

# MCMURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2018-2019

## Course Description Catalog

9329 SW Cemetery Road  
Vashon Island, Washington 98070  
206-463-9168

Course requests are due Wednesday, April 4

[www.vashonsd.org/mcmurray](http://www.vashonsd.org/mcmurray)

### 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. On block days periods are 100 minutes long.
- Humanities is a two period block comprised of language arts and social studies.
- A .5 credit course is completed in one semester.
- Students earn 12 credits each year.
- Grade reports are posted online at mid-term and semester.

6 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	8 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 courses. Click on *Request Courses*, make your selection and *add*. Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade will choose two electives. Students entering 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2018-2019*

**Course selections must be entered by **Wednesday, April 4th.****

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade 2018-2019**

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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):** 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade: integers, their meaning, graphs and operations; prime factorization; probability and data, and multiplying and dividing negative numbers.

**SCIENCE (full year):** The 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade 2018-2019**  
**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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”.

**High School Level Physical Science (8<sup>th</sup> grade students only, full year):** Application approval required for limited placement. Applications are due by **Monday, April 16th**.

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).

Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) for HS-PS include Matter and its Interactions, Motion and Stability; Forces and Interactions, Energy, Waves and their Applications, and Engineering Design. The DCIs for the HS-ESS course component include Earth’s Place in the Universe, Earth’s Systems, and Earth and Human Activity. Homework is rare, but missed labs must be made up outside of class. DCI-HS assessment boundary level standards based grading.

**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

Physical Science Course Description: Physics and Energy topics covered can include motion, velocity, acceleration, forces, Newton’s Laws of motion, energy conservation, thermal energy, elastic energy, and gravitational potential energy. Chemistry and Earth Science topics covered can include matter, states of matter, atomic structure, the Periodic Table, bonds, reactions, solutions, acids, bases, the Earth’s surface, the Earth’s interior, waves, light sound, optics.

By filling out an application to be placed in the Physical Science class as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, you are expressing an interest in taking a high school level Physical Science Course (at McMurray). Science Teachers and the Principal will review applications and make final decisions on placements.

This class is space-limited and placement is not guaranteed. We will first seek to enroll students in any required courses (i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra, humanities, healthy living, band, etc.) and then schedule Physical Science for pre-approved students as it is possible to create a full schedule that includes all required courses.

This course requires that students be enrolled in Algebra (or a higher level math course) during their 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Completed recommendation forms from current year math and science teachers are required. Application deadline is April 6<sup>th</sup>. Turn in completed applications to Mr. Allison in the office.



## ELECTIVES

**All elective classes except Band and Physical Science are one semester (.5 credit).**

### LANGUAGE ARTS / HISTORY

**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

**American Sign Language:** (6-8) This beginning level class in American Sign Language (ASL) introduces students to the 4th most used language in the United States. Deaf culture and history are integrated into the instruction of the basics of ASL grammar and syntax, vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers and visual-manual communication. Projects, presentations, skill-building activities and games as well as interactive communication will be used to enhance and enrich developing expressive and receptive ASL skills.

**Exploratory German: (6-8)** Hallo und willkommen!! Exploratory German allows the student to use the target language from the very beginning. Its friendly, visual introduction reduced student anxiety about the difficulty of learning a foreign language. Each of the units incorporates a preview, a practical application and a review in a subtle, skillful and effective way. Finally, Exploratory German helps the student to understand and appreciate his/her own language by relating it to German.

**French Exploration:** (6-8) This is an exploration of French language, customs, cultures, geography and music. Students will study vocabulary, grammar, and expressions with a focus on oral language development.

**Japanese Exploration:** (6-8) Are you interested in Japanese culture? Sushi? Anime? Kimono? This is an exploration of the Japanese language, culture, customs, geography, food, music and more. Students will focus on oral communication, learn vocabulary and use model sentences to start communicating in Japanese.

**Spanish Exploration:** (6-8) 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**

**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<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Basic Art: \$30.00 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: \$30.00 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.

**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**

**Basic Mountain Biking: (\$20.00 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. **This class is offered 2<sup>nd</sup> semester only**

**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 Survival: (\$20.00 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)**

**All STEM classes are offered second semester only and are open to grades 6-8.**

**Design It; Build It (CTE): \$35.00 materials fee.** Explore the fascinating world of engineering. Learn basic drafting skills and elements of product design. Use *SketchUp Pro* to design and print a 3D model. Build things that move (“How far can it go?”). Build things that are strong (“How much can it hold?”). Learn to solve real world problems through the engineering process.

**Build a Treehouse Model (CTE): \$35.00 materials fee.** Learn some fundamentals of architecture to design your unique one-story treehouse. Draft the design plans, translate them into *SketchUp*, plan the steps to build, then construct a scale model that is supported by actual branches.

**Intro to Computer Programming:** 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.

**Intro to Woodworking Technology:** \$35.00 materials fee. Learn the basics of hand and bench top power tool use and safety in regards to wood. Design, then use your skills to build items such as, a sign, trivet, step stool, or a simple box.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ELECTIVES**

**AVID** (Advancement Through Individual Determination): (7-8) AVID is an elective class designed to help prepare students for post-high school education. 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. As a class meant to help students prepare for college-level courses, AVID is a challenging and demanding elective with high expectations for students who have been accepted into the program. Two days a week are set aside for support with homework completion and monitoring school progress. This class requires an application (found at end of this packet) before admittance.

**Career Exploration and Community Service:** (6-8, second semester only) Students will collaborate, envision and plan a McMurray garden, using their own ideas and learning new strategies to turn thought into action. Students will plan, plant, tend, harvest and market items they grow. This class will provide opportunities for students to travel into the community, accessing new environments and interacting with community members working in local businesses and organizations.

**Food 101:** \$30.00 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:** \$30.00 materials fee (6-8) 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.

**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.

**Study Skills:** (6-8) This class is primarily a time for students to work on homework. Students may get assistance in their class work from peers or tutors. Students will be assisted in monitoring their work weekly. Students who need help in organization, time management, and study techniques will get assistance. Student athletes and others who prefer to tackle homework during the school day enjoy this class.

**STAFF ASSISTANTS** (These classes are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only.)

**Office Assistant:** (7-8) Students assist the office staff with attendance, telephones, messages, and greeting visitors. Confidentiality and good attendance are a must. Office staff approval required.

**Teacher Assistant:** (7-8) Students will assist teachers in a variety of projects including organizing, copying, and computer work.

# AVID Application Form

Please complete this form and return it to your counselor

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_

In paragraph form, please use the space on the back side of this page to answer **any two** of the following questions. If you wish, you may word process your responses and attach them. While there is no length requirement, the thoughtfulness and clarity of your response is important. Please use this opportunity to help us get to know you as a learner!

1. Why do you want to be in AVID?
2. Describe yourself as a learner.
3. Why do you want to go to college?
4. Describe one of your biggest, dearest dreams for your life.
5. Why will you succeed in a challenging, college-bound academic program?
6. What hurdles might you face and what help do you need to overcome them?

By submitting this application, I understand that acceptance into AVID means committing to a rigorous academic program which may include daily note-taking in all classes, maintaining an organized binder, and other AVID strategies. I also understand that I will **always** be supported in these challenges by the entire school staff, especially my AVID teacher, and by my AVID peers.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

My student has explained the AVID elective class to me and shared the information provided to him/her at school. I understand that my student will be asked to take rigorous coursework and that the AVID elective class is provided as a support to my student in their academic success. .

**Parent/Guardian signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**McMurray Middle School**  
**2018-2019**

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

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade for 2016-2017 school year \_\_\_\_\_

These elective choices are for the 2018-2019-school year.

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

**8<sup>th</sup> grade students choose three electives** as your first choices, then choose and rank order three alternative classes.

My first choices are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)** \_\_\_\_\_

My alternative choices are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to the McMurray School office.