RISING 7TH and 8TH GRADE

Parent Coffee

February 1st, 2017

MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Meet the Mercer School Counselors!

Heidi Miles, *Lead Counselor and 8th Grade (Q-Z)*

Megan Casterline, *8th Grade (A-P)*

Jazlynn Finney, *7th Grade (A-P)*

Daniel Kim, *7th Grade (Q-Z)*

Kimberly Kenny, *6th Grade (A-P)*

Daniel Kim, *6th Grade (Q-Z)*

Maria Porto, *School Counseling Intern*
Agenda for today

TJ, AOS, AET
High School Diploma Types
Required Courses
Elective Courses
Course Selection Timeline
Selecting courses in StudentVUE/ParentVUE
Q and A
Thomas Jefferson High School

Provides an innovative, specialized learning environment for highly motivated students who have a genuine interest in the biological, physical, mathematical, technological, and computer sciences.

Students are selected for TJHSST through a competitive admissions process. “TJ” is looking for highly motivated students with diverse backgrounds, talents, and skills, who demonstrate:

— High ability, aptitude, and **interest in math, science, and technology**.
— Intellectual curiosity and self-motivation to pursue scientific research.
— A desire to be challenged with an extensive curriculum focused in math, science, and technology.
— The highest academic and personal integrity.
— An aspiration to become a member of a community of learners, explorers, mentors, and leaders.
Academy of Science (AOS)

The mission of the LCPS Academy of Science is to provide an academic environment where students are encouraged to develop creative scientific endeavors of their own design, while having the opportunity to pursue a rich, well-rounded high school experience.

Students attend the AOS on alternating days. Students take science, math, and research courses at the Academy and all other subjects at their home school on the opposite day.
Academy of Engineering (AET)

The mission of the LCPS Academy of Engineering & Technology, AET, is to provide academic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) pathways to students interested in engineering, entrepreneurship and information technologies. AET Students follow an integrated STEM course of study in one of three different curricular pathways: AET Information Technology, AET Engineering, or AET Entrepreneurship.

AET is available for 9th grade students, who successfully completed Geometry by the end of 8th grade. Students take AET courses at the Academy on alternating days and all other subjects at their home school on the opposite day.
Advanced Studies Diploma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Areas</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>SOL Verified Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(World Studies (2), US/VA Government, and US/VA History)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or above level of Algebra II)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(From 3 of the 4 disciplines: Biological, Chemical, Physical, Earth)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Language</strong> (3 years of one language or 2 years each of two different languages)</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health/Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fine Arts or Career &amp; Technical Education</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics &amp; Personal Finance</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Selected Verified Credit</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (depends on foreign language option)</strong></td>
<td>26 or 27</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## STANDARD DIPLOMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Areas</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>SOL Verified Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(World Studies, US/VA Government, and US/VA History)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Algebra I, Geometry, Functions, Algebra II or above level of Algebra II)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(From 2 of the 4 disciplines: Biological, Chemical, Physical, Earth)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health/Family Life/Physical Education</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or CTE</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics and Personal Finance</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong> <em>(Must include 2 sequential electives)</em></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Selected Verified Credit</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rising 7th Grade
7th Grade Required Courses

- **English** *(grade level or honors)*
- **Life Science** *(grade level or honors)*
- **U.S. History** *(grade level or honors)*
- **Math** *(Math 7, Math 8, or Algebra I *HS credit class)*
- **Health & P.E.**
- **Technology Education** *(semester course)*
- **Family & Consumer Science** *(semester course)*
- **Resource or Spectrum** *(split block with fine arts elective)*
7th Grade Elective Courses

ONE Fine Arts Elective:
• Band 7 *(Prerequisite: Band 6)*
• Strings 7 *(Prerequisite: Strings 6)*
• Chorus
• Guitar 7
• Art 7

ONE Academic Elective
• Communication Studies
• World Language: Spanish 1, German 1, Latin 1, French 1 *(all high school credit)*
• Accelerating Literacy Skills
• Coding at the Middle School (CAMS)
Communication Studies

- This course introduces students to the basic principles of human communication, including interpersonal and small group, intercultural, and mediated (mass or electronic) communication and public speaking
- Focus is multi-media
- Publication (yearbook, literary magazine, newspaper)
- Public speaking (broadcasting, morning announcements, Public Service Announcements and movies)
7th Grade World Languages

• High school credit classes taught at the middle school

• Spanish 1, German 1, Latin 1, French 1, *Spanish for Fluent Speakers*

• 3 years of one language or 4 years of two different languages are the minimum required for an Advanced Studies Diploma
  • (example: Spanish 1, 2, 3 OR Spanish 1, 2 and French 1, 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample World Language Progression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start in 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start in 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start in 9th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If your child is fluent in Spanish and is interested in testing into Spanish for Fluent Speakers, please contact your child’s counselor for more information*
Accelerating Literacy Skills

• Students read various texts (nonfiction, current events and self-selected) to practice and develop comprehension and vocabulary knowledge.

• Students improve literacy content/skill mastery through reading-to-learn (Achieve 3000), writing-to-learn, and speaking-to-learn activities.

• Students participate in Global Read Aloud, connecting with classrooms around the world to read a common novel. Students interact with those classrooms through technologies such as Skyping, Kidblog, and Write About.

• Instruction is differentiated for each student’s needs.

• Students who have gaps in language arts knowledge or skills receive instruction with increased rigor and intensity to move them toward grade level performance.

• Students performing at or above grade level will be guided toward improved performance.

~LCPS Middle School Program of Studies
CAMS- Coding at Middle School

• **NEW** 7th grade full year math elective (pilot program)

• Students will develop critical thinking skills, communication, collaboration and creativity through computer programming

• Throughout the course, students work through problem solving and debugging challenges, team building activities and collaborative projects

• Students work on improving their coding skills by creating interactive programs and games in Scratch during the first semester

• During the second semester, students translate their computational thinking patterns to another graphical user interface that allows them to program games and simulations in 3D environments
CAMS - Scratch Program

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SjuiawRMU4&feature=youtu.be
Rising 8th Grade
8th Grade Required Courses:

1. Language Arts
2. Math 8 OR Algebra I (High School Class) OR Geometry (High School Class)
3. Science
4. History
5. Health and P.E.
6. Two Electives
7. Full block of Resource
8th Grade Electives

You can only pick 2!

Music (Band, Strings, Chorus, Guitar)
Art
Tech Ed
FACS
Communication Studies
Foreign Language (Spanish, Latin, German, French)
World Languages

High school credit classes taught at the middle school
Spanish, German, Latin, French, *Spanish for Fluent Speakers*

3 years of one language or 4 years of two different languages are the minimum required for an Advanced Studies Diploma

(example: Spanish 1, 2, 3 OR Spanish 1, 2 and French 1, 2)

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<tr>
<td>Start in 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start in 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start in 9th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Course Selection Timeline

January: Core subject recommendations are made by your child’s teachers and are automatically loaded into your child’s course requests for next year.

February 1st: Course Selection Parent Coffee 9:30AM at Mercer

February 2nd and 3rd (rising 8th graders) and February 6th and 7th (rising 7th graders): Counselors assist students with elective course selections during Science classes.

*February, March, April: Review course requests in StudentVue/ParentVue with your child. Contact teachers and counselors during this time if you have any questions or concerns*

May 5th: The last day any course requests can be changed.
Procedures on Making Changes to Course Requests

**DEADLINE: MAY 5th, 2017**

To change an ELECTIVE...

Until April 21st, Parents/Students can make changes directly in ParentVue/StudentVue under the course request tab. Refer to the Mercer School Counseling website for a link to instructions on how to make changes. After April 21st, contact a counselor to change.

To change a CORE CLASS...

**Step 1:** Contact the teacher to gain an understanding of the reasons behind the recommendation.

**Step 2:** If you would still like to make a change after speaking with your child’s teacher, please contact your current school counselor. Only counselors can make changes to core courses.
4. Click on **Course Request** in the navigation menu. The **Course Request** screen appears with any pre-loaded courses and/or teacher recommendations (school dependent).

5. Click on **Click here to change course requests**. The **Selected Course Requests** screen appears. Students may add or remove core, elective or alternate courses with this screen (school dependent).
## Selected Course Requests

**Course Request for Adam**

- **School:** Briar Woods H.S.
- **Grade:** 10
- **School Year:** 2015-2016
- **Course Request Window:** Open on Jan 4, 2016, and close on Apr 19, 2016.

### Course Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>College Prep</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English 10H</td>
<td>150200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Health and PE</td>
<td>Health &amp; PE 10</td>
<td>460000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math Analysis H</td>
<td>586000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Concert Band 2</td>
<td>274000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology A</td>
<td>650300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Social Science and Global Studies</td>
<td>AP World History/Geography</td>
<td>751000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Currently enrolled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alternate Elective Requests (in preference order):**

- No alternate course requests have been selected or assigned.

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**Notes:**

- Key dates will be communicated by each school.
- The course request window is for the 2015-2016 school year.
3. Click on the **Request** radio button next to the course to be selected, then click on **Click here to move selected requests to Selected Course Requests**. The request is added to the list at the top.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ln</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>🌟 Request</td>
<td>Career and Technology Education</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>830000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expunging High School Courses taken in Middle School

Students may choose to “expunge” any high school course taken during middle school.

Once expunged, the grade AND credit are gone.

Students would need to retake the course in order to receive credit or to move onto subsequent levels.

Expungement forms will be available in the Spring (check our School Counseling website!). Forms MUST be submitted to the Counseling Departments NO LATER than August 15, 2017:

Rising 9th Graders: Submit forms to LCPS High School of attendance (JCHS or FHS)

Rising 8th Graders: Submit forms to Mercer School Counselor
Counselor Contact Information 6th Grade

Kimberly Kenny (Last names A-P)  
Kimberly.Kenny@lcps.org

Daniel Kim (Last names Q-Z)  
Daniel.H.Kim@lcps.org

Mercer Main Office 703-957-4340
Counselor Contact Information 7th Grade

Jazlynn Finney (Last names A-P)
Jazlynn.Finney@lcps.org

Daniel Kim (Last names Q-Z)
Daniel.H.Kim@lcps.org

Mercer Main Office 703-957-4340
Questions?