

Valley View Middle School
Snohomish School District #201
2023 - 2024
8th Grade Student Registration Worksheet



Student Name: _____ Current Science Teacher: _____
Last, First M.I. (Please Print)

You will select your English and primary and alternate elective courses. All other required courses will be added by the office.

- 8TH Grade Required Classes –

Language Arts - Science – U.S. History - Math - Health & Fitness (One semester)

Enrollment in advanced math will be dependent on prior advanced math placement and/or testing. Math Placement testing date(s) for students new to the district have not yet been set. If your student is receiving support services, student placement in English and/or Math will be determined by the Special Services support team.

You may select Honors English Language Arts or grade level English Language Arts. Please review the included Indicators of Success in Honors. Consult with your parent and your 7th grade English teacher and then select 8th Grade English or 8th Grade Honors English as desired.

_____ 8th Grade English Language Arts _____ 8th Grade Honors English Language Arts

8TH Grade Elective Options

Choose Option A or B:

Option A: 1- Year-Long Music Class and 1-Semester Elective (Select your music elective choice and number your semester length electives 1 – 3 in order of preference)

_____ Concert Band - Instrument _____ _____ Beginning Band – Instrument _____

_____ Choir _____ Jazz Band (0 Period - By Audition Only)

Option B: 3-Semester Electives (number your elective choices 1 - 6 in order of preference with 1 = most preferred)

_____ Drawing & Painting _____ Exploring Engineering II

_____ Sculpture _____ Coding Design & Robotics

_____ Family & Consumer Sciences II _____ Digital Media

_____ Leadership _____ 8th Fitness Elective (may not be taken
in-lieu of required Health & Fitness)

If you are interested in being an Office TA or Life Skills TA for a semester, please check this box.

8th Grade
Valley View Middle School
Course Description Booklet
2023 - 2024

FULL YEAR – REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This course incorporates all facets of language arts essential for high achievement in written and oral communication based on state standards. These skills include the writing process, textual analysis, research, and critical reading of short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

The middle school honors program for language arts is designed for a student who is motivated to engage in a curriculum that is accelerated and advanced. The goal for this program is to prepare students for high school Honors, Pre-AP, and beyond

The student is expected to:

- Assume greater responsibility
- Participate at a higher level of thought
- Complete complex involved projects
- Engage in independent research
- Collaborate in both small and large group activities and discussions

UNITED STATES HISTORY

This social studies requirement picks up the story of our nation's history just prior to the Revolutionary War and continues through the end of the Civil War. Major units of study are: Revolutionary War, U.S. Constitution, Industrial Revolution, Westward Movement, Slavery, the Civil War or Reconstruction.

8th GRADE SCIENCE

This class is part of a series of integrated science classes based on the Next Generation Science Standards. This course will give students an understanding of Earth, Life and Physical sciences.

MATHEMATICS

Students are placed into mathematics based on their achievement as measured by their grade in current class, teacher recommendation, STAR Test, SBA and District Placement test results (when applicable). Big Ideas Math, which is aligned to the Washington State Learning Standards, is the district-approved curriculum for all middle school level students. In all math classes, students will continue to evolve as mathematicians as they learn to use the Eight Mathematical Practices as outlined in the Washington State Learning Standards.

Math 8 - Students study linear equations, graphing, geometric transformations, probability and statistics, large numbers, measurement, the Pythagorean Theorem, and solving equations. SBA preparation is continued.

Algebra 1 - This course introduces fundamental operation of equations and formulas, studies of ratio, proportion, variation, indirect measurements, polynomial operations, factoring and operation with radical expressions. Students will solve equations (linear, quadratic and systems) and inequalities using graphing, substitution and/or addition. The student is also introduced to principles governing system and set theory. This course provides one high school math credit upon successful completion (see note on transcript policy*).

Geometry - (Prerequisite – Successful completion of Algebra 1) – This course will cover the core content as outlined by the math standards: Logical arguments and proofs, lines and angles, two-and three-dimensional figures, geometry in the coordinate plane, geometric transformations and additional key content. This course provides one high school math credit upon successful completion (see note on transcript policy*).

***Transcript policy for high-school-credit math courses taken during 7th & 8th grades.**

Regarding high-school-credit math courses (Algebra and Geometry) taken during 7th or 8th grade:

- Grades will be posted to the students' middle school transcript.
- Grades will be posted to the students' high school transcript.
- When posted to the high school transcript, the grades:
 - ✓ will accurately indicate when the class was taken
 - ✓ will be included in the student's high school graduation credits and GPA

SEMESTER - REQUIRED COURSES

HEALTH AND FITNESS

This course is designed to improve the student's overall physical skills and knowledge by the presentation of both individual and team activities. Opportunities are provided to develop physical fitness, sportsmanship, recreational skills and appreciation for good health habits. Health curriculum is integrated into the weekly physical activities for students to identify what they can do to achieve their healthiest self.

SEMESTER - 8TH GRADE EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES

(All elective courses are subject to change)

FITNESS ELECTIVE

This class designed to motivate and inspire students to be active. Activities will include participation in both individual sports where students will learn about setting personal fitness goals and team sports where students will learn and develop skills, strategy and key concepts for a variety of team sports. **Students may only take one semester of fitness elective.**

DRAWING and PAINTING

Students who enjoy drawing and would like to take their skills to the next level will enjoy this course! Students will create and gain an understanding of 2D media while learning classical drawing and painting techniques. Working mostly with paper, students will explore mediums such as pencil, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, printmaking, and collage.

SCULPTURE

In this course, students will explore the 3D art of sculpture. If you enjoy working with your hands, then this class is for you! Students will learn the hand-building basics of clay and will create at least 2 ceramic sculptures within the semester. Students will also learn modern sculpture methods and techniques, such as plaster, wire, or paper mache.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES II

This class will cover two areas of instruction – Personal Choices and Culinary Arts.

Personal Choices: A few years from now **you** will be leaving the “nest”, and we want **you** to become contributing members of society and thrive in this crazy thing we call life! This class will help students see firsthand what it is like to live independently and make personal choices that impact their future.

Areas of Focus:

- Discuss future plans, personalities, values, self-concept and self-esteem
- Job applications and job interview tips/tricks
Budgeting, pay stubs and credit vs debit

Culinary Arts:

This class will introduce students to the basic principles of food preparation and nutrition.

Students will learn to cook and bake a variety of tasty food as a team from scratch!

Areas of Focus:

- Food safety and sanitation procedures
- Food preparation methods and techniques to produce a variety of food
- Demonstrate time management skills

LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS

This class is open to all students interested in developing leadership skills and creating a positive school culture. The class emphasis is the importance of communications, character development, personal growth and building strong relationship. Leadership is designed to empower and give students the opportunity to become successful leaders and contributors in the school and community. Through servant leadership, students will acquire knowledge, skills and experience towards demonstrating their leadership potential.

OFFICE OR LIFE SKILLS TEACHER ASSISTANT (TA)

TA's will be assigned to the office or to assist the teacher in the Life Skills program. TAs will provide support and assistance as directed by office staff/Life Skills teacher. This semester length TA class will be in place of one semester length elective class.

ASB LEADERSHIP – FULL YEAR

Placement in ASB Leadership is determined by ASB elections and teacher placement. ASB Leadership is a required elective for ASB officers. In this class you will work on developing leadership skills and creating a positive school culture. This is a project-based year-long class in which students will plan and execute activities for the school community.

EXPLORING ENGINEERING II

This exploratory S.T.E.M. course incorporates project-based learning with a focus on the engineering cycle. Students will apply problem solving, visual communication, and industrial skills to design and build challenging and exciting projects. Units of study include power tool safety & operation, manufacturing, electricity/electronics, applied physics, computer aided drafting & design (CADD), and structures. Projects include aerospace design, Co2 cars, and more. (Exploring Engineering 1 is not a pre-requisite for this course.)

CODING DESIGN AND ROBOTICS

We live in a world surrounded by technology. In the Coding Design part of this class, students will be participating in activities on the code.org website and progressing through tutorials in the areas of computer science. Students will progress to learning about the growing field of robotics. Past, present, and possible future uses of robotics will be examined. Projects include building a hydraulic robotic arm and using Lego Mind Storm kits to program several challenges.

DIGITAL MEDIA

This class will expose students to digital photography and the skills needed to go beyond “taking pictures” to “making pictures”. Projects are designed to introduce lighting techniques, rule of thirds, leading lines, and other composition skills. Students will also learn to edit using the Photoshop software to enhance and change images. The second half of this semester class will introduce students to video production skills needed to create a school newscast, commercials, and a 3-minute educational video.

MUSIC ELECTIVES (FULL YEAR)

CHOIR (Grades 7 and 8)

Let your voice be heard! Choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. All students are welcome! Choir members learn to sing in three-part harmony, baritone, alto and soprano. This class will offer instruction in vocal technique, choral performance, ear training and music reading. Students will learn rehearsal technique and concert etiquette. Concert Choir takes two field trips a year, including one to an adjudicated Choral festival in March. There are also four required evening concerts and occasional assembly performances. Solo opportunities may also be available to those students interested. Students unable to take first semester due to scheduling conflicts are welcome to join in second semester.

CONCERT BAND

Concert Band is for students with at least two years of experience playing a band instrument. At a typical rehearsal we do warm-ups, sight reading, technique exercises and work on concert music. This group performs in three evening school concerts, several school assemblies and takes at least 3 field trips to perform in band festivals and at our local elementary schools. In April we attend a band festival in British Columbia, Canada.

BEGINNING BAND

Did you try band in 6th grade and not complete it? Did you want band but couldn't get a ride to school? Have you seen the band perform and thought it looked like fun? This is the right class to get you into band! Beginning Band offers individualized instruction designed to meet the needs of students with no previous band experience, students with some band experience, or those who may wish to learn a new instrument. Instruction is offered on flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, string bass and percussion. Percussionists will practice and learn bells as well as snare drum. Some instruments are available for loan. Some evening performances are required. Contact Mr Mines 360-563-3294 or Mike.Mines@sno.wednet.edu for more information, or if you need help selecting or acquiring an instrument

JAZZ BAND

- ZERO HOUR CLASS (6:30-7:25 a.m.) - AUDITION REQUIRED

Instruction focuses on jazz concepts such as improvisation, big band swing, jazz, rock, Latin styles and funk. This is a performance-oriented group that takes field trips to regional jazz festivals, plus required evening school concerts and one Saturday festival. For information about auditions, Contact Mr. Mines at 360-563-3294 or Mike.Mines@sno.wednet.edu . **Students must arrange their own transportation to this class.**

GOAL: Student access to and success in honors English Language Arts courses

Interest, Motivation, and Perseverance Indicators

Students who are successful in honors courses:

- Demonstrate a high level of interest, academic engagement, and an innate curiosity to learn in courses of interest.
- Are highly self-motivated, take responsibility for their own learning, attend class regularly, complete quality assignments on time, and recognize that effort is important for success
- Maintain a high standard in academic integrity
- Successfully complete complex tasks that require extra time, thought, and perseverance
- Examine and learn from errors, demonstrate a willingness to try different approaches, problem solve, make revisions to work throughout the learning process, seek help, and access available resources
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led)

Academic Indicators

Students who are successful in honors English Language Arts courses:

English Language Arts: Have demonstrated the indicators for academic success as indicated below.

- Has a history of curiosity around language, reading, and writing
- Reads two or more years above grade level
- Demonstrates advanced reading and communication skills
- Reads and writes beyond required assignments. Has a history of creating own reading and writing projects
- Consistently shows interest in the details of language (word origins, grammar, sentence structure, etc.)

Middle School data teams will review data (SBA, Star, teacher input, grades) and above-mentioned indicators to confirm appropriate placement. Any changes necessary will be communicated.