

MCMURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2019-2020

Course Description Catalog

9329 SW Cemetery Road, Vashon Island, WA 98070

206-463-9168 www.vashonsd.org/mcm

Course requests are due Friday, April 5th

McMurray Schedule

- McMurray Middle School has a six period, two semester school year.
- On regular days each class is fifty minutes long, with a thirty minute homeroom/advisory period each day.
- Humanities is a two period block comprised of language arts and social studies.
- A .5 credit course is completed in one semester.
- Students earn 6 credits each year.
- Grade reports are posted online at mid-term and semester.

6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
Homeroom/Advisory	Homeroom/Advisory	Homeroom/Advisory
Humanities (2 periods)	Humanities (2 periods)	Humanities (2 periods)
Math	Math	Math
Science	Phys Science/Anat & Phys	Science
Healthy Living/Computers	Healthy Living/Computers	Healthy Living/Elective
Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective

Instructions for online elective course requests:

- Go to the Vashon Island School District website: www.vashonsd.org and choose the Skyward Family Access icon on the top right and log in with your school ID and password.
- Once you are logged in, choose *Schedule* in the blue menu box on the left. Click on *Student's name: Requests now Open* on right side above this year's schedule. You will see a list of elective th courses. Click on *Request Courses*, make your selection and click *add*. Students entering 6th or 7 grade will choose two electives. Students entering 8 grade will choose three electives. Courses added will show an *R* in front of the course name, which means it is a request.
- Click on *Request Alternates* and following the same steps, choose four, in rank order of importance. When the course is added, it will show a number in front of the course name, which notes whether it is a first, second or third alternate.
- Once you have chosen your electives and alternates, click on the little red *X* on the top right.
- To view or edit choices go to *schedule* , then choose *student name: view requests for 2019-2020*

Course selections must be entered by Friday, April 5th.

6th Grade 2019-2020 SIXTH GRADE CORE CLASS INFORMATION

HUMANITIES (full year, 2 period block): The language arts component focuses on writing and literature. Writing instruction is process-oriented and includes creative, persuasive, narrative, and expository writing. Literature appreciation and comprehension are developed through discussion, analysis and personal response. The 6th grade Social Studies component focuses on ancient world history. Students participate in simulations and create projects that encompass reading, writing, research, oral presentations, and the visual arts.

CCSS MATH 6 (full year): 6th grade Math will focus on four critical areas: (1) Connecting ratio and rates to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratios and rates to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers, and multiplying and dividing rational numbers.(3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. In addition, the following seventh grade content will be taught in 6th grade: integers, their meaning, graphs and operations; prime factorization; probability and data, and multiplying and dividing negative numbers.

SCIENCE (full year):The 6th grade science program links to The Next Generation Science Standards, by introducing students to science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts and disciplinary core ideas. Science begins with a question about a phenomenon such as, "Why is the sky blue?" or "What causes water pollution?" Engineering begins with a problem that needs to be solved, such as, "How can we improve the water quality of a local stream?" Our curriculum is entitled, "Project-Based Inquiry Science." The 6th grade science program provides foundational concepts and skills common to Life, Physical and Earth Sciences. Students also work with a team to help solve problems, perform investigations, and create explanations. Students are encouraged to apply this knowledge to their everyday lives and to ask "What if?" and "why?"

HEALTHY LIVING (1 semester): This course is the combination of Physical Education and Health. Students rotate throughout the week between PE activity in the gym and Health activity in the classroom. The Healthy Living program is comprised of two main components: Health and Skill related fitness. In the 6th grade the focus of the program is physical activity and heart health. Study within Health - related Fitness consists of how to develop and maintain an active lifestyle supported by fitness activity. Within Skill - related fitness skill development in sports, dance and recreational activity is the emphasis. Opportunities for cooperative learning and the group work process are created through play and competition in PE as well in the classroom working on projects. Social and emotional skill building is an emphasis in the Healthy Living program especially with use of the prevention curriculum Second Step and the sexuality curriculum Get Real.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 semester): This class is project-based. Students will learn a variety of skills related to file management, research skills, digital portfolios, technology ethics, keyboarding, Google Drive, graphics, robotics, technology safety, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations, website validity and programming.

7th Grade 2019-2020 SEVENTH GRADE CORE CLASS INFORMATION

HUMANITIES (full year, 2 period block): Seventh grade humanities encompasses the study of history, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students investigate ancient African kingdoms, Middle Ages in Europe, and Washington State History. Students use a range of skills and strategies to read texts for a variety of purposes. They read and research novels, historical fiction, non-fiction, and autobiographies, texts that parallel regions and issues investigated in social studies. Students develop their skills as writers: organizing ideas, supporting claims with evidence, and using the active voice. Students write for a variety of purposes such as narrative, informational, and persuasive.

CCSS MATH 7 (full year): In grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawing and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. In addition, we will cover 8th grade content on linear equations, radicals, integer exponents, rational numbers, and congruence and similarity.

SCIENCE (full year): 7th Grade Science has two main focus areas. Part 1, with a focus on physical sciences includes forces, motion, friction, velocity, and Newton's Laws, by building strong and stable structures, using coaster and propeller cars, and launching small model rockets. Then we have a little time left for electricity/circuit basics. Part 2 will focus on human anatomy and physiology. Students will start their journey at the cellular level and progress to organ systems. Main concepts include:(1) cell structure, function, and reproduction; (2) genetics and the inheritance of traits; (3) infectious pathogens, their effect on the body, and the immune response; (4) human body systems.

HEALTHY LIVING (1 semester): Students continue to develop competence in modified versions of various games and recreational activities. Students will develop responsible personal and social behaviors by demonstrating decision-making skills, conflict resolution skills, and respect for others. Students achieve and maintain personal fitness standards and set reasonable goals for improvement or maintenance of health-related fitness. Students learn to refine their critical-thinking skills, analyze health information and products, define their values, set boundaries, and maintain healthy relationships.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 semester): This class is project-based. Students will review/develop skills learned in Computer Application 1 as well as create a digital portfolio website, graphic design, make interactive stories for elementary students, technology safety, copyright, programming to create apps, spreadsheets/charts, and continue to develop keyboarding skills.

8th Grade 2018-2019 EIGHTH GRADE CORE CLASS INFORMATION

HUMANITIES (full year, 2 period block): The Language Arts component focuses on process-oriented writing and includes research-based argument papers, narrative and analytical pieces, and poetry. Vocabulary, logic, and thinking skills instruction are included in this component as well. Students will use specific skills and strategies to read materials, including literature and informational texts, for a variety of purposes. The Social Studies component focuses on United States history from the Revolution through Reconstruction, with themes illustrating the cyclical nature of history and an emphasis on the Constitution. Projects will incorporate reading, writing, research, oral presentations, national and political issues, and the visual and performing arts.

PRE-ALGEBRA (full year): This course is designed to strengthen the math skills of 8th grade students in need of more preparation before taking on the higher level demands and challenges of Algebra I. The topics and much of the content are the same in this course as in Algebra I, but the pacing, activities and assignments, in and out of class demands, are structured to serve the student in need of one more year of foundational work before moving on. Students successfully completing this course advance to high school Algebra I as 9th graders.

ALGEBRA I (full year): Algebra I, a full year math course required for high school graduation, is a powerful tool with far-reaching applications that will extend throughout a student's life. This course, which is equivalent to first year high school algebra, is an integral part in developing mathematical skills and problem solving strategies needed to form a solid foundation for subsequent high school math and science courses. This course content, pacing, in and out of class activities and assignments, are at a high school level. Placement in this course are based on numerous data points, current achievement in math and math assessment scores. Parents will be notified of Algebra placement via email by mid-May. **Students completing this course successfully who wish to advance to high school geometry as a freshman must have their Algebra I grade posted to their high school transcript.**

HEALTHY LIVING (1 semester): This course is the combination of Physical Education and Health. Students rotate throughout the week between PE activity and Health activity in the classroom. The Healthy Living program is comprised of two main components: Health and Skill related fitness. In the 8th grade the focus of the program is movement and nutritional health. Study within Health - related fitness consists of how to eat well to be well. This is complemented with exercise in PE; the goal being to learn how to feed an active body with a balanced diet. Within Skill - related fitness the emphasis is on play and competition through tournaments. Building on Healthy Living, 8th grade spends a great deal of time working with social and emotional learning using the prevention curriculum Second Step and the sexuality curriculum Get Real. Group work, role playing and refusal skills are integrated into the prevention and sexuality units.

SCIENCE (full year): Earth-Space Systems Lab Science, with Engineering & Project Based Enhancements. New McGraw-Hill Earth & Space Science 2017 text & online resources, supplemented by extensive research based practicum assessments. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Middle School Earth-Space Systems (MS-ESS) Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) include Earth's Place in the Universe, Earth's Systems, Earth & Human Activity, and Engineering Design. Homework is rare, but missed labs must be made up outside of class. DCI-level standards based grading. "The story of 13.82 billion years in 180 hours".

Physical Science (8th grade only, full year - High School Level course): Application required. The course is presented using middle school inquiry "big idea" methods, covering ninth grade Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) High School Physical Science (HS-PS) and High School Earth-Space Systems (HS-ESS). Power Standards that will be covered: Scale - Space + Time, Dimensional Analysis, Sci + Eng Practices / CER, Matter & Energy Flow Through Systems, Speed / Velocity / Acceleration, Momentum / Force, Work/Energy/Power, Newton 123 / Electromagnetism / Relativity /Quantum, Particles / Force Carriers / Photonics, Chemistry / Cosmology, Earth Systems.

Earn High School Credit: Students seeking the VHS credit option may apply for credit and grade posted to their high school transcript. The course will fulfill a lab science requirement at the high school which opens up elective possibilities in the 11th and 12th grade We recommend that only year "A" grades apply for transfer.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE APPLICATION PROCESS - This class is space-limited and placement is not guaranteed. This course requires that students be enrolled in Algebra (or a higher level math course) during their 8th grade year. The successful candidate will be a student who is inquisitive and eager to study science, has demonstrated a high level of self-direction in their learning, can work cooperatively in lab settings, and has established strong study habits. Student & Parent Signature Required on Application.

See the Office for Application - Applications Due to the Office by Wednesday April 3rd.

ELECTIVES

All elective classes except Band are one semester (.5 credit).

LANGUAGE ARTS / HISTORY ELECTIVES

Express Yourself Through Writing: (6-8) This writing course is for those who are passionate about writing! You will be given complete choice over what you write and our days will be spent writing. Those who are interested in exploring new genres of writing will be introduced to types of writing such as: nature writing, song writing, journaling, letters, poems, and fiction. This class has often been referred to affectionately as a "Writing Club."

Speech and Debate: (6-8) Do you enjoy academic debates and the art of persuasion? Do you want to be more comfortable and skilled at speaking in public? Do you enjoy rich dialogue about important topics? Are you interested in mock trials? If any of these are true, this is the course for you. In this Speech and Debate elective, we will learn techniques for effective research and approaches for organizing our ideas. We will practice our speaking skills and deepen our ability to look at all sides of an issue. You will have an opportunity to develop your persuasive speaking skills and delve into important, current issues, to spend class time researching, debating, persuading, engaging in mock trials, and giving speeches. If time permits, we will engage in debates related to current issues being tackled by the United Nations (the model UN program).

Women's Studies: (6-8) This semester long course would examine a variety of social and historical issues relating to women. The course would allow students to develop their own views based on input from a number of sources and activities such as rewriting fairy tales to reverse gender roles, self-defense demonstrations and guest speakers from local women in our community. All of this would contribute to students' understanding of what it means to be a woman in today's world.

WORLD LANGUAGES ELECTIVES

French Exploration: (6-8) This introductory course is designed to support students in developing basic communication skills in French, with a particular focus on speaking and listening. Students will also explore the diversity of French-speaking communities on five continents, while learning basic vocabulary and expressions for effective communication on a range of topics, including food, friends, family, and school, among others. Class is conducted primarily in French.

Spanish Exploration: (6-7 only) This is an exploration of Latin American and Spanish language, customs, cultures, geography, music and literature. Students will study vocabulary, grammar, Spanish idioms, and expressions and perform weekly dialogs.

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Drama: (6-8) Students will develop the basics of acting (movement, voice, character, focus, communication and imagination) and of performance production (cooperation, rehearsal and staging). Emphasis will be on developing confidence in performing for an audience.

6 Band (6) Students taking band will not be eligible for an additional elective this year as band is a year-long class. Emphasis will be on music reading skills and the proper care and maintenance of a

musical instrument. Students will perform in a few concerts. We have a limited number of spaces for percussion. Band director may call for auditions for percussion if necessary due to number of requests. Scholarships are available for instrument rental.

Symphonic Band (7-8) 8 grade students taking band will be eligible for one additional elective. Symphonic Band is a year-long class for continuing band students. Emphasis is on skill building, solo playing, and working as a group. Students improve music reading ability and play one concert. Scholarships are available for instrument rental.

VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

Basic Art: \$35.00 materials fee. (6-8) Want to create art?! Get an introduction into drawing, printmaking, paper cutting, ink painting, clay, and much more.

Ceramics: \$40.00 materials fee. (6-8) This class is all about clay! You will learn a variety of hand building, wheel throwing, and decorating techniques while creating functional and sculptural objects out of clay. Projects include tile making, salt and pepper shakers, relief carving, soap dispensers, candle holders, sushi platters, and much more!

Digital Photography: \$35.00 materials fee. (6-8) This class takes an advanced look into traditional and non-traditional digital photography. We will learn how to use the darkroom for developing images taken with a paint can pinhole camera. By the end of this class you will be able to not only take high quality images, but also be able to edit at an advanced level.

Graphic Design: (6-8) This is a project-based class that will introduce you to various graphic art and design concepts including typography, book cover design, screen printing, logo design, calligraphy, comic art, digital illustration, web design and much more!

Imagine it; Design it; Create it: \$35.00 materials fee. (6-8) Explore the fascinating world of product design and development. Use various tools to design and create functional and creative objects while focusing on sustainability and the re-use practice. Course will focus on independently driven - self designed projects. This is your place to express your entrepreneurial and creative spirit!

Video Production: (6-8) This project based class will analyze film, explore animation, create storyboards, operate video equipment, create short videos, and edit movies on the computer using Adobe Premiere Elements software.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

Basic Mountain Biking: \$35.00 materials fee (6-8) You will learn riding techniques, trail safety and courtesy, basic trailside bike repair and trail maintenance. This class is designed for the beginning mountain bike rider. We will ride daily. Students are required to have a functioning mountain bike. Helmets are MANDATORY.

Mind and Body Fitness: (6-8) This course revolves around maintaining a healthy body a healthy mind, and how they are essentially connected and dependent on each other. We will do a mix of activities, from running, walking, playing games, stretching, and some fitness exercises to reading, journaling, creative movements, breathing, and an overall practice of mindfulness.

Outdoor Living: \$35.00 materials fee (6-8) This is a practical, hands-on course is designed to familiarize students with the skills and knowledge necessary to understand how to survive in an emergency in the outdoors. Topics may include finding water, fire making, shelter construction, first aid, knots, signaling, compass and map work, and weather reading.

Tournament Sports and Conditioning: (6-8) This is a PE class where we will play sports and learn and practice fitness and conditioning skills and habits. For example, we will do weight lifting for beginners, running (longer and shorter distances), circuits, fitness games and more. Sports will vary, depending on weather and facility availability. The course will be approximately half conditioning and half sports. The conditioning skills will improve the level of sport, as well as help young athletes prepare for their future.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

Food 101: \$35.00 materials fee (6-8) This class is an introduction to the basics of cooking. Students will learn the practical aspects of cooking including ingredient choice and selection, cooking hygiene, measurement in the kitchen, and working with a culinary team. Students will explore the fun of cooking soups, salads, breads, and desserts

Food 102: Global Kitchen: \$35.00 materials fee (7-8) This class is an introduction to the basics of preparing various cuisines from all over the world as well as explore the traditions associated with eating around the world. Students will learn the practical aspects of cooking including ingredient choice and selection, cooking hygiene, measurement in the kitchen, and working with a culinary team.

Intro to Computer Programming: (6-8) Learn how to create simple games and interactive programs using loops, variables, and computer logic. We will use several tools, including Snap (an advanced version of Scratch), Python, and others. Your ability to dream of a program and create it on the computer will grow by leaps and bounds.

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTIVES

Academic Support and Exploration into College - AVID Skills: (7-8) this course is designed to help prepare students for success in their academics and support them along the way with current courses. In addition to teaching students the skills necessary to succeed in school. Students will have opportunities to take field trips to colleges and meet guest speakers in a variety of career fields. Two days a week are set aside to support students in current courses, homework, and monitoring school progress.

Creative Calm: (6-8) 35.00 materials fee Here's your opportunity to create art in a tranquil setting with no pressure to be perfect. This is a class to practice mindfulness when creating art. We will not try to make masterpieces, but we will share the beauty we create with our classmates. We will paint, draw, and make collages in a relaxing, non-judgmental environment.

Leadership: (6-8) Students will learn the skills necessary to become a servant leader. Along with learning the skills, students will participate, plan, and execute service projects, fundraisers and other events for the school and community. Executive Council members are expected to take this class one semester. This class can be repeated.

Office/Teacher Assistant: (8th grade only) Students assist the office staff with attendance, telephones, messages, and greeting visitors. Confidentiality and good attendance are a must. Counselors will work with office/teachers to best match students to the TA position that is the best fit for the student and staff.

McMurray Middle School

2019-2020

Elective Course Selection Form to be used if you are not able to register via the Family Access Skyward program.

Student Name _____

Grade for 2019-2020 school year _____

These elective choices are for the 2019-2020-school year.

6th and 7th grade students choose two electives as your first choices, then choose and rank order three alternative classes.

8th grade students choose three electives as your first choices, then choose and rank order three alternative classes.

My first choices are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. **(8th grade only)** _____

My alternative choices are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Please return this completed form to the McMurray School office by **Friday April 5th.**