



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

Office of Academics

January 2023



**EVERY
STUDENT
COUNTS**
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

What are intensified courses, and what are they not?

Intensified Courses Are		Intensified Classes are Not	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will offer a chance to go deeper into content/standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses are NOT accelerated courses that go beyond grade level content.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intensified English, science, and social studies courses will not require prerequisite classes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teachers will use resources designed for rigor and CCT strategies regularly to add depth and complexity within the existing curriculum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intensified courses will use the same existing curriculum map and have built in extensions to support going deeper into the standards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intensified Courses will be <u>open to all learners.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intensified courses are NOT exclusionary and will be offered in settings that support all types of advanced learners.



**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 **inquiry-based 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 **inquiry-based 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.

- 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.