

WILLOWS ACADEMY

2021-22

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE GUIDE**



WILLOWS
ACADEMY

**Course offerings are subject to change based on enrollment, staffing, or other needs of the school.*



The Willows Academy is an independent, college preparatory school that encourages each student to pursue academic excellence in her studies, to engage the challenges of life with optimism and self-assurance, and to grow in freedom to live in truth as a daughter of God.

Our graduate:

- ❖ Possesses a well-formed conscience rooted in the natural moral law, and for those who choose to do so, in the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Displays moral and ethical behavior in all aspects of daily life.
- ❖ Is confident and disciplined.
- ❖ Shows proficiency in all academic areas to enter and succeed in college.
- ❖ Possesses knowledge and skills in the arts and athletics.
- ❖ Utilizes technology effectively to solve problems.
- ❖ Works cooperatively and successfully with others.
- ❖ Communicates effectively, thinks creatively, and is a life-long learner.
- ❖ Adjusts to a changing world and works through obstacles.
- ❖ Treats every individual as a person created in the image and likeness of God.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Curriculum Overview	3
Middle School Course of Study	3
Middle School Graduation Requirements	3
English.....	4
Fine Arts	6
Music	6
Visual Art	7
History	8
Mathematics.....	9
Physical Education	11
Science.....	11
Theology	13
World Language.....	14

Course of Studies

MIDDLE SCHOOL	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
English	Language Arts 6	English 7	English 8
	Literature 6		
Science	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
History	Geography	American History I	American History II
Theology	Religion 6: Commandments	Religion 7: Sacraments	Religion 8: Confirmation and Christian Prayer
World Language	Latin Roots program is facilitated in English classes		
			French I or Spanish I
Physical Ed	PE 6	PE 7	PE 8
Fine Arts	Music 6	Music 7	Handbell Choir
	Art 6	Art 7	Art 8
	Middle School Choir (required for 6 th grade, elective for 7 th and 8 th grade)		
Other			Technology
Math	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<i>Honors I</i>	Math Foundations	Math Applications	Pre-Algebra
<i>Honors II</i>	Math Foundations	Math Applications	Algebra I
<i>Accelerated</i>	Math Applications	Algebra I	Geometry

Math placements for each ensuing year are based upon the combination of course grades, standardized & placement tests, teacher recommendations, and department policies. For a student to move into a different course sequence, and/or for a student to enter or remain in AP courses, she must meet all criteria, expectations, and policy set by the Willows math department. Summer school may be used for a student to advance into a different course sequence if all criteria are met and prior approval before enrollment; summer school courses do not count towards the 3-year course requirement.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Department	Courses	Department	Courses
English	3	Science	3
Mathematics	3	Physical Education	3
Theology	3	Fine Arts: Visual Art	3
History	3	Fine Arts: General Music	2
		Technology	1

Additional Requirements

Constitution Tests: Students are required by the State of Illinois to pass tests on the Constitution of the United States and on the Constitution of Illinois prior to the completion of 8th grade.

Service: 15 hours of service per year are required.

Summer Enrichment: Three units of summer enrichment are required for graduation. One unit is earned each summer by successfully completing that year's summer enrichment assignment. Specific assignments are given prior to the end of the school year.

After her fifth failing semester grade (in any academic subject or combination of subjects), a Middle School student's academic progress will be reviewed by the Administration to determine whether she will be eligible to enroll for the next semester. The Willows reserves the right to dismiss a Middle School student with five failing semester grades either at the end of the semester or at the end of that academic year.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

Course descriptions include a list of texts used in each course, the level at which the course is offered (i.e. honors, accelerated, AP), the course weight, and the grade multiplier for weighted GPAs (weighted GPAs are on transcripts only).

Weight:

Weight is used to determine a student's grade point average (GPA). Courses that meet five days a week are at the standard weight of 1.0; courses that do not meet daily may have a weight of 0.75, 0.25, or 0.125.

Grade Multiplier:

The grade multiplier is used to generate a "weighted GPA"; it is the number used to multiply each semester grade. The purpose of the grade multiplier is to give students a numerical advantage for grades earned in higher-level courses or more challenging learning experiences. The grade multiplier is only used to determine the weighted GPA found on a student's transcript. The following multiplier is used:

Honors courses: 1.025

Accelerated courses: 1.05

AP courses: 1.10

Transcript:

A transcript is an official record of the classes, grades, credits and weighted GPA that a student earned at The Willows Academy.

English

The curriculum of the English Department is designed to expose students to a comprehensive collection of literature in its various forms, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, essays, historical documents, and speeches. During the course of their studies students 1) refine reading and comprehension skills; 2) analyze literature for style, technique and themes; 3) connect literature to themselves and contemporary society; and 4) recognize the importance of those pieces of literature throughout the ages.

We are able to accomplish these goals also by creating a curriculum where the study of writing begins in sixth grade and progresses through twelfth grade. By setting specific goals to be reached by the end of each year, the students will develop necessary skills in a logical sequence. From descriptive paragraphs to analytical essays, the students will be able to write adequately in all modes.

Language Arts 6

6th Grade

The focus of this course is on writing, speaking, listening, language conventions, (grammar/ usage/ mechanics/ spelling), and vocabulary. Writing will include expository, narrative, and argumentative assignments in essay, story, report, email, and letter formats. Speaking will include speeches, demonstrations, readings, portrayals/script readings, and oral reports. Listening will include active listening exercises and the practice of appropriate commenting and questioning. Throughout the year, this class will review past grammar, usage, and mechanics, as well as introduce new skills. Vocabulary will be taught through writing assignments and the use of the Vocabulary from Classical Roots workbook.

Textbooks: *Writing and Grammar, Communication in Action*, Copper Level, Pearson/Prentice Hall
Write Source, Kemper, Sebranek, & Meyer, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Workbook: *Vocabulary from Classical Roots*, Fifer & Flowers, Educators Publishing Service
Weight: 1.0

Literature 6

6th Grade

Literature 6 is an introduction to literature. During the literature study, students will read a variety of texts including short stories, novels, myths, poetry, and plays. As students read the texts, they will develop reading strategies and strengthen literary analysis and critical thinking skills. In conjunction with reading, students will broaden their vocabulary by engaging in word study. Finally, students will enhance their speaking skills through a variety presentations. My hope is to cultivate a love for reading and writing.

Textbooks: *Prentice Hall Literature (Copper)*. Pearson Prentice Hall, 1996.
The Hobbit by J.R.R.Tolkien
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Weight: 1.0

English 7

7th Grade

This course combines the study of literature and language arts. Language arts consist of learning about writing techniques and grammar while literature includes the reading and analyzing of literary pieces written by classical and award-winning contemporary authors. As a literature course, it is aimed at refining students' understanding of literature. It will help students further develop their techniques of reading, understanding, and appreciating the different forms of prose and poetry. This course allows students to solidify their skills of analyzing, discussing, and responding to literature skills that are essential to their study of literature throughout middle and high school. In addition, students will also focus on vocabulary building, spelling, grammar and usage, mechanics, and composition. By the end of the year, it is hoped that students will be more analytical, reflective readers and writers.

Textbook: *Prentice Hall Literature (Bronze)*. Prentice-Hall, 1996.
Vocabulary for Achievement. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

5. William Shakespeare, ed. & translated by Alan Durband. *The Merchant of Venice*. Perfection Learning Corporation, 2004,
Lewis, C.S. *The Horse and His Boy*

Weight: 1.0

English 8

8th Grade

This course combines the study of literature and language arts. Language arts consists of learning about writing techniques and grammar, while literature includes the reading and analyzing of literary pieces written by classical and award-winning contemporary authors. In this course, students are gearing up for high school. While students will review grammar concepts, writing and literary skills learned in the previous grade levels, they will also be honed to think and to reflect on the materials that they are writing and reading. The purpose of this is to help them think, read and write with logic, style, depth, and substance. This course also aims to continue nurturing, enriching, and educating their imaginations.

Textbook: *Prentice Hall Literature (Silver)*. Prentice Hall, 1996.
Vocabulary for Achievement. Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*.
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.
William Shakespeare, ed. & translated by Julie A. Schumacher. *Julius Caesar*.
Perfection Learning Corporation, 2004.

Weight: 1.0

FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts department provides students the opportunity to experience art and music according to their interest level. We offer performance, technique, and academic classes that allow students to develop skills ranging from those needed for lifelong enjoyment to those for professional careers in the field. We believe that by developing a deeper and broader aesthetic awareness and understanding in students, we help them to think creatively and encourage a transfer of that into other subjects. Service through sharing talents with The Willows and the general community is also stressed.

MUSIC

Music 6

6th Grade

Music 6 provides students with an introduction to the basics of reading music and musicianship. The students will also be introduced to music of many composers and cultures, to composing, and to basic music skills. Classes will include lecture and formal study and research of music styles and history. Students will develop a deep understanding understand foundational music theory concepts.

Weight: 0.25

Music 7

7th Grade

Music 7 provides an introduction to playing handbells.. Music theory concepts, such as rhythm and terminology are integrated and applied to handbells. Students will learn the techniques of playing handbells in a bell choir and will perform in two all-school concerts.

Weight: 0.25

Middle School Choir

6th-8th Grades

The Middle School Choir is required for 6th graders and available as an elective for 7th and 8th graders. Emphasis is on good vocal production, ensemble singing, and performance. Aural skills and sight-reading are also part of this course. This choir performs at Willows Christmas and Spring Concerts (performance at concerts are mandatory to pass the class).

Textbook: Individual octavos provided by The Willows Academy

Weight: 0.25

Handbells 8

8th Grade

Middle School Handbell choir is an elective for eighth grade students. Participants in this ensemble will perform in Willows Concerts (performance at Christmas and Spring Concerts are mandatory to pass the class). Music reading skills and knowledge of musical terminology are further developed as part of this course.

Textbook: Octavos provided by The Willows Academy

Weight: 0.125

Instrumental Ensemble

6th-12th Grades

Instrumental Ensemble is open to any experienced instrumentalist who are simultaneously enrolled in private instruction. The members of the class will be assigned pieces to play in small groups or with the class. They will perform for school events and outside of The Willows. (performance at Christmas and Spring Concerts are mandatory to pass the class). Approval of the instructor is required for taking this class. Audition may be required.

Textbook: Sheet music provided by The Willows Academy
0.25

Weight:

VISUAL ART

Art 6

6th Grade

Art 6 encourages student curiosity through experimentation and exploration. Students will question, What is it like to be a artist? Students will be exposed to a variety of studio art projects, art appreciation, and art history. A focus is given to multicultural art (historical and cultural connections), the vocabulary of art, basic perspective geometry within art, and the cultural/world significance of art.

Weight: 0.25

Art 7

7th Grade

This course will focus on risk taking in creative engagement, noting the high value of originality. Students expand upon previous geometry knowledge and continue to explore vanishing perspective as well as appreciate other ways to create depth.. Students will understand the vocabulary of geometry, the tools of geometry, and develop an awareness of

spatial sense. A focus is given to hand eye coordination through the fiber arts consisting of knitting, machine sewing, and hand sewing.

Weight: 0.25

Art 8**8th Grade**

Students in Art 8 will create art that exhibits refinement, control, technical ability and personal style utilizing a variety of art media, techniques, and processes. A focus is given to group based projects that promote collaboration, communication, and problem solving. Student motivation and questioning is a goal. Students are encouraged to explore the uncertainty in art.

Weight: 0.25

History

The Willows Academy History Department challenges students to become critical thinkers and readers, and provides a foundation for understanding the issues of the rapidly changing 21st century. Our curriculum seeks to develop an appreciation of the world's cultural diversity and the commonality of human aspirations, and to cultivate an understanding of American history and a sense of civic responsibility. In all courses, attention is given to helping students improve their skills of critical reading, analytical thinking, and effective writing.

Geography & World Regions**6th Grade**

Semester 1 of this course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of geography. Students will learn map skills, atlas reading and the countries of each continent. The course will focus particularly on the physical environment shapes human existence throughout the world. During Semester 2, students will explore the political, economic, social, and cultural history of key ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China.

Textbook: *World History: Ancient Civilizations.* McDougal Littell, 2006.

Weight: 1.0

American History to 1865**7th Grade**

This course covers selected topics in early American History from the Age of Exploration and the colonial period through the Civil War. Though the course topics will proceed in a chronological manner, the emphasis is on trends and concepts. The aim of the course is to help students differentiate between significant historical facts and details, to acquaint students with ongoing themes in U.S. History, and to help them develop their own analytical and interpretive thoughts. Emphasis is placed on the founding principles of the United States and the early debates that persist to the present day. Students will also study the United States Constitution to fulfill the requirement for graduation.

Textbook: *Creating America: A History of the United States.* McDougal Little, 2007.

Weight: 1.0

American History from 1865 to the present**8th Grade**

This course is a continuation of American History to 1865 and surveys the period after the Civil War to the Modern Era. Students will cover selected topics from Reconstruction and

Immigration through the events in the new millennium. Though the course topics will proceed in a chronological manner, the emphasis is on trends and concepts. The aim of the course is to acquaint students with ongoing themes in U.S. History, to help them develop their own analytical and interpretive thoughts, and to further develop students' ability to articulate these thoughts both verbally and in written form. As a result, emphasis is placed on classroom discussions and writing projects. Students will also study the Illinois Constitution to fulfill the requirement for graduation.

Textbook: *Creating America: A History of the United States*. McDougal Little, 2007.

Weight: 1.0

Mathematics

The Willows Academy Mathematics Program in the Middle School is designed to give all the students a firm foundation in basic math while they develop their pre-algebra skills. Students who possess particularly good calculation skills and show an early aptitude for abstract thought are then allowed to proceed to Algebra.

In the High School, our goal is to provide all students with a rigorous four year curriculum designed to prepare them for a multitude of college majors. We place an emphasis on problem solving and building logical connections between mathematics and other disciplines. Understanding that students have a variety of interests, we have programs that culminate in Statistics, Pre-Calculus, or AP Calculus that allow each student to reach her full potential.

Math Foundations 6

6th Grade

This course focuses on identifying patterns as well as analyzing and visualizing the information in word problems. It is designed to ensure that students will develop the essential math concepts and critical thinking skills they need in order to understand Algebra. They will master decimal operations and basic integer operations; continue working with fractions, percents, and basic geometry calculations; and be introduced to equations, inequalities, probability, and graphing techniques on a coordinate plane. The material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook: *Mathematics Course 2*. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight: 1.0

Math Applications 7

7th Grade

In order to continue the students' preparation for Algebra, this course reinforces basic math computation and concepts involving integers. The students create and analyze data, emphasize problem solving strategies, work with more complex equations, and continue studying other pre-algebra concepts. They also use formulas for calculating surface area and volume of various geometric figures. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook: *Mathematics Course 3*. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight: 1.0

PreAlgebra

8th Grade

Building on the foundation of previous math courses in the sequence, 8th grade Pre-Algebra reinforces the students' skills in solving more complex equations. The students begin to work with the Pythagorean Theorem and graphing systems of equations. They learn to recognize different equations and to utilize strategies to graph them in a coordinate plane. They explore ways to apply spatial thinking and formulas to solve problems with 2-D and 3-D shapes. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. Placement is made by the Math Department.

Textbook: *Pre-Algebra*. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight: 1.0

Honors Algebra I

8th-9th Grades

This is a first year algebra course in which students will learn specific mathematical terminology and the skills for developing and applying mathematical properties and relationships. They will gain facility with basic properties and operations with real numbers; develop skill in carrying out various algorithms; acquire proficiency in the areas of equations (linear and quadratic), inequalities, and graphs; and apply mathematics in real-life situations. Students will also strengthen their reading skills and improve their ability to think logically and organize material. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work. Placement of 8th graders into Algebra I is made by the Mathematics Department.

Textbook: *Algebra 1*. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Weight: 1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only): 1.025

Honors Geometry

9th-10th Grades

In this course, students will strengthen their algebraic skills as well as improve their understanding of geometric terminology and deductive reasoning. They will study Euclidean and coordinate geometry in two and three dimensions with an emphasis on analyzing a problem, drawing diagrams, and setting up proofs successfully. In taking this course, students will also reinforce their organization, note taking, and critical thinking skills that are applicable to all fields of study. Students will also recognize the importance of close reading in noting not only the broad outlines of a reading passage but also an attention to detail. The course material is delivered through lectures, guided practice, and individual and group work.

Textbook: *Geometry*. Glencoe, McGraw Hill, 2004.

Weight: 1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only): 1.025

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a part of the total educational system of The Willows that will provide experiences for our students through physical activity. The Physical Education curriculum provides students the opportunity to learn about and develop sport skills, cooperation, and teamwork, as well as understand and appreciate overall fitness and recreational games. The Physical Education program teaches students how to work cooperatively with others to achieve group goals in competitive and non competitive situations.

P.E. 6

6th Grade

This course provides students with an introduction to basic skills in team sports. An introduction to personal fitness will also be provided. Emphasis is placed on hand eye coordination and following directions.

Weight: 0.25

P.E. 7

7th Grade

In seventh grade P.E. the, students will start to expand on the skills learned in sixth grade. Students will be encouraged to work as a team and to participate with others. There will also be conditioning days throughout the year.

Weight: 0.25

P.E. 8

8th Grade

In eighth grade P.E. the students will work on the fundamentals of each sport covered, as well as engage in conditioning and fitness days. Students at this level are expected to be personally responsible for teamwork and competition.

Weight: 0.25

Science

The primary goal of the Science Department is to help students use critical thinking, rational observation, and measurement to develop an understanding of and appreciation for the elegance, intricacies, and beauty of the natural world. The science program stresses the processes of science and scientific method. The curriculum covers in depth the life, chemical and physical sciences at both the middle and high school levels. Courses include both traditional and multimedia lecture and hands-on lab work.

Earth Science

6th Grade

Earth Science focuses on the composition, structures, and processes associated with the Earth and its place in the Universe. Topics include rock and mineral classification, plate tectonics,, geologic time, natural disasters, energy and fresh water resources, oceans, climate and an overview of the solar system, stars and galaxies. Students gather and organize information about the Earth from research and outdoor activities in order to explain the major theories of Earth Science. Graphing techniques are developed to describe what we learn. Course

highlights include telescope viewing, field trip to glacial remains, EPA competition in Springfield and soil study.

Textbook: *Earth Science*. Prentice Hall, 2009.

Weight: 1.0

Life Science

7th Grade

Life Sciences studies living things, their relationships to one another, and the processes that allow them to function. This survey course will start with the smallest living unit, the cell, and then characterize all organisms of the five kingdoms. This knowledge will enable the students to identify and compare the life processes in various organ systems of the animal kingdom. Throughout the course students will engage in laboratory activities, especially dissections, in order to develop the observation and data-taking skills needed for doing science and preparation for an optional Science Fair project. Throughout the course students will develop best practices for caring for the environment, always keeping the human person as the center of ecological concerns.

Textbook: *Life Science*. Prentice Hall, 2009

Weight: 1.0

Physical Science

8th Grade

The physical science course introduces students to the basic concepts of chemistry and physics, and encourages them to ask questions about how the world works. Topics include the composition and states of matter, the structure of atoms, chemical bonding, forces, work and energy, sound, and light. Students are provided with hands-on learning and develop analytical and problem-solving skills through laboratory experiments and engineering challenges. Discussion and reading passages guide students to draw connections between science and everyday life. Students have the option to participate in the Regional Science Fair and they are invited to compete in the local "You Be The Chemist" Challenge. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to describe the properties of matter and forms of energy, analyze data using graphical methods, select appropriate problem-solving methods, and carefully perform experiments and record data.

Textbook: *Physical Science*. Prentice Hall, 2009.

Weight: 1.0

Technology

Technology Skills and Coding

8th Grade

This course will build upon students' basic computer skills in order to help them become good digital citizens and increase their digital literacy. Students will first be introduced to the art of keyboarding and touch typing to increase their mastery for the future. Students will then be exposed to the HTML language, first through the completion of various challenges involving block coding, followed by the creation of a website. Through experimentation with these tasks, students build mastery in sequencing skills, counting, problem solving, logical thinking, cause and effect, and critical thinking.

Theology

The Theology & Philosophy Department offers a full seven year curriculum in theology. The program is designed to provide a comprehensive study of the Roman Catholic faith, sacramental life, history and morals. In doing so, the students will receive a progressively deeper understanding of the reasonableness of these teachings, as befitting an academic level equivalent to their other studies. In addition to course work, students are provided with opportunities to develop their life of piety, to frequent the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance, and receive spiritual counseling. The Department also offers a curriculum in Philosophy students can study if they choose not to study Theology or along with their study of Theology.

Theology 6: The Commandments

6th Grade

of the Holy Mass. Students are encouraged to take advantage of frequent reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. Liturgically oriented activities promote growth in a life of prayer, and basic prayers and Catholic devotions are learned. Class discussions and activities focus on learning and understanding the faith in order to live it and pass it on to others.

Textbook: *Following Christ: Faith and Life series, Book 6.* Ignatius Press, 2008

Weight: 1.0

Theology 7: The Sacraments

7th Grade

Students will receive a comprehensive understanding of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, studying them in the light of God's plan of Salvation, the Sacred Scriptures, and the history and development of sacramental doctrine. Close attention will be paid to the theological meaning of the Sacraments, how they draw us deeper into the Mystical Body of Christ and how they give Catholics the breath of life. Students will have the opportunity to study the liturgical rite of each sacrament, with greater focus on the source and summit of the Catholic faith — the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Textbook: *The Holy Bible*, Ignatius Press

Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB, 2000

The Life of Grace, Faith and Life Series, Book 7, Ignatius Press, 2005

The Sacraments, Didache Semester Series, MTF, 2010.

Weight: 1.0

Theology 8

8th Grade

Semester I: Confirmation

Students will receive a comprehensive understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation, how it is related to the Sacrament of Baptism, and its continual effect on a Christian's life of faith. They will study the Trinitarian relationships and, through this, come to know the person of the Holy

Spirit. Close attention will be paid to the actual Rite of Confirmation itself, on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and on those who showed them in their lives: the saints.

Textbook: *The Holy Bible*, Ignatius Press

Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB, 2000

Our Life in the Church, Faith and Life Series, Book 8, Ignatius Press, 2005

Semester II: On Christian Prayer

Students will study the concepts of Spiritual Theology contained in the fourth part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: on Christian Prayer.

Textbook: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, USCCB, 2000

Weight: 1.0

World Languages

The World Languages Department offers modern romance languages. (French and Spanish). As students master second language skills, they acquire grammar, pronunciation, reading and writing skills, and an awareness of cultural nuances that will allow them to successfully communicate in a globally connected world. Students will develop an understanding of and appreciation for different cultures while examining their own social and cultural milieux with a fresh perspective. The study of a world language is a progressive experience and implies progressive acquisition of/linguistic skills. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are emphasized.

Willows Academy Language Course Selection Criteria for Heritage Speakers

The Willows World Language program is designed to offer students a rigorous curriculum in a foreign language, either French or Spanish. Heritage learners are students who have been exposed to French or Spanish in their homes or communities from a young age. As a consequence of that early exposure, they can understand and/or speak the language and have a personal connection to it.

Definition of a Heritage Speaker: “a student who is raised in a home where a non-English language is spoken, who speaks or merely understands the heritage language and who is to some degree bilingual in English and the heritage language” (Valdés, 2000)

Heritage language speakers usually possess a level of foreign language competence that far exceeds the level of typical students learning a foreign language for the first time.

- Heritage speakers who have some oral proficiency and have internalized basic grammatical structures have mastered the focus of the Level I and II language courses.
- Heritage language speakers who have had formal schooling in their heritage language have usually mastered the advanced vocabulary and grammar taught in in the Level III courses.
- Heritage speakers can usually benefit from the Advanced Placement curriculum focused on language and culture.

Therefore:

8th grade Spanish Heritage Speakers should register for Honors French I.

8th grade French Heritage speakers should register for Honors Spanish I.

Heritage speakers may change language programs at the level that would best meet her instructional needs.

At the end of their freshman year, heritage speakers will have an opportunity to take an assessment in their heritage language to determine what level would be most effective to change language programs.

The ultimate decision for language course selection is under the discretion and approval of the Academic Dean and the World Language Department Head.

Honors French I

8th Grade

French I is a communicative introduction to French language and the diversity of Francophone culture. Audio CDs complement a variety of interactive activities and cultural notes provided by the textbook. The activities help build competency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students acquire functional vocabulary and grammar. They are exposed to regular and irregular verbs in the present and past tense and to reflexive verbs. Frequent quizzes and chapter tests provide ongoing assessment of student progress.

Textbook:

Discovering French Nouveau I McDougal Littell

Weight: 1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only): 1.025

Honors Spanish I

8th Grade

Spanish I is a communicative beginning level course which introduces Spanish language and the cultural diversity of the Spanish speaking world. Students begin to develop proficiency through extensive interaction in the target language. Each unit of the textbook includes a variety of interactive activities and cultural notes. The activities help build competency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students acquire functional vocabulary and grammar. They are exposed to the present and past tense, to stem changing verbs, reflexive verbs, and the use of *gustar*.

Textbook: *¡Buen Viaje! Spanish I*. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill 2003.

Weight: 1.0

Grade Multiplier for Weighted GPA (on transcripts only): 1.025