

LETTER TO PARENTS OF RISING 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Dear Stafford families,

We are excited to share with you that the middle school schedule will include more time in English and mathematics next year!

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, Stafford County Public Schools is restructuring the middle school instructional schedule to better prepare students for high school. As such, all middle school students will receive daily instruction in English/Language Arts and mathematics. The additional time in mathematics and English will enhance learning for our students. Students will have mathematics and English on one day for a full class period and on the next day for a half of a class period. This alternating day schedule will span the entire year. In addition, students will also have exposure to classes that will help them understand, appreciate, and begin charting their course for high school and beyond.

Parents of rising 7th and 8th grade students will register for classes in March. Each middle school principal will host a parent information night prior to class registration for rising 7th and 8th grade students on the changes to the middle school schedule. Additional information will be sent home by your child's principal regarding the date and time for 7th and 8th grade information night.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is attached. We look forward to working with you and your rising 7th and 8th grade students. Thank you for your continued support of Stafford County Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Andrew T. Grider, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Middle School Leadership
Stafford County Public Schools

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Why are these middle school changes being made?
 - As a result of the Pandemic, middle school students continue to struggle with mathematics and literacy. The additional time on grade-level content will allow teachers to better address the learning needs of all students.
 - In support of the School Board’s Strategic Plan Goal 2: Support high expectations for academic performance and expand opportunities for every student.

- What is driving the change for all middle school students to take Algebra I before leaving middle school?
 - In support of the School Board’s Strategic Plan Goal 2: Support high expectations for academic performance and expand opportunities for every student.
 - Students entering high school with an Algebra I credit have the opportunity to take higher level mathematics courses during the high school years.
 - Access to Algebra I provides additional opportunities for every student to access high school specialty programs that require Algebra I as a prerequisite course.

- What will the middle school mathematics course sequence look like for students in 2023-2024 and beyond?

6th Graders in 2023-2024

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Pre-Algebra 6 (all of 6th grade content and integrating certain 7th grade content)	Pre-Algebra 7 (all of 8th grade content and integrating the remainder of 7th grade content)	Algebra I
Pre-Algebra Intensified (all of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade content)	Algebra I	Geometry

7th and 8th Graders in 2023-2024

7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade
Math 7	Math 8	Algebra I
Pre-Algebra 7	Algebra I	Geometry
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II

- What will the schedule look like for kids?
 - Mathematics and English instruction every day
 - Grade 6: ~75 min per day = 375 min per week
 - Grades 7 and 8: ~300 min per week
 - Electives
 - Grade 6 - One full-year elective choice: Band, Orchestra, Chorus, or Drama/Art (one-semester each)
 - All Grade 6 students receive an “exploratory wheel” that provides exposure to 9 week mini-courses in commonly-requested electives: Introduction to Computers, Technology and Engineering Foundations, Exploring Family and Consumer Sciences, and World Language Exploratory.
 - Grades 7 - Two full-year elective choices (e.g., Band, Orchestra, and Chorus) or a combination of semester and/or full-year electives
 - Grade 8 - Two full-year elective choices (Band, for Orchestra, Chorus, and World Languages) or a combination of semester and/or full-year electives

NOTE: A full list of all other electives can be found on pages 49-56 of the [2023-2024 Program of Studies](#))

- If a student transfers to Stafford in grade 7 or 8 and hasn't had the same coursework as others, how will they be supported and what math classes will they take?
 - Placement depends on each student's unique situation. As always, transfer students' transcripts will be considered, including a potential examination of course objectives from the current or previous course in another state or division. If necessary, interventions intended to accelerate or augment instruction to place a student on a trajectory for grade 8 Algebra I will be provided. These interventions may come in various forms that may include individually designed targeted supports and/or summer programs designed to provide additional instruction.