school.

Online Credit Recovery

Students, who are behind in course credits and are at risk of not graduating, may be offered an opportunity to earn credit towards graduation through an online credit recovery program. Online courses are monitored closely by school staff. The schedule for coursework may be accelerated as online courses are available 24/7.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASSIFICATION AS A COMPLETER OF A CAREER/TECHNICAL PROGRAM

A student will be considered a completer of a career/technical program when requirements for one of the following have been met:

Agricultural Education

A student will be classified as a program completer in agricultural education when he/she has successfully completed the requirements of **three courses in one of the agricultural options**. The following options require the Foundations of Ag class as a pre-requisite: Ag production, agriculture machinery services and veterinary science. The horticulture sciences option does not require Foundations of Ag, but is it recommended.

Business

A business program completer must have completed any two occupational business courses.

Occupational Business Courses:

Computer Information Systems

Digital Input Technologies

Office Administration

Principles of Business and Marketing

Cooperative Office Education

Culinary Arts

A student who has successfully completed Culinary Arts I and II will be a program completer for this area.

Teachers for Tomorrow

A student who has successfully completed Teachers for Tomorrow I and II will be a program completer in Teachers for Tomorrow.

Family and Consumer Science

A student who has successfully completed **two credits** from the Family and Consumer Science curriculum in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 will be a program completer in Family and Consumer Science Education.

Marketing

A student who has successfully completed **two credits** in the Marketing Education program will be a program completer in Marketing Education.

Nurse Aide Education

A student who has successfully completed Nurse Aide I & II under the Health and Medical Sciences cluster will be a program completer.

Trade and Industrial Education

A student who has successfully completed Drafting (Mechanical/Technical Drawing) I, II, Nuclear Science I & II, or Auto Technology I & II, Computer System Technology I & II, will be a program completer for Trade and Industrial Education.

Students that complete Auto Technology I, II will meet the hour and training requirements to apply for the Motor Vehicle Safety Inspector License through the Virginia Department of State Police.

The A+ certification licensure will be offered to students that have completed the Computer Systems Technology I course with Instructor's recommendation.

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

ACHS offers an apprenticeship program for career and technical education students who are seniors and want to receive on-the-job training. These students attend classes and work at an approved job site. Employers work with the career and technical education teacher and in coordination with the Virginia Department of Labor to follow strict guidelines. Students who are interested should work closely with their school counselor and career and technical education teacher to meet specific requirements.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

Students who complete specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses or course sequences will be required to complete a state recognized certification exam for the areas the certification is offered.

THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Students from Appomattox County have the opportunity to apply for admission to the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology for attendance during the 11th and 12th grades. The Governor's School is one of ten schools established by the Governor of Virginia to create special educational opportunities for students with aptitude and interest in science and mathematics. Located in Lynchburg at Heritage High School, it utilizes the combined resources of the participating school divisions to provide programs that facilitate the acquisition of scientific and technical knowledge through laboratory investigation and research.

Students who aspire to attend the Governor's School should confer with their school counselor to ensure that the proper preparatory courses are taken. This planning should begin at the middle school level and include a science sequence of pre-ap earth science, pre-ap biology, and pre-ap chemistry, and a math sequence of algebra II through trigonometry, to be completed by the end of the 10th grade.

Attendance at the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology involves a selection process with a limited number of vacancies each year

All Advanced Classes

(Pre-AP, AP, Honors, Advanced, Dual Enrollment, Early College Cohort, etc.)

Based on the rigor of the course work, students are expected to demonstrate strong grades and strong work ethic in previous classes.

**All AP Classes are year-long, scheduled on an A/B day schedule. Students will meet for two 90 minute blocks and one 45 minute period every week, year-long, with the equivalency of one semester. Students will be required to pay for the AP exam prior to June 1. Some financial assistance may be available based on budget.

*** Some AP classes may have required summer reading assignments. Please see individual course descriptions for more information.

Can any child take a Pre-AP course?

Teachers, parents and students should work together to choose the most appropriate classes for student success. The following characteristics have been found in successful Pre-AP students:

- Strong study skills and self-motivation
- Proficient oral and communication skills
- Self-discipline to plan, organize and carry out assigned tasks
- Commended performance on standardized tests in the related core subjects
- Minimum grade of a B in the previous year of related content area
- Teacher recommendation

Specific Differences in Core subjects:

- **Math:** typically two grade levels ahead of regular education requirements
- **English:** Pre-AP will have summer reading assignments and outside independent reading throughout the semester. They will be expected to form in-depth responses and articulate, elaborate on a variety of subjects.
- **Science:** Pre-AP students should have an above average aptitude in Science. They should enjoy the higher questioning practices needed in science exploration.
- **Social Studies:** Pre-AP History will have summer assignments. Also, students are tested differently. Pre-AP tests will be essay tests. Throughout the school year students will learn and master timed essay writing; the process of learning will be fun! In addition to the essays, there will be major projects.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

ACHS currently offers Pre- Advanced Placement (Pre- AP) Courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The course work requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments. Students and parents should be aware of the rigor in these courses so they can make informed decisions regarding course selection. The semester long course is based on a 4.5 weight with a normal grading scale and prepares the student for the increased rigor of the Advanced Placement (AP) Courses.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Students may possibly earn college credit by completing **Advanced Placement** (AP) courses and successfully passing the AP exams offered in the spring by the College Board. Many colleges and universities will accept a score of “3” or better in place of their corresponding college course. ACHS will offer Advanced Placement courses in Chemistry, English Language & Composition, Statistics, United States Government and Politics, and US History. Other AP level courses are available online. These are available to juniors and seniors who are enrolled in the Governor’s Early College Scholars Program.

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

Appomattox County High School in conjunction with Central Virginia Community College promotes an Early College Program for juniors and seniors who have exhibited academic maturity and dedication. It provides an opportunity for students to leave high school with a diploma and an Associate in Arts and Science in general studies degree from a local 2 or 4 year college at the same time.

The curriculum is designed as a two-year program to be undertaken during the fall and spring semesters at one of our local 2 and 4 year colleges. Students earn both high school and college credits that may transfer to four year colleges and universities. Students who wish to participate in the Early College program are strongly encouraged to review the transfer guides for colleges/universities that they are interested in. Students interested in the program should obtain more information from their school counselor or career coach. A list of courses required for the early college program will be provided to interested candidates annually.

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Students who are interested in taking a Dual Enrollment course outside of the Early College Program are required to meet the following ACHS criteria prior to enrollment in a class. Note: These criteria may exceed the college enrollment requirements:

- Must be a Junior or Senior
- Pass appropriate college Placement test in English and/or Math
- Have no more than 9 absences (excused or unexcused) in the previous semester
- Have no major discipline referrals (administration recommendation)
- Earn a “B” or better in the most recent advanced level preferred English course
- Should have taken a minimum of Algebra II

Dual Enrollment coursework that is taken outside of the approved associate’s degree program (ACHS Early College Program) may only be weighted and/or computed in GPA and class rank if it meets the following criteria:

1. The course fulfills a high school graduation requirement
2. The course is taught by a live instructor (no online courses)
3. The course is taught in either the Fall or Spring Semesters (no summer courses)

Students may request to take Dual Enrollment courses if they have exhausted all of the coursework available in a given course sequence at the high school.

Dual Enrollment taken through the Career & Technical Education department is available under certain circumstances. The student must declare an intention to use the DE credit toward a degree or technical certificate.

AP COURSES:

AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP US Government, AP US History, AP Language and Composition, AP Literature, AP Physics, AP Statistics, and various Virtual VA Course Options.

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES:

Pre-Calculus, Calculus, English 111/112, Psychology, Spanish and various CTE options.

The **Career Pathways** initiative is a program designed to allow students to take courses at the high school that offer college credit if they continue their education beyond graduation. Career and Technical programs that articulate with local 2 and 4 year colleges, might include Marketing, Business, Drafting, and Teachers for Tomorrow. Students should talk with their school counselor, Career Coach, or program instructor for more information.

An additional resource for CTE Dual Enrollment is found at:

<http://acpsweb.com/sites/CTE/SitePages/Home.aspx>

CAREER COACHING

Students who need help planning for a career may request information from the school's Career Coach. Services such as providing assistance with college and scholarship applications, work applications, job shadowing, dual-enrollment classes, and career searches through personal and computer programs are included in information and help available through the Career Coach position. Please contact the School Counselor's Office for assistance in this area.

TRANSITION COORDINATOR

The Transition Coordinator for Appomattox County Public Schools works with our students with disabilities to ensure a smooth transition for the student as they exit high school. The focus is on student plans for their future, including post-secondary education, vocational training, and employment. In addition valuable links are provided to the student and family for private agencies, non-profit organizations, and government offices that can be instrumental in meeting the desired outcomes.

SPECIAL INFORMATION TO PARENTS OF BAND STUDENTS

Band is an elective course in the school curriculum. If this course is selected, there are certain costs involved. Students enrolled in Band must own or rent their instruments and pay a fee to cover music and band supplies. Students who elect Band 6 will be tested by the band director to determine the ability of the student to perform with an instrument. This test will also include a recommendation as to the instrument which should be played. Parents will be notified by the band director of these recommendations. Instrumental music is offered as part of the regular curriculum. The study of a band instrument offers students a chance to develop self-esteem, self-discipline, and skills that will favorably affect their other school work as well as future lives. Instruments should not be purchased until the instructor has made instrumental assignments. Instrumental assignments will be made considering the student's band instrument choice and the physical characteristics required for different instruments.

VIRTUAL VIRGINIA COURSE OFFERINGS

A number of online courses are available through Virtual Virginia. Students who take online courses should be strong, independent learners, like to read, and are highly motivated. Students who are not highly motivated, are not strong readers, and have difficulty focusing are discouraged from taking online courses. Students must meet the minimum requirements established by Virtual Virginia to qualify for enrollment in these programs. There is a penalty fee for students who drop classes after the designated drop period. Please visit virtualvirginia.org for more information.

Recommendations concerning instructional placement of the student are the responsibility of the local school counselor and administrator. School counselors should review the course prerequisites listed with the course below. Please make sure the students understand the expectations for the online courses selected. Courses will be approved based on ACHS Support Staff availability.

Beyond Virtual Virginia's expectations, ACHS requires:

- Student must have earned a "B" or better in the most recent Honors and/or Pre-AP English Course
- Student has no major discipline referrals (administration recommendations)
- Student has no more than 9 absences (excused or unexcused) in the previous semester
- Student is strong, independent learner who likes to read and who is highly motivated (English teacher recommendation)

Counselors may request a waiver of prerequisites by contacting Virtual Virginia's Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction. School divisions are responsible for providing the required textbooks and supplemental reading materials for Virtual Virginia courses at no charge to students or parents.

APPOMATTOX MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Offerings
GRADE 6

REQUIRED SUBJECTS:

Language Arts
 Language Arts 6
 Advanced English 6
Mathematics
 Math 6
 Advanced Math 6
Science 6
US History I
Health/Physical Education
Keyboarding

Remedial Opportunities:

Raider Plus English 6
Raider Plus Math 6
Raider Plus SS 6
Raider Plus Science 6

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:

Art 6
Band 6
Chorus 6
Introduction to Agriscience
Introduction to Technology
Theater

NOTE:

- (1) Placement in Adv. English 6 and/or Adv. Math 6 will be determined by criteria set by AES and AMS.
- (2) Elective Subjects are subject to change based on the availability of staff during any given school year. Students are assigned based on availability during his/her assigned PE class period.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES FOR SIXTH GRADE

*** ADVANCED CLASSES**

Advanced classes offered at AMS are Advanced English 6, Advanced English 7, Advanced English 8; Advanced Math 6, Advanced Math 7, Algebra I, Geometry, Foreign Language. Advanced classes are rigorous and require a commitment from students to work hard both in and out of the classroom. In order to remain in advanced classes, students must maintain at least a “B” average throughout the duration of the course.

Art 6 (Elective)

Sixth grade art uses the elements of art and the principles of design as a framework for exploration. The students will investigate a variety of experiences and concepts using a mixture of expressive and technical approaches. Students will explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects using different media.

Band 6 (Elective)

6th Grade Beginning Band is an introductory program open to all students who are interested in learning how to play a band instrument. Instruction is offered for brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. No prior musical training is required. The objective of the class is to establish an environment which will enable the students to develop basic musical skills on their chosen instrument. All students are expected to fully participate in all rehearsals and performances, as well as practice at home a minimum of seventy minutes per week throughout the school year. **Each student is responsible for providing his/her own instrument.**

Chorus 6 (Elective)

6th grade Chorus is designed to introduce the student to choral music, vocal training, musical literacy and musicianship. The objective of the course is to provide the student with an opportunity to begin developing vocally and to acquire the musicianship skills necessary for choral singing. Chorus students will be required to participate in concert performances at the discretion of the choral director.

Health/Physical Education (Required)

Health/Physical Education 6 is a yearlong class, divided into physical education and health education. Physical education emphasizes the importance of physical activity and conditioning. This is accomplished through an introduction to major sports, leisure sports, innovative games, aerobics, dance, and lifetime activities. Class time is spent learning basic skills, rules, safety, and familiarization with equipment. Health education will address the formation of desirable health habits, emotional and social health, nutrition, safety, body systems, tobacco, drugs, alcohol and family life.

Introduction to Agriscience 6 (Elective)

Middle school students develop an awareness of the relationships between agriculture and science. Major concepts covered in the course include Awareness of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Plant Science, Animal Science, Introduction to Agricultural Mechanics Skills and Leadership Development.

Introduction to Technology (Elective)

Students study the resources of all technology including tools, energy, materials, people, time information and capital. This also includes the problem-solving process and various hands-on activities. They explore up to three systems of technology including medical, agricultural and

related biotechnologies, energy and power, information and communication, transportation, manufacturing, and construction. Students relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions.

Keyboarding 6 (Required)

In this class, the students will practice basic keyboarding skills. The class will teach the students how to use the alphabetic keys using the Typing Time program. The students become familiar with Microsoft Office programs through hands on projects in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Excel. The class will examine different professional business documents through practice and projects. The students will have a basic understanding of the computer system by the time the student leaves the class.

Language Arts 6 (Required)

Sixth grade language arts classes are designed to give students a variety of experiences with oral communication, literature, English grammar, and writing. Reading, writing, and grammar skills are emphasized at this level. Active reading strategies for all subject areas are also emphasized. The entire Language Arts program is designed to teach critical thinking, word study, and communication.

***Advanced English 6** (alternate Language Arts)

The course is designed to give the student a variety of experiences in English grammar, literature, oral language, vocabulary development, writing, grammar, and research. The class is designed to strengthen oral communication, critical thinking, critical reading and word-study. Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements and with final determination based on the Reading SOL score in 5th grade.

Math 6 (Required)

Math 6 is a general mathematics course, which focuses on the six content strands of the Standards of Learning. These are number and number sense, computation and estimation, measurement, geometry, probability and statistics, and patterns, functions, and Algebra. The development of problem solving skills and the acquisition of specialized vocabulary and language patterns as well as basic math skills will be emphasized to assist the student in gaining an understanding and appreciation of the subject. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers.

***Advanced Math 6** (Alternate Math)

This sixth-grade course is designed to equip the students with the necessary skills and background knowledge needed to proceed into Algebra. **Students will cover all 6th, 7th and 8th grade SOLs in a one year period.** Proficiency is required in all the basics, including operations with both decimals and fractions; ability to read and interpret word problems and the fundamental concepts of number theory. The students must have the ability to take previously taught materials and consistently apply them to new situations. **Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements.**

Science 6 (Required)

Science 6 emphasizes a more complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. Inquiry skills at this level include organization and mathematical analysis of data, manipulating variables in

experimentation, and identifying sources of experimental error through the application of the scientific method of problem solving.

Theater (Elective)

Theater students will experience and practice the foundations of acting and theater through improvisational exercises, readings, group skits, play productions, and the study of theatrical history. Students will also be introduced to the foundations of technical theater (lights, sound, props, costumes, stage make-up, set design, set construction, stage management, etc.). Students will develop self-awareness and self-confidence as well as improved public speaking and presentational skills.

US History I (Required)

The course will incorporate the state social studies Standards of Learning that focus on United States History through 1865. Specific units of study include: U.S. Geography, European exploration, Colonial America, the American Revolution, U.S. Constitution, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

APPOMATTOX MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Offerings
GRADE 7

REQUIRED SUBJECTS:

Language Arts
 Language Arts 7
 Advanced English 7
Mathematics (you will take one math class)
 Math 7
 Advanced Math 7
 Algebra I
Science 7
US History II
Health/Physical Education

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:

Agriscience 7
Art 7
Band 7
Chorus 7
Computer Solutions 7
Inventions and Innovations
Theater

Remedial Opportunities:

Raider Plus English 7
Raider Plus Math 7
Raider Plus S.S. 7
Raider Plus Science 7

NOTE:

- (1) Placement in Adv. English 7 and/or Adv. Math 7 or Algebra I will be determined by criteria set by AMS.
- (2) Elective Subjects are subject to change based on the availability of staff during any given school year. Students are assigned based on availability during his/her assigned PE class period.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES FOR SEVENTH GRADE

*** ADVANCED CLASSES**

Advanced classes offered at AMS are Advanced English 6, Advanced English 7, Advanced English 8, Advanced Math 6, Advanced Math 7, Algebra I, Geometry, and Foreign Language. Advanced classes are rigorous and require a commitment from students to work hard both in and out of the classroom. In order to remain in advanced classes, students must maintain at least a "B" average throughout the duration of the course.

Agriscience 7 (Elective)

Students explore science as it relates to agriculture and develop an understanding of human relations, communication, the importance of agriculture to the economy, and key scientific terms related to the field of agriculture. Units of study include: Conserving Natural Resources, Plant Science, Animal Science, Agricultural Mechanics Skills, and Developing Leadership Skills.

Art 7 (Elective)

Seventh grade art serves to introduce the individual student to some of the many facets of art, including: painting, design, drawing, 3-D projects, aesthetics and art history. The program emphasis will be on visual communication, design principles and drawing. The student will work with a variety of media and techniques. The class reflects student concern for realistic representation and interest in contemporary issues.

Band 7 (Elective)

7th Grade Band students will continue to explore and develop mastery of the history, theory and performance interpretation of concert band music. The work of the students throughout the year is expected to be at a level commensurate with Virginia State Standards of Learning for Instrumental Music at the beginning and intermediate levels. Students must have completed one (1) successful year of an introductory level band course; however, the special needs of the ensemble may allow the director to audition and give special permission to students who do not meet the experience requirement. All students are expected to fully participate in all rehearsals and performances, as well as practice at home a minimum of seventy minutes per week throughout the school year. **Each student is responsible for providing his/her own instrument.**

Chorus 7 (Elective)

7th grade chorus is a full year course designed to introduce the student to choral music, vocal training, musical literacy, and musicianship. The objective of the course is to provide the student with an opportunity to begin developing vocally and to acquire the musicianship skills necessary for choral singing. Chorus students will be required to participate in concert performances at the discretion of the choral director.

Computer Solutions 7 (Elective)

In this class, the students will improve keyboarding skills through practice and a learning program. The students will practice all of the keys including alphabet, number, and symbols. The students will have more in depth projects relating to Microsoft Office programs, which include Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Publisher. By the time the student leaves the class, their technologies and computer skills will increase.

Health and Physical Education 7 (Required)

Health/Physical Education 7 is divided into physical education and health education. Physical education emphasizes the importance of physical activity and conditioning. This is accomplished through an introduction to major sports, leisure sports, innovative games, aerobics, dance, and

lifetime activities. Class time is spent learning basic skills, rules, safety, and familiarization with equipment. Health education will address the formation of desirable health habits, emotional and social health, nutrition, safety, body systems, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and family life.

Inventions and Innovations (Elective)

Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions.

Language Arts 7 (Required)

The 7th grade language arts classes are designed to give the student a variety of experiences in English grammar and to stimulate an interest in good literature. Spelling and reading are emphasized at this level along with grammatical usage. There is a concentration on general composition skills. The entire Language Arts program is designed to teach critical thinking, word study, and communication. Small group instruction is provided for those students who have not mastered basic skills at grade level.

***Advanced English 7** (Alternate Language Arts)

The course is designed to give the student a variety of experiences in English grammar, literature, oral language, vocabulary development, writing, grammar, and research. The class is designed to strengthen oral communication, critical thinking, critical reading and word study.

Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements.

Math 7 (Required)

The course curriculum is adapted to meet the Virginia State SOL Math objectives, employing a variety of techniques from "hands-on" experiences to group problem solving and application skills. Math 7 strands include number and number sense, computation and estimation, geometry, probability and statistics, patterns, functions, and algebra. There is an emphasis on the acquisition and use of appropriate math vocabulary.

***Advanced Math 7** (Alternate Math)

This course is designed to equip the students with the necessary skills and background knowledge needed to proceed into Algebra. This course involves a review of basic skills pertaining to whole numbers, common fractions, decimal fractions, mixed numbers and percentages. Special emphasis is placed upon the fundamental concepts of number theory. Proficiency is required in the reading and interpretation of all types of graphs. Considerable exposure is given in the areas of ratio-proportions, positive and negative integers, statistics-probability, and finding solutions to simple equations or inequalities. Problem solving techniques are introduced throughout the course. **Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements. A student must have successfully completed Advanced Math 6 to take this course.**

***Algebra I** (Alternate Math) - **SOL Verified Credit Course**

Algebra I covers basic operations using algebraic representations. Students will then study the solution of first degree equations, the solution of first degree systems of equations, inequalities, graphing, factoring, algebraic fractions, and introduction to quadratic equations. Applicable concepts will be taught in practical laboratory situations. Close to the end of the course, the student will take the state mandated SOL test for the subject. **Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements.**

Science 7 (Required)

Science 7 emphasizes the application of physical science principles. The student investigates the behavior of matter in its various forms and learns to associate matter and energy in the fields of mechanics, heat, light, magnetism, electricity and electronics. The course attempts to develop within the student a desire to investigate and encourages student curiosity and discovery.

Theater (Elective)

Theater students will experience and practice the foundations of acting and theater through improvisational exercises, readings, group skits, play productions, and the study of theatrical history. Students will also be introduced to the foundations of technical theater (lights, sound, props, costumes, stage make-up, set design, set construction, stage management, etc.). Students will develop self-awareness and self-confidence as well as improved public speaking and presentational skills.

US History II (Required)

The course will incorporate the state social studies Standards of Learning that focus on United States history from Reconstruction to present day. Units of study will include the transportation and industrial revolutions, westward expansion, immigration, the Progressive Movement, America's changing role in the world, World War I and II, the Great Depression, and post-World War II America (1945-2000).

APPOMATTOX MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Offerings
GRADE 8

Required Subjects:

English 8
 English 8
 Advanced English 8
Mathematics
 Math 8 (Pre-Algebra)
 Algebra I
 Geometry
Science 8
Civics & Economics
Health/Physical Education

Year-Long Electives:

Spanish I

Elective Subjects:

Agriscience 8
Art 8
Band 8
Chorus 8
Computer Solutions 8
Technological Systems 8
Theater

Remedial Opportunities:

Raider Plus English 8
Raider Plus Math 8
Raider Plus S.S. 8
Raider Plus Science 8

NOTE:

- (1) Placement in Adv. English 8 and/or Algebra I or Geometry will be determined by criteria set by AMS.
- (2) Elective Subjects are subject to change based on the availability of staff during any given school year. Students are assigned based on availability during his/her assigned PE class period.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES FOR EIGHTH GRADE

*** ADVANCED CLASSES**

Advanced classes offered at AMS are Advanced English 6, Advanced English 7, and Advanced English 8; Advanced Math 6, Advanced Math 7, Algebra I, Geometry, Foreign Language. Advanced classes are rigorous and require a commitment from students to work hard both in and out of the classroom. In order to remain in advanced classes, students must maintain at least a “B” average throughout the duration of the course

Agriscience 8 (Elective)

Through laboratory activities, students apply scientific principles to the field of agriculture, including plants, animals, and ecology/conservation. Units of study include: Developing Leadership Skills, Introduction to Supervised Agricultural Experience, Experimenting in Agriscience, International Agriculture, Agriculture, Agricultural Business, Agricultural Mechanics, Animal Science, Natural Resources, and Horticultural Sciences.

Art 8 (Elective)

Eighth grade art gives the student an opportunity to develop artistic talents by increasing visual perception, stimulating imagination, being exposed to cultural heritages, and being involved in the creative process. Units of emphasis will be on drawing skills, design concepts, an appreciation of aesthetics and art history. The student will get to work with a variety of media and techniques. The elements and principles of design are stressed at this level.

Band 8 (Elective)

8th Grade Intermediate Band students will continue to explore and develop mastery of the history, theory and performance interpretation of concert band music. The work of the students throughout the year is expected to be at a level commensurate with Virginia State Standards of Learning for Instrumental Music at the Intermediate Level. Students must have completed two (2) successful years of an introductory level band course; however, the special needs of the ensemble may allow the director to audition and give special permission to students who do not meet the experience requirement. All students are expected to fully participate in all rehearsals and performances, as well as practice at home a minimum of seventy minutes per week throughout the school year. **(Each student is expected to provide his/her own instrument.)**

Chorus 8 (Elective)

8th Grade Chorus is a full year course designed to give the student knowledge of vocal technique, choral singing, musical literacy and musicianship. The objective of this course is to provide the student with an opportunity to further develop these skills in preparation for performance in advanced performing groups at Appomattox County High School. Chorus students will be required to participate in concert performances at the discretion of the choral director.

Civics and Economics (Required)

Civics is the study of government and its laws and the rights and duties of citizenship. Economics is the study of scarcity and decision making among necessary tradeoffs. The study of both may be combined because political and economic systems are often closely intertwined. This class is semester-long and is designed to prepare students for the Civics/Economics SOL test at the end of first and second semesters. Various SOL support materials are used to assist students in their preparation for the SOL test.

Computer Solutions 8 (Elective)

In this class, the student will focus on Microsoft Office Programs. The students have completed at least one to two years of keyboarding skills. The students will complete major Microsoft Office projects. The lessons taught in class will go in depth using the different tools in the programs. The students will complete business documents including a business letter, memo, and report. Another major project will be researching future career paths, and comparing the two. By the time the student leaves the class, Microsoft Office programs will be easier to use.

English 8 (Required)

This course is designed to give the student a variety of experiences in English grammar and to stimulate an interest in reading from a variety of sources. Vocabulary development and reading skills are emphasized at this level along with grammatical usage. There is concentration on general composition skills. The entire program is designed to teach critical thinking, critical reading, word study, and communication. Both Grade 8 Writing and Grade 8 Reading SOL tests will be administered.

***Advanced English 8** (Alternate English)

This course is designed to give the student a variety of experiences in English grammar, literature, oral language, vocabulary development, writing, and research. The class is designed to strengthen oral communication, critical thinking, critical reading, and word study. **Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements.**

Health/Physical Education 8 (Required)

Health/Physical Education 8 is divided into physical education and health education. Physical education emphasizes the importance of physical activity and conditioning. This is accomplished through an introduction to major sports, leisure sports, innovative games, aerobics, dance, and lifetime activities. Class time is spent learning basic skills, rules, safety, and familiarization with equipment. Health education will address fitness, relationships, communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutrition, conflict, abuse, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and family life.

Math 8 (Pre-Algebra) (Required)

The pre-algebra course is designed to prepare students with the necessary skills to succeed in Algebra 1. Proficiency is required in the reading and interpreting of all types of graphs, solving one variables equations and inequalities, and graphing linear equations and inequalities. Considerable exposure is given to area and perimeter, probability, percent of increase and decrease, and the real number system. Problem solving techniques are introduced throughout the course.

***Algebra I** (Alternate Math) - **SOL Verified Credit Course**

Algebra I covers basic operations using algebraic representations. Students will then study the solution of first degree equations, the solution of first degree systems of equations, inequalities, graphing, factoring, algebraic fractions, and introduction to quadratic equations. Applicable concepts will be taught in practical laboratory situations. Close to the end of the course, the student will take the state mandated SOL test for the subject. **Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements. A student must have successfully completed Advanced Math 7 to take this course.**

***Geometry** (Alternate Math) - **SOL Verified Credit Course**

Geometry is a course designed to help the student develop powers of spatial visualization, perceive the role of inductive and deductive reasoning in both mathematical and nonmathematical situations, and appreciate the need for clarity and precision of language. The

course proceeds from the elements of geometry and sets through angle relationships, perpendicular and parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, similar polygons, circles, construction and loci into coordinate geometry. Close to the end of the course, the student will take the state mandated SOL test for the subject. **Placement in this course is based on meeting rigorous eligibility requirements. A student must have successfully completed Algebra I to take this course.**

Science 8 (Required) (2016-17)

This semester-long course emphasizes the application of physical science principles. The student investigates the behavior of matter in its various forms and learns to associate matter and energy in the fields of mechanics, heat, light, magnetism, electricity and electronics. The course attempts to develop within the student a desire to investigate and encourages student curiosity and discovery.

Science 8 (Required) (beginning 2017-18)

This semester-long course emphasizes earth/space science (first nine weeks) and SOL Review (second nine weeks.) During the first nine weeks, students will explore water's role in the environment, air and atmosphere, solar system and space exploration. During the second nine weeks, students will review all objectives (6-8) in preparation for the SOL test.

Spanish I (Elective)

Spanish students will gain knowledge of the basics of the Spanish Language verbally, in writing and reading. Spanish culture will be introduced by studying unique ways of life and contributions the Hispanic communities have given around the world, such as Art, Literature, Music, and culinary traditions. Students will also learn basics of geography, history and government of the Hispanic world.

(Prerequisite to any Level I Foreign Language Course: Students wishing to take a foreign language class must first demonstrate a strong mastery of English. A final grade no lower than a high "B" in Language Arts 7 or Advanced English 7, Reading SOL scores and teacher recommendations from the English Department will be used for student placement.)

Technological Systems 8 (Elective)

In this course, students combine resources and techniques to create systems, attaining comprehension of how technological systems work. By simulating systems, assessing their impacts, and relating this experience to *Introduction to Technology* and *Inventions and Innovations*, students gain insight into how to approach the problems and opportunities of a technological world in a broad sense. They also explore occupational areas and educational programs for technology-oriented careers.

Theater (Elective)

This course will explore the many different and varying aspects of drama and theater. The students will learn about the physical stage, theater vocabulary, evaluation and criticism. Students will participate in many activities of improvisation and incorporate the various elements of acting. Students will learn the basic structure of drama through reading, writing, directing and acting. This is an exciting participatory class.

HIGH SCHOOL CORE ACADEMICS

ENGLISH

HISTORY and SOCIAL SCIENCES

MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE



DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

ENGLISH

The English curriculum at ACHS is designed to develop analytic, interpretive, and practical skills with real life application, especially as related to the world of work. Presentations, public speaking, reading for comprehension and writing skills are all emphasized.

IT IS NECESSARY TO PASS THE PRECEDING GRADE LEVEL OF ENGLISH BEFORE PROGRESSING TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL.

Reading and Writing 9

Elective Credit for Ninth Graders. This class is a one semester class designed to be taken before or along with the English 9 class. The students will study a variety of forms of literature and writing styles. Comprehension, vocabulary, reading skills, and writing skills will be targeted and strengthened for improvement. This class is recommended for students who require further assistance in strengthening their reading levels.

English 9 (Pre-AP is also available. See page 17 for requirements)

English 9 offers students opportunities to strengthen written and oral communication skills through the use of oral presentations and narrative, literary, expository, and technical writing. Literary terms and forms will be explored through studies of short stories, poetry, the epic, nonfiction, drama, and the novel. Students will become familiar with research techniques including the use of electronic databases. The student will read and follow instructions to use computer software, assemble or construct models/equipment, or complete a project.

Reading and Writing 10

Elective Credit for Tenth Graders. This class is a one semester class designed to be taken before or along with the English 10 class. The students will study a variety of forms of literature and writing styles. Comprehension, vocabulary, reading skills, and writing skills will be targeted and strengthened for improvement. This class is recommended for students who require further assistance in strengthening their reading levels.

English 10 (Pre-AP is also available. See page 17 for requirements)

This course introduces students to reading selections from the classics and contemporary literature. Critical analysis of selected literature is stressed. Units of work include short stories, drama, nonfiction, poetry, and novels. Emphasis will be placed on students developing skills that are necessary for further literature study. The student will also read and interpret consumer materials

English 11 (Pre-AP is also available. See page 17 for requirements) – SOL Verified Credit Course

This course consists of a broad survey of American literature and features extensive selections from major writers designed to examine the chief movements, modes, and influences in American literature. Included is the continuation of advanced composition principles and the research process. Vocabulary skills are strengthened. Individual reading and research work are required. Emphasis will be placed on students developing skills that are applicable to the world of work.

English 12

The study of grammar, vocabulary, and composition will strengthen and extend students' skills in self-expression and the correct use of language. A review of formal grammar study will develop according to student needs in individual classes. The study of world literature will use a humanities approach to western ideas and culture. Individual reading will be a requisite of the course. The research process will be extended, and projects, including oral presentations, will be required. Individual reading will be a requisite of the course. The student will engage in computer-assisted research and create documents pertinent to personal employment.

AP Language and Composition 11 (Weighted Credit)

Prerequisite: Minimum B average in Pre-AP 10, Pre-AP 10 teacher recommendation. The AP Language and Composition course trains students to become skilled readers and writers in a variety of genres and modes of composition. As stated in the Advanced Placement Course Description for the English exams, the AP Language and composition course's purpose is "to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers." Students will grow in awareness of the composition process through self-assessment and evaluations by peers and the instructor. These developing skills will allow the student to read critically and write effectively.

Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition 12 (Weighted Credit)

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition challenges students to read and interpret a wide range of imaginative works. The course invites students to explore a variety of genres and literary periods and to write clearly about the literature they encounter. On a daily basis, it asks them to read critically, think clearly, and write concisely about fiction and poetry. By the end of the course, students will be prepared for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition exam and will have cultivated a rich understanding of literary works and acquired a set of analytical skills they will use throughout their lives. Rhetorical devices and argument skills learned in the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition 11 course with nonfiction readings will be refined and refocused for the literature & poetry studied in Advanced Placement 12. Students in Advanced Placement classes are expected to take the College Board Exam in addition to fulfilling all the English 12 curriculum requirements. The emphasis of this course is on preparing students for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition examination.

ENG 111, ENG 112 - Grade 12 Weighted Credit

Prerequisites: See page 18 of course guide book. ENG 111 and ENG 112 will stress the development of skills necessary to succeed in college. Included will be expository and argumentative writing, ranging from single paragraphs to essays of some length and complexity; a study of logical, rhetorical, and linguistic structures; the methods and conventions of preparing research papers; and the practical criticism of literary types. Students will also analyze major British and Western literary works. The student will be required to demonstrate competency in computer assisted research, master standard manuscript and special document formats, and compile a writing portfolio suitable for entrance into a four-year college. College credit will be granted on the basis of semesters successfully completed. Grades will be weighted on a 4.5 scale with a 10-point grading scale. Successful completion of both courses is required to meet the English 12 requirement.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

History and Social Sciences courses relate to careers in a variety of ways. Through a broad-based knowledge of people, cultures, and institutions, students develop a sense of citizenship, communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and various practical skills in using resources. Practical career applications include government, law, research, personnel work, environmental fields, and education.

World History and Geography Part I- Required – SOL Verified Credit Course (Pre-AP is also available. See page 17 for requirements)

The general purpose of this course is for students to understand the impact of the historical development of civilization on the world as it exists today, focusing on prehistory to 1500 CE. (CE = Common Era) Students will learn of the social, economic, and political patterns concerning human civilization and become acquainted with specific cultures and their features. Geography and world religions are major components of this course, with a particular emphasis on the development of European nations. Relative careers highlighted within this course include teaching, political science, and archeology.

World History and Geography Part II- Elective – SOL Verified Credit Course (Pre-AP is also available. See page 17 for requirements)

The general purpose of this course is for students to understand the impact of the historical development of civilization on the world as it exists today, focusing on 1500 CE to present. . The student will understand the impact of history and geography on the world as it exists today with an emphasis on European nations, the rise of global powers, and the increasing interdependence of various civilizations. Geography and world religions are major components of this course, with a particular emphasis on their effects on world events. Relative careers highlighted within this course include teaching, political science, and archeology.

Note: Both World History I and World History II will include studies of geography and world religions.

VA & US History - Required - SOL Verified Credit Course

This course is designed to help students understand and appreciate the development of American ideals and institutions through the study of major events, eras, personalities, and documents of American history from the Age of Exploration to contemporary time. This course will help students become active, informed citizens of Virginia and the United States.

Advanced Placement VA & US History (Weighted Credit)

The AP section of VA & US History is a weighted course as well as a two-semester elective course for students that provide a more in-depth, accelerated approach to the regular curriculum. Students will be expected to prepare research papers, work independently on analysis of outside readings, make individual and group presentations on conducted research, and prepare a written analysis of source materials. All students will be encouraged to take the Advanced Placement U.S. History exam. A 10 pt. grading scale will be used for this course. , and it will utilize a 5.0 weight. There will be a summer assignment for this course, which is required. Failure to complete assignment could result in removal from course.

VA & US Government - Required

This course is designed to give the students a general understanding of how our government is conducted from day to day. Emphasis is placed on the study of major government institutions, documents, and figures as they relate to our form of government. Students will also learn about elections, civil rights and liberties, as well as foreign policy and the basics of economics. The individual's responsibility to the political process is also emphasized. Completion of this course will better prepare students for active citizenship, as well as careers in law, law enforcement, education, political science, social science, politics, and public administration.

Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States (Weighted Credit)

The AP Government and Politics course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course is adapted to the "A- B Schedule This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. Topics generally covered include: Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government, Political Beliefs and Behaviors, Political Parties/Interest Groups, Institutions and Policy Processes of National Government, as well as Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. All students will be encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Government exam. A 10 point grading scale will be used for this course, and it will utilize a 5.0 weight. There will be a summer assignment for this course, which is required. Failure to complete assignment could result in removal from course.

Comparative World Religions

This course will investigate the major world religions, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, and Judaism; traditional religions; and significant regional religions such as Shinto and Sikhism. The purpose of the class is to provide an objective explanation of the practices and beliefs of various religions, a discussion of the impact of religion on global culture, and an analysis of how religions compare, contrast, and relate with one another.

Sociology

Sociology is the study of society focusing upon interaction among people in social situations. The goal of the sociologist is to find patterns in those interactions by observing people's behavior and identifying social facts from a sociological perspective. Students are required to conduct research and complete a term paper, which is due the end of the semester Sociology prepares you to understand, and thus foster relationships you have with people. Possible career choices include, but are not limited to: social worker, grievance officer, parole officer, researcher, polling analyst, sociologist, counselor, personnel director, and public relations.

MATHEMATICS

Applications of mathematics to everyday life are emphasized in all courses. Among the math related professions identified are the following: engineers, architects, doctors, actuaries, and carpenters.

Algebra IA

This course is an introductory class designed to prepare students for Algebra I. It will expose students to the key concepts and ideas that will help the student to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to analyze and investigate mathematical relationships. A sample of topics to be covered include: Relationships between fraction, decimals, percent, algebraic concepts, solving equations, exponents, polynomials, variables, slopes, graphs and the operation of the graphing calculator. **Note: This course is a mathematics elective focused on building the foundations of Algebra I and preparing for the Algebra I SOL.**

Algebra I - SOL Verified Credit Course

This course covers the basic operations using algebraic representations. Students study the solution of first-degree equations, the solution of first-degree systems of equations, inequalities, graphing, factoring, algebraic functions, quadratic equations, also linear equations, exponents and radicals. The one semester course moves at an accelerated pace. At the completion of this course, the student will take the state mandated SOL test for the subject.

Geometry IA

This course is designed for students who have completed Algebra I and need reinforcement and extra skill development in order to prepare them for successful mastery of the Geometry content. Units taught in this course will pull from 8th grade, Algebra I and Geometry standards. Problem solving skills and real world application strategies will be applied throughout the units. Students will be exposed to vocabulary and language patterns that are crucial to a student's understanding and appreciation of math as a language. While learning the material in this course, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technologies as well as graphing calculators. **Note: This course is a mathematics elective focused on building the foundations of Geometry and preparing for the Geometry SOL.**

Geometry – SOL Verified Credit Course

Geometry is a course designed to help the student develop powers of spatial visualization, perceive the role of inductive and deductive reasoning in both mathematical and non-mathematical situations, and appreciate the need for clarity and precision of language. The course proceeds from the elements of geometry and sets through angle relationships, perpendicular and parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, similar polygons, circles, construction and loci into coordinate geometry. Student will take the state mandated SOL test for this course.

Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis

This mathematics course is designed for students who have completed Algebra I. It will prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary to investigate and analyze functions related to linear, quadratic, logarithmic and exponential families. A sample of topics to be covered include: functions, ordered pairs, tables, graphs, equations, data analysis, data interpretation and prediction.

Computer Mathematics

In this course students use the graphing calculator or computer to solve problems that can be set up as mathematical models. Programming will be introduced in the context of mathematical concepts and problem solving to help students define a problem; develop, refine, and implement a plan; and test and revise the solution. Students will make connections and build relationships among various fields of mathematics including algebra, arithmetic, geometry, probability, and statistics. Connections to other subject areas and careers will be emphasized.

Algebra II A

This mathematics course is designed for students who have completed Algebra I and Geometry. It will prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary to investigate and analyze functions related to linear, quadratic, logarithmic and exponential families. A sample of topics to be covered include: functions, ordered pairs, tables, graphs, equations, data analysis, data interpretation and prediction. **Note: This course is a mathematics elective focused on building the foundations of Algebra II and preparing for the Algebra II SOL.**

Algebra II - SOL Verified Credit Course

Algebra II is a course for students who have successfully completed Algebra I and Geometry. This course continues the study begun in Algebra I and takes the student rigorously through linear relations and functions, polynomial functions, complex numbers, systems of equations, matrices and rational expressions. It will also include the study of quadratic, polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions as well as the topics of sequences, series and probability. At completion of this course, students will take the state-mandated SOL test for the subject.

AP Statistics (Weighted Credit)

AP Statistics involves the study of four main areas: exploratory analysis; planning a study; probability; and statistical inference. According to the College Board, upon entering this course students are expected to have mathematical maturity and quantitative reasoning ability. Mathematical maturity could be defined as complete working knowledge of the graphical and algebraic concepts through Math Analysis, including linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic functions. In contrast to many math classes, this course will require reading of the text. This AP Statistics course is taught as an activity-based course in which students actively construct their own understanding of the concepts and techniques of statistics.

Trigonometry

Upon successful completion of Algebra II, a student may enroll in this course. Topics will include trigonometric terms, functions, and their graphs. Emphasis will be placed on solving application problems using these concepts. Identities, inverse functions, the area of a triangle, the Laws of Sine and Cosine, and polar coordinates will also be covered. This course is a necessary prerequisite for Mathematical Analysis.

Math Analysis

Upon successful completion of Trigonometry, a student may enroll in Math Analysis, an elective math course which includes a review of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Several types of functions and their graphs are covered in depth, including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trig. Conic sections and limits are also covered. This course is a necessary prerequisite for calculus.

SCIENCE

Applications of science to everyday life are suggested in all courses, but are emphasized in environmental science, and principles of technology. Activities from the Tech Prep curriculum are integrated into all appropriate courses. Students who take advantage of the wide variety of science courses offered at ACHS will be prepared for further study in the many medical fields, engineering fields, chemical-related fields, and teaching fields as well as cosmetology, forestry, and public works.

Earth Science – SOL Verified Credit Course (Also available as an Honors class)

Pre-requisite: None

This course is a foundation science that helps students understand the processes that continue to shape our planet. Students will explore topics such as geology, astronomy, meteorology and oceanography. Further investigation will include the study of space objects, fossils, weathering, soil and cave formation, internal and surface features of the earth, weather systems, plate tectonics, and the physical and biological characteristics of the oceans. Interpretation of maps, charts, and graphs are stressed. The development of logical thought process is encouraged through the performance of appropriate laboratory experiences and activities in which data is collected and analyzed.

Biology – SOL Verified Credit Course (Also available as Pre-AP; see page 17 for requirements)

Pre-requisite: None

This course covers the study of living organisms from the molecular level to their interactions with each other and the environment. Topics include scientific investigation, classification of the three domains and six kingdoms of life, ecology, introduction to chemistry of life, cellular structure and function including cellular transportation, genetics and heredity, and bacteria and viruses. Laboratory exercises will accompany most units of study. Students will develop competencies in microscopy, problem solving, group interaction, and basic laboratory safety and techniques.

Pre-AP Chemistry – SOL Verified Credit Course

Pre-requisite: Biology pre- or co-requisite, Algebra II

The focus of this course is based on principles of inorganic chemistry. It is required for college bound students. This course covers basic chemistry concepts, such as, energy changes, atomic theory, formula writing, equation writing, stoichiometry, gas laws, quantum mechanics, acids and bases, and nuclear chemistry. This course involves an abundance of problems solving activities in order to apply concepts learned. Students will be required to complete six formal lab reports in preparation for college or AP work.

AP Chemistry (Weighted Credit)

Pre-requisites: Pre-AP Chemistry, Pre- or co-requisite: Math Analysis

This second-year course is similar in content to a college level general chemistry course and especially appropriate for students who plan a career in one of the chemical fields. Units of study include review of Pre-AP Chemistry (problem solving, stoichiometry, gas laws, atomic structure and periodicity, bonding), thermochemistry, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, electrochemistry, and coordination chemistry. Extensive lab work will accompany this course, which will be documented in a bound lab book. This course will use a 10 point grading scale.

Pre-AP Physics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry and/or enrollment in Trigonometry.

Physics is a part of the realm of natural science. It is about the nature of basic things such as motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light, and the composition of atoms. The ideas presented in physics are fundamental to more complicated sciences encountered in college. Physics examines our universe and attempts to explain fundamental workings using the powers of observation, experimentation, reasoning, and the language of mathematics.

AP Physics (Weighted Credit)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry and/or enrollment in Trigonometry.

Physics is a part of the realm of natural science. It is about the nature of basic things such as motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light, and the composition of atoms. The ideas presented in physics are fundamental to more complicated sciences encountered in college. Physics examines our universe and attempts to explain fundamental workings using the powers of observation, experimentation, reasoning, and the language of mathematics. This course will use a 10 point grading scale.

AP Biology (Weighted Credit)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-AP Biology and Pre-AP Chemistry.

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college-level introductory biology course. The intent of the course is to expose students to higher-level biological principles, concepts, and skills and allow them the opportunity to apply their knowledge to real-life applications. Rather than learning from a micro level outward, students learn from a macro level inward. Students are also expected to learn not by memorization of facts, but through content and concept application via the AP Biology science practices. Students explore the question, "How do we know what we know?" by investigating six topic areas: the chemistry of life, cells, cell processes (energy and cell communication), genetics, evolution, and biodiversity and ecology. Integrated into the six topic areas are big ideas, enduring understandings, and learning objectives from the AP Biology Curriculum Framework that merge concepts with science practices at the molecular, cellular, organism, population, and ecosystem levels. This course will use a 10 point grading scale.

Botany

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Biology

This specialized course will cover all the major topics relating to the Kingdoms of Plants, Fungi, Protistia, Archaeobacteria and Eubacteria. Through field and laboratory experiences, the student will gain in-depth knowledge of the following topics: plant classification from nonvascular to vascular organisms, history of plant evolution, structure, reproduction, dispersement, physiology and responses. The student completing this course will also gain an understanding of the important role plants, fungi and other organisms play in everyday life and survival of the planet.

Environmental Science

Pre-requisite: completion of Biology and Earth Science

This course is designed to provide students with a keen understanding of principles of our environment and the interactions of organisms within ecosystems. Topics covered will include review of basic ecology, terrestrial biomes, aquatic biomes, biodiversity, air pollution, water pollution, land use and management, conservation, renewable and nonrenewable energy,

current political stands and laws governing the environment. Students will participate in theoretical and actual conservation programs of past and future concern. Students will be expected to complete projects and laboratory exercises that emphasize these topics.

Introduction to Anatomy

Pre-requisite: Pre-AP Biology and Pre-AP Chemistry

Human Anatomy and Physiology is an advanced science course. Anatomy is the study of structures of the human body; physiology deals with the functions of these structures. The course focuses on anatomical terminology, anatomical identification, and physiological processes of human body systems. Students will acquire an appreciation and understanding of how structures and functions are related in major body systems. Students will engage in lab work (will include dissection), hands-on activities, research projects, fieldwork and presentations with emphasis on the development of critical thinking and science inquiry skill.

ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL DISSECTION

The Appomattox County School Boards provides one or more alternatives to animal dissection for students enrolled in biological science classes that incorporate dissection exercises. These alternatives may include computer programs, Internet simulations, plastic models, videotapes, digital videodiscs, and charts. The alternative techniques require a comparable amount of time and effort as do the dissection exercises and provide comparable depth and scope of learning. The alternative techniques provide the student, through means other than dissection, with knowledge similar to that expected to be gained by other students in the course who perform, participate in, or observe the dissection. Testing procedures that do not require the use of dissected specimens are provided for those students who choose an alternative technique.

A student's objection to participating in an animal dissection should be substantiated by a signed note from his or her parent or guardian.

Adopted: May 26, 2005

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-200.01

Guidelines for Alternatives to Dissection (Attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo #161 (Aug. 6, 2004)

FINE ARTS

ART

MUSIC
INSTRUMENTAL / VOCAL

THEATRE / DRAMA

FINE ARTS

For students enrolled in art who wish to pursue an education or career in an art related field the options are many and range from the commercial arts to the fine arts, some of which include: visual communications, graphic design, advertising design, product design, transportation design, interior design, fashion design, computer graphics/design, computer animation, cartooning, illustration, photography, video, film, animation, theatrical set design, environmental design, industrial design, drafting, architecture, medical illustration, art therapy, art history, museum studies, teaching art painting, printmaking, sculpture, and various other 3-D and craft related fields (metals, fibers, ceramics, etc.)

Art I

Art I/Art Foundations gives the student an opportunity to develop artistic talents by increasing visual perception, by stimulating imagination, by being exposed to this cultural heritage, and by being involved in the creative process. Units of emphasis will be drawing skills, design concepts, appreciation of aesthetics, and art history. The student will work with a variety of media and techniques.

Art II

Art II/Intermediate is a continuation of Art I/Art Foundations and provides an opportunity to further develop creatively as the student works with different materials associated with drawing, painting, art history, and crafts. The student will continue to increase an awareness of the environment, to compare past art forms with those of the present, to work with a variety of techniques and media, and to learn concepts and elements of design.

Art III

This course is structured to provide advanced art students with the opportunity to develop and improve art skills with emphasis on individual projects. Students who enroll will develop more advanced techniques in the use of various art media. In-depth experiences will be provided in the areas of painting, graphics, sculpture, and crafts.

Art IV

This course is a continuation of the experiences and techniques acquired in Art III/Advanced Intermediate. It will be available to those students interested in a career and/or education in art beyond the secondary level. This course will emphasize to those interested students preparation for art training in college or in specialized art classes.

MUSIC

The music program at ACHS encourages students to become both creative and responsible through music. Music students develop a sense of self-worth as they work towards a common goal of performance excellence. Their exposure to various musical styles, music theory, history, appreciation, and performances help them to develop as creative young musicians and explore related career opportunities in music, in teaching, or performing in schools, churches, and community.

Advanced Band

Concert Band is offered to students in grades 9-12 who play wind or percussion instruments. Students will explore the history, theory and performance interpretation of concert band music. The work of the students throughout the year is expected to be at a level commensurate with the advanced nature of the class and aligned with the Virginia State Standards of Learning for Instrumental Music at the advanced and artist level. Students must have completed two successful years of an introductory level band course. All students are required to fully participate in all Concert Band rehearsals and performances which may include after school rehearsals during the spring semester. Students who are enrolled in this course are not required to participate in the Intermediate Band or Jazz Ensemble.

Chorus

This is a year-long course open to all high school students with a genuine interest in choral singing, but it is *highly* recommended for those who have had at least one year of Chorus experience at the Middle School level. Students will perform three-, four-, and occasionally, five-part choral works ranging from sacred, secular, classical, pop, and beyond. Members of the Chorus are expected to demonstrate a high degree of cooperative effort and dedication to the success of this performing group. An emphasis is placed on music theory, sight singing, written critiques, and performance practice. Students are expected to sing in class every day, and will often be required to attend rehearsals and performances outside of school hours both on and off-campus throughout the school year. Students will also be required to purchase concert attire and adhere to the policies of the ACHS Choral Handbook as designated by the Choral Director. Students in the class are eligible to audition for district and state choruses offering advanced rehearsal and performance opportunities throughout Virginia.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is offered to students in grades 9-12 who play any of the following instruments: Saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass guitar, piano or drums. Students will explore the history, theory and performance interpretation of the jazz style. The work of the students throughout the year is expected to be at the level commensurate with the advanced nature of the class and aligned with the Virginia State Standards of Learning for Instrumental Music at the advanced and artist level. Students must have completed (2) successful years of introductory level band courses; however, the special needs of the ensemble may allow the director to audition and give special permission to students who do not meet the experience requirement. All students are required to fully participate in all Jazz Ensemble rehearsals and performances throughout the school year which may include after school rehearsals during the spring semester. Students enrolled for this course are required to also participate and perform with either the High School Marching Band or Concert Band. The size of the class is limited to the correct instrumentation for a jazz big band.

THEATRE

Theatre

This semester-long course is open to all high school students with a genuine interest in Theatre. First-year theatre students will experience and practice the foundations of acting and theatre through improvisational exercises, readings, group skits, play productions, and the study of theatrical history. First-year students will also be introduced to the foundations of technical theatre (lights, sound, props, costumes, stage make-up, set design, set construction, stage management, etc.). Students will develop self-awareness and self-confidence as well as improved public speaking and presentational skills. Students returning to the course will explore all of these elements at a heightened level through increased individualized work on monologues and various theatre projects. Returning students will also hold greater leadership responsibilities in both acting and technical theatre roles. All students will be required to demonstrate a high degree of cooperative effort and dedication to the success of every in-class performance and any external performance opportunities that may become available.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The foreign language offerings are college-preparatory courses. Career options include: teacher, interpreter, diplomat, travel tour guide, secretary, executive in international company, etc.

Foreign Language is offered to students seeking an Advanced Studies Diploma. Students are recommended for these more rigorous courses for the first time if they are demonstrating success in advanced level English Classes. Continued placement in the second and third level of a foreign language course is contingent on the student demonstrating **STRONG** grades in previous level of the language.

French I

French I begins the study of the French language and culture. The course will include practice in speaking, writing, reading, and understanding the French language. Students will spend considerable time studying the vocabulary, enunciation, and sentence structure of the language. French culture will be introduced. Students will become aware of the necessity to be bilingual in this modern world.

French II

French II will continue the study of the French language and culture. Reading, writing, and conversation will be stressed with less English spoken and written in the classroom. Students will work on improved enunciation in conversation. Students will be aware of the necessity to be bilingual in this modern work world.

French III

French III will present more complex grammatical structure along with an introduction to the literature and history of France. More reading, writing, and speaking in the language will be required. Students will role play work-related situations in the target language.

French IV

French IV will continue the presentation on advanced grammatical structures and the study of the history and literature of France. Independent study in the language will be required of each student. Students will continue to role-play situations related to the modern work world.

Latin I (available on-line only)

Latin I begins the study of the Romans and how they lived. The student studies the Latin language, the culture, history, and contributions of the Romans to the western world. An intensive study of Latin vocabulary and grammar and how they relate to the English language will be emphasized. The general direction of the study is toward the reading of original Latin text.

Latin II (available on-line only)

Latin II continues the study of the Roman world and its impact on civilization. The student continues the study of Latin grammar and vocabulary with an increased concentration on the reading of Latin authors. The student will resume the study of classical culture and Roman history.

Latin III (available on-line only)

The student will complete the study of Latin grammar and continue to enhance his/her knowledge of vocabulary. The students begin to read classical authors such as Cicero, Julius Caesar, Horace, and Catullus. Cultural emphasis will be placed on Roman military and politics and Caesar's life.

Spanish I

Spanish students will gain knowledge of the basics of the Spanish Language verbally, in writing and reading. Spanish culture will be introduced by studying unique ways of life and contributions the Hispanics communities have given around the world; such as Art, Literature, Music, and culinary traditions. Students will also learn basics of geography, history and government of the Hispanic world.

Spanish II

In Spanish II, students continue to develop their communicative competence by interacting orally and in writing with other Spanish speakers, understanding oral and written messages in Spanish. Students begin to show a greater level of accuracy when using basic language structures, and they are exposed to more complex features of the Spanish language. Emphasis continues to be placed on use of Spanish in the classroom as well as on use of authentic materials to learn about Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish III

Students will communicate on a variety of topics at a level commensurate with their study, pursuing more complex structures in Spanish and moving from concrete to more abstract concepts. Students will comprehend the main ideas of the authentic materials that they listen to and read; and will be able to identify significant details to the related topics. Students develop the ability to discuss in Spanish topics related to historical and contemporary events and issues.

Spanish IV

In Spanish IV students continue to develop their communicative competence by interacting orally and in writing with other Spanish speakers, understanding oral and written messages in Spanish, and making oral and written presentations in Spanish. Students comprehend spoken and written Spanish texts from a variety of authentic sources as well as produce compositions containing well-developed ideas on various topics. Students use Spanish to access information in other subject areas and to compare and contrast cultural elements found in Spanish-speaking countries with those found in their own.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - HEALTH EDUCATION

In order to ensure a well-rounded program of instruction, experiences in each of the following general areas are offered: conditioning exercises, team sports, and tumbling, rhythms, and individual and dual sports. Each course includes instruction in physical fitness and career related fields such as physical therapy, recreation, athletic training, etc. No student will be allowed to take more than one (1) physical education course per Semester.

Health and Physical Education - Grade 9

Physical education includes various team and individual sports activities. Each student will also be expected to complete the Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Tests and several other types of conditioning activities. Health education includes instruction in family life education.

Health and Physical Education Grade 10

Physical Education includes various team and individual sports activities. Each student will also be expected to complete the Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Tests and several other types of conditioning activities. Health Education grade 10 includes classroom instruction in driver education, and family life education. **Note:** Driver Education is a unit of instruction designed to prepare the student for the responsibilities of driving an automobile.

Advanced Physical Education Lifetime Activities – Elective offered to students who have successfully completed HPE9 & HPE10

This course includes opportunities for participation in various team and individual sports activities. Students will be expected to complete the Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Tests and several other conditioning activities.

Strength Training and Conditioning

This course allows the student to lift weights in a structured 5 day per week strength and conditioning program and condition 2 days per week with plyometrics and other conditioning activities. This class is recommended for athletes who participate in sports.

Introduction to Athletic Training – Grades 11 and 12

This course offers students the opportunity to have a “hands-on” look at the profession of Athletic Training. Athletic Training is a profession that focuses on the prevention, recognition and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. In this class, students will be asked to learn anatomy of the human body; the general signs, symptoms and treatment of general medical and athletic injuries; taping and wrapping techniques; and personal as well as community health.

CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

BUISNESS, MARKETING and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCES

HEALTH and MEDICAL SERVICES

TRADE and INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

OPTION AREAS

Courses in agricultural education are designed to provide leadership skills as well as a background for a broad range of career choices in the agribusiness industry. The three program options at ACHS offer specific skills related to such occupational areas as nursery worker, landscape designer, floral design, greenhouse operator, small engines mechanic, farm equipment mechanic, parts and accessories salesperson, forestry worker, conservation worker, farm worker, and livestock care as well as a variety of jobs related to welding, carpentry, and electrical work.

Agriculture Education

Students interested in one of the four agriculture pathways, Ag Production, Ag Machinery, Veterinary Science, or Horticulture Science, will need to speak to your counselor specifically about the suggested courses to take depending on your interest.

Foundations of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to develop competencies in each of the career pathways as they pertain to agricultural education, including the areas of Virginia's agriculture industry; the global scope of agriculture; plant, animal, and food science; principles of leadership and opportunities within the FFA; agribusiness and Supervised Agricultural Experience program opportunities; agricultural skills and safety in agricultural mechanics and machinery operations; and natural resources and environmental systems.

Note: Foundations of Agriculture is a prerequisite for **ALL** agricultural pathways except Horticulture and Welding 1

Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

Prerequisite: None, Only for Upperclassmen

This course is a rigorous course for only upper classmen. The course is designed to develop competencies in each of the career pathways as they pertain to agricultural education, including the areas of Virginia's agriculture industry; principles of leadership and opportunities within the FFA; agribusiness and Supervised Agricultural Experience program opportunities; the global scope of agriculture; plant, animal, and food science; agricultural skills and safety in agricultural mechanics and machinery operations; and natural resources and environmental systems.

Note: Introduction to Agriculture is a prerequisite for **ALL** agricultural pathways except Horticulture and Welding 1

Power Systems Pathway

Welding I (Agriculture Fabrications and Emerging Technologies)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources recommended but not required

Welding is required by a wide variety of industries, anywhere fusible materials and high heat are needed to manufacture, repair, or alter tools and products. Professional welders are in high demand and can earn accordingly. Students in Welding I are taught to use manual welding, cutting, and electric arc welding processes to fabricate and weld metal parts according to diagrams, blueprints, and specifications. Students will also receive all safety-related practices and techniques.

Introduction to Agricultural Power, Structural and Technical Systems

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Foundations of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

This course will introduce students to the spectrum of agricultural power, building systems, and associated technical systems. The major units of study will include careers; small engine systems and fundamentals of operation; basic plumbing, introductory concrete, carpentry, electrical operations, both metal fabrication (arc welding) and cold metal work will be performed in the lab. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

Agricultural Power Systems

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Introduction to Ag. Power, Structural, and Technical systems

This course expands the information from the introductory power course with an emphasis on technical aspects of engine systems, troubleshooting, power transfer systems engine tune-up, and preparing equipment for spray painting. Students will also cover basic building design and more in depth agricultural mechanics skills. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will also be part of the course.

Agricultural Power Systems, Advanced

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Agricultural Power Systems

Students enrolled in this advanced course of study will be instructed in detailed maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair of agricultural equipment systems and components. Instruction will also be given in the administrative and clerical areas of operating an agricultural equipment sales and repair business. Tractor overhaul and repair will be a major portion of the lab work. Students will have a chance to expand on class and lab skills from the previous two courses. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will be taught also.

Production Pathway

Agricultural Production Technology

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Foundations of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources This course emphasizes plant science, animal science, soil science, agricultural business management, agricultural mechanization, and leadership training. Emphasis will be placed on small ruminant production. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will also be taught.

Agricultural Production Management

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Agricultural Production Technology

This course includes instruction in agricultural mechanics, farm power and machinery, soil and water management, farming programs, and leadership training. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will be taught also. Students will receive pesticide safety training and pursue the Virginia Private Pesticide Applicators License. Agricultural Production Management is an excellent companion course for the Agricultural Cooperative Program.

Operating the Farm Business

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Agricultural Production Management

This course deals with becoming established in farming or related occupations, farm management, farm machinery management, farm building construction, and leadership training. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will be taught also. Operating the Farm Business is an excellent companion course for the Agricultural Cooperative Program.

Aq Specialist Pathway

Agriculture Development

Prerequisites: None

A customized agricultural course that takes a hands-on approach to a variety of beginner agricultural concepts including: horticulture, lawn care, woodworking, mechanics, tools, agricultural equipment, animal care, forestry, natural resources, business skills and much more. Students will study the FFA, recordkeeping, and supervised agricultural experience. *School counselor recommendation required to enroll in this course.*

Agricultural Education Preparation

Prerequisites: None

A customized agricultural course that takes a hands-on approach to a variety of introductory agricultural concepts including: horticulture, landscaping, woodworking, small engines, tools, pet care, agricultural production, forestry, parks and natural resource management, business operations and much more. Students will study the FFA, recordkeeping, and supervised agricultural experience.

School counselor recommendation required to enroll in this course.

Agricultural Specialist III

Prerequisites: None

A customized agricultural course that takes a hands-on approach to a variety of intermediate agricultural concepts including: greenhouse production, floriculture, woodworking, mechanics, tools, machinery, animal care, applied biology, environmental management, forestry, job and career skills and much more. Students will study the FFA, recordkeeping, and supervised agricultural experience.

School counselor recommendation required to enroll in this course.

Vet Science Pathway

Small Animal Care

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Foundations of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

Recommended courses: Biology and Algebra I

This course is designed to introduce students to a demanding career in Veterinary Medicine. Students will learn animal breeds and species, veterinary terminology, anatomy and physiology, animal hospital procedures, clinical exams, leadership skills, animal ownership and ethics, animal handling and grooming. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will be taught also.

Veterinary Science

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Small Animal Care

Recommended courses: Biology and Algebra I

Continued study in parasitology, nutrition, office management, animal genetics, animal reproduction, laboratory techniques, animal behavior, and principles of disease. This course will further enhance the students' knowledge to continue their career planning in the veterinary science options. Leadership development, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs will be taught also.

Horticulture

Horticulture Sciences

Introduction of Plant Systems is designed to introduce students to the Horticulture industry. Students will be exposed to concepts related to Floral Design, Nursery Production, Landscape Design, Greenhouse Management, and Turf Grass Management. Applied science concepts include botany, plant propagation, plant anatomy, plant growth and development requirements, and control of pest, disease, and weeds. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

Floral Design Pathway

Floral Design I

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Introduction to Plant Systems

This course offers an expanded study of floral design, which began in the Introduction of Plant Systems course. Course content covers career opportunities, floral design foundations, design applications, and the marketing of floral products. Specific design styles to be examined include mass, vase, wedding, balloon, holiday, and personal-adornment arrangements. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

Floral Design II (Floriculture)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Floral Design I

Students will expand their knowledge of the horticulture plant production industry. Instruction includes the science of floral plant production, plant material identification, expansion of Floral Design I concepts, study of specialty floral designs and special event preparation. The business aspect of the industry is addressed through the study of pricing, advertising, shop design, wire services, delivery processes, professional organizations, sales techniques, and continuing education. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

Landscaping Pathway

Landscaping I

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Introduction to Plant Systems

In this course, students expand their knowledge of plant science and landscape design covered in the Introduction to Plant Systems course. They receive instruction in sketching and drawing, analyzing a landscape site, designing for function and aesthetics, identifying and selecting landscape plants, purchasing and installing plants, and maintaining the landscape by watering, fertilizing, mulching, pruning, and controlling pests. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

Greenhouse Plant Production and Management

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Landscaping I

Students enrolled in this course learn the operating procedures for a greenhouse as it relates to landscaping. Units of instruction include developing plant production facilities, science application in plant production, identification of plants, landscape preparation, landscape design, installing plants and proper care and maintenance of landscapes. Business management and marketing skills are emphasized to prepare students for careers in the greenhouse plant production and management industry. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

Turf Grass Establishment and Maintenance

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Greenhouse Plant Production and Management

Students begin to master the duties and tasks of professionals who establish and maintain turf in public areas such as golf courses; parks; athletic fields; school, industrial, and institutional campuses; and residential lawns. Students will also be engaged in advanced landscape design studies as they relate to public areas. As with all agricultural classes students will also study leadership, including FFA, and supervised agricultural experience programs.

BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Do you want to learn and have fun? If the answer is yes, the Business Department is the place for you. Courses are available that will enable students to receive instruction in computer applications, accounting, technology, office administration, and business law. Come join us!

Computer Applications/Keyboarding

This is a prerequisite course for students interested in Business as a Career and Technical Education completer. This course is designed for secondary school students to develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbol information on a keyboard. Students compose and produce personal, educational, and professional documents. Microsoft IT Academy is used throughout this course as an electronic learning tool for most of Microsoft's software applications.

Computer Information Systems/Microsoft Office IT Academy

This course is designed to teach students fundamental concepts, terms and functions of Microsoft Office Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Microsoft Office IT Academy students will take Microsoft Certification exams for Word, Excel and PowerPoint. This course will include many authentic application problems that the students will solve by applying their newly learned computer skills. Microsoft Word skills include creating letters, reports, newsletters and flyers using various embedded graphics and word processing formats. Students will learn how to create a professional business resume and cover letter. Students will use various themes and styles to enhance the appearance of their documents. Microsoft Excel skills include creating worksheets that use formulas and functions to solve authentic application problems. Students will use graphs, styles and themes to display information in a professional manner. Microsoft PowerPoint skills include creating presentations that display information using graphics, charts, transitions and animations and sound.

Computer Information Systems Advanced

Students apply problem-solving skills to real-life situations through word processing, spreadsheets, databases, multimedia presentations, and integrated software activities. Students work individually and in groups to explore computer concepts, operating systems, networks, telecommunications, and emerging technologies.

Marketing

Students examine activities in marketing and business important for success in marketing employment and postsecondary education. Students will learn how products are developed, branded, and sold to businesses and consumers. Students will analyze industry trends and gain hands-on experience in the marketing of goods, services, and ideas. Topics will include professionalism in the workplace, product planning and positioning, promotion, pricing, selling, economic issues, and the impact of technology on the marketplace. This course reinforces mathematics, science, English, and history/social science Standards of Learning (SOL). Computer/technology applications and DECA activities enhance the course. DECA, the co-curricular student organization, offers opportunities in leadership, community, and competitive events.

Economics and Personal Finance – (Required)

It will teach students how to make informed financial decisions related to economic issues that all students will face throughout their lifespan. Students will explore key topics including banking, budgeting, career exploration, credit cards, credit scores, independent living, saving, taxes and many more. It is designed to meet the economic and financial literacy objectives required by the Code of Virginia §22.1-200-03B.

Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies

Students develop proficiency in designing and creating desktop-published projects, multimedia presentations/projects, and Web sites, using industry-standard application software. Students apply principles of layout and design in completing projects. Students create portfolios that include a résumé and a variety of desktop-published, multimedia, and Website projects produced in the course.

For additional computer related courses, please see the Trade and Industry Section (see page 61)

Principles of Business and Marketing

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

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Family and Consumer Science programs facilitate student progress toward a set of unifying goals in the areas of academic achievement, cultural and environmental issues, health and safety, individual and family relations, leadership and workplace ethics, and application of technology. Careers associated with Family and Consumer Science are child care and guidance workers and managers; clothing; apparel; textile workers; managers; chefs; custodial, housekeeping, and home services workers and managers; institutional food workers and administrators; home furnishings and equipment installers and consultants; hospitality services; and personal services.

Child Development and Parenting

Students enrolled in Child Development and Parenting focus on analyzing parenting roles and responsibilities, ensuring a healthy start for mother and child, evaluating support systems that provide services for parents, and evaluating parenting practices that maximize human growth and development. Critical thinking, practical problem solving using case studies, and entrepreneurship opportunities within the area of parenting responsibilities and child development are emphasized. Teachers highlight the basic skills of mathematics, science, and technology when appropriate.

Teachers for Tomorrow I

Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow (VTfT) fosters student interest, understanding, and appreciation of the teaching profession and allows secondary students to explore careers in education. Students build a foundation for teaching; learn the history, structure and governance of teaching; apply professional teaching techniques in the VTfT classroom; and reflect on their teaching experiences. Additional educational leadership opportunities are offered through the student organization, Future Educators Association.

Teachers for Tomorrow II

Prerequisite: Teacher for Tomorrow I

Students continue to explore careers in the Education and Training Cluster and pathways. This course provides the opportunity for students to prepare for careers in education as they research postsecondary options, learn about the process of teacher certification in Virginia, and participate in a practicum experience.

Culinary Arts I

This course is designed to prepare high school students for entry level employment in food service occupations. Units of instruction will include the use and care of food service equipment, preparation and serving of foods, food standards and proper sanitation procedures, quantity purchasing, and portion control. ProStart, a curriculum endorsed by the National Restaurant Association will be incorporated into the program. The course is designed to encompass the competencies necessary to prepare students for the ProStart certification examination.

Culinary Arts II

This two-semester course is designed for those who have completed Culinary Arts I. The emphasis during the second year will be on developing employment skills in job seeking and retention of skills necessary for employment in food service.

Culinary Arts III Culinary Arts Specialization

The Culinary Arts Specialization curriculum provides students with continuing opportunities to obtain comprehensive knowledge of the food service industry as well as to expand their technical skills in a food service specialty. Students explore careers and refine their skills in implementing safety and sanitation standards, applying nutritional principles, planning menus, using business and math skills, and selecting and maintaining food service equipment.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

Nursing Assistant Education is designed to prepare students with basic skills for employment in nursing homes, clinics, medical and dental offices, hospitals, and certain public health settings. The occupational preparation programs provide knowledge for career choice with which students immediately can enter employment in the health field or seek higher education for advancement in the health care field.

Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences

This course introduces the student to a variety of healthcare careers and develops basic skills required in all health and medical sciences. It is designed to help students understand the key elements of the U.S. healthcare system and to learn basic healthcare terminology, anatomy and physiology for each body system, pathologies, diagnostic and clinical procedures, therapeutic interventions, and the fundamentals of traumatic and medical emergency care. Throughout the course, instruction emphasizes safety, cleanliness, asepsis, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency within the healthcare environment. Students also begin gaining job-seeking skills for entry into the health and medical sciences field. In addition, instruction may include the basics of medical laboratory procedures, pharmacology fundamentals, biotechnology concepts, and communication skills essential for providing quality patient care.

Nurse Aide I

Nurse Aide I is a two-semester occupational preparation course offered at the eleventh and twelfth grade levels. Emphasis is given to the study of nursing occupations as related to the health care system. Students study nutrition, geriatrics, structure and function, and medical terminology. Students receive instruction on disease and infection control. The course includes basic nursing skills including communication skills and interpersonal relationships, CPR, emergency first aid, and patient care. Supervised work experience at a local nursing home is one class period per week after the first six weeks.

Nurse Aide II

Nurse Aide II is a two-semester occupational preparation course offered at the twelfth-grade level. Supervised work experience is three class days per week at a local nursing home. The student applies knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed for successful employment as a nurse aide. In addition to personal care and nursing related procedures, these areas include a wide range of affective and cognitive competencies related to legal responsibilities, client rights, independence and the role of the nurse aide on the health care team. Although many of the tasks and activities focus on the care of the elderly client, a nursing assistant is qualified to serve as a member of the health care team by being an assistant to the nurse in a hospital or other health care facilities. The course is designed to encompass the competencies necessary to prepare students for the state examination leading to certification as a nurse aide in Virginia. Students that take and pass the Virginia Nurse Aide Certification Exam will have the option of obtaining employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and continue to receive class credit. Students must have excellent attendance and disciplinary records and successfully complete an interview. Students will be required to work a minimum of 10 hours per week and receive an acceptable evaluation in order to receive credit for the course.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

The T & I classes, Drafting, Auto Servicing, and Computer Systems Technology are designed to enable successful completers to obtain an entry level job in their field of training. Students also have the basic knowledge and skill needed to continue their education in either a trade school or a two- or four-year college.

Auto Technology I

Students learn all aspects of repair, safety, and customer service by concentrating on the four primary ASE/NATEF certified areas: Brakes, Steering and Suspension, Electrical / Electronics, Engine Performance. Students who successfully complete this program sequence will be eligible to take and pass the respective NOCTI exam.

Auto Technology II

Students learn all aspects of repair, safety, and customer service by concentrating on the four primary ASE/NATEF certified areas: Brakes, Steering and Suspension, Electrical/Electronics, Engine Performance. Students who successfully complete this program sequence will be prepared to apply for the Motor Vehicle Safety Inspector License through the Virginia Department of State Police. This is a two credit yearlong class.

Information Technology (IT) Fundamentals

Information Technology (IT) Fundamentals introduces the essential technical and professional skills required for students to pursue programs leading to professional careers and IT certifications. Students investigate career opportunities and technologies in four major IT areas: Information Services and Support, Network Systems, Programming and Software Development, and Interactive Media. Students will evaluate the impact of IT on other career clusters. The focus of the IT Fundamentals course is the introduction of skills related to information technology basics, Internet fundamentals, network systems, computer maintenance/upgrading/troubleshooting, computer applications, programming, graphics, Web page design, and interactive media. Students explore ethical issues related to computers and Internet technology and develop teamwork and communication skills that will enhance their employability.

Computer Systems Technology I

Students enter the world of computer technology and gain practical experience in assembling a computer system, installing an operating system, troubleshooting computers and peripherals, and using system tools and diagnostic software. They develop skills in computer networking and resource sharing. In addition, students explore the relationships between internal and external computer components. Emphasis is placed on customer service skills and career exploration. Upon successful completion of the course, students may qualify to take the A+ certification exam.

Computer Systems Technology II

Building on the foundation of Computer Systems Technology I, this advanced course provides students with training in procedures for optimizing and troubleshooting concepts for computer systems and subsystems. Students explore wireless technologies (e.g., Bluetooth, Wi-Fi) and create and configure a network. Emphasis is placed on technical proficiency, skill-building, and workplace readiness. The course prepares students for postsecondary education and training and a successful career in information technology. Upon successful completion of the course, students may qualify to take the A+ certification exam.

For additional computer related courses, please see the Business and Information Technology (IT) Section (page 56)

Mechanical/Technical Drawing (Drafting I)

Prerequisite: Good math skills

Mechanical/Technical Drawing is an introduction to the graphic language of industry. Students explore drafting careers and are introduced to the theory and the manipulative skills necessary to produce and complete accurate drawings based on the ideas and sketches of engineers, architects, and designers. Students begin to focus on performing mechanical drafting and design operations, using CADD. This course is a **must** for anyone pursuing a career in a technical field such as engineering or architecture. It would also be helpful for any design related career (fashion, interior, games) or construction career. This course is the first of a three-year program designed to prepare students to enter the field of drafting and pre-requisite to both drafting II and III.

Engineering Drawing (Drafting II)

Prerequisite: –Mechanical/Technical Drawing

In this two-semester class students master the theory and manipulative skills necessary to produce complete and accurate drawings based on the ideas and sketches of engineers, architects, and designers. Students focus on performing mechanical drafting and design operations, using CADD, and exploring careers in drafting including industry certification options. This course is a **must** for anyone pursuing a career in a technical field such as engineering or architecture. It would also be helpful for any design related career (fashion, interior, games) or construction career. The course is the second of a three-year program designed to prepare students to enter the field of drafting or related careers.

Architecture and Design Drawing (Drafting III)

Architecture and Design Drawing is the third year of a three-year program in Mechanical/Technical Drawing. Students, in this two-semester class, are taught the theory and the manipulative skills necessary to produce and complete accurate drawings based on the ideas and sketches of engineers, architects, and designers. Students focus on performing architectural drafting and design operations, using CADD, and exploring careers in drafting, including industry certification options. This course is a **must** for anyone pursuing a career in a technical field such as engineering or architecture. It would also be helpful for any design related career (fashion, interior, games) or construction career.

Nuclear Science Technology I

This course is one semester long, and is designed for students considering careers in the nuclear industry. Five main areas related to the nuclear industry will be covered throughout the course: the basics of energy and nuclear power plants, health physics, non-destructive testing, machining and welding, and robotics. Students will learn the concepts behind each topic, and will then be able to participate in hands-on activities and projects, such as building robots, welding, and designing solar-heated homes.

Nuclear Science Technology II

This course is understood to be a continuance of Nuclear Science I; and is one semester long. The course is designed for students advancing in greater detail their previous course work in Nuclear Science I. This course will amplify the five main areas related to the nuclear industry that were previously covered throughout Nuclear Science I: The Student will seek and address through in-depth research, both qualitative and quantitative, the concepts behind Nuclear energy. The student will be able to participate in hands-on activities and projects. Additionally, the student will lead the research and work efforts on those same projects, such as building robots, welding, and designing solar-heated homes, gleaned from their previous course work. Teacher recommendation is required as well as previously successfully completing Nuclear Science I.

MISCELLANEOUS

College Focus

This class is designed for high school juniors and seniors. Students will explore various topics such as SAT and ACT test preparation, college searches, and transfer planning. Students will have an opportunity to take interest, values and skills assessments. Skills assessments will assist students in learning which career cluster matches his/her skill. The interest assessment informs students what their interest is and what careers are matched to that interest. The values assessment tells students what they value in a job and learn which careers match those values.

Project Graduation

Students who fail a required SOL for graduation may be required to repeat the same course the following semester. This will provide students content specific instruction in order to pass the needed SOL. In some instances, students will be scheduled into a Project Graduation course which will include direct small group instruction and study skills curriculum. Credit will be awarded on a Pass/Fail basis.

Yearbook

This course offers practical, hands-on instruction in all phases of yearbook production. The student will be responsible for all photography, copy, layouts, and graphics used in *The Traveler*. The student will also learn business and advertising practices associated with the yearbook. Admission into this course is subject to an application/recommendation process.

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