

Fremont Unified School District

Junior High School Course Catalog

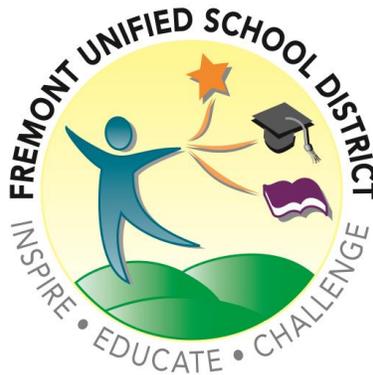


2017-2018

Fremont Unified School District

Junior High School Course Catalog

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**Fremont Unified School District
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2017-2018

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**A HARD COPY OF THE COURSE CATALOG IS AVAILABLE AT
THE SCHOOL SITES UPON REQUEST**

FUSD Website: www.fremont.k12.ca.us

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT FREMONT UNIFIED JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Centerville Jr. High School

Centerville Junior High School is located in the Washington High School attendance area. Students attending Cabrillo, Niles, Glenmoor, Maloney, Parkmont and Vallejo Mill Elementary Schools attend Centerville for the seventh and eighth grades before going to Washington High School for grades nine through twelve. Centerville Junior High School has an enrollment of over 900 diverse students.

It is our mission as a school to provide a consistent and high quality education for all of our students, and to help all children become successful learners. Our curriculum includes all of those courses required of all of Fremont's junior high students, along with a rich variety of elective choices. All courses emphasize the new California State Standards.

Along with a strong academic program, many activities are provided for our students. Student clubs serve every student interest and the school has an active Student Council. Centerville has an unparalleled intramural sports program in addition to an after-school sports program. Centerville also has an extensive intervention program to assist students who may be having difficulty or who may need a different instructional approach.

Although Centerville is rich in tradition, we are constantly at work establishing new traditions.

Some of Centerville's greatest achievements include:

- A school climate that is conducive to teaching, learning, and celebrating our diversity.
- Administrators, teachers, and staff members with a commitment to quality education.
- Integrating the Standards of the Teaching Profession for staff development.
- Students are supported in their efforts for improving reading comprehension skills at home and at school.
- A solid school partnership with community businesses focused on education, attendance, and student achievement.
- Strong participation among our Attendance Area, which includes hosting major events for both the City of Fremont and the Fremont Unified School District.
- The largest International Exhibit in Fremont, a strong and active parent organization, and the only junior high school to present productions in our own community built little theatre.

The result is that Centerville students consistently achieve recognition. Our API ranking places us among the top comparable California middle schools. Centerville's motto says it all. Centerville staff, students, and community have a "proud tradition - A commitment to excellence!"

**Centerville's Mascot:
Mustangs**



Hopkins Jr. High School

Hopkins Junior High School is located in the Mission High School attendance area. Students attending Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley Elementary Schools attend Hopkins for the seventh and eighth grades before going on to Mission San Jose High School for grades nine through twelve. Hopkins has an enrollment of approximately 1000 students.

Hopkins is dedicated to providing a positive transition between elementary school and high school, and a rigorous, comprehensive, basic education for all students. Teachers deliver core content aligned with state standards and extend student learning through a variety of integrated enrichment activities including MathCounts, the National Science Bowl, National History Day, and state and local music competitions. Our parents and staff hold high expectations for our school, and our students have a tradition of academic success on the California State assessment tests. In 1992, 1996, 2001, 2005, 2009 and 2013 Hopkins earned recognition as a California Distinguished School and, in 2002 and 2012, was selected as a National Blue Ribbon School. These scholastic honors define Hopkins as a school that has exceptional student achievement in the areas of academics, personal growth, and social development. Hopkins is home to both the Spanish and Mandarin Dual Immersion programs. Students that have been part of dual immersion at the elementary level have access to continue the program in junior high on their way to a seal of bi-literacy on their high school diploma. (See electives for specific course offerings.)

Elements of school effectiveness are reflected throughout our school:

- Teachers are knowledgeable of and adhere to written District-adopted curriculum based on state frameworks and model curriculum standards.
- All staff believe and expect that each student can and will meet high standards of achievement and behavior.
- Our school climate is conducive to teaching and learning and celebrates our diversity.
- Parents are truly partners in the education of our students.
- Administrators keep the school focused on goals and objectives necessary to accomplish our collaboratively developed mission.

Hopkins on any scale ranks among the best junior high schools because, as a community, we are committed to the notion that students will accomplish more if we expect more, care more, and provide more. Our staff feels fortunate to serve a community which views education as a high priority. Teachers genuinely enjoy their work and take satisfaction in our students' good behavior, attitude, and performance; however, we have no sense of complacency. Our staff regularly seeks professional growth training and plans changes through the improvement process to enhance our academic program and school climate. Our excellence is earned.

Improvement is viewed as an ongoing goal. We regularly upgrade our programs and services for our students so they may emerge as successful, independent, and productive life-long learners. *Working as a team, staff, students, and parents are continuously building an even better school on our already solid foundation.*



Hopkins' Mascot: The Hawks

Horner Jr. High School

Horner Junior High School is located in the Irvington High School attendance area. Students attending Grimmer, Green, Hirsch, Warm Springs and Weibel Elementary Schools attend Horner for the seventh and eighth grades before going to Irvington High School for grades nine through twelve. Horner Junior High School enjoys an enrollment of nearly 1000 ethnically diverse students.

The Horner staff has made a commitment for continuous improvement of student performance by using a cycle of evaluation, planning, and action, which involves all stakeholders. Clear vision defined by high standards is the cornerstone of instruction at Horner Junior High School. Specific programs and differentiated instruction provide support for the academic needs of all students.

Our focus is to provide a safe, purposeful, and caring environment where students can accomplish the following:

- Gain knowledge for personal power and confidence.
- Develop effective study habits and social skills.
- Develop self-discipline and learn how to make proper decisions.
- Learn to appreciate and value the differences in others, to respect others' rights, and to treat everyone with dignity.

Some of the outstanding features of Horner include:

- A focus on writing across the curriculum involving all instructional departments.
- A commitment to using technology as a component of instructional strategy.
- Integrating the Standards of the Teaching Profession in staff development and evaluation.
- Incorporating collaborative planning in lesson development and assessment.
- An ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.

Horner Junior High School works closely with all the schools in the Irvington Attendance Area. Our staff coordinates with our feeder elementary schools to coordinate our student's transition into secondary education. We provide a rigorous and challenging curriculum that effectively prepares students for Irvington High School and post-secondary education.

Students and staff at Horner take pride in what they do, both inside and outside of the classroom. Thus, the sign posted in the entrance of the main hallway reads, "Through these doors walk the best students and staff in Fremont".

Horner Junior High is an awarding winning school. We were honored to become a 2015 California Gold Ribbon School, selected by the State Superintendent for our commitment to improving curriculum and meeting special needs of students.

Horner's Mascot: The Hornet



Thornton Jr. High School

School Mission: To ensure that all students achieve their full 21st Century, appropriate academic and social potential.

Thornton Junior High School is located in North Fremont. Students attending Ardenwood, Brookvale, Forest Park, Patterson, Oliveira, and Warwick Elementary Schools attend Thornton for the seventh and eighth grades before going to American High School for grades nine through twelve. The student body at Thornton Junior High represents heritages from five continents and island nations. The many cultures and languages at Thornton are a strong reflection of American multiculturalism. Thornton Junior High has an enrollment of approximately 1200 students.

The Thornton staff is comprised of dedicated professional educators who provide a demanding curriculum using challenging instructional strategies following the state standards for the teaching profession. Staff members continuously broaden their knowledge and skills by attending conferences, workshops, seminars and enrolling in higher education classes and programs.

The principal collaborates monthly with the other principals in the American attendance area. The focus of the collaboration is equitable teaching practices that provide challenging curriculum with opportunities for all students to learn. With that focus at all levels, students become aware that high expectations are the norm and perform accordingly.

A strong electives program includes classes in robotics, leadership, yearbook, French I and II, Spanish I, and Mandarin. Music electives include: chorus, beginning band, concert band, and symphonic band. Art electives include ceramics, drama, dance, arts and crafts, and lettering/calligraphy. Through visual and performing arts classes students demonstrate their creativity in the following forms:

- Winter and Spring Music Concerts
- Spring Drama performance
- Bands compete at local and state levels
- Art work displayed locally
- Art competition at the county level
- After School Clubs

After school academic enrichment, in cooperation with parent volunteers, is offered in math and science.

Thornton has a very active PTSA who meets monthly to plan and support programs and activities that help staff and students in being successful. The PTSA raises funds, recruits volunteers, and organizes events and celebrations for the school and students.

Thornton's Mascot: Thunderbolt



Walters Jr. High School

Walters Junior High School is located in the Kennedy High School attendance area. Students attending Azevada, Blacow, Brier, Durham, Mattos, and Millard Elementary Schools attend Walters for the seventh and eighth grades before going on to John F. Kennedy High School for grades nine through twelve. Walters has an enrollment of approximately 750 students.

Walters Junior High School has a staff dedicated to our students and to their successes. The school offers a wide range of courses to address the needs of all students. We have well-established English, math, science and social science departments, supported by and supportive of elective classes in foreign language, foods, art, music, and publishing. Our physical education program involves students in all major sports, dance and physical fitness. The science department provides quality instruction in our state of the art labs. Additionally, our science department provides hands-on learning experiences through after school programs which have been highlighted in the media. Student achievement is our main focus and there are a number of before and after-school programs that support this. We promote a college-going culture throughout the school and believe that all students should be prepared to attend a four-year college.

Our school is committed to working together to serve the diverse and changing needs of our community. We achieve this through collaborative efforts between home and school. The Walters' Parent, Teacher and Student Association is an integral part of our educational community. Walters' staff and students are provided with a wide range of resources through the generous efforts of the PTSA. Parents support their child's education by following up on homework and helping their child get to school on time every day. A benefit of this partnership between parents and school is the appreciation of the diverse cultural groups in our area.

The student leadership program at our school is strong and promotes student involvement, pride in accomplishments, and active community service. They organize and promote the following activities:

- School socials
- Lunch time intramurals and music activities
- Homeroom competitions
- Recycling club, and school-wide charitable service projects provide a rich variety of opportunities that help our students become active members of the Walters community.

Prior to the start of the school year we offer a 'become acquainted with your school' program – Walters Academy. Incoming students participate in activities that allow them to get to know what it's like to be in seventh grade and help them get familiar with the school. The week concludes with a barbeque for students and parents.

We believe each child can achieve academic success when provided with quality educational experiences that recognize and maintain high expectations. The Fremont Unified School District's motto is "Educate, Challenge, and Inspire." We work to make this a reality every day.

Welcome to Walters Junior High. We are looking forward to a great school year.

Walters' Mascot: Warriors



7th Grade Program

First Semester

English
Mathematics
Social Science
Physical Education
Science
Elective

Second Semester

English
Mathematics
Social Science
Physical Education
Science
Elective

8th Grade Program

First Semester

English
Mathematics
Social Science
Physical Education
Science
Elective

Second Semester

English
Mathematics
Social Science
Physical Education
Science
Elective

Students take six classes each semester.

Some electives are full year, and others are a semester.

Students may take one year long class or two semester classes.

Note: The courses listed in this catalog represent all the approved courses for the Fremont Unified School District. Due to factors such as student enrollment, student interest, teacher credentialing and staffing allocations, not all of the courses are offered at each campus. At the time of registration/scheduling, each school will provide students with a list of courses offered for their particular site.

General Information about our Junior High Programs

Grade Point Average and Eligibility: A student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated each quarter on the basis of grades received in all their courses, although only semester grades are included in transcripts as part of a student's permanent school record.

Academic eligibility to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is based on a student's GPA for the most recent grading period (quarter) or semester. A student must have and maintain a 2.0 C grade point average and have no more than one F grade in order to be deemed eligible. An academic probation period of one quarter is permitted for students with a GPA of 1.75 – 1.99 and no more than one F grade. A student with a GPA of lower than 1.75 and/or more than one F grade is not eligible. A student who is on probation or ineligible for one quarter must earn full eligibility in order to participate the next quarter.

Homework Policy: The Board of Education believes that homework is an integral part of the educational program and should be regularly assigned. Accordingly, each site has developed a site homework policy consistent with FUSD guidelines, (BP/AR 6154). Concerns about homework assignments and/or time required should be addressed with site staff to ensure that homework demands are not excessive. Seventh and eighth grade homework will be approximately 60-90 minutes per evening or 240-360 minutes per week.

Program Offerings: School sites offer the same required courses. While schools offer many of the same elective courses, some elective offerings are dependent upon staffing and credentialing; thus, not all sites offer exactly the same elective courses.

GATE/Honors Programs:

GATE students at the secondary level are placed in Honors classes in English, and/or Science class.

High achieving students meeting the district criteria will have access to Honors classes and the accelerated Mathematics pathway.

Access for Non-GATE Identified Students:

- 7th Grade English: Non-GATE identified students must have “A” or “B” grades in Reading and Writing in all three 6th grade trimesters.
- 8th Grade English: Non-GATE Identified students must have “A” or “B” grades in English in both 7th grade semesters.
- 7th Grade Science: Non-GATE identified students must have “A” or “B” grades in Reading, Writing and Math for all three 6th grade trimesters.
- 8th Grade Science: Non-GATE identified students must have “A” or “B” grades in English, Math and Science for both 7th grade semesters.

All students may continue in an Honors class with a grade of “C” or better at the previous level in the subject area.

- 7th grade Math: All students will have the opportunity to take a placement test for assignment into the accelerated math pathway. GATE students not meeting the criteria for the accelerated math pathway will be placed in Common Core Math 2 – 7th grade.

Curriculum: Curriculum for all Honors classes shall be appropriately differentiated. Curriculum objectives will reflect higher-level critical thinking, creative problem solving and will be more rigorous. Lessons should incorporate one or more of the following dimensions: depth, complexity, novelty, or acceleration of pacing.

Honors Homework Policy: Homework will be in keeping with the Fremont Unified School District policy (BP/AR 6154) and not require excessive amounts of time; differences should be in depth and complexity, not in quantity or length of assignments.

Special concerns regarding 7th – 8th grade Honors/GATE students should be addressed at the school level to ensure that homework is not excessive.

Teachers may not assign summer homework or require students to complete assignments during summer vacation in preparation for the next school year’s Honors course(s).

Grading Policy: The following guidelines shall be communicated by the Honors teachers, to students and parents at the beginning of the year and discussed as necessary for clear understanding:

- It is a realistic expectation for all GATE identified and high-achieving students to academically succeed in Honors classes.
- A parent conference by phone, or in person, must be scheduled for any student receiving a grade below a C at the quarter in an Honors class. The student’s continued presence in the class must be evaluated at that time.
- Students are not to be dropped from the Honors classes without a parent meeting and, if necessary, a referral to the Student Study Team (SST) or *sub-committee.

Program Exit Criteria: GATE identified students and high-achieving students enrolled in 7th–8th Honors course(s) must maintain appropriate grades (C or better).

Students whose grades consistently fall below a C in an Honors class will be notified by the teacher, and a parent conference by phone or in person must be scheduled. These students may have until the end of the semester to improve their grade(s) for continuance in the class or be referred to the school’s Student Study Team (SST) or *sub-committee for one of the following recommendations:

- a) Continuance in the Honors course
- b) Transfer to a college preparatory class with parents being informed of the transfer

Parents and/or students may appeal the decision of the SST to the Director of Secondary Education. Students may petition to enroll in an Honors class the following year.

* The sub-committee may be comprised of an administrator, teacher, and counselor who understand the characteristics and the needs of gifted students and high-achieving students.

Add/Drop Course: Students may add a course up to three (3) weeks into a new semester. Courses may be dropped up to three (3) weeks into a semester, if students are adding a new course in a different subject/level. Students may drop a course up to five (5) weeks for the purposes of changing to a parallel subject/section only. Any class change must be made with counselor/teacher input.

ENGLISH

English 7 and English 8

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

These classes offer instruction in reading, writing, study, speaking, listening, thinking, and performing skills. Curriculum is based on quality literature, other grade-level-appropriate media, and/or works related to the social science curriculum.

Honors English 7

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

Prerequisite: See GATE/Honors Criteria beginning on page 8.

This class differentiates curriculum to accelerate, extend, and enrich the grade-level English program.

Honors English 8

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

Prerequisite: See GATE/Honors Criteria beginning on page 8.

This class differentiates curriculum to accelerate, extend, and enrich the grade-level English program.

English Language Learners Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3

Full Year

7th and 8th grades

(Offered at all schools)

These classes provide English Language Development (ELD) instruction for students acquiring the English language. Depending upon their level of English proficiency, students are enrolled for one to three periods daily. The interactive curriculum focuses on developing communicative competence and preparing students to transition to grade-level English classes.

English ELD 3D (Offered at all schools)

Full Year

This course is designed for EL 3, and long term 4, and 5 students that need additional support with academic vocabulary, writing, speaking and listening. This program emphasizes speaking and listening skills through class discussions, peer collaboration and formal speeches. There is a focus on developing academic writing skills in summary, opinion, informative texts and research papers. Students also read engaging complex informative texts. Many of the routines support college and career readiness particularly in speaking and listening.

English Support

(Offered at Walters; Thornton 7th grade only)

One Semester or Full Year

This course is an elective class designed for students to improve a variety of English skills such as writing, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. Each week, students will practice basic English skills, organization and receive homework help.

MATHEMATICS

A full year of mathematics is required in both seventh and eighth grade. Students are placed in math courses according to the following criteria: math grade in previous year's course, standardized test scores, and student performance. Student placement is reviewed and adjusted when needed. The state law requires students to complete the content standards of Algebra I by 12th grade. All of the courses at the junior high are structured to achieve this goal.

Algebra meets UC and CSU a-g college admission requirements. California Department of Education graduation requirements for Algebra are met.

* All courses will have a strong emphasis on having the students demonstrate the Standards for Mathematical Practice. <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Practice>

Common Core Math 2

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

7th Grade

A grade level course designed to provide students with a strong mathematical foundation to meet 7th grade Common Core math standards. Areas of focus include (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationship; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for Geometry and Foundational Algebra.

Common Core Math 2/Geometry and Foundational Algebra (Offered at all schools)

Full Year

7th Grade

Prerequisites: Students must pass district criteria.

This is the first year of a two year program encompassing all standards from Common Core 7th grade, Common Core 8th grade, and Common Core Algebra 1. The five critical areas from these math standards are: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. It will also cover one of the three critical areas from Common Core 8th grade math standards: (5) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students must earn a B- or better both semesters to continue in this Accelerated Pathway in 8th grade.

Geometry and Foundational Algebra

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

8th Grade

Prerequisites: C- or better in both semesters of Common Core 2 or C+ or lower in either semester of CC2/GFA

A grade level course designed to provide students with a strong mathematical foundation to meet 8th grade Common Core math standards. Areas of focus include (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationship; and (3) analyzing two- and three- dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for Algebra 1.

Geometry and Foundational Algebra/Algebra I (Offered at all schools)

Full Year

8th Grade

Prerequisites: B- or better in both semesters of CC2/GFA

This is the second year of a two year program encompassing all standards from Common Core 7th grade, Common Core 8th grade, and Common Core Algebra 1. It will cover six critical focus areas: (1) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships and (2) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will cover all Algebra I standards focusing on the four critical areas: (3) deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships. Students must earn a B- or better both semesters to continue in this Accelerated Pathway in 9th grade. (4) contrast linear and exponential relationships with each other and engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions; (5) extend the laws of exponents to square and cube roots; and (6) summarize, represent, and interpret categorical and quantitative data that exhibit a linear trend.

Algebra Readiness

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

8th Grade

This class is intended for students who have not yet mastered 7th grade standards in CC2 (semester grades of D or lower).

This class is designed to prepare students to pass Geometry and Foundational Algebra I in ninth grade. The Algebra readiness program will target the sixteen standards students need to learn to successfully complete Algebra I.

Math Support

(Offered at all schools)

Semester or Full Year

This course is an elective class designed for students to improve a variety of Math skills such as basic arithmetic, algebra and geometry. Each week students will practice Math skills, organization and receive homework help.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 7 Physical Education 8 (Offered at all schools)1st/2nd Semester

These classes provide an instruction-based, skill-oriented activity program that offers a multi-sport curriculum with an emphasis on fitness, cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and healthy competition. Students will receive district mandated instruction in the drug education program; “Project Alert”.

SCIENCE

The Board of Education recognizes that Education Code 51240 states that “if any part of a school’s instruction in health conflicts with the religious training and beliefs of a parent or guardian of a pupil, the pupil, upon written request of the parent or guardian, shall be excused from the part of the instruction that conflicts with the religious training and beliefs.” Also, Education Code 51938 states “a parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, and assessments related to that education.”

Science 7

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

This class is an introductory lab course in life science. Students learn how to use basic life science equipment to complete assignments and investigate concepts. Among the topics covered are: cell biology, genetics, heredity, evolution, the structure and function of living systems, earth history, and basic human physiology. This course also includes district-mandated programs; Comprehensive Health and Sex Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

Honors Science 7

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

Prerequisite: See GATE/Honors Criteria beginning on page 8.

This class is a lab course in life and physical science. Students participating in this course must have excellent reading, mathematical and critical thinking skills to meet course demands. Among the topics covered are: cell biology, genetics, heredity, evolution, the structure and function of living systems, earth history and basic human physiology. This course also includes district-mandated programs; Comprehensive Health and Sex Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

Science 8

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

This is an introductory course in physical science. This course provides students with many hands-on laboratory experiences. Among the topics are: physics of motion, buoyancy, basic chemistry, research methods, and astronomy. This course also includes district-mandated programs; Comprehensive Health and Sex Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

Honors Science 8

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

Prerequisite: See GATE/Honors Criteria beginning on page 8.

This is a lab course with a primary focus on physical and earth science and a secondary focus on applied principles in biology. Students participating in this course must have excellent reading, mathematical and critical thinking skills to meet course demands. The topics for this class include: basic physics, basic chemistry, seismology, volcanology, meteorology, earth history, scientific research and applies physiology. This course also includes district-mandated programs; Comprehensive Health and Sex Education, and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

World History 7

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

This class focuses on the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia during the years 500–1789 A.D. Students learn how the contributions of previous civilizations have affected later civilizations, and how the modern world has its roots in the past. Geographic literacy, organizational skills, critical thinking, and language arts are emphasized along with social science concepts.

U.S. History 8

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

This class focuses on the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. Considerable emphasis is placed upon the study of government, the Constitution, and a citizen's responsibilities within a democracy. Geographic literacy, organizational skills, critical thinking, and language arts continue to receive emphasis.

ELD History 7 & 8

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

This program is designed for EL 2, EL 3, and long term EL 4 and 5 students. It is offered as a two year sheltered content instruction course that provides English Learners access to the core curriculum while concurrently developing their proficiency in academic English. This course uses grade level, standards-based content knowledge and academic language development as it pertains to US and World History. Additional support is provided to each student's level of language proficiency to promote speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English.

ELECTIVE COURSES

NOTE: Some courses can be taken for one semester only. Others may be taken for an entire school year. Students should select courses carefully, as changes are often difficult once courses have been scheduled. Although efforts will be made to accommodate students' elective choice, school sites cannot guarantee availability of specific elective classes.

AVID

AVID

(Offered at all schools)

Full Year

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note-taking, and research. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading to support their academic growth. AVID students learn skills such as time management, note-taking, textbook reading, library research, and maintaining the AVID binder. Students are expected to maintain an organized binder including an assignment calendar, class and textbook notes, assignments, and homework, which is graded regularly. An application process is required.

APPLIED ARTS

Keyboarding/Computer Skills (Offered at Centerville, Horner, and Walters)

One Semester

7th and 8th Grades

This class combines keyboarding and computer instruction. Students develop keyboarding skills, speed, and accuracy and are exposed to frequently used types of application software.

HOME ARTS

Foods 1

(Offered at Walters)

One Semester

7th and 8th Grades

This class teaches students how to cook, what to cook, and how to shop wisely. In addition to food preparation, life skills are covered including nutrition, meal planning, measurements, and the proper use of cooking equipment, home safety, table behavior, and comparison-shopping.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Design and Modeling (PLTW) (Offered at Thornton and Centerville) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

Automation and Robotics (PLTW) (Offered at all schools) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Wood 1 (Offered at Centerville) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

This class teaches the importance of the woodworking industry and its products. Students learn about different types of wood, acquire basic drafting skills, and develop skill with woodworking tools as they work on a variety of projects. Safety is emphasized.

Wood 2 (Offered at Centerville) **One Semester**
7th Grade 2nd semester only, 8th Grade

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Wood 1 and/or approval of teacher.

This class expands on the skills and knowledge learned in Wood 1. Projects may include advanced skills such as dovetails, mortise, and tenons. Safety is emphasized.

JOURNALISM & PUBLICATIONS

Newspaper/Journalism (2 and 3) (Offered at Walters) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to develop proficiency in a variety of software applications (1). Students will be introduced to Microsoft Publisher, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and will use these applications to create a variety of projects (2). , Students will incorporate journalistic techniques (interviews/note-taking, research and construction) in the design and production of a school newspaper (3).

Yearbook/Publications (Offered at Centerville, Hopkins, Thornton, and Walters) **One Semester**
Yearbook/Publications (Offered at Hopkins, Horner, Thornton, and Walters) **Full Year**
7th and 8th Grades

Prerequisite: Strong writing skills are mandatory.

This class publishes the school yearbook. Planning and organization, copy writing, layout and design, business skill, photography, and computer literacy are included in this process. Artistic talent is welcomed.

PERFORMING ARTS

Drama/Speech

Communications/Speech 1 (Offered at Centerville, Hopkins, Horner & Walters) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

This class offers an introduction to public speaking, interpretation, and debate. Students will explore several types of speeches, i.e., expository, persuasive, extemporaneous, and impromptu. Various forms of interpretation (original humorous, dramatic, thematic, and dual reading) will be explored. Beginning debate will focus on group discussion, Lincoln-Douglas, and Oxford styles. Students will learn the basics of presenting a speech in front of an audience.

Drama 1 (Offered at all Schools) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

This course offers a variety of experiences in the dramatic arts and/or public speaking such as pantomimes, improvisations, oral interpretations, commercials, short scenes, speeches, and debates designed to develop poise, self-confidence, and communication skills.

Drama 2 (Offered at Centerville) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Drama 1 and/or teacher approval.

This class focuses on further refining the skills studied in Drama 1 through more advanced assignments such as mime, character analysis and development, video productions, and one-act plays.

Dance 1 (Offered at Thornton) **One Semester**
7th and 8th Grades

Students will study the basic aspects and qualities of the art of dance. Different styles of dance will be taught: jazz, Afro-Haitian, ballroom, modern, musical theater routine, etc. Activities will involve principles of improvisations of choreographed routines; researching period dances; and study techniques of different choreographers, dance groups, and musical productions. If class composition permits, a dance recital will be produced in the spring semester. Sections will be divided by experience and skill level if there is sufficient enrollment. Dance shoes and costumes may be needed. Outside rehearsals are required.

MUSIC

Beginning Band (Offered at all Schools) **Full Year**
7th and 8th Grades

This class offers an introduction to a band instrument such as trumpet, trombone, tuba, French horn, saxophone, clarinet, flute, bassoon, oboe, and percussion instruments and emphasizes proper tone, articulation, music reading, and other basic musical performance skills. No experience is needed. Most students will need to provide their own instruments and purchase a recommended method book. Some school instruments will be available. Evening performances are required as scheduled.

Chorus 1 (Offered at Hopkins, Horner, Thornton and Walters) **One Semester**

Chorus 1 (Offered at Thornton and Walters) **Full Year**
7th and 8th Grades

This class is designed for students who enjoy singing but have limited or no vocal experience. Students learn proper vocal techniques (how to read music, harmony, etc.) as they study modern popular songs as well as standard choral works. Pianists interested in accompanying the chorus are encouraged to enroll. Evening performances are required as schedules.

Chorus 2 (Offered at Horner and Walters) **Full Year**
8th Grade

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chorus 1 and/or teacher approval.

This is a performing class for the advanced vocal students. Pianists interested in accompanying the chorus are encouraged to enroll. Evening performances are required as scheduled.

Concert Band (Offered at all schools) **Full Year**
7th and 8th Grades

Prerequisite: Beginning Band and/or teacher approval.

This is an intermediate band class that emphasizes rhythmic skills, tone production, and ensemble performance. Most students will need to provide their own instruments. Evening performances are required as scheduled. May be repeated.

Intermediate Orchestra (Offered at Hopkins) **Full Year**
7th and 8th Grades

Prerequisite: At least 2 years previous string experience.

Students with experience in playing violin, cello, and string bass will improve instrumental, musical, listening skills, and music theory. Activities include concerts, contests, small ensemble works, and perhaps some field trips. Grading is determined by performance, participation, written work and improvement.

Advanced Orchestra**(Offered at Hopkins)****Full Year****7th and 8th Grades**

Prerequisite: One year of Jr. High School Intermediate Orchestra or at least four years string experience (with director approval).

This is an advanced orchestra class that emphasizes ongoing, advanced skill acquisition on violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Most students will need to provide their own instruments. Activities may include concerts, contests, small ensemble works, full orchestra works and field trips. Grading is determined by performance, participation, written work and improvement. Evening performances are required as scheduled.

Symphonic Band**(Offered at Hopkins, Horner, and Thornton)****Full Year****7th and 8th Grades**

Prerequisite: Concert Band and/or teacher approval.

This is an advanced band class that emphasizes ongoing, advanced skill acquisition. Most students will need to provide instruments. Evening performances are required as scheduled.

Wind Ensemble**(Offered at Hopkins)****Full Year 7th and 8th Grades**

Prerequisite: Concert/Symphonic Band or at least 3 years previous band experience and director approval.

This is an advanced band class that emphasizes ongoing, advanced skill acquisition on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Most students will need to provide instruments. Evening/weekend performances are required as scheduled.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

History of Media and Technology**(Offered at Hopkins)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

The History of Media and Technology class explores how the development of media (print, audio, and visual) and technology has changed the history of both the United States and the world.

Using audio, visual, and hands-on activities students will explore how media and technology have changed human history. In addition, students will learn how over the past 30 years both of these areas have changed at an ever-increasing rate. Students will use a variety of primary sources to evaluate the changes resulting from the technology.

SKILL BUILDING

Leadership (Offered at all schools) **One Semester**
Leadership (Offered at all schools) **Full Year**

7th (except at Hopkins and Horner) or 8th Grades

Prerequisite: An application, good behavior/academic record, and/or teacher approval may be required.

This class teaches goal setting, problem solving, decision-making, organization, and communication skills as students plan and organize school activities, which may include dances, spirit contests, assemblies, and entertainment. This course may require extra time before or after school when working on school projects. ASB officers may be required to take this course at some sites.

Supervised Study (Study Skills) (Offered at Centerville, Hopkins and Thornton)

One Semester

7th & 8th Grades

This class provides:

- 1) Instruction in basic survival study skills - organizing a binder, keeping a daily homework assignment sheet, time management, how to prepare for a test, what to do when absent, and where and how to get extra help, etc.
- 2) A teacher to monitor a student's assignments and progress, contacting teachers and parents for assistance as needed.
- 3) Teacher assistance with their homework assignments.

Office/Library Teaching Assistant (Offered at all Schools) **One Semester**

8th Grade only

Prerequisite: Staff recommendation.

Students earn a pass/fail grade in this class. Strong skills in communication, filing, and computer literacy are critical. Responsibilities may include: answer the telephone, take messages, and interact with parents and staff. Sign up procedures at schools must include a district application and interview.

Classroom Teaching Assistant (Offered at all Schools) **One Semester**

8th Grade only

Prerequisite: Teacher approval may be required.

Students earn a letter grade in this class, working as an assistant to the teacher. Responsibilities may include: perform clerical tasks, assist students with assignments and resources, and prepare equipment for class. Sign up procedures at schools must include a district application and interview.

Peer Tutor (Offered at Horner and Thornton) **Full Year**

7th & 8th Grades

8th grade general education students mentor, peer tutor, and academically support students with disabilities in Special Day classes. Students will work one on one and/or in small groups assisting students with disabilities in a variety of academic endeavors under the direct guidance of an SDC teacher in a self-contained classroom setting. May be repeated for credit.

Academic Support**(Offered at Horner)****One Semester or Full Year**

This course is an elective class designed for students to improve basic study skills, organization and support their English and math skills. Students will use a variety of computer programs designed to support literacy and math.

VISUAL ARTS

Arts and Crafts 1**(Offered at all Schools)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

This class introduces a variety of art forms and media such as drawing, ceramics, sculpture, lettering, graphic design, and popular crafts as well as an introduction to art appreciation.

Arts and Crafts 2**(Offered at Centerville)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Arts and Crafts 1 and/or teacher approval.

This class is a continuation of Arts and Crafts 1 at a more advanced level.

Art Experience**(Offered at Centerville)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades****Full Year**

This class explores drawing, painting, design, and graphics as well as crafts such as leather, plastics, ceramics, and stained glass. It also includes an introduction to great artists and art history.

Digital Imaging 1**(Offered at Centerville)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

Digital Imaging is a largely project-based class. Instruction focuses on both the fine arts and the applied arts (mainly graphic design); topics covered include, but are not limited to: the elements and principles of design, basic rules of composition, photo-editing, the design process, art history, basic advertising, typography, and illustration. Students create artwork and design pieces using software programs that are the industry standards for 2D design such as a Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. A lab donation may be requested for this course.

Ceramics 1**(Offered at Hopkins and Thornton)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

This class involves the design and creation of clay projects using hand-building methods (pinch, coil, and slab) and various glaze methods.

Painting and Drawing**(Offered at Horner, Thornton and Walters)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

This course will explore the techniques and methods of various artists and art styles throughout history. All projects will be based on a drawing and/or painting technique to create works of art. Each student will be encouraged to develop their own personal style based on the traditional methods developed in this class. All materials are supplied in class.

Lettering/Calligraphy**(Offered at Thornton)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

This class introduces lettering and/or calligraphy. A variety of styles (e.g., Roman, Italic, Gothic, Old English, etc.) using lettering pens are studied and applied to projects such as posters, monograms, invitations, and collages.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French 1 and 2	All meet UC/CSU a-g College Admission Requirements
Spanish 1 and 2	
Mandarin 1	

French 1**(Offered at Centerville, Hopkins, and Thornton)****Full Year****7th and 8th Grades (Varies with Site)**

This high school-equivalent class emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in French. The language is presented within the context of the contemporary French-speaking world and its culture. Students may be asked, but not required, to purchase a workbook for personal use. Successful completion of this course allows students to enroll in French 2.

French 2**(Offered at Hopkins and Thornton)****Full Year****8th Grade**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 1.

This high school-equivalent class is a continuation of French 1. Successful completion of this course allows students to enroll in French 3 in high school.

Chinese (Mandarin) 1**(Offered at Thornton)****Full Year****7th and 8th Grades**

This high school-equivalent class emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Chinese. The language is presented within the context of the contemporary Chinese-speaking world and its culture. Class materials teach the traditional characters and pinyin Romanization. Successful completion of this course allows students to enroll in Chinese 2.

Introduction to Spanish**(Offered at Horner)****One Semester****7th and 8th Grades**

This class acquaints students with Spanish language and culture. Emphasis is given to basic conversation and cultural activities.

Spanish 1**(Offered at all schools)****Full Year****7th and 8th Grades**

This high school-equivalent class emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. The language is presented in the context of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world and its culture. Students may be asked to purchase a workbook for personal use. Successful completion of this course allows students to enroll in Spanish 2.

Spanish 2**(Offered at Centerville, Hopkins, Thornton, and Walters)****Full Year****8th Grade**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1.

This high school-equivalent class is a continuation of Spanish 1. Students may be asked to purchase a workbook for personal use. Successful completion of this course allows students to enroll in Spanish 3 in high school.

**Immersion Programs
(Only Available at Hopkins)****Mandarin 7 & 8**

This class offers instruction in reading, writing speaking, and listening in Mandarin. Curriculum is based on quality authentic Chinese literature, other grade-level-appropriate media, and/or works related to the social science curriculum. These courses are taught in Mandarin.

World History 7-Mandarin

This class focuses on the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia during the years 500–1789 A.D. Students learn how the contributions of previous civilizations have affected later civilizations, and how the modern world has its roots in the past. Geographic literacy, organizational skills, critical thinking, and Mandarin language arts are emphasized along with social science concepts. This course is taught in Mandarin.

An assessment will be used for students who want to “test in” to the Mandarin Immersion Program in 7th grade. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in the target language will be assessed.

US History 8-Mandarin

This class focuses on the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. Considerable emphasis is placed upon the study of government, the Constitution, and a citizen’s

responsibilities within a democracy. Geographic literacy, organizational skills, critical thinking, and Mandarin language arts continue to receive emphasis. This course is taught in Mandarin.

Spanish Language Arts Immersion 1 & 2

This class offers instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Curriculum is based on quality authentic Spanish literature, other grade-level-appropriate media, and/or works related to the social science curriculum.

World History 7-Spanish

This class focuses on the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia during the years 500–1789 A.D. Students learn how the contributions of previous civilizations have affected later civilizations, and how the modern world has its roots in the past. Geographic literacy, organizational skills, critical thinking, and language arts are emphasized along with social science concepts. This class is conducted entirely in Spanish.

US History 8-Spanish

This class focuses on the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. Considerable emphasis is placed upon the study of government, the Constitution, and a citizen's responsibilities within a democracy. Geographic literacy, organizational skills, critical thinking, and Spanish language arts continue to receive emphasis. This course is taught in Spanish.