COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

2020-2021

Vance County Middle School
293 Warrenton Road
Henderson, NC 27536

STEM Early High School
925 Garrett Road
Henderson, NC 27537
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INTRODUCTION

The Middle School Registration and Course Descriptions Guide is designed to assist parents and students in making informed choices. The choice to enroll in any regular or advanced courses offered in grades 6-8 is the responsibility and choice of the individual student and the student's parent or guardian. Both the parent or guardian and student should carefully study the course descriptions. In order to decide which courses a student needs, the parent or guardian and the student should discuss the students' goals, interests, past school grades, personal habits, attitude toward school, aptitudes and any other factors which may have an impact on the success of the student.

Various courses are offered to meet different goals, needs and interests of students. Two specific programs that middle school students will use to meet their interests and needs as well as challenge them include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVID</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Advancement Via Individual Determination) – AVID’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.</td>
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<tr>
<th>zSpace</th>
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<tr>
<td>zSpace Studio is a rich model exploration and presentation tool that allows students to compare, dissect, analyze, measure, annotate and explore thousands of 3D models from the zSpace Model Gallery.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Exceptional Children Program</th>
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<td>A continuum of services is provided for eligible students identified for this program.</td>
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STEM Early High School

Students who are accepted to the STEM Early High School will be exposed to courses which integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics throughout the curriculum.

Examine Interests

Students take required core subjects and elective courses in middle school. In sixth grade and seventh grade, the elective courses are designed to help students experience different subjects, so they can identify interests for further study in eighth grade and in high school.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

School counselors provide course registration information to all incoming 6th graders for the upcoming year. Incoming 7th and 8th graders follow the registration process at their current middle school. If you have questions about course registration for your student, please contact the counseling office at your student’s middle school.

CORE COURSES

<table>
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<th>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>6th Grade - English Language Arts (10562Y0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth grade students will use oral language, written language, media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students will explore the structure of language and study grammatical rules in order to speak and write effectively. In the sixth grade,</td>
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emphasis is placed on personal expression and students will be able to 1) Interpret and synthesize information; 2) Develop an understanding of the foundations of argument; 3) Critically analyze text; 4) Use effective sentence construction and edit for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling and 5) Interpret and evaluate a wide range of literary and informational texts.

7th Grade - English Language Arts (10572Y0)
Seventh grade students will use oral language, written language, media, and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Writing is an integral part of the curriculum. While emphasis in the seventh grade is placed on argument, students also: 1) Express individual perspectives in response to personal, social, cultural, and historical issues; 2) Expand argumentation to include the use of counterclaims; 3) Interpret and synthesize information; 4) Critically analyze print and non-print texts; 5) Use effective sentence construction and edit for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling and 6) Interpret and evaluate a wide range of literary and informational texts.

8th Grade - English (10212Y0)
English 1 students will study literature; informational texts; poetry; drama; biographical works; U.S. documents “of historical and literary significance;” excerpts from or an entire Shakespearean play; and art from all genres to gain knowledge of culture, current events, and themselves. They will gain the reading and writing skills necessary to write, analyze, and evaluate detailed arguments. By the end of English 1, students are expected to read and understand increasingly complex texts at the upper end of the ninth-grade reading range.

8th Grade - English Language Arts (10582Y0)
Eighth grade students will use oral language, written language, media, and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students continue to refine their study of language and grammar in order to speak and write effectively. While emphasis in the eighth grade is placed on using information for a specific task, students will also: 1) Express individual perspectives through analysis and personal response; 2) Expand argumentation to refine the use of counterclaims; 3) Critically analyze text; 4) Use effective sentence construction and edit for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling and 5) Interpret and evaluate a wide range of literary and informational text

MATHEMATICS

6th Grade Mathematics (20062Y0)
The focus of 6th grade Math is listed below by domain: 1) Ratios and Proportional Relationships - Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems; 2) The Number System - Apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication and division to divide fractions; multiple and divide multi-digit numbers, find common factors, and multiples; apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers; 3) Expressions and Equations - Apply and extend previous understandings of
arithmetic to algebraic expressions; reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities; represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variable; 4) Geometry - Solves real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume; 5) Statistics and Probability - Develop understanding of statistical variability and summarize and describe distributions.

6th Grade Compacted Math (20092Y0)

Compacted Math in the 6th grade consists of all the 6th grade Math standards and a portion of the 7th grade Math standards. The objectives of the course are listed below: 1) Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems; analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problem; 2) The Number System: Apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication and division to divide fractions; multiple and divide multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples; apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers; 3) Expressions and Equations: Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions; reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities; represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables; 4) Geometry: Solves real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume; solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface, and volume; 5) Statistics and Probability: Develop understanding of statistical variability and summarize and describe distributions.

7th Grade Mathematics (20072Y0)

The focus of the 7th Grade Math is listed by domains: 1) Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems; 2) The Number System: Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers; 3) Expressions and Equations: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions, solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; 4) Geometry: Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures, describe the relationships between them; solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface, and volume and 5) Statistics and Probability: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population; draw informal comparative inferences about two populations; investigate chance processes and develop, use, and elevate probability models.

7th Grade Compacted Math (20122Y0)

Compacted Math in the 7th grade consists of a portion of standards from 7th grade Math and a portion of standards from 8th grade Math. The objectives of the course are listed below: 1) The Number System: Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers; know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers; 2) Expressions and Equations: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions, solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; work with radicals and integer exponents; understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; analyze and solve linear equations; 3) Geometry: Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them; solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface, and volume; understand
congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software, solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres and 4) Statistics and Probability: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population; draw informal comparative inferences about two populations; investigate chance processes and develop, use, and elevate probability models.

8th Grade Mathematics (20082Y0)
Math in the 8th grade includes the objectives: 1) The Number System: Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers; 2) Expressions and Equations: Work with radicals and integer exponents: understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations; 3) Geometry: Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software; understand and apply the Pythagorean theorem; solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres and 5) Functions: Define, evaluate, and compare functions; use functions to model relationships between quantities.

8th Grade NC Math I (21092Y0)
The NC Math 1 offered at the middle school includes a portion of the Math 8 standards and all the NC Math I standards. This course depends and extends understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential and quadratic phomema, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition to studying bivariate data, students also summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable. The Geometry standards that appear in this course formalize and extend students' understanding of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. This course fulfills the North Carolina high school graduation requirement for NC Math 1.

6th Grade Science (30062Y0)
This course is an inquiry-based science class exploring the interrelationships of life, earth, and physical sciences. Required content includes the study of waves and energy, physical and chemical changes, energy transfer and interactions of matter and energy, earth systems, earth structures and processes, energy flow in ecosystems and populations.

7th Grade Science (300727Y0)
This course is an inquiry-based science class exploring the interrelationships of life, earth, and physical sciences. Specifically, topics will include force and motion, the atmosphere, genetics, heredity and human systems, characteristics of life, study of proteins, and the interactions with our health.

8th Grade Science (30082Y0)
This course is an inquiry-based science class which explores the interrelationships of life, earth, and physical sciences. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between humans and the hydrosphere, chemistry and how it relates to our health, evidence of evolution in organisms and landforms, cell theory, biotechnology, microbiology and agents of
disease. These students will take a North Carolina EOG test.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

**6th Grade Social Studies (40062Y0)**
Sixth Grade Social Studies examines the change and the continuity of societies from early human existence to the Age of Exploration through the five themes of Geography and their economic, political and social systems to reveal the similarities and differences among areas of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

**7th Grade Social Studies (40072Y0)**
Seventh Grade Social Studies continues to examine patterns of change and continuity resulting from conflict and cooperation from the Age of Exploration to contemporary times through the five themes of Geography and economic, political, social, and environmental perspectives.

**8th Grade Social Studies (40082Y0)**
Eighth Grade Social Studies examines the historical foundations and democratic principles that shape our state, nation, and local region through critical events, personalities, issues, and developments from the Revolutionary War to the present.

### HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**6th Grade Health & Physical Ed. (60462Y0)**
Middle school physical education provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities.

**7th Grade Health & Physical Ed. (60472Y0)**
Middle school physical education provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities.

**8th Grade Health & Physical Ed. (60482Y0)**
Middle school physical education provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities.

### ELECTIVE COURSES

**6TH GRADE ELECTIVES**

**Special Interest**

**AVID (96152Y0)**
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teaches skills and behaviors for academic success, provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creates a positive peer group for students, and develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through challenging work and determination.

**Fine Arts**

**Visual Arts (54062Y0)**
Students explore a variety of media as they continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, graphics, calligraphy, and sculpture. Theory is introduced to further elaborate upon ideas about color, perspective, and design.
Band (52862Y0)
This course is designed to heighten each student's aesthetic awareness through the musical arts and introduce students to the fundamental skills involved in playing a musical instrument. The course develops and reinforces the fundamentals of music theory, listening skills, and provides students with an ensemble performance experience.

Music Exploratory (52092Y0)
Students are introduced to the skills necessary for singing and playing music with accuracy and expression, while interpreting the sound and symbols of music. Through the study of various genres, and cultures students will analyze, evaluate and understand music and musical concepts from other areas of the world.

Chorus (General Music 52062Y0)
Students apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students learn how to use traditional notation in order to learn music, to respond correctly to conductors’ gestures both in rehearsal and public performance and study vocal music related to other cultures, eras, and geographical locations.

World Language
MS Beginning Spanish (11402Y0) (Less Than 1 Year)
This course begins the study of the Spanish language and culture and is the first part in the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit. Major topics include greetings, conversation questions, telling time, classroom objects, asking for help, the parts of the body, infinitive verbs, expressing likes and dislikes, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, subject pronouns, the present tense of –ar verbs, and the plurals of nouns and articles. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Intermediate Spanish.

Career & Technical Education
Business, Finance & Information Technology
Exploring Personal Characteristics & Careers (CC582YA)
This middle school course provides an orientation to NC Career Pathways. Students will be expected to understand and categorize their interests, attitudes, values, personality, learning styles and skills. Through categorization, examples and listing, students will identify and understand personal qualities that make them unique. The students will also make connections by matching careers with their personalities. Specific career options will be explored in a hands-on environment and/or through the STEM lab. The course has a required post-assessment.

Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing (BU102YA)
This middle school course includes four instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in basic keyboarding skills. The modules are composed of 1) alpha keys; 2) number, symbol, and
numerical pad; 3) building speed and accuracy and 4) basic word processing and business correspondence. The course has a required post-assessment.

**Technology & Engineering Education**

**Exploring Technology (TE012YA)**
This middle school course introduces students to technology and its uses. Topics include 1) how technology is developed to meet individual needs and wants; 2) examination of how products are improved and invented; and 3) how science, mathematics, and history are used to develop products with precision and 4) how technology is used creatively.

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### 7th GRADE ELECTIVES

**Special Interest**

**AVID (96152Y0)**
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teaches skills and behaviors for academic success, provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creates a positive peer group for students, and develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through challenging work and determination.

**Fine Arts**

**Visual Arts (54072Y0)**
Students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, college, drawing, and printmaking.

**Visual Arts (54072Y0)**
Students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, college, drawing, and printmaking.

**Band (52872Y0)**
This course is designed on the student’s aesthetic awareness and skills involved in playing a musical instrument, Students will learn musical notation, develop good practice habits and demonstrate a basic understanding of the elements of music.

**Chorus General Music (52072Y0)**
The major emphasis of this course is on singing activities and vocal production. This standard-based course develops the skills necessary for ensemble singing of choral literature appropriately arranged for middle school voices, and in reading music notation.

**World Languages**

**MS Beginning Spanish (11402YA) (Less Than 1 Year)**
This course begins the study of the Spanish language and culture and is the first part in the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit. Major topics include greetings, conversation questions, telling time, classroom objects, asking for help, the parts of the body, infinitive verbs, expressing likes and dislikes, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, subject pronouns, the present tense of –ar verbs, and the plurals of nouns and articles. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum by taking Spanish 1 Part A.

**Spanish 1 Part A (11412YA)**
**Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish.** This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics.
Major topics include foods, the present tense of –er and –ir verbs, the plurals of adjectives, the verb ser, the verb ir, question words, places, leisure activities, irregular verbs, possessive adjectives, family, celebrations, the restaurant, and personal descriptions. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Advanced Spanish.

**Career & Technical Education**

**Business, Finance & Information Technology**

**Exploring Careers & Employment (CC582YB)**
This middle school course is composed of two major modules: 1) understanding the world of work and skills needed for employment success and 2) understanding job search techniques. Students use categorizations, examples and listings to understand the classifications of work, why people work, and what makes the world of work change. Students will interview workers and conduct career searches via the Internet. Students will also be exposed to resources for seeking employment, and how to apply and plan for employment.

**Introduction to Office Productivity (BU102YB)**
This middle school course is composed of four instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in advanced keyboarding skills. The modules include: 1) advanced word processing; 2) presentation basics and 3) presentation techniques.

**Technology & Engineering Education**

**Exploring Technological Systems (TE022YA)**
This middle school course exposes students to two major units: 1) Technological Systems - How They Work and 2) Technological System Interaction. Students will be able to design products and/or systems for problem solving using technology. This course may be incorporated in the STEM lab. Other units that may be explored include: 1) Technological Systems: Issues and Impacts; 2) Maintaining Technological Systems and 3) Technological Systems in the Designed World.

**8TH GRADE ELECTIVES**

**Special Interest**

**AVID (96152Y0)**
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teaches skills and behaviors for academic success, provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creates a positive peer group for students, and develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through challenging work and determination.
**Fine Arts**

**Visual Arts (54082Y0)**
Students express themselves creatively through drawing, graphics, sculpting, painting, metalwork, 3D ceramic sculpture, and jewelry to develop art skills and concepts. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention-to-detail are explored.

**Band (52882Y0)**
This course's emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Band classes prepare several concert compositions that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

**World Language**

**Spanish 1 (11412Y0)**
**Spanish Prerequisite: Spanish 1 Part A.** This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Major topics include the rooms in a house, making comparisons, the superlative, stem changing verbs, affirmative commands, the present – progressive - tense, clothing, demonstrative adjectives, and the congregation of verbs. Students who complete this course successfully and who pass the exit exam (worth 20% of the overall grade) may take Spanish II at the high school level.

**Spanish 1 Heritage Immersion (11492X0)**
This course is designed to enhance reading and writing skills of students whose heritage language is Spanish. This course emphasizes basic literacy, writing, presentation skills and focuses on the diversity of Spanish-speaking cultures throughout the world. Students will exit with Novice-High proficiency on the ACTFL scale.

**Career & Technical Education**

**Business, Finance & Information Technology**

**Exploring Business Activities (BU202YC)**
This middle school course includes four modules: 1) business management activities and careers; 2) information technology activities and careers; 3) marketing activities and careers; and 4) small business management and entrepreneurship activities and careers.

**Exploring Business Procedures & Leadership (BU202YD)**
This middle school course includes two modules: 1) appropriate business etiquette and business communication and 2) ethics and ethical decision-making. The course supports five questions: What is business etiquette and how is it demonstrated in the United States and other countries? How do business people communicate effectively? Why is business etiquette important? What are some ethics abuses in the workplace? e) What are guidelines for ethical decision-making?

**Exploring Careers & Employment (CC582YB)**
This middle school course is composed of two modules: 1) understanding the world of work and skills needed for employment success and 2) understanding job search techniques. Students will be exposed to resources for seeking employment and applying a plan for employment.
Office Productivity Applications (BU102YB)
This middle school course is composed of three instructional modules which include 1) spreadsheets-charts and advanced functions, 2) database basics, and 3) desktop publishing basics. The digital literacy unit can also be included in this course.

Business, Finance & Information Technology: Computer Science
Computer Design Discoveries (BU012YB)
Computer Science Discoveries/Innovation and Impact - The first courselet centers on the observable and personally applicable elements of computer science, the second middle grades courselet (Units 4, 5 and 6) asks students to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with bare circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways.

Technology & Engineering Education
Exploring Engineering & Design (TE012YB)
This middle school course focuses on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process or system. Engaging activities and hands-on projects are used. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communication and reporting.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

7th & 8th Grade
Journalism/ Yearbook (10262Y0YB)
This course allows students to examine journalistic writing and publishing. Students learn the fundamentals of yearbook design from theme development to marketing and distribution. Communication skills are developed using oral language, written language, and media/technology to complete activities, including: interviewing, organizing information, writing journalistic pieces, such as feature stories, sports stories, student and faculty profiles, etc. Additionally, students refine their revision, editing, and proofreading skills, learn the basics of page layout and design, collaborate using technology as a publishing tool and develop personal responsibility.

STEM EARLY COLLEGE ELECTIVES

6th Grade
Engineering Concepts (Engineering Design 1) (96102Y0EC)
In Engineering Design 1, students will learn creative computing using Scratch. With Scratch, students can create a wide variety of interactive media projects – animations, stories, and games and share those projects with others in an online community. In addition to Scratch, students will also use Hour of Code and Light bot to extend their understanding of coding.
7th Grade

Engineering Design 2 (96102Y0ED2)

In Engineering Design 2 students will learn about innovations and inventions that have helped to mold the world in which they live. Through problem-based learning, students will perform several tasks using building materials such as straws, Legos, pipe cleaners, pool noodles, pipe insulation and others. Students will then be challenged to develop an innovation or invention for future generations.

Future Cities (96102Y0FC)

Future City is a flexible, project-based learning experience used in this year-long course and allows students to apply math and science concepts to real-world problems. Students will utilize their science, math, and engineering knowledge to create cities that exist at least 100 years in the future. The program’s various components—designing with computers, building scale models, researching, writing, and public speaking—make it accessible to a variety of students. The course gives students the opportunity to do the things that engineers do—identify problems, learn the specs, brainstorm solutions, design solutions, build it, test and retest and share their results.

8th Grade

Engineering Design 3 (96102Y0ED3)

This semester long course uses the Alice 3 software program which exposes students to a project-based learning environment. Students utilize the software's programming environment to create animations, build interactive narratives, or program simple games in 3D. The Alice 3 program motivates learning through creative exploration and is designed to teach logical and computational thinking skills, fundamental principles of programming, and to be exposed to object-oriented programming. Students will work hand-in-hand with the teachers on their projects, as they progress from simple projects such as moving a single object to complicated projects such as designing a dance routine for the Alice 3 characters and other specific assignments throughout the semester.

In compliance with the federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Vance County Schools administers all state operated educational programs, employment activities and admission