



Holmes Middle School Curriculum Night

Rising 7th Grade - Class of 2026

Rising 8th Grade - Class of 2025



WILLKOMMEN

欢迎

स्वागत

BIENVENIDA

WELCOME

BIENVENUE ようこそ

добро пожаловать

ترحيب

BEM-VINDO

Agenda



- To become familiar with the course offerings for the 2020-2021 school year
- To understand the timeline for the transition program

Important Upcoming Dates

February: Academic Advising

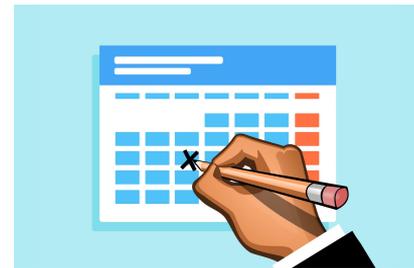
Holmes Middle School counselors provide lessons and academic advising to rising 7th/8th grade students; signed course selection sheets due back to Holmes **February 28th**

February 10th (8-9AM) & March 12th (9-10AM)

Rising 6th grade/New families have an opportunity to meet with Holmes staff to learn about the school and meet important people to know.

June: Course Selections Mailed Home (Also available on Parent Vue)

Course selection sheets mailed home with changes due back to Holmes by **July 10th**.



Classes

7th Grade

- 6 required classes:
 - English 7/English 7 HN
 - History 7/History 7 HN
 - Science 7/Science 7 HN
 - Math 7/Math 7 HN*/Algebra 1 HN*
 - Health & PE 7
 - SOAR

8th Grade

- 6 required classes:
 - English 8/English 8 HN
 - Civics/Civics 8 HN
 - Science 8/Science 8 HN
 - Pre-Algebra/Algebra/Algebra HN/Geometry HN
 - Health & PE 8
 - SOAR

2 periods of Electives:

2 Year long electives

- OR -

1 Year long elective and 2 half year electives

- OR -

4 half year electives

***Please note that a support class may take the place of an elective*

Block Scheduling

Blue Day	Time	White Day
1	7:30-9:00 (90)	2
3	9:05-10:35 (90) SOAR 9:05 - 9:48 (43) ER 9:53-10:35 (42)	Enrichment and Remediation (ER)
5	10:40 – 12:40 Lunch A Lunch B Lunch C Lunch D	4
7	12:45-2:15 (90)	6

Level IV Services





Honors Classes

Open access: students and parents/guardians self-select classes



Increased depth and complexity in specific subjects



Students learn with other students who have chosen to be challenged academically.



Students may enroll in one or more Honors classes based on interests/strengths



Offered in all middle schools



Full-Time (Level IV) Center

Students are found eligible through a central screening process



Increased depth, complexity, and pace in all subjects



Students identified as having high intellectual ability are clustered in classes with peers.



Students are in advanced classes for all 4 core subject areas (math class is based on readiness)



13 schools are designated centers

Honors Classes

(in all 26 middle schools)

No eligibility
required--
Open Access

All middle
schools offer
Honors
classes

Students
access
advanced
curriculum in
1, 2, 3, or 4
core classes

(Taking 4 honors
classes is
considered Level IV
full-time services)

Students are
in classes
with other
students
who also
chose
Honors level
classes

All students
attend their
base high
school

AAP Full-time (Level IV) Center Classes

(13 of 26 middle schools are designated centers)

Students are found eligible through a central screening process

Students are assigned to a center based on their home address

Students access advanced curriculum for all 4 core subjects

(mathematics course is based on readiness)

Students are in classes with other eligible students

(mathematics class may be a mix of eligible and self-selected)

All students attend their base high school

Learning experiences in AAP (Honors and Level IV)

Differentiated instruction
-- increased depth,
complexity, and pace

Increased opportunities
to explore of areas of
interest related to content

Students frequently
working as practitioners
of the discipline on
authentic, open-ended
problems

Emphasis on
development critical and
creative thinking skills

IB MYP



The IB Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP)

- All students participate in the Middle Years Programme
- An academically rigorous programme which promotes intercultural understanding and interdisciplinary study
- The IB Approaches to Learning and the IB Learner Profile Traits are aligned with the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate
- Prepares students for participation in and completion of the IB Diploma Programme
- Students who successfully complete the Middle Years Programme will receive a middle years certificate



IB Learner Profile



The learner profile provides a long-term vision of education. It is a set of ideals that can inspire, motivate and focus the work of schools and teachers, uniting them in a common purpose.



Holmes MS Learner Profile

- **September- COMMUNICATORS-** This skill is needed for everything we do. Students and staff will receive and express new ideas and information. Let's build confidence in expressing this knowledge and their ideas using multiple forms of communication. (*Language Acquisition*)
- **October- RISK-TAKERS-** We will meet new people and start fresh. Help students approach unfamiliar situations and support them as they build confidence to explore new ideas. (*Student Services*)
- **November- INQUIRERS-** Let's make sure we are nurturing natural curiosity and we all find enjoyment in learning. Use questioning strategies: to ask why before, during, and after everything we do. (*Sciences*)
- **December- CARING-** For many of us this is a holiday season (and we have a long break) so this may be an exciting and/or stressful time of year. Let's all show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others. We need to reaffirm our personal commitments to helping each other. (*Arts*)
- **January- PRINCIPLED-** Now that we are back from a long break let's recommit to our purpose. Do we have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning? Are we modeling integrity, honesty, and a sense of justice? How are we allowing our students

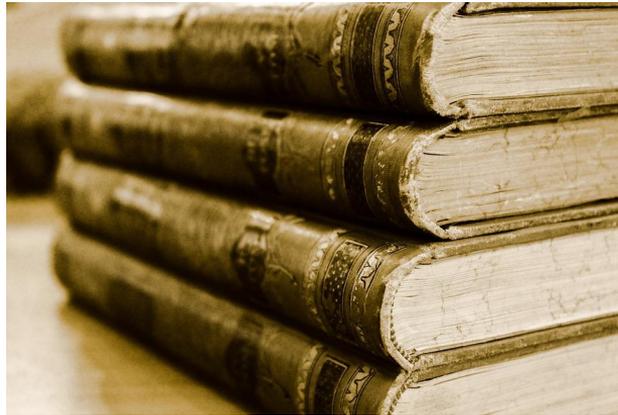
IB Resources

- Great Resource: Holmes MS MYP Coordinator: Donna Starace
- E-mail: dstarace@fcps.edu
- Holmes MS Website: <https://holmesms.fcps.edu/>

Go to the Holmes Website- Click on Academics-Click on IBMYP:
<https://holmesms.fcps.edu/academics/ibmyp>



English



English 7 vs. English 7 HN

Students will take the Reading 7 SOL

Unit 1 – Fiction * Unit 2 - Nonfiction & Research * Unit 3 - Persuasion
Unit 4 - Poetry * Unit 5 - Literary Analysis

English 7	English 7 HN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● More teacher help● More direct instruction● More practice with new concepts/lessons● Increased amount of check-ins for understanding● Essential FCPS objectives taught/assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● More independence● Less scaffolding● More student accountability for getting work done and seeking help/support as needed● Essential and extension FCPS objectives taught/assessed

English 8 Curriculum

Students will take BOTH a Reading (May) and Writing (March) SOL

Reading, Literature, and Research (RLR)

Units of Study:

- Short Stories
- Research
- Informational Text
- Novel Study

Critical Skills:

- Figurative Language and Author's Purpose
- Vocabulary and Root Words
- Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions
- Summarizing and Paraphrasing

Writing

Units of Study:

- Grammar
- Expository Writing
- Persuasive Writing
- Narrative Writing

Critical Skills:

- Run-ons, Comma Rules, Subject/Verb Agreement, Pronoun Agreement, Dialogue
- MLA Citations and Research Techniques
- Constructing a Thesis Statement with Support

English 8 vs. English 8 HN

FCPS supports an open-access policy for all honors classes.

English 8	English 8 Honors
<p>Your child will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ bolster fiction and non-fiction skills from 7th grade English using a variety of new materials;✓ read and analyze an increased number of non-fiction texts;✓ work collaboratively and independently;✓ Strive to enhance their vocabulary and reading fluency; and✓ come to class with an open mind, ready to learn, each day.	<p>Your child may be a great fit for honors if he/she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ has done well in past English classes and is ready for a challenge;✓ enjoys independent reading, and reads regularly outside of school;✓ is capable of independent learning and thinking;✓ is ready for increased student accountability and rigor; and✓ is willing to work harder than ever, with a positive attitude, each day.

Science



Science 7 and Science 7 HN

Students will not take an SOL

Curriculum overview:

Life Science

- Understanding our Environment
- Observing Living Things
- Heredity

<u>Science 7</u>	<u>Science 7 HN</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-7th grade science standards as outlined by FCPS- Slower pace of instruction-More teacher interventions/remediation, “check-ins”-Scaffolded assignments-Working on building stronger study habits and becoming independent thinkers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-7th grade science standards AND additional extensions-Quicker pace of instruction-Higher level of student independence and advocacy-Assignments may go “deeper” and have more rigorous expectations-Possess self-motivation and strong study habits

Science 8 vs. Science 8 HN

Students will take the Science SOL which is cumulative (6-8)

Science 8	Science 8 Honors
<p>Students will study: Properties of matter, energy forms and their transformations, and forces and motion via a sequence of hands-on investigations. (Chemistry/Physics)</p> <p>Students will use hands on experiments and computerized digital simulations to build background knowledge and enhance student understanding.</p> <p>Students will work on processing skills related to scientific investigation, including scientific reasoning, logic, and analysis and exploration. As students carry out investigations, they will collect and analyze data, and formulate conclusions based upon their experiments.. Engineering connections are integrated throughout the curriculum.</p> <p>SOLpass.org is an excellent resource to review to help your student prepare.</p>	<p>In addition to mentioned areas of study: Students will be expected to perform Critical & Creative Thinking (CCT) Activities that correlate with each lab unit and communicate their understanding in verbal and written formats and presentations.</p> <p>In addition to process skills: Students will be expected to be able to have academic conversations to elaborate and clarify their analysis of the mentioned hands on experiments/labs. Students should be able to follow a fast pace instruction, follow multi-step written directions without additional teacher support, and have a genuine interest and curiosity with Science.</p>

History 7 vs. History 7 HN

Students will not take an SOL

Curriculum overview: US History 1865 - Present

- Historical Thinking Skills:
 - Examples: Using evidence to draw conclusions, analyze and interpret documents and charts, investigate/research problems
- Performance Based Assessments:
 - Primary Source Analysis, Document Based Questions, Essays
- Expectations of Honors Students:
 - Excellent Work Ethic/Study Skills, Independent Writers, Excited for Challenges, Advanced Research Skills, Self-Motivated



Civics 8 vs. Civics 8 HN

Students will take the Civics SOL

Honors tends to have more writing, reading, and speaking

We expect a greater degree of student responsibility and autonomy amongst honors students

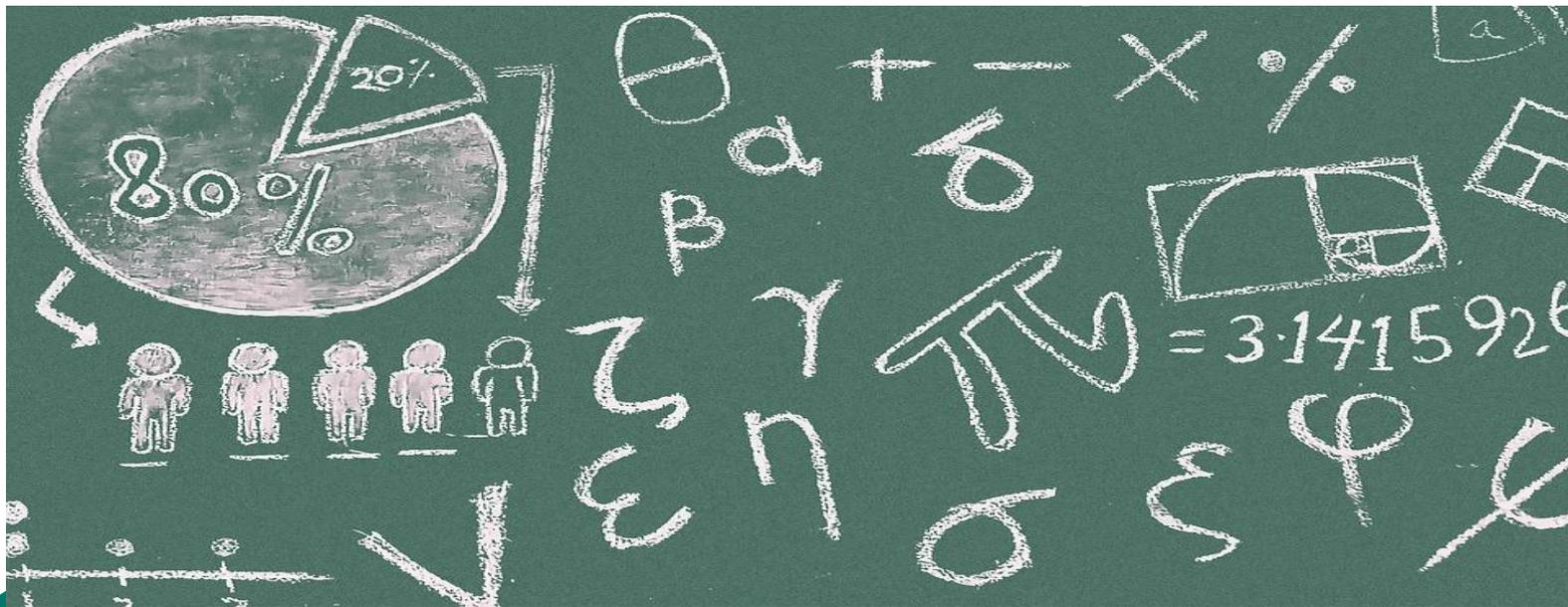
Pacing is about the same in both courses as both courses have the SOL at the end of the year

Civics Curriculum

- Citizenship
- Elections
- Foundations of Democracy
- Federal Government and Constitution
- State Government
- Economics
- Field Trips
- Service Learning



Math



Math 7

Students will take the Math 7 SOL

The seventh-grade standards continue to emphasize the foundations of algebra.

Students who successfully complete the seventh-grade standards should be prepared to study Algebra I in grade eight.

Grade 7 Mathematics Course Options

(AAP eligibility is not a factor in math course placement.)

Mathematics 7
7th grade standards

Mathematics 7 Honors
8th grade standards + extensions
(Open access)

Algebra I Honors criteria:

- Advanced Math in 6th grade,
- 500+ on 7th grade SOL, and
- 91% on Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test

(Algebra I is a high school credit course.)

Math 7 HN

Students will take the Math 8 SOL - Students will follow the Math 8 Standards

The eighth-grade standards are intended to serve two purposes.

1. The standards contain content that reviews or extends concepts and skills learned in previous grades.
2. They contain new content that prepares students for more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry.

Pre-Algebra

Students will take the Math 8 SOL

Approximately 50% of our 8th grade students enroll in Pre-algebra.

Focus for the school year is strengthening Algebra skills.

Use a scientific calculator.

Algebra 1

Students will take the Algebra End-of-Course SOL Test.

Approximately 40 - 45% of 8th graders take Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors. This number includes some 7th grade students.

Students learn to use a graphing calculator. Hand-held calculators and the online Desmos graphing calculator will be used both in class and on the SOL Test.

Algebra 1 HN

Students will take the Algebra SOL - Students will follow the Algebra 1 Standards

Advanced Math 6 or a year-long accelerated mathematics course

IOWA Algebra Aptitude (IAAT) score at or above the 91st percentile

A score of pass advanced (500 or above) on the Mathematics 7 SOL Test

Geometry HN

Students will take the Geometry SOL

Approximately 5 - 10% of 8th graders take Geometry Honors

Students continue to use a graphing calculator.

Algebra 1 Honors is a prerequisite.

Health & Physical Education



Health & Physical Education

8 monthly PE units: These units are activity - based that teach a HPE benchmark skill

Examples: 1)Weight Room – Fitness and conditioning

2) Volleyball - Hand - eye coordination

2 months of Health: Content includes alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, emotional and social health, personal and community health and safety, injury and violence prevention. Also including 1 week of human growth and development.

Fitness:

Holmes concentrates on Fitness on a daily basis. The mile, pacer test, sit and reach, push ups, curl ups, shoulder stretch, and trunk lifts are all used to measure students' progress.

Health & Physical Education

8th Grade Physical Education:

8 monthly PE units: these units are activity - based that teach a HPE benchmark skill

Examples: Skill: 1) Basketball - Defensive positioning

2) Volleyball and Hand - eye coordination

2 months of Health: Concentrating on self esteem, Drug education and prevention, and nutrition. Also including 1 week of human growth and development(HGD)

Fitness: Holmes concentrates on Fitness on a daily basis. The mile, pacer test, cooper run and other running activities are used to build fitness, as well as, stretching, core exercises, and upper body strength.

AVID



The Mission of AVID

The mission of AVID is to ensure that ALL students, and most especially the least served students who are in the middle:

- will succeed in rigorous curriculum;
- will complete a rigorous college preparatory path;
- will enter mainstream activities of the school;
- will increase their enrollment and success in four-year colleges; and
- will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

A Sample Week in the AVID Elective

- Tutorials to help with classes
- Team-building and motivational activities including visits to universities
- AVID Curriculum which includes

Reading and Writing Enhancement

College and Career Preparation and Information

Collaborative, inquiry-based work (ex: Socratic Seminar)

Intervention Courses





Electives

