Norfolk Collegiate develops critical thinkers, doers and explorers through innovative, engaging instruction in an inclusive and supportive learning community.
Norfolk Collegiate Portrait of a Graduate

1. Our graduates have the academic tools, passion for learning and flexibility to thrive wherever life takes them and wherever they choose to go.
2. Our graduates are self-motivated and inquisitive, recognizing that knowledge and wisdom are lifelong pursuits.
3. Our graduates are confident, independent thinkers who pursue new endeavors to learn from successes and challenges alike.
4. Our graduates have developed an individual moral compass—rooted in integrity, responsibility and respect—that guides them to the right course of action.
5. Our graduates have a sense of compassion that motivates them to both participate and lead in their local and global communities.

Norfolk Collegiate Middle School Curriculum

Sixth-Grade Required Courses
The core curriculum consists of English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Health/P.E. In addition, every sixth grade student takes:
- Latin 6—one semester
- Computer Science Discovery—one semester

Sixth-Grade Elective Courses
- Art 6
- Band 6
- Strings 6
- Chorus 6
- Design Thinking 6

Seventh-Grade Required Courses
In addition to the core curriculum (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health/P. E.), seventh grade students take one of the following courses:
- Spanish IA
- French IA

Seventh-Grade Elective Courses
- Art 7
- Band 7
- Strings 7
- Chorus 7
- Design Thinking 7

Eighth-Grade Required Courses
The core curriculum includes English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health/P. E. and a Modern or Classical Language.

Eighth-Grade Elective Courses
- Art 8
- Band 8
- Strings 8
- Chorus 8
- Design Thinking 8
**DESIGN THINKING AND COMPUTING COURSES**

**Chair:** Mark McElhaney

The mission of the Design Thinking and Computing Department is to provide students the opportunity to pursue robust coursework that combines design, production and critical communication skills. These courses take place within a collaborative, creative, interdisciplinary framework that prepares students to communicate their ideas and opinions in an increasingly complex technological society.

---

**Computer Science Discovery** introduces students to multiple facets of computer science, including coding and programming, data analysis and problem solving, web development, interactive games and animations, and the design thinking process.

**Design Thinking** introduces students to the design thinking process through a course of hands-on, project-based learning. Students apply these skills to a variety of real-world problems, including projects developed for local, state and national design thinking competitions.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSES
CHAIR: Amy Robb

The English department is dedicated to fostering an appreciation of literature while developing self-driven critical thinkers, readers, writers and speakers through a challenging, student-centered curriculum. The goal of the English Department is to develop students as critical readers, writers and thinkers who will be lifelong learners. Through a novels-based curriculum, students learn to respond to literature, build a broad vocabulary, speak with confidence, and write clear, insightful essays, reports, stories and poems.

English 6 is all about the power of stories. With each book, students read, discuss, weigh their understanding, and develop their own meaning. Reader response journals, directed essays, papers, tests and projects are used to demonstrate and measure student progress as analytical readers and thinkers. Book genres read include short stories, realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy/science fiction, non-fiction, plays and poetry. Language skills such as spelling, vocabulary and grammar are developed through a reading and writing workshop approach and an individualized program of vocabulary development.

English 7 focuses on literary appreciation and analysis, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. Examination and analysis of novels from the full range of literary genres—including non-fiction, autobiography, historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy/science fiction, adventure/survival fiction and graphic novels—are the center of classroom discussion, the focus of writing assignments, and the source for grammar instruction. The course also includes an individualized program of vocabulary development.
English 8 incorporates the study of reading, writing, language and vocabulary through the study of literature. Students explore many types of literature including plays, short stories, novels and poetry. Students are encouraged to make connections between literature and their own lives through class discussions, journals, essays, and a variety of interactive projects and learning activities, including an individualized program of vocabulary development.

**HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT COURSES**

**CHAIR: Jon Hall**

The physical education program supports students in reaching their highest potential for health, vitality and wellness and empowers them to sustain regular, lifelong physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life.

**Middle School Physical Education 6/7/8** is a full-year course taken each year. It is designed so all students will gain a greater understanding of physical fitness, while concentrating on their own personal fitness goals. Throughout the year students will be introduced to a variety of fitness, recreation, individual, and team sport activities and games. Students will also be introduced to leadership techniques and practices and have the opportunity to lead the class in a specific game and/or activity.

**Middle School Health 6/7/8** is a full year complement to the physical education program.

- In the **sixth grade**, course topics include self-esteem; difficult feelings; friendships; nutrition; disease prevention; alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues; and human growth and development.
- In the **seventh-grade**, students study health topics including health and wellness, decision-making, self-esteem, the different body systems and different diseases.
- In the **eighth-grade**, students study conflict management, preventing abuse and violence, infectious and non-infectious diseases, consumer health, and health and the environment.
The mission of the fine and performing arts department is to discover, encourage, inspire and showcase each student’s unique talents. The program seeks to nurture and celebrate each student’s diverse gifts through engaging, innovative instruction that enhances the understanding and appreciation of art, music and theater as they relate to the student, the school and the world at large.
Art 6/7/8 is an overview of the processes and terminology of various types of art. Students will explore several basic areas of art, art criticism and evaluation and art history. The principles and elements of design will be introduced and will guide students in producing various pieces of artwork while exploring multiple media.

Band 6/7/8 offers a unique training and performing environment for young band students. The band is carefully trained in the basics of playing and reading music starting at a level of difficulty comfortable for the ensemble at the beginning of each year. The band performs throughout the year at several school and community events. The band is open to those students who are experienced musicians, as well as those with little to no experience.

Chorus 6/7/8 reinforces basic musicianship skills in vocal production and provides an opportunity for creative self-expression through public performances both in the school and the community.

Strings 6/7/8 focuses on improving students' skills with the violin, viola, cello and bass and the students' ability to play with a group. Beginners as well as advanced students are welcome, and all levels are accommodated.
Mathematics Department Courses
Chair: Rebecca Zborowski

The mission of the math department is to educate a diverse body of students to the highest level that they can individually achieve. Challenging courses are offered at all levels of mathematics to ensure graduates will be able to seamlessly move into their studies in college. Math teachers use a variety of teaching methods, including the traditional mathematics teachings of Newton and Einstein, along with new and innovative methods in a collaborative and supportive environment. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students complete full-year courses in math that develop the ability to reason and think clearly.

Math 6 focuses on the transition from concrete math to more abstract concepts. The Math 6 curriculum reinforces the skills of long division, fractions, estimation, and problem solving. Students are expected to compute and estimate accurately with fractions and mixed numbers using all operations. They are introduced to proportion, percentages, ratios, exponents, and algebraic equations with whole numbers and decimals. Students continue to explore both the standard and metric measurement systems, the properties of whole numbers and decimals, and plane geometry. Specific attention is given throughout the course to the skills needed for pre-algebra and Algebra I.

Pre-algebra briefly reviews the basic components and skills of general math such as computation, whole numbers, decimals, fractions, negative numbers and inequalities. These skills are applied to percentages, measurement, geometry, statistics, and probability in real world settings. After completing work on those concepts, specific attention is given to algebra skills needed before entering Algebra I.
Algebra IA and IB cover all fundamental concepts of algebra found in the full-year Algebra I course but spread over two years to allow deeper understanding of each topic. The course includes a review of the use of variables and basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as introducing equations and inequalities, linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential functions, and multiplying and factoring polynomial expressions. The TI-84 series graphing calculator is used in the presentation of functions, linear equations, quadratic equations and inequalities.

Algebra I covers all fundamental concepts of algebra including a review of the use of variables and basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as equations and inequalities, linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential functions, and multiplying and factoring polynomial expressions. The TI-84 series graphing calculator is used in the presentation of functions, linear equations, quadratic equations and inequalities.

Geometry builds on basic algebraic skills to further develop and examine geometric concepts through models and coordinate geometry. Hands-on activities and formal proof methods are used to enhance the understanding of two- and three-dimensional reasoning and problem solving skills. The TI-84 series graphing calculator is used to model basic theorems involving polygons and solid figures and in the introduction and application of trigonometric functions.
MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT COURSES

CHAIR: Shannon Bartel

The modern and classical languages department encourages students to explore the languages and cultures of the world as a global community. Its mission is to nurture students’ innate sense of curiosity about humankind and to enlighten students regarding the importance of communication in foreign languages. Students will acquire a working knowledge of the history and foundation of these languages to better understand word origins, grammar and mechanics.

Latin 6 is an introduction to the Latin language and a bridge to further foreign language study. As an introduction to Latin grammar and syntax, the course will strengthen students’ ability to analyze and recognize similar structures in other languages. The course will survey elements of Greco-Roman vocabulary and the influence of these languages on English academic vocabulary. The course will also provide an introduction to classical mythology, Roman history, and the Western traditions passed on to us from Rome.

French IA/IB students begin building a range of expression for both oral and written communication at the novice level over the course of two years to allow for deeper understanding and increased practice with spoken language. Along with emphasis on reading, listening, comprehension, writing and speaking French, there is a beginning study of the basic grammatical structure of the language. The student’s knowledge of various French-speaking countries and their culture is expanded through class discussions and a variety of authentic materials.

Spanish IA/IB students begin building oral and written communication skills over the course of two years to allow for deeper understanding and increased practice with spoken language. Approximately sixty to eighty words or expressions per chapter are introduced and stressed. Vocabulary is applied and practiced together with one to two grammatical concepts per chapter. Computer-based vocabulary practice and oral exercises promote comprehension and initiate speaking practice. Written practice is provided through textbook activities, workbook activities and original dialogues. Written and oral assignments supplement the cultural content that is introduced via a variety of online resources.
**Chinese I** is designed to introduce students to the Mandarin language and Chinese customs and culture. Throughout the year students will develop basic listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities in Mandarin Chinese. A majority of class time will be devoted to listening and speaking while also providing time for students to practice writing radicals, the building blocks of Chinese characters, and the characters themselves.

**French I** students will begin building a range of expression for both oral and written communication at the novice level. Along with emphasis on reading, listening, comprehension, writing and speaking French, there is a beginning study of the basic grammatical structure of the language. The student’s knowledge of various French-speaking countries and their culture is expanded through class discussions and a variety of authentic materials.

**Latin I** emphasizes vocabulary, word families, translation of Latin into English, comparative grammar and classical mythology. By year’s end, the student will be able to translate Latin texts of reasonable complexity. Some Roman legends and basic Roman history of the monarchy and the Republic also will be covered. Classical mythology units cover basic myths and mythic cycles of the Greeks and Romans. Cultural data will include clothing, food, housing, transportation, games and pastimes, Roman geography and the Western traditions passed to us from Rome.

**Spanish I** introduces new vocabulary within contexts related to the students’ interests and activities. Approximately sixty to eighty words or expressions per chapter are introduced and stressed. Vocabulary is applied and practiced within one to two grammatical concepts per chapter. Computer-based vocabulary practice and oral exercises promote comprehension and initiate speaking practice. Written practice is provided through textbook activities, workbook activities and original dialogues. Written and oral assignments supplement the cultural content that is introduced via live-streaming.
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT COURSES
CHAIR: Alan Stell

The mission of the science department is to produce graduates scientifically literate students who are confident, independent thinkers capable of participating in and leading local and global scientific communities. Students develop an understanding of and passion for science through a variety of science courses across the scientific disciplines that meet the educational needs of all students. Students become analytical thinkers as they perform increasingly more challenging laboratory experiments designed to prepare them for college. The aim of middle school science is to build upon the inquisitive nature of the students developed in the lower school while beginning to formalize the curriculum in preparation for upper level classes. Students and teachers work together in class and laboratory investigations that include inquiry and develop both critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Science 6—Earth Science begins with a look at the formation of the universe. Students explore the solar system, the effects of the sun and the moon on the Earth, and changes in the planet due to natural occurrences. Students study the Earth by exploring a range of topics including the theory of plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, and the Earth’s surfaces. They end the year studying the atmosphere, weather patterns and climate. Students develop organizational and study skills and improve note-taking ability. Hands-on exploration through labs and projects provides a concrete experience for the students. Interdisciplinary lessons with the Geography and Language Arts classes reinforce students’ understanding of geographic phenomenon.

Science 7—Life Science is the study of living things and how they interact. The class begins with a study of cells, which includes an introduction to biotechnology, genetics, and current topics such as DNA, stem cells, and cloning. After a study of the human body the class investigates other life on earth through a survey of the kingdoms, with expanded studies in the plant and animal kingdoms. Frequent hands-on laboratory investigations sharpen the critical thinking and lab skills begun in the sixth grade.
Science 8—Physical Science covers two main topics: physics and chemistry. Students study chemistry during the first semester and physics the second semester. Students study atomic structure and the role protons, neutrons, and electrons have on an element’s chemical properties. Students do not memorize the periodic table; however they become familiar with element placement in the table and how and why it became organized in its present day form. Physics is a hands-on science and students will study motion and forces, energy and work, magnetism, electricity, and waves and will apply this knowledge to every day events in their lives. Students will use their algebraic skills to solve for unknown variables such as speed, velocity, force, and work.
The social studies department strives to teach students how to think, not what to think, as we prepare students for the responsibilities of citizenship. By helping students draw connections between the content and their world, we foster greater global awareness and literacy. Not only do we teach skills such as critical thinking, historical analysis and writing, but also we endeavor to show and engender a sincere enthusiasm for learning. Young students of history look for encouragement and support as they explore and come to understand the world. The faculty at Norfolk Collegiate strives to support such exploration by developing and reinforcing the skills necessary to understand the complex drama of history. Through a progressive interdisciplinary approach, our students develop increased awareness of the major civilizations of the world.

Geography 6 encompasses the culture and geography of North America, Central America and the Caribbean countries, South America, the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, including India and the Himalayan countries. Basic geography skills are reinforced as students learn to interpret maps, graphs, charts, and other geographic representations. The five themes of geography; location, place, human/environmental interaction, movement and region are examined. Students study how people live on earth (settlement patterns) and how people use the earth to satisfy basic needs (e.g. resources, economic development.) They contrast how people live from one place or region to another. Physical and cultural processes such as climate, erosion, flooding, human migration, urbanization, transportation and trade are also studied.

Another aspect of the Geography class involves a student’s understanding of current events. Students present a current event from varied sources of information that relates to geographic or cultural events each week and learn to form opinions about news events.
Geography 7 focuses on the geography of the European countries, Russia, regions of Asia and the interdependence of the entire global community. Economic systems, political structures, and international cooperation and conflict are examined both historically and in today’s current events. Continued development of map skills, chart and graph interpretations, and critical thinking and writing and oral presentations are an integral part of the program.

In addition to academics, citizenship is stressed. This includes the opportunity to accept responsibility for the common good and concern for others while striving for excellence.

History 8 is a survey study of American History from the French and Indian War to the Korean and Vietnamese wars. The focus is on major events and themes throughout each time period. Class activities include simulations, projects, research papers, essays and primary source analyses.