Exploratory	Grade	Middle School					Course Description
		Burley	Henley	Jouett	Sutherl	Walton	
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)	7		x	x			AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation.
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)	8		x	x		x	AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation.
Art	6	x	x	x	x	x	In our art exploratory program, sixth-grade students use the principles of design as the basis for a study of color and balance. They create realistic drawings from observation, produce fantasy-based art, paint complementary color studies, use one-point perspective, use computer graphics to create original art, and create and maintain a portfolio of their work. Sixth-graders also study art movements in post-Reconstruction America, relating the movements to changes in science and technology.
Art	7	x	x	x	x	x	In our art exploratory program, seventh-grade students use the principles of design as the basis for study of shape, form and color. They build clay pieces using the coil method; draw compositions from observation; create 3-D sculptures using geometric forms; draw from observation, emphasizing linear perspective; and create and maintain a portfolio of their work. Seventh-graders also study artistic styles and themes from historical times and places.
Art	8	x	x	x	x	x	Eighth-grade students use the principles of design as the basis for study of line, color and texture. They create clay sculptures using slab construction, draw human figures, use multiple perspectives, make prints, and create and maintain a portfolio of their work. Eighth-graders also examine the art and architecture of different times and cultures and learn to critique their own work and the work of others.
Band	6	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in band. Instrumental students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.

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Band	7	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in band. Instrumental students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Band	8	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in band. Instrumental students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Broadcast Journalism	8		x				Broadcast Journalism is a year long class. Students will be responsible for producing the video announcements, learning and integrating state-of-the-art equipment, and producing and distributing public service announcements.
Chorus	6	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in chorus. Choral students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Chorus	7	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in chorus. Choral students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Chorus	8	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in chorus. Choral students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Computer Solutions	7	x	x	x	x	x	Students gain a basic knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, database and graphics applications as they apply in a work setting. Specific skills in each area include composing, formatting and editing basic business documents; calculating, charting and manipulating numerical data; constructing databases and learning to query specific information; and using clip art, drawing tools, animations and transitions for graphics presentations.
Creative Writing	7		x				Students will be given the opportunity to write short fiction, poetry, one-act plays and other short works.
Creative Writing	8		x				Students will be given the opportunity to write short fiction, poetry, and one-act plays.
Debate	7		x				Students learn to argue the right way! Do you like to be right most of the time? Do you like to speak in front of an audience? Be able to support your opinion through research and debate on various issues.

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Debate	8		x				Students learn to argue the right way! Do you like to be right most of the time? Do you like to speak in front of an audience? Be able to support your opinion through research and debate on various issues.
Design	7		x				Design 7 uses the latest Adobe graphics programs. Students will engage in the study of basic art design concepts, learn photo imaging, understand the use of color, use templates, draw from scratch, and develop a portfolio consisting of lessons and individual projects all generated on the computer. Students will also become familiar with the formats of computer imaging such as PDF, JPEG, TIFF, and what the different formats are used for. Real world skills can carry over to high school and give a foundation for possible career choices. Final projects will consist of a poster design contest that will be used to advertise subject areas within the school.
Design	8		x				Design 8 uses the latest Adobe graphics programs. Students will engage in the study of basic art design concepts, learn photo imaging, understand the use of color, use templates, draw from scratch, and develop a portfolio consisting of lessons and individual projects all generated on the computer. Students will also become familiar with the formats of computer imaging such as PDF, JPEG, TIFF, and what the different formats are used for. Real world skills can carry over to high school and give a foundation for possible career choices. Final projects will consist of a poster design contest that will be used to advertise subject areas within the school.
Designing, Writing, and Publishing Multimedia Content	8	x	x	x	x	x	Students develop enhanced skills introduced in Workplace Technology Productivity Skills. Students learn to incorporate various media from the Internet such as video and sound, animation, and digital images into a variety of publication formats. Advanced word processing skills such as mapping, merging, and table creation are developed in this course.
Drama	6					x	Drama students develop a variety of improvisational and more formal acting skills. Students learn fundamentals of stage design and presence, performing selected dramatic works as a troupe. Emphasis is placed on gaining comfort in a variety of performance styles while building confidence in public communication skills

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Drama	7	x	x	x	x	x	Drama students develop a variety of improvisational and more formal acting skills. Students learn fundamentals of stage design and presence, performing selected dramatic works as a troupe. Emphasis is placed on gaining comfort in a variety of performance styles while building confidence in public communication skills.
Drama	8	x	x	x	x	x	Drama students develop a variety of improvisational and more formal acting skills. Students learn fundamentals of stage design and presence, performing selected dramatic works as a troupe. Emphasis is placed on gaining comfort in a variety of performance styles while building confidence in public communication skills.
ECHO	8		x				ECHO is the school yearbook. Students will be involved in activities such as selling ads, collecting money, photography, proofreading, drawing layouts, art work, and putting the layout and words on the computer. Only students who have applied and have been selected may take this class. During interim periods, students will work on various school-related activities, such as publications and art works.
Engineering, Building, and Maintaining Physical Structures	8	x	x	x	x	x	Exploring component systems and construction techniques of physical structures, including electrical, heating and cooling systems, and support, framing and finish systems, students develop understanding of the building and maintenance of physical structures. Through practical application of key concepts of mathematics and science, students develop skills essential to careers in engineering and construction.
Entrepreneurship	8	x	x	x	x	x	Making It Your Business: Students are provided opportunities to run small group or class businesses based on their own design for providing a service or product needed at their school. Concepts introduced include types of business ownerships, marketing strategies, financial strategies, planning and implementing production techniques, and staffing and performance evaluations. Students examine labor and community issues, as well as health, safety and environmental issues in the workplace.

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GIS/GPS	7 & 8		x				GIS/GPS is an elective that uses the latest in GIS software and Garmin GPS hand held units. This elective adds depth to other subjects such as social studies, earth science, world geography and technology. Students will investigate global patterns of human and physical features, explore issues of concern to millions of people, analyze data from diverse negatives, and develop skills essential for understanding a world characterized by vast quantities of raw information. The students will also mark trails behind J.T. Henley and possibly build some physical structures along the way. They will also navigate to geocaches using their GPS units. (Geocaching is an outdoor activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek.) Best of all, it will be FUN!
Guitar I	7		x				Guitar I is open to 7th and 8th grade students who have had no previous guitar experience. Students will learn to read from traditional music notation at a beginning level. Acoustic guitars will be used—no electric guitars will be used in this class. Each student must make arrangements to buy or rent a guitar for the duration of the class.
Guitar I	8		x				Guitar I is open to eighth grade students who have had no previous guitar experience. Students will learn to read from traditional music notation at a beginning level. Acoustic guitars will be used (no electric guitars will be used in this class). Each student must make arrangements to buy or rent a guitar for the duration of the class and purchase a method book.
Jazz Ensemble	8		x				Jazz Ensemble is for students recommended by the band director. The class plays jazz and popular music on an advanced level.
Journalism/Newspaper	7		x				Journalism/Newspaper is a class where students produce the student newspaper. Students must enjoy writing, interviewing people, and meeting deadlines. Interested students must be willing to work hard and take pride in their work as reporters of the news.
Journalism/Newspaper	8		x				Journalism/Newspaper is a class where students produce the student newspaper. Students must enjoy writing, interviewing people, and meeting deadlines. Interested students must be willing to work hard and take pride in their work as reporters of the news.

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Keyboarding/Productivity Skills	6	x	x	x	x	x	Students explore industrial and communication technologies, including electronics, computer-aided design (CAD), pneumatics, graphics, and video production. Using industry specific equipment, students will experience the processes and procedures used in today's technology workplace.
Music	6	x	x	x	x		Sixth-grade students have the opportunity to participate in strings, band, or a general music class. Students in the general music class study music theory and styles, in addition to developing a vocal performance repertoire.
Personal Life Skills and Career Pathways	7	x	x	x	x	x	Students develop advanced personal life skills related to home safety, nutritional health, and physically-active lifestyles that lead to independence. Students extend those skills through exploration of careers in human services, including hospitality and tourism, child care, teaching, and other human service career paths. Students investigate job and entrepreneurship opportunities that exist for teenagers in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area.
Personal Life Skills and Career Pathways	8	x	x	x	x	x	Students develop personal life skills related to smart consumerism, personal finance, and nutrition and wellness. Students explore related careers in health care and apparel design, construction and marketing.
Personal Life Skills for the 21st Century	6	x	x	x	x	x	Students learn strategies for successful time management, goal setting and problem-solving in the context of transitioning to middle school. Students examine their roles as contributing members of their school community and families. Students acquire basic personal life skills related to home safety, nutritional health, and physically-active lifestyles.
Photography	7		x				Explore the world through the eyes of the camera and learn how to take pictures using a digital camera and computer. This is a project-oriented class where students will take a lot of pictures inside the school, outdoors and on field trips to discover what it means to take a "good picture". Basic computer downloading, editing and presentation techniques will be included. Students do not need their own cameras.
Photography	8		x				Students will be introduced to the basics of photography. They will study composition—how to compose a good photograph. The digital camera, photo enhancing software, and other media and software will be explored. Students do not need their own cameras.

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Spanish	6	x	x	x	x	x	This exploratory course provides students with a continuation of the conversational approach to Spanish used in the elementary schools and introduces the grammatical approach used in the secondary schools. The course uses listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture to expand on themes that were introduced in the elementary program. Grammar is taught through cultural application.
Strings	6	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in strings. Instrumental students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Strings	7	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in strings. Instrumental students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Strings	8	x	x	x	x	x	Students have the opportunity to participate in strings. Instrumental students study and perform a variety of music genres. Public performance opportunities expand as students work with increasingly complex music.
Technology in the Workplace	6	x	x	x	x	x	Students explore industrial and communication technologies, including electronics, computer-aided design (CAD), pneumatics, graphics, and video production. Using industry specific equipment, students will experience the processes and procedures used in today's technology workplace.
Technology Systems Inventions	7	x	x	x	x	x	Students construct models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions.
Video and Television Production	7		x				Video and Television Production is a class for seventh grade students. As the present production crew moves up to eighth grade, there is a need to bring on a new crew to replace them. An 18-week exploratory for seventh graders that will introduce you to the world of video and television production.

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World Languages	7	X	X	X	X	X	Seventh-grade students may begin the study of French or Spanish through a one-semester exploratory course that may lead to high school credit upon successful completion of two additional semesters in eighth grade. Coursework includes a strong emphasis on speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural awareness. Basic vocabulary and essential grammar are taught.
World Languages	8	X	X	X	X	X	Eighth-grade students have an opportunity to take French I or Spanish I. Coursework includes a strong emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing, and cultural awareness. Basic vocabulary and essential grammar are taught. Students who successfully complete this first-year high school program may elect to earn high school credit for the course and take French II or Spanish II in ninth grade. Students follow the high school exam exemption policy for these courses.