



# **Rising 8th Grade Family**

## **Night**

January 22, 2025

5:30pm-6:30pm

Walt Whitman Middle School



# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of Departments
- Meet the Administrative Team
- Meet the Student Services Department
- International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program
- TJHSST Application Overview
- Math
- Advanced Academics Cohort
- Academic Advising Overview
- Q&A

# Meet Whitman's Administrative Team



**Mr. Flowers**  
*Principal*



**Mrs. Hooper**  
Director of Student Services

# Meet Whitman's Administrative Team



**Mr. Meiser**  
*Assistant Principal*



**Ms. Watson**  
*Assistant Principal*



**Mrs. Williams**  
*Assistant Principal*



**Ms. Woods**  
*Assistant Principal*

# Meet Whitman's Student Services Team



**Ms. Roberts**  
*School Counselor*



**Mrs. Shirley**  
*School Counselor*



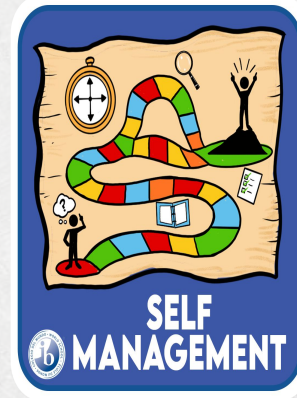
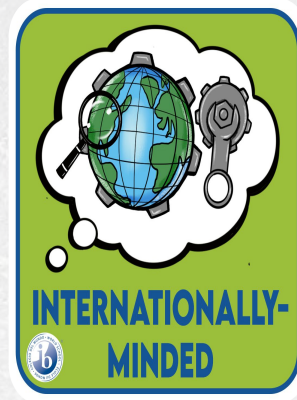
**Ms. Smith**  
*School Counselor*



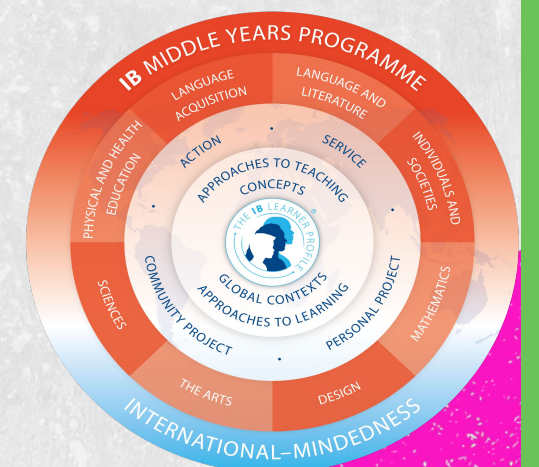
**Ms. Aberger**  
*Student Services  
Assistant*

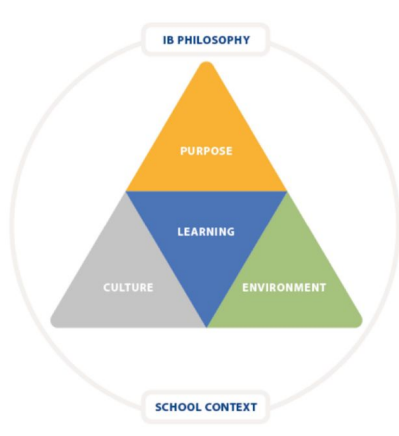


**Mrs. Monterrosa**  
*Family Liaison*



# International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program





# Understanding IB

- ★ The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable & caring young people who help to create a better & more peaceful world through intercultural understanding & respect.
- ★ To achieve this goal, the organization works with schools, governments & international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.
- ★ These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate & lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



# An IB Education

- ★ Fosters international-mindedness in an conceptual, inquiry-based framework
- ★ Allows students to develop future-ready skills & attributes (e.g. Learner Profiles & IB's Approaches to Learning)
- ★ Engages students in broad, balanced course loads
- ★ Builds independence & interdependence in learning.



**IB learner profile**

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

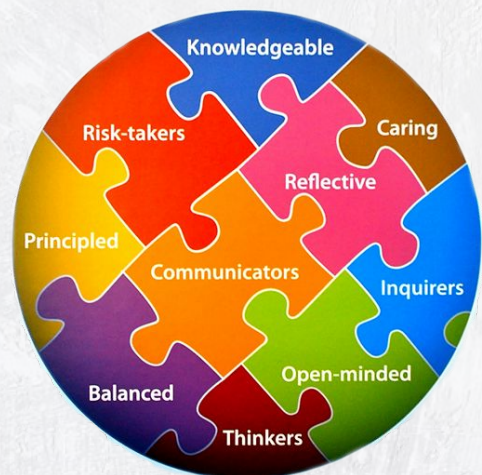
As IB learners we strive to be:

<b>INQUIRERS</b> We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.	<b>OPEN-MINDED</b> We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.
<b>KNOWLEDGEABLE</b> We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.	<b>CARING</b> We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
<b>THINKERS</b> We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.	<b>RISK-TAKERS</b> We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.
<b>COMMUNICATORS</b> We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.	<b>BALANCED</b> We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.
<b>PRINCIPLED</b> We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.	<b>REFLECTIVE</b> We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalaurat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

© International Baccalaureate Organization 2013  
International Baccalaureate® | Baccalaurat International® | Bachillerato Internacional®





# IB MYP at Whitman MS



- ★ MYP focuses on:
  - Inquiry and exploration
  - Learning Skills such as communication, research and social skills
  - Reflection
- ★ As an IB School we focus on teaching students to be global citizens who use critical thinking skills, and are encouraged to take ownership and reflect on their learning. We do this through teaching the approaches to learning (ATL Skills) and using a balance and inquiry based curriculum.

## All students take:

- English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health and PE

## All students engage in:

- Inquiry-based instruction through conceptual units
- Performance-based assessments
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Service learning

During 7th and/or 8th grade, we expect students to take:

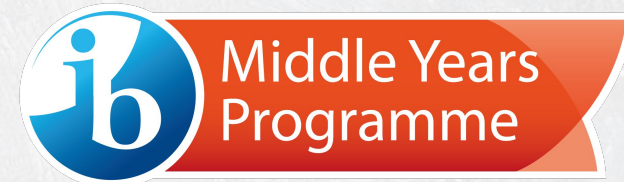
- Arts  
*Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Art, Theater*
- Design  
*FACS, Technology*
- World Language  
*French, Spanish, German*

\*\*For students who are interested in seeking an IB Diploma in high school, it is beneficial and suggested that students complete 1 full year of a world language and Algebra I. For more information about this pathway and alternatives, please contact Mount Vernon HS IB Coordinators.

*Course selections are made in partnership with students, families, & Whitman's Student Services team*



# Our School Partnership



Whitman MS MYP  
Coordinator  
Ms. Suarez

[psuarezdelre@fcps.edu](mailto:psuarezdelre@fcps.edu)



Mount Vernon HS MYP  
Coordinator: Ms. Dooley  
[kpdooley@fcps.edu](mailto:kpdooley@fcps.edu)  
Mount Vernon HS DP/CP  
Coordinator: Ms. Freeland  
[scfreeland@fcps.edu](mailto:scfreeland@fcps.edu)

# Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



# TJHSST Overview

- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
  - Comprehensive program that focuses on STEM
- The core skills and values emphasize and promote: critical inquiry and research, problem solving skills, intellectual curiosity, and social responsibility
- Diploma includes the completion of an original engineering or experimental research project in an on-campus lab or off-site through a Mentorship program at a government, corporate, or university research laboratory.



# TJHSST Requirements

## *Requirements for 2025-2026 School Year\**

- Must have 3.5 GPA or higher (7th grade-1st Q of 8th grade)
- Must be enrolled in Algebra Honors 1 or Geometry Honors
- Must be enrolled in Honors Science
- Must be enrolled in one additional honors class or identified as a Young Scholar.



# **Whitman's Mathematics Department**



# Math Department Overview

- Place students in class with appropriate level of rigor.
- Prepare students to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade and Geometry in 9th grade.

When considering to move from on-grade level math class to an honors math class:

- Move is called “*skipping a grade level in math instruction.*”
- Students may miss significant math content and concepts when moving classes.



# Middle School Math Progression

	On Grade Level	1 Grade Level Above	2 Grade Levels Above
Grade 7	Math 7	Math 7 HN	Algebra 1 HN*
Grade 8	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 HN	Geometry HN
Grade 9	Algebra 1	Geometry HN	Algebra 2 HN



# Math 7 Honors & Algebra 1

- Math 7 Honors follows an accelerated math curriculum which requires students to master the content assessed on the Math 8 SOL assessment.
- Both Math 7 and Math 7 Honors prepare students for Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors in 8th grade.
- Algebra 1 Honors is open enrollment for all 8th grade students; however, there are specific requirements for 7th grade enrollment.
  - Successful completion of Advanced Mathematics Grade 6 curriculum or a year-long accelerated mathematics program.
  - Score at or above the 91st percentile on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT)\*
  - Score a pass advanced (500 or above) on the 7th grade SOL\*

**TALENT DEVELOPMENT**

I'm excited to learn!  
 I'm discovering my goals, my strengths, and my identity!  
 We're learning POG skills TOGETHER!  
 I can advocate for myself and see my growth!  
 I'm igniting a future career aspiration!

**OPPORTUNITY UNLOCKS POTENTIAL!**

Provide all students with access to AAP curriculum and strategies, scaffold for success	Identify and nurture strengths and interests; explore possible career connections	Apply culturally responsive teaching principles; cultivate attitudes and mindsets that empower	Implement the Young Scholars model; monitor access to and achievement in advanced academics
---	---	--	---

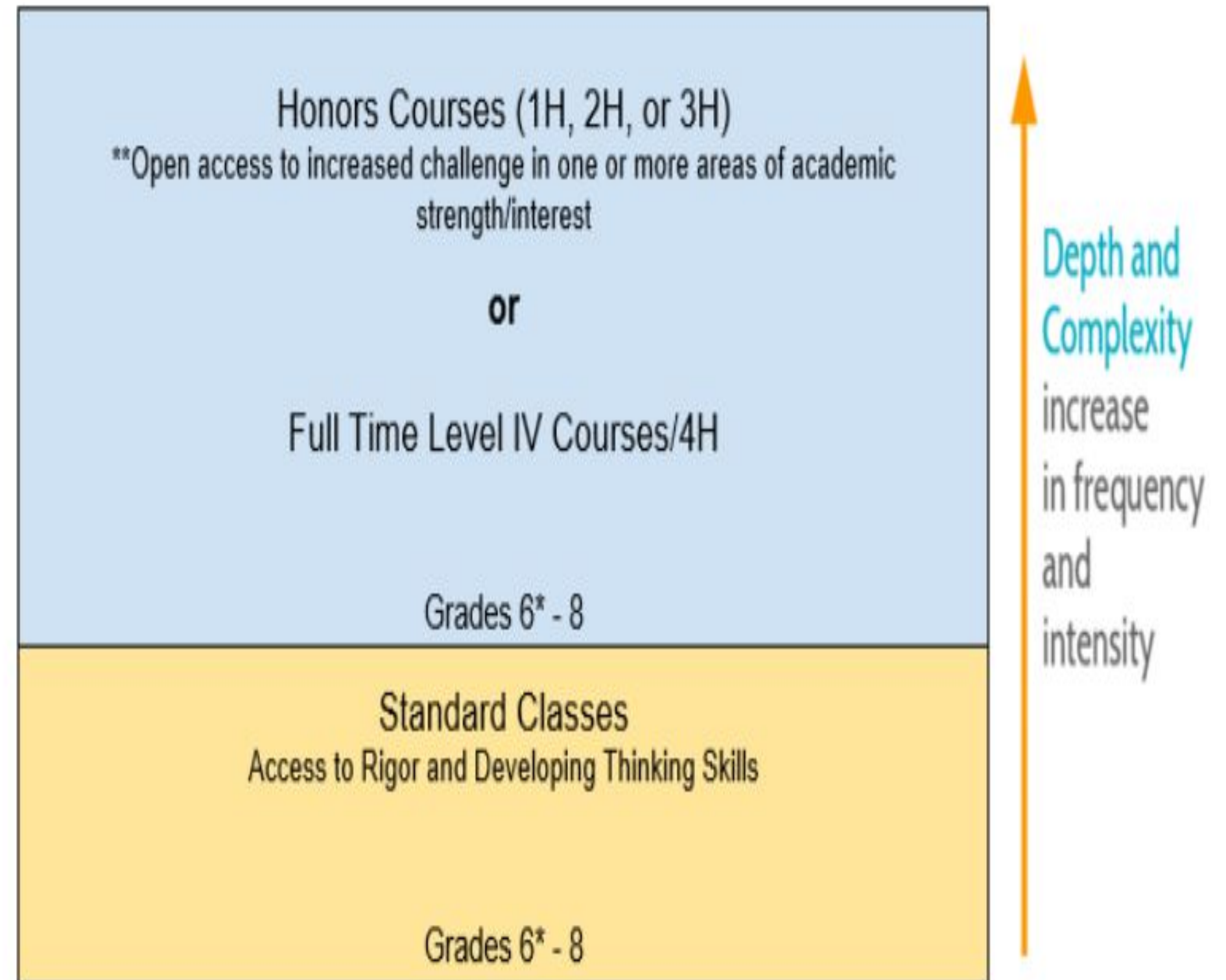
# Advanced Academic Program

# Advanced Academic Program

Meeting our goals requires:

- Development of critical and creative thinking skills in culturally responsive learning environments
- Rigorous and relevant curriculum in students' zone of proximal development.
- Opportunities for reflection, goal setting, and exploration of passions and pathways
- Differentiation "by name and by need" to address cognitive and affective needs
- Access to an academic peer group with similar needs for pacing and depth/complexity of learning
- Advocacy for groups historically underrepresented in advanced courses (YS, 2e, ELs)

## Middle School Differentiation to Meet the Needs of Advanced Learners





# Advanced Academics Program


## New Full Time AAP Services with Cluster Grouping!

- Students will be grouped by AA designation together in core content classes (English, Social Studies and Science).
- Students will receive full-time AA services with students who have also been centrally screened

**Reminder:** students who are zoned for Whitman will go on to Mt. Vernon for High School.



# **Whitman's Academic Advising Overview**



# Open Enrollment for Honors Classes

- Honors classes are open to all students who seek academic rigor and prepares students for future success as they prepare for high school and postsecondary education.
- Students may self-enroll in one or more honors courses in areas that match their academic interests or strengths.
- The goal is to help students find the right academic match. Students work with their school counselor during academic advising to ensure they are in the appropriate classes.

# 8th Grade Core Class Options

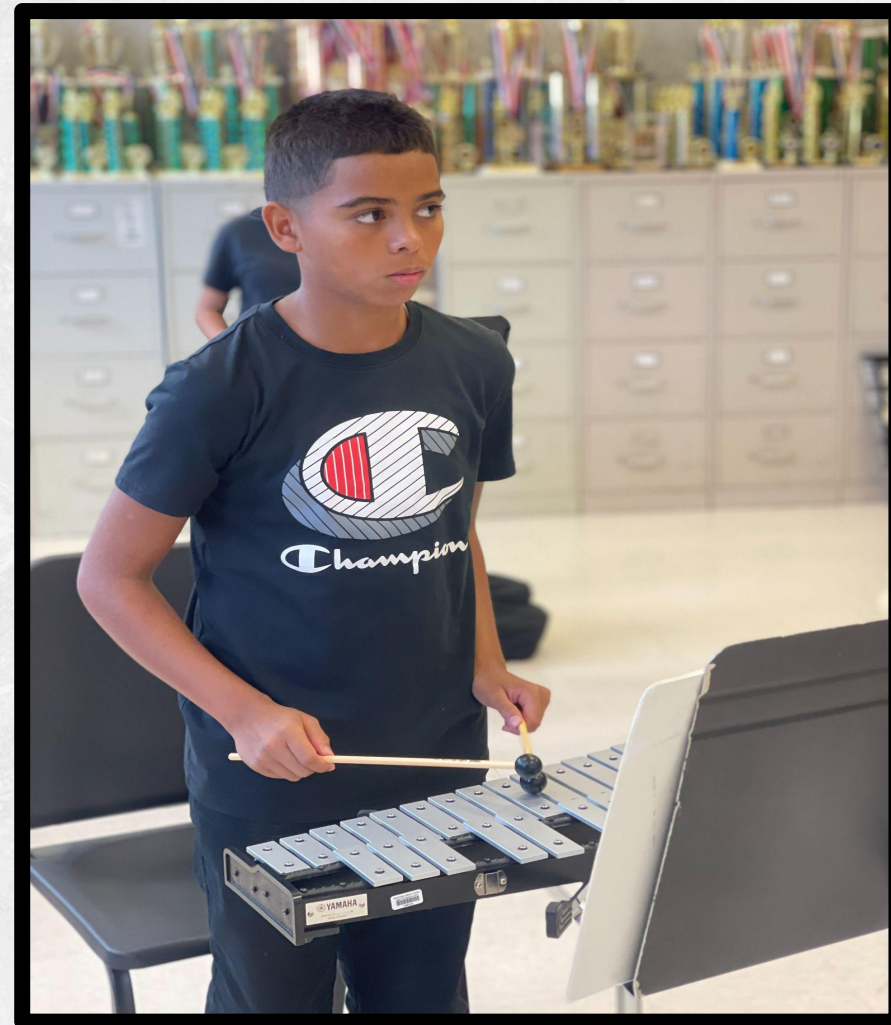
- English 8
- Physical Science
- Civics 8
- Pre Algebra
- Algebra 1
- Health & PE 8

- English 8 HN
- English 8 AA
- Physical Science HN
- Physical Science AA
- Civics HN
- Civics AA
- Algebra 1 Honors\*
- Geometry HN
- Health & PE 8

# 8th Grade Full Year Elective Course Options

- **Performing Arts**

- Band\*
- Orchestra\*
- Chorus
- Percussion Ensemble\*



\* Courses may require a materials  
fee

- **Language Acquisition**
  - Spanish 1B
  - German 1B
  - French 1B
  - Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1B
  - Spanish Immersion 2  
*(ES Immersion school students only)*
  - Spanish 1
  - French 1

- **Advancement Via Individual Determination** *(application required)*

- **Leadership Development**  
*(application required)*

- **STEM in the Garden**



# 8th Grade Semester Elective

## Course Options



- **Visual Arts**

- Art Foundations\*
- 3D Art Exploration\* (must complete Art Foundation)
- Computers in Art (must complete Art Foundation)

- **Performing Arts**

- Theatre Arts Appreciation
- Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation (must complete Theatre Arts Appreciation)
- Musical Theatre
- Technical Theatre
- Piano Lab\*
- Guitar\*
- Foundations of Yoga for Wellness



\* Courses may require a materials fee

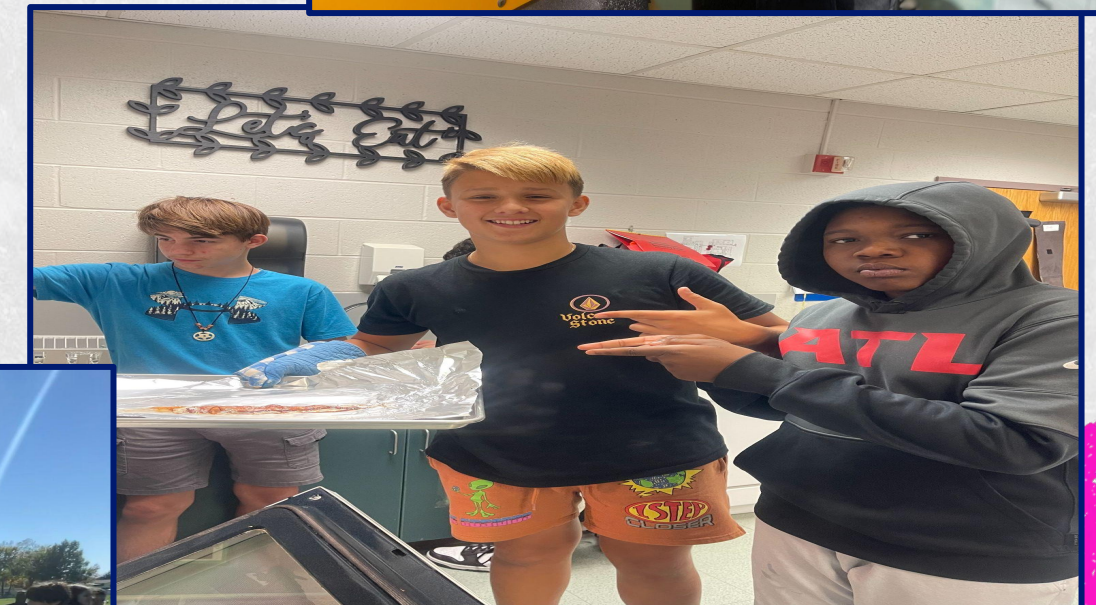
# 8th Grade Semester Elective

## Course Options

- **Design**

- Engineering 1\*
- Engineering 2\* *(must complete Engineering 1)*
- Engineering 3\* *(must complete Engineering 2)*
- Family and Consumer Sciences 2\*
- Computer Solutions
- Coding & Innov Tech *(must complete Computer Solutions)*

\* Courses may require a materials fee





# **Academic Advising Overview**



# Academic Advising

- Academic advising will begin **January 30th and conclude on February 10th.**
- Students will participate in pre advising lessons facilitated by the school counselors on January 30th & January 31st.
- Students will be taught how to enter courses.
- Students will be required to get the paper copy of the course selection sheet signed by a parent or guardian.
- The signature indicates parents have seen the courses.
- Students will enter their course requests directly into StudentVUE February 3rd-February 7th.
- School counselors will visit each History class to support them during this process.
- School counselors will meet with students to discuss course request, as needed, to ensure the courses selected are appropriate.
- Signed course selection sheets are due **February 3rd & February 4th.**

# 2025-2026 8th Grade Course Selection Sheet



Walt Whitman Middle School  
2025-2026  
8th Grade Course Selection Sheet

IEP \_\_\_ 504 Plan \_\_\_ ESOL \_\_\_ AAP Level IV \_\_\_ Moving prior to 2025-26 Yes / No If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Student Last Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

### International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) Expectations

As an authorized IB MYP school, Whitman expects middle school students to meet the following elective expectations both to be eligible for FCPS's IB MYP certificate and to be fully prepared for participation in the Diploma Program as high school students:

- For students not taking year-long Band, Chorus, Orchestra courses, students will choose at least one performing arts or visual arts course during 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Students will choose a Language Acquisition (World Language) course in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

While not all students will choose to pursue the full IB Diploma, their preparation as middle schoolers will ensure they have the broadest options when the time comes to select their academic path as high schoolers. Students required to take core academic support classes or participating in Special Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages programs may be exempted from these expectations.

### CORE COURSES

#### LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

- \_\_\_ 112000 English 8  
\_\_\_ 112036 English 8 Honors

#### INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES

- \_\_\_ 235700 Civics  
\_\_\_ 235736 Civics Honors

#### MATHEMATICS

- \_\_\_ 311200 Pre-Algebra  
\_\_\_ 313000 Algebra 1  
\_\_\_ 313036 Algebra 1 Honors  
\_\_\_ 314336 Geometry Honors

#### SCIENCE

- \_\_\_ 412500 Investigating Matter  
\_\_\_ 412536 Investigating Matter Honors

#### PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION

- \_\_\_ 720033/34 Health & Physical Education

### FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

Place a check next to any yearlong elective class you wish to have on your schedule.

For electives students will select either 2 full-year courses, 2 semester courses + 1 full-year course, or 4 semester courses.

#### Performing Arts

- \_\_\_ 923210 Band\*  
\_\_\_ 923710 Orchestra\*  
\_\_\_ 928510 Chorus  
\_\_\_ 925010 Percussion Ensemble\*

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Experience \_\_\_\_\_

#### Visual Arts

- \_\_\_ 911500 Art Extensions\*

#### College Readiness

- \_\_\_ 982808 AVID 8 (Application required)

#### Design/STEM

- \_\_\_ 982700 STEM in the Garden

#### Language Acquisition

- \_\_\_ 551500 Spanish 1B◊  
\_\_\_ 521500 German 1B◊  
\_\_\_ 511500 French 1B◊  
\_\_\_ 551561 Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1B◊  
\_\_\_ 552068 Spanish Immersion 2 (ES Immersion school students only)  
\_\_\_ 551000 Spanish 1  
\_\_\_ 511000 French 1

#### Counselor Recommendation

- \_\_\_ 980650 Leadership Development (Application required)

\*Courses may require materials fee

◊ Students must earn a passing grade in both Part A in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Part B in 8<sup>th</sup> grade year to earn ONE high school language credit.

### SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Students must rank semester elective choices 1-5 in order of your preference. 1 = your first choice

#### Visual Arts

- \_\_\_ 910532 Art Foundations\*  
\_\_\_ 910632 3D Art Exploration\* (Must complete 910532)  
\_\_\_ 911562 Computers in Art\* (Must complete 910532)

#### Design

- \_\_\_ 846432 Engineering 1\*  
\_\_\_ 846332 Engineering 2\* (Must Complete Engineering 1)  
\_\_\_ 846362 Engineering 3\* (Must Complete Engineering 2)  
\_\_\_ 824432 Family & Consumer Sciences 2\*  
\_\_\_ 660932 Computer Solutions  
\_\_\_ 6106032 Coding & Logic Tech (Must complete Computer Solutions)

#### Performing Arts

- \_\_\_ 139067 Theatre Arts Appreciation  
\_\_\_ 139569 Advanced Theater (Must Complete 139067)  
\_\_\_ 139065 Technical Theater  
\_\_\_ 140032 Musical Theater  
\_\_\_ 925562 Piano Lab\*  
\_\_\_ 924562 Guitar\*  
\_\_\_ 720132 Foundations of Yoga Wellness

### GENERAL EDUCATION INTERVENTION COURSES

#### READING, WRITING, AND MATH INTERVENTION

- 110800 Literacy 8  
 110867 LAP Lit  
 011069 Power Math 8

### MULTILINGUAL LEARNER COURSE SECTION

#### ML level 1s and 2s with less than 2 semesters or 1 year in ESOL program

- 571065 Beginning English 8 FOR ELS  
 571066 Beginning ELD 8 FOR ELS  
 311294 Math 8 TT \*  
 571218 ESOL Civics  
 571413 ESOL Focus Science 8  
 319995 Rational Numbers Concepts for ELS  
 319990 Numeracy Foundations for ELS (SLIFE)  
 571011 Bridging to Literacy (SLIFE)

#### ML level 3.0 to 3.6

- 572065 Developing ELD

#### ESOL level 3.7 or higher

- 573061 Academic Language

### SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSE SECTION

#### ENGLISH (select one option)

- 112071 English 8 TT  
 112081 English 8 SC  
 780180 Foundations of English

#### MATHEMATICS (select one option)

- 311271 Mathematics 8 TT  
 311281 Mathematics 8 SC  
 780380 Foundations of Math

#### Health & PE

- 770017 Adapted Health & PE  
 720033/34 Health & PE 8

#### Must Choose ONE

#### ENGLISH LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES

- 571066 Beginning ELD (Level 1 & 2)  
 572065 Developing ELD (Level 3)  
 573061 Academic Language (Level 4)

#### SOCIAL STUDIES (select one option)

- 235771 Civics TT  
 235781 Civics SC  
 780280 Foundations of History

#### SCIENCE (select one option)

- 412571 Invest Matter TT  
 412581 Invest Matter SC  
 780480 Foundations of Science

#### INTERVENTION and ELECTIVES

- 781540 Personal Development  
 798816 Life Skills  
 110871/81 Literacy 8  
 319915 Math 180  
 907060 Work, Awareness, & Transition (WAT)  
 911580 Adapted Art

I have reviewed my child's course selection sheet. I understand this is not a class schedule and selection does not guarantee class placement. Families have until **June 2, 2025**, to contact their school counselor with schedule change requests.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Department Contact

- Colleen Hooper, Director of Student Services: [cmhooper1@fcps.edu](mailto:cmhooper1@fcps.edu)
- Tiashia Roberts, Lead School Counselor: [tnroberts@fcps.edu](mailto:tnroberts@fcps.edu)
- Cara Shirley, School Counselor: [cbshirley@fcps.edu](mailto:cbshirley@fcps.edu)
- Dana Smith, School Counselor: [dmsmith@fcps.edu](mailto:dmsmith@fcps.edu)
- Liliana Aberger, Student Services Assistant: [lfaberger@fcps.edu](mailto:lfaberger@fcps.edu)
- Raquel Monterrosa Romero, Family Liaison: [rmonterrosar@fcps.edu](mailto:rmonterrosar@fcps.edu)
- Phoebe Suarez Del Real, Advanced Academics Teacher & IB Coordinator:  
[psuarezdelre@fcps.edu](mailto:psuarezdelre@fcps.edu)
- Dana Hannum-Rivera, Multilingual Learner: [dlhannumrive@fcps.edu](mailto:dlhannumrive@fcps.edu)
- Angela Perez, Special Education: [amperez@fcps.edu](mailto:amperez@fcps.edu)

# Question & Answer Time



At this time, we welcome any questions that you may have!

**Thank you for your time.**

**Have a great night!**

