



Middle School Intensified Course Information for the 2023-24 School Year

Office of Academics
January 2023



What are intensified courses, and what are they not?



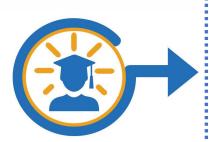


Intensified Courses Are		Intensified Classes are Not	
$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will offer a chance to go deeper into content/standards.	×	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses are NOT accelerated courses that go beyond grade level content.
~	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will not require prerequisite classes.	X	There will be the flexibility to opt into the intensified English, science, and/or social studies courses each school year in middle school without prerequisite requirements.
$\overline{\checkmark}$	Teachers will use resources designed for rigor and CCT strategies regularly to add depth and complexity within the existing curriculum.	×	Intensified courses will use the same existing curriculum map and have built in extensions to support going deeper into the standards
~	Intensified Courses will be open to all learners.	×	Intensified courses are NOT exclusionary and will be offered in settings that support all types of advanced learners.



Middle School Intensified Courses





Student
Success &
Well-Being

English/Language Arts

- English 7, Intensified
- English 8, Intensified

Science

- Grade 7 Life Science, Intensified
- Grade 8 Physical Science, Intensified

Social Studies

• Civics and Economics, Intensified (Grade 7)



Course Options for 7th Graders





English 7, Intensified

In English 7 Intensified, students will apply a complex lens of critical thinking, examination, and interpretation to a variety of texts and genres to include fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels and excerpts, arguments, and media. Students will also be tasked with reflecting on their thinking and learning to foster an examination of self, community and society by using the use the writing process to develop and craft expository, narrative and persuasive writing pieces.

Grade 7 Life Science, Intensified

Students will engage in extended application and analysis designed to deepen understanding of outlined content. Students will use abstract, critical thinking approaches through inquiry-based projects focusing on the nature of science and the use of science and engineering skills as indicated by the Grade 7 Virginia Standards of Learning.

Civics and Economics, Intensified

Students will engage in extended application and analysis of the structure and operation of local, state, and national governments as well as the relationship between the government and the economy through an inquirybased approach. Students will develop critical thinking approaches and apply their knowledge as they grapple with the responsibilities, rights, and duties of citizenship and its function within the political and economic system of the United States.



Course Options for 8th Graders





English 8, Intensified

In English 8 Intensified, students will apply a complex lens of critical thinking, examination, and interpretation to a variety of texts and genres to include fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels and excerpts, arguments, and media. Students will also be tasked with reflecting on their thinking and learning to foster an examination of self, community and society by using the use the writing process to develop and craft expository, narrative and persuasive writing pieces.

Grade 8 Physical Science, Intensified

Students will engage in extended application and analysis designed to deepen understanding of outlined content. Students will use abstract, critical thinking approaches through inquirybased projects focusing on the nature of science and the use of science and engineering skills as indicated by the Grade 8 Virginia Standards of Learning.



Additional Information



- Students may take one, two, or all three intensified courses depending on readiness and interest.
- Choosing to take a regular or intensified option for the upcoming school year does not determine course placement for future school years.
- Math still offers a variety of courses at the middle school level and that placement takes place through a separate process.