

**J. T. HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**EIGHTH GRADE REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2018-2019**

This packet contains information regarding eighth grade academic and elective offerings for the 2018-2019 school year. Academic course level descriptions are listed below.

**Language Arts 8/Math 8** is offered to students working at an eighth grade instructional level or below. Class instruction will focus on skills and strategies for content, but will also develop and reinforce abstract thinking skills, higher-level critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and study skills. The goal of these classes is to increase skill and performance levels to prepare students for high school courses. Students in these classes will typically move to Standard *or* Advanced level classes in High School. Both Language Arts 8 and Math 8 meet every day.

**Advanced/Honors** is offered to students working independently one or more grade levels above eighth grade. Students are expected to keep up with a rapid pace, work independently as well as with others, and complete assignments outside of class such as independent reading and in-depth projects. These classes focus on skills, strategies, discussion, higher-level thinking and problem solving. The goal of these classes is to increase critical thinking skills and promote competency in high school level work. Students in these classes will typically move to Advanced *or* Honors level classes in High School. We recognize that some students, although capable of high-level work, need more time and support to be successful in the rigorous Advanced/Honors Language Arts and Honors Algebra 1 classes. To accommodate all students at this level, Advanced Honors Language Arts classes and Honors Algebra 1 classes are taught both as single (meets every **other** day and indicated by “alternate”) and double blocks (meets **every** day). The course content is the same.

Honors Geometry meets every **other** day.

Honors Algebra I and Geometry are high school credit courses.

**Important Information**

**\*PLEASE READ\***

- School counselors will be visiting classrooms the week of January 23 to individually meet with students and enter their elective requests for next school year. Please have your student complete the attached elective course request form prior to the week of January 23. **Students need to bring the completed form with parent/guardian’s signature to the meeting with their school counselor.**
- All families have the ability to view teacher recommendations through Parent Portal beginning on Monday evening, February 5 and ending on Monday evening, February 19. After February 19, families will need to contact their child’s school counselor to obtain academic recommendations and elective requests.
- If you have questions concerning your child’s academic recommendations for next year, please contact your child’s current teacher. If you would like to request a change in the academic level, an override form must be completed and returned to the School Counseling Office by **Friday, April 27**.
- Families will be able to view elective requests after students meet with school counselors the week of January 23. If families would like to change elective requests, please contact your child’s school counselor by **Friday, April 27** as all changes need to be made by this date.
- We have the utmost confidence that every member of the Henley staff will provide a strong and nurturing education for all students. Because of the number of students we schedule and other complexities, we cannot honor teacher requests.
- If your family does not have computer access, please notify Mrs. Warnick and a paper copy of your child’s academic recommendations will be given to your child.

## EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Elective courses are an integral part of the curriculum at Henley Middle School. The term "elective" refers to courses offered for a year or a semester. Elective grades are based on progress, attitude, cooperation, and effort. This packet contains the course descriptions and related information necessary to register for next year's electives. **Please note that if your placement in an elective class conflicts with your placement in a recommended academic class, we will, of course, place you in the proper academic class.**

*The electives described in this packet are offered pending appropriate staffing and adequate student requests. Changes in either of these areas may make it necessary to change or delete affected program offerings.*

### ALL YEAR ELECTIVES

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective will be embedded within an advanced/honors Language Arts course and will provide students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply to AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation. Please see the school counselor for more information.

**INTRODUCTION TO ART** is a year-long course that will provide students the opportunity to advance their art skills and knowledge by making two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using a variety of art mediums. Students will be introduced to Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will draw using a variety of media including pencil, marker, chalk, oil pastel and ink. Painting will be explored using watercolor, tempera and acrylic paint. Students will build sculptures using clay, wire, plaster and found objects.

**ADVANCED ART** is a year-long course that will provide students the opportunity to advance their skills and knowledge by producing two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using a variety of art mediums. In this course students will continue to expand and explore technical skills and techniques, such as drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking and sculpture. Students will discuss Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. This course is designed for the highly motivated art student. A portfolio is required for the course.

**BROADCAST JOURNALISM** is a year-long class. Students will be responsible for producing the video announcements, learning and integrating state-of-the-art equipment, and producing and distributing public service announcements. Priority is given to those students who participated in Media Technology 7.

**DESIGN** uses the latest Adobe graphics programs. Students will engage in the study of basic art design concepts, learn photo imaging, understand the use of color, use templates, draw from scratch, and develop a portfolio consisting of lessons and individual projects all generated on the computer. Students will also become familiar with the formats of computer imaging such as PDF, JPEG, and TIFF. Real world skills can carry over to high school and give a foundation for possible career choices. Final projects will consist of a poster design contest that will be used to advertise subject areas within the school.

**DRAMA 8** is for seventh and eighth grade students who have already taken Drama 7/8 at Henley or who have had prior drama experience. This class is for serious drama students who desire to gain more experience and knowledge through performing, set design, costumes, props, and technical theatre. Students with the desire to learn the technical side of theatre will also have the opportunity to learn how to operate lighting and sound equipment as well as some of the basic concepts behind stage design. All students will work towards one or more performances throughout the year.

**ECHO** is the school yearbook. Students will be involved in activities such as selling ads, collecting money, photography, proofreading, drawing layouts, art work, and putting the layout and words on the computer. Only students who have applied and have been selected may take this class. During interim periods, students will work on various school-related activities, such as publications and art works.

**MECHATRONICS: HI-TOPS SCIENCE OUTREACH-** Students will research, develop, and perform a physical science show for our fifth grade feeder students. The show will focus on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curricular content and utilize engineering and technology skills as well as dramatic interpretation and communication. Digital media and advanced manufacturing tools will also be a significant part of the production process.

**EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP** is a one-year elective for eighth graders that offers one high school credit under the Career and Technical Education or CTE umbrella. Entrepreneurship offers students the opportunity to utilize or learn new skills that are considered highly marketable in today's economy. Students will use a problem-solving approach to launch themselves and their passion-based ideas, and most work is offered individually or in small groups. Students who are interested in owning their own business, marketing their ideas and creations, and those who want to polish their presentation and management skills are encouraged to sign up. As a high school course in a collaborative and STEAM-based setting, Entrepreneurship is demanding, but perfect for students in both technical and college-based tracks. Entrepreneurship is considered a "Maker Class" and will support skill sets in operating one or more school businesses, utilizing design software to create possible prototypes, and other technical software/shop skills. HackCville, a UVA-based student-run non profit, will again be on our list of visiting mentor groups. Students will also enjoy visits to Charlottesville-area entrepreneurs that share the realities of running a business. Parent entrepreneurs are encouraged to participate in our process.

**CTE MECHATRONICS** is a year long 7th/8th grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that focuses on electronics and computer coding and offers 1 high school credit. Students will learn how to control motors, LEDs, speakers etc. using Arduino microprocessor, the Arduino "computer language," and various input circuits. Finally, students will be challenged to create a projects and lessons of their own design. CTE Mechatronics will be paired with the science 8 SOLs frequently to demonstrate Physical Science.

**NEWSPAPER** students will be part of a staff responsible for publishing a monthly 32 page newspaper that includes graphics and information relevant to middle school students. Students must enjoy writing, challenges and want to improve their narrative skills to be in this class. **Each month**, through the use of interviews, research and perseverance students will write and rewrite an 800-word article that will pass through several stages of editing by peers and the teacher. Use of the Adobe publishing program InDesign is mandatory. Students will also be responsible for the use and care of expensive photography equipment. If writing is something you enjoy, this class will be a challenge and your skills will improve. This is your one class where everything you write will be public, accessible and read by the student body and staff.

**WORLD LANGUAGES** (Most students need a “C or better” average in English/Language courses to be successful in World Language courses.)

**ACADEMIC FRENCH I** is a class for one full year of study in French. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be awarded **one high school credit** and will be allowed to enroll in a second year of French at the high school. Students will develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills with emphasis on conversation. Students will learn how to use the French language to exchange information about themselves, family, friends, and community. Instruction is story based and focuses on the development of language through comprehension. Students will also learn the various cultural practices of Francophone countries and how to contrast other cultures with their own.

**ACADEMIC SPANISH I** offers two consecutive semesters of Spanish language. Students will receive **one high school credit** upon completion and be on track to receive a bilingual endorsement to their high school diploma. Students will gain knowledge with spoken exchanges among people, listening and reading levels with topics such as clothing, home furnishings and travel. Opportunities for speaking will occur with interviews dialogues, and short role playing activities. This is a high school credit course requiring strong organizational skills and work habits as well as strong reading and writing skills in the English language.

## **ALL YEAR MUSIC ELECTIVES**

**CONCERT BAND** is for the student who has successfully completed beginning band and is technically ready to move to a more advanced level. Membership is dependent on the band director's recommendation and the master schedule of electives; scheduling conflicts may arise.

**SYMPHONIC BAND** is for the student who has acquired more advanced proficiency on an instrument and has approval from the band director to participate in this group.

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE** is for students recommended by the band director. The class plays jazz and popular music on an advanced level. This class meets before school (and therefore not listed on ranked electives). *Teacher nomination is required.*

**HORNET CHOIR** is open to all seventh and eighth grade students. Students learn and use healthy singing technique and sing more advanced harmony parts. We sing a variety of musical styles, from classical to folk, jazz, and Broadway. Singers support each other as they sing solos or small-group numbers. Singers all learn music reading and listening skills, along with creating some music of our own. All members are required to attend concerts and activities scheduled throughout the year. Note: students who are accepted into Jazz Singers must be a part of Hornet Choir, Band, or Strings, unless there is a conflict in the master schedule.

**BEGINNING STRINGS** is for students with little or no instrumental experience. This option is available for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only if the schedule allows.

**ADVANCED STRINGS** is for students who have successfully completed Beginning Strings and are ready to perform more advanced music. Depending on approval from the strings director, students with instrumental experience **before** their enrollment at Henley Middle School may join Advanced Strings without having to participate in Beginning Strings.

## 18 WEEK (SEMESTER) ELECTIVES

**2D STUDIO ART** students will continue to develop their drawing and painting skills. Students will learn to reflect, envision, stretch and explore their visual ideas, while developing their craft. Group mural painting as well as individual canvas painting will be available options in this class.

**3D STUDIO ART** students will continue to develop additive and subtractive sculptural skills while working with a variety of media including clay, plaster, paper, aluminum, wire, natural elements, wood and found objects. There will be opportunities to work on group artwork as well as individual pieces.

**CREATIVE WRITING** students write poetry, myths, fairy tales, comic books, mysteries, and a silent movie screenplay.

**DEBATE** Students in debate will become better at the business of argument. Everyone knows how to argue, but few people know how to argue well. As you study the practice of debate, you will become more competent at making arguments as well as listening critically to the arguments of others. Both skills are necessary for success in debate and life.

**DIGITAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION** students will utilize digital tools in the fields of programming and coding, game design, creative design, photography, animation and film, and enhance their knowledge of media software and how to manipulate and design digital media.

**DRAMA 7/8** is an introductory class open to students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will learn improvisation, the basics of acting, as well as technical aspects of theatre. Students with the desire to learn the technical side of theatre will also have the opportunity to learn how to operate lighting and sound equipment as well as some of the basic concepts behind stage design. This class will culminate in a production for the school and for the public in the evening. Every drama student is **required** to attend performances.

**ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY** is a semester long 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that focuses on using the following skills: CADding and 3d printing, using Adobe Illustrator to create designs for a Laser Cutter, and Woodworking Skills to create bigger projects. Note: Sometimes opportunities come along that we can create something big, like building doghouses for H.O.W.S. or picnic tables and benches for the school, so that can potentially change our curriculum or order. Issues with technology & student choice also drive the pace of this class. We use Design Process to create projects using these skills.

**GUITAR I** is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have had no previous guitar experience. Students will learn to read from traditional music notation at a beginning level, learning chords and melodies. Acoustic guitars will be used, with the occasional electric guitar.

**LIFE SKILLS** is a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that offers students many opportunities to further build their talents and interests in food preparation, textiles, consumerism, money management, and "Making" in general. Life Skills is often considered one of the major hubs of DIY (Do it Yourself) in middle school, and creativity, teamwork, and personal choice are integral parts of the course. Life Skills implements various facets of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) throughout each unit. This class is directed to students that would like to improve their cooking and sewing skills, be savvy shoppers, and develop more independence. The class is project-based, supports team efforts, and uses technology frequently.

**MECHATRONICS** is a semester long 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that focuses on electronics and computer coding. Students will learn how to control motors, LEDs, piezo speakers, etc. using an Arduino microprocessor, and various input circuits. Students will be challenged to create projects using design thinking.

**MIXED MEDIA ART** students will continue to develop their artistic skills while learning to combine media such as wood, metal, clay, plaster, wire, found objects, paint, text and paper. Large and small-scale projects will be explored, working in small groups and individually.

**PROGRAMMING: TECHNOLOGY and TEXTILES** is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that introduces students to the basic skills and knowledge of e-textiles, and how to combine electronics, programming and fabric to create projects. Textile innovation has radically changed how people view STEAM, textiles, and design. The ability to redesign current fabric and clothing benefits both students and the environment. Considered a “Making” class, the course offers students the opportunity to explore current technologies and products to learn how e-textile projects are realized. Hand and machine sewing skills will be a component of the course as students learn how to conceptually develop technology projects.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** is offered for a semester and will provide students with the opportunity to advance their ability to take quality photographs using a digital camera. This introductory course will cover the basics of using a digital camera and related editing software. The history of Photography, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Art Elements and Principles of Design will be explored as students learn how to compose photographs, edit their work using a variety of software and produce an iMovie Portfolio, highlighting their best work. Cameras are provided for this course.

**WORLD PEACE GAME** is a hands-on political situation that gives players the opportunity to explore the connectedness of the global community through the lens of the economic, social, and environmental crises and the imminent threat of war. The goal of the game is to disengage each country from dangerous circumstances and achieve global success with the least amount of military intervention. As “nation teams,” students will gain greater understanding of the critical impact of information and how it is used.

**PLEASE BRING  
THIS  
COMPLETED  
SHEET  
WITH YOU WHEN  
YOU  
MEET WITH YOUR  
COUNSELOR THE  
WEEK OF  
JANUARY 23rd.**

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Student's Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

**2018-2019 J.T. HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE SELECTION SHEET**

Please read the course descriptions carefully and, after deciding upon selections, rate your desired choices. Please indicate your choice by placing a number from 1-8 opposite of the courses listed below using **both** sections to create your top 8 list. Number one is your most desired choice with number eight as your least desired choice. Please complete this form by **January 23** and bring it with you when you meet with your counselor.

**Year Long Electives**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic French I
- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Spanish I
- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction to Art
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Art
- \_\_\_\_\_ AVID
- \_\_\_\_\_ Broadcast Journalism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drama 8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Echo
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exploring Entrepreneurship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mechatronics: Hi-Tops Science Outreach
- \_\_\_\_\_ CTE Mechatronics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Concert Band (Teacher recommendation needed; if the schedule allows)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Symphonic Band (Teacher recommendation needed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hornet Choir
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Strings (If the schedule allows)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Strings

**Semester Electives**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2D Studio Art
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3D Studio Art
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creative Writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Debate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Digital Media Communication
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drama 7/8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Engineering and Technology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar I
- \_\_\_\_\_ Life Skills
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mechatronics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mixed Media Art
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photography
- \_\_\_\_\_ Programming: Technology and Textiles
- \_\_\_\_\_ World Peace Game

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_