

MCMURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2021-2022

Course Description Catalog

9329 SW Cemetery Road, Vashon Island, WA 98070

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

Elective requests are due Tuesday, April 13

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.
- 6th and 7th grade 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 each semester.

6 th grade	7 th grade	8 th grade
Homeroom/Advisory	Homeroom/Advisory	Homeroom/Advisory
Humanities (2 periods)	Humanities (2 periods)	English 8
Math 6	Math 7	Algebra or Pre-Algebra
Science	Science/Anat & Phys	Science or Phys Science
Computers/Healthy Living	Healthy Living/Computers	Healthy Living/Elective
Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective
		Social Studies 8

Student Instructions for online elective course requests

(Course requests open 3/22/21)

- 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 courses. Click on *Request Courses*, make your selection and click *Add*. Students entering 6th or 7 grade will choose two electives AND four alternates. Students entering 8 grade will choose three electives AND four alternates. 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 selection.
- 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 2020-2021*.

Course selections must be entered by Tuesday, April 13 at 3:00 pm

SIXTH GRADE CORE CLASS INFORMATION 21-22

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. Also, students will learn certain two and three dimensional geometric concepts.

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 focus is 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 consists 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 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 the use of various well-being and stress management activities 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, digital literacy and programming.

SEVENTH GRADE CORE CLASS INFORMATION 21-22

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. If time permits, 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 (CTE/STEM) will focus on the nature of science and take a systems approach to learning about the relationship between living things and their environment. Global climate change will be examined and students will be challenged to engineer solutions and build models that represent their proposed solutions to various challenges. 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 update a digital portfolio, graphic design, create interactive stories for elementary students, technology safety, copyright, programming, digital literacy, spreadsheets/charts, and continue to develop keyboarding skills. (CTE/STEM)

EIGHTH GRADE CORE CLASS INFORMATION 21-22

ENGLISH 8 (full year): In this course, students analyze and respond to a variety of texts: short stories, novels, poetry, videos, and podcasts, connecting these texts to their life, their studies, and current events. Students determine the theme in what they are reading, expressing their opinion through the use of detail, evidence, examples, and experiences. Some of the means for analyzing texts are the use of characterization, figurative language, symbolism, and allusion. The writing process in this class is both collaborative and independent. In addition to reading and responding to shared texts with the class, students will read independently their self-chosen books, write short expository essays or narratives from a menu of topics, and hone their grammar skills asynchronously using “Quill”. Finally, students will practice speaking and listening by giving speeches and presentations. Students practice balancing between the analog and digital mediums, from note-taking and annotating, to drafting and publishing.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (full year): In 8th grade, social studies focuses on United States history from the Revolution through Reconstruction, with themes illustrating the cyclical nature of history and an emphasis on the Constitution and current events. Projects will incorporate reading, writing, research, oral presentations, national and political issues, and the visual arts. Students will complete shorter and longer research papers, with an emphasis on process as much as product. Vocabulary, geography, logic, and thinking skills are included in social studies. Students will use specific skills and strategies to read information texts for a variety of purposes.

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 is 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 consists 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 various stress-management and well-being activities and the sexuality curriculum Get Real. Group work, role playing and refusal skills are integrated into the prevention and sexuality units.

Science (full year CTE/STEM): 8th Grade Science will focus on systems and patterns we see and are a part of as humans. We will take an integrated approach to Physics, Modern Issues in our Environment, and Earth and Space connections. Climate Change, Environmental Equity, and Space Exploration will be critically looked at and we will consider possible engineering methods to address them. This class is rooted in the Universal Design for Learning in the classroom, and all are welcome. Instruction centers around inquiry based learning that is incorporated into class activities. Learning activities include teacher-lead instruction, group work, independent student work, project-based learning, and lab exercises.

Physical Science (High School Level course with credit option) CTE/STEM. 8th grade only, full year: Application required. This course is a foundation for other high school courses, especially chemistry and physics. Physics units include Newton's 3 laws of motion, forces, scientific definitions of work and power, momentum, conservation and conversions of energy, relationships between electricity and magnetism, and wave phenomena and behavior (including characteristics and calculations) including electromagnetic and sound waves. Chemistry units include composition and classification of matter, history of atomic structure up to the present day model, learning the periodic table to include, but not limited to: all chemical symbols, patterns, trends and isotopes, chemical bonding, compound naming, and chemical reactions.

Students are expected to have a firm foundation in Algebra in order to be successful in this course. Students should be prepared to conduct projects regularly and write a formal lab report. Instruction centers around inquiry based learning that is incorporated into class activities. Learning activities include teacher-lead instruction, group work, independent student work, project-based learning, and lab exercises.

- **High School Credit Option:** Students matriculating to VHS may use credit and grade from this class to fulfill a lab science requirement at the high school.
- **Physical Science Class Application Process:** This class is space-limited and placement is not guaranteed. Applicants are recommended to be enrolled in math level Algebra or higher concurrent with this class. Applicants will be considered based on their application essay, recommendations of teachers and other adults, and past work performance. Application information will be emailed to families during the spring prior to their 8th grade year.

ELECTIVES

All elective classes are one semester (.5 credit) except Band and French I (full year)

LANGUAGE ARTS / HISTORY ELECTIVES

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? 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, and giving speeches.

Women's and Gender Studies: (6-8) This semester long course explores the role of gender in society and culture. Students will examine advertising, social media, music, film and literature in order to understand gender-related social inequities and identify forms of active citizenship that can reduce such inequities. Topics of study depend on students' interest, but often include Women's Suffrage, the Civil Right Movement, Gender in Pop Culture, Sports and Title IX, Women Around the World and more. Students develop their own views based on input from a number of sources and activities such as art, graphic journaling, discussion and guest speakers from local women in our community. All of this contributes to students' understanding of what it means to be a woman in today's world.

WORLD LANGUAGES ELECTIVES

American Sign Language: (6-8) This introductory course is designed to support students in developing basic communication skills in American Sign Language. Students will also explore the diversity of Deaf culture while learning basic vocabulary and expressions for effective communication on a range of topics.

French 1: (8) French I is a two-semester course focused on developing basic communication skills and cultural awareness through active engagement in listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. Students will be able to ask and answer basic questions on familiar topics, and will generate simple stories and descriptive writing using high-frequency words and phrases as they progress toward the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages "Novice Mid" proficiency level. First-year students will also survey francophone cultures on five continents. Class will be conducted primarily in French; active participation is essential. *Please note that if there is space available for McM students, this class will take place at VHS, and students will be responsible for getting to and from VHS.

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. *Please note

that if there is space available for McM students, this class will take place at VHS, and students will be responsible for getting to and from VHS.

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.

Mustang Band: For students in 6th grade or in their first year of band. 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 Winter, Spring, and Pops concerts. Scholarships are available for instrument rental.

Concert Band: For students in 7th grade or in their second year of band. Concert 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 will perform in Winter, Spring, and Pops concerts. Scholarships are available for instrument rental.

Symphonic Band: For students in 8th grade or in their third year of band. Students taking band will be eligible for one additional elective if in 8th grade. 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 will perform in Winter, Spring, and Pops concerts. Scholarships are available for instrument rental.

VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

Basic Art: \$40.00 materials fee. (6-8) Want to create art?! Get an introduction into drawing, printmaking, paper cutting, ink painting, clay, and much more.

Ceramics: \$45.00 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: \$40.00 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!

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. (CTE/STEM)

Intro to Woodworking Technology: (7-8) \$40.00 materials fee; additional fees may be required depending on the scope of the project the student selects. 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, a trivet, a step stool, or a simple box. (CTE/STEM)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

Basic Mountain Biking: \$25.00 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. (CTE/STEM)

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.

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTIVES

Academics and College Exploration (A.C.E.): (7-8) (\$30 field trip fee) this academic course is designed to help prepare students for their education beyond high school, and support them along the way with current courses. In addition to teaching students skills necessary to succeed in school like: organization, note-taking, and academic vocabulary, students will have opportunities to take field trips to local colleges and universities. Two days a week are set aside to support students in current courses, homework, and monitoring school progress.

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. (CTE/STEM)

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. (CTE/STEM)

Food 102: Global Kitchen: \$30.00 materials fee (7-8) This course builds on the skills learned in Food 101, with an added emphasis on workplace skills and safety, while learning about food, tradition, and culture through a global lens. Students will learn and demonstrate kitchen safety by earning their Food Handlers Card. Restaurant and hospitality skills such as knife skills, recipe development, and restaurant kitchen management and etiquette will be emphasized. Appreciation for and curiosity of the origins of cultural food traditions from around the world is a must. Students will learn about the history of the spice trade and the evolution of dishes claimed by many. Students will learn to recognize and appreciate, indigenous plants, foods, and people around the

world. Together as a class, we will explore countries, cultures, and try making signature dishes to share around our communal table. (CTE/STEM)

Leadership: (6-8) Students will learn the skills necessary to become a servant leader and enact policy change. 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.

Outdoor Living and Environmental Studies (6-8) This course takes students outside to explore aspects of the environment, including our rich local resources, and in a hands-on manner learn what sustainability means to them. Students will be challenged to think of solutions to and ways they contribute to the changing climate. Students can expect to spend lots of time outside regardless of the weather, and are encouraged to keep an extra change of clothing and a pair of boots at school for the duration of this class. (CTE/STEM)

Reading and Writing for Self Expression

This course will allow students to dive into favorite authors and receive support and guidance around developing your literacy and writing skills in your genres of choice. Work with your teacher and school librarian to explore reading and writing resources. This class is self-directed with teacher support.

McMurray Middle School

2021-2022

Elective Course Selection Form to be used **ONLY if you are not able to register via Skyward Family Access AND unable to complete the [Google Form](#).**

Student Name _____ Grade in 21-22 school year: _____

These elective choices are for the 21-22 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 Name _____ Date _____

Please return this completed form to McMurray via email to tvickers@vashonsd.org.