Academic Planning and Success in Middle School

Presented by
Laura Kuthy and Amber Spicer
School Counselors, Hornsby Middle School
Expectations

We are all in this together!!!
Overview

* General information about academic success in middle school
* Understanding middle and high school curriculum
* How middle school academics connect to high school academics
* What to expect from your Middle School
* Tips and Tools for Academic Success in middle school and beyond
Middle School Academic Objectives

- Improve academic self-concept
- Acquire Skills for Improving Learning
- Achieve School Success
- Goal Setting and Academic Problem-Solving
- Relate School to Life Objectives
- Enhance content knowledge to build on each year and prepare for high school curriculum
How to meet Academic Objectives

* Developing and implementing study skills
* Encouraging student advocacy within school
* Identifying stakeholders
  * Teachers, administrators, counselors, etc.
* Utilizing proper communication strategies between all stakeholders in your child’s academic success
  * Conference, being proactive, asking questions, utilizing VUE
Middle School Core Content

- English, Math, Science, Social Studies (Civics in 8th Grade)
- 1 of each class per year/meets every day
- Multiple placements in Math, English, and Social Studies that vary per grade level
- Science is the same for all students within grade level
- 6 periods a day with advisory opportunities
Middle School Related Arts

* All students are required to take Health/PE all three years during related arts time
* Students fulfill the remainder of their related arts time with a combination of semester and year-long options
  * Performing Arts
  * Visual Arts
  * World Languages
A total of only 4 classes per day/8 total classes per year
Can be any combination of core and elective courses
  * May meet every day or every other day
One of each core is suggested per year to stay on track for graduation
Each enrolled class is an attempted credit
Must pass the class with a “D” or higher to obtain credit for each class
Need at least 28 credits to graduate
High School Curriculum

* Multiple classes in all core subject content curriculum
* More elective options available
  * Enables students to start on a career pathway
* Placement in courses (AP, Honors, etc.) is self-selected
* Placement in courses may also include meeting pre-requisites and class availability
Middle to High School Connection

“Middle School Grades don’t matter . . . . . .”
-YES THEY DO!!

* Middle school course final grades do **not** go on a permanent transcript for high school and beyond.
* This allows for students to still develop as learners.
* Every year builds on the next so academic skills and success must be cultivated to be most successful in high school and as life long learners.
* Students can develop good or bad habits.

Remember: “Practice makes Progress!!”
Academic predictors in middle school:
- Final Grades
- SOL scores (do not need to promote)
- Reading Level/Math Inventories
- Writing Prompt Scores

Verified Credits in High School
- SOLs must be passed to graduate high school
High school credit bearing courses are offered in middle school to 7th and 8th graders only

- Math: Algebra 1 and Geometry
  - Placement determined by school personnel
- World Languages: Spanish, French, German, Latin
  - Can only earn up to one Level 1 credit
  - Language offerings vary amongst schools
Final grades from high school credit-bearing courses, including those in middle school, are part of a final transcript used for options beyond high school.

Each course passed is one credit averaged into a final cumulative GPA:

- A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0

Ability to expunge credits only in middle school.
What to Expect from Your School

- 7th Grade: Academic and career lessons in classes; setting educational and academic goals.
- 8th Grade: Academic and Career Plan meetings with family, student, and counselor
- Every Spring Semester
  - Parent Nights for course planning
  - Course selection with school counselors
# Academic And Career Plan

**WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLAN**

**Student Name:**

**Middle School:**

**Diploma Choice:**
- [ ] Advanced Studies
- [X] Standard

**Career Goal:**

**Educational Goal:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Verified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>Courses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>Courses</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits**

**Tentative Career Cluster**
- Gr. 7
- Gr. 8
- Gr. 10

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**Graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade in 2013 and beyond. In addition, students will have one online experience which will be in Econ/Personal Finance.**

**Advanced Studies Diploma**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and PE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ/Personal Finance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**Standard Diploma**

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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**Verified / SOL Requirements**

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<th>Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 English</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Math</td>
<td>1 Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Science</td>
<td>1 Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Social Studies</td>
<td>1 Social Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 total</td>
<td>6 total</td>
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*Must also earn an industry certification*
Here is one student who is inspired:
(Study)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rc9dpAphbRU
(Tips for grades)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih3QUZciZls

* Parent/StudentVue Tutorial: http://wjccschools.org/
Questions?

Thank you for coming!!!!