

Kilmer Middle School

Rising 7th Grade Information Session

January 22, 2025

Agenda

- Introductions
- General Information
- Middle School Course Options
- Curriculum Resources
- Course Registration
- Transition Activities

Kilmer Administrative Team



Steven McFarlane
Principal



Sarah Groh
Director
Student Services



Erin Kestler
Assistant Principal



Melissa Smith
Assistant Principal



Emily Castro
Assistant Principal

Kilmer School Counselors



Cara Engel
7th Grade
A-K



Brian Sirdofsky
7th Grade
L-Z



Kara Prokopius
8th Grade
A-K



Kristen Reighard
8th Grade
L-Z



Monica Schmitt
Resource
Counselor

Kilmer PTA



The image shows a screenshot of the Kilmer Middle School PTA website. At the top left is a Facebook icon, and at the top right are the links "LOGIN | HOME". The main header features the text "KILMER MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA" in large, white, outlined letters, with the school's logo in the center. The logo is circular with "KILMER MIDDLE SCHOOL" around the top, "EST. 1967" on a banner across the middle, and "DARE TO EXCEL" around the bottom. Below the header is a navigation bar with the following items: Home, Your PTA, Newsletters, New Families, Events, Programs, Directory, and My Account. Below the navigation bar is a row of buttons: "Join PTA" (with a PTA logo), "School Website" (with a paw print icon), "Block Schedule" (with a grid icon), "Bell Schedule" (with an alarm clock icon), and "Menu" (with an apple icon). At the bottom are three dark blue buttons: "PTA News", "Student Nights Out", and "Food Pantry".

<https://kilmerpta.membershiptoolkit.com/login-form?r=%2Fform%2Fm%2F293901>

The Marshall Pyramid: Educational Excellence, Culture of Belonging



The Marshall Pyramid principals are committed to cultivating a culture of belonging in which all students are valued and their strengths and interests are developed to achieve academic excellence. We model what we ask our staff and students to do with each other as principals.

- ***We collaborate and problem solve.***
- ***We focus on creating trusting partnerships.***
- ***We make connections and build relationships.***

Each school in the Marshall Pyramid is actively committed to building a pre-K through 12th grade framework for our students that embodies a culture of belonging and educational excellence.

Our Goals this Evening

- Introduction to Kilmer Middle School
- Increase knowledge of middle school course options for the 2025-2026 school year
- Provide resources and activities to support the 7th grade course selection process
- Facilitate a smooth transition from elementary to middle school

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General Information

- Block Scheduling - Green and Blue days
- 8 teachers
- Elective courses
- After school activities
- HPE uniforms (optional)
- Open access to honors courses
- Increased workload & expectations
- More independence
- Opportunities to meet new people
- Recess

KMS Bell Schedule

ANCHOR DAY	GREEN DAY	BLUE DAY
Period 1 7:30 - 8:15	Period 1 7:30 - 8:55	Period 2 7:30 - 8:55
Period 2 8:20 - 9:02		
Period 3 9:07 - 9:49	Period 3 and Recess 9:00 - 10:40	Period 4 and Recess 9:00 - 10:40
Period 4 9:54 - 10:36	1st Recess 9:00 - 9:15 2nd Recess 10:20 - 10:35	1st Recess 9:00 - 9:15 2nd Recess 10:20 - 10:35
Period 5 and Lunch 10:41 - 12:41 *See Schedule Below	Period 5 and Lunch 10:45 - 12:45 *See Schedule Below	Period 6 and Lunch 10:45 - 12:45 *See Schedule Below
Period 6 12:46 - 1:28	Period 7 12:50 - 2:15	Period 8 12:50 - 1:31
Period 7 1:33 - 2:15		Period 9 1:34 - 2:15

Advisory & Learning Seminar

- Responsive Advisory Meetings
 - Once a week on Anchor Days
 - Lessons aligned with:
 - Academic and Career Planning
 - Social Emotional Learning Lessons
 - Academic Habits
- Extended time for Learning
 - Targeted Interventions
 - Access to teachers, library
 - Assignment completion
 - Retake assessments
 - School-wide testing

Kilmer Middle School

- 2025-2026 School Year
 - **613** seventh grade students
 - Coming from **17** elementary schools
 - Total enrollment **1203** students

Interdisciplinary Teams

- Smaller learning community in a big school
- 4 teams in each grade level
 - Starbursts, Supernovas, Comets, Sirius
- 150 students
- Classes generally close in proximity
- Students are placed on a team based on their course requests
- Two School Counselors & Grade Level Assistant Principal support each team

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Middle School Courses

- Required
 - Math
 - English
 - Life Science
 - US History
 - Health and PE
- 2-4 Electives
 - Year long and/or Semester

Core Academic Classes

- General Education
- Honors
- Advanced Academic Level IV Program

Two **Goals** of the Advanced Academic Programs

FCPS AAP strives to develop the talents of all students and provide challenge through:

- **Talent development**
- **Differentiation** to meet the needs of **advanced learners**.

Advanced Academic Services: Kilmer Middle School

Honors AAP Classes

Full-Time AAP Classes

Honors Classes

(in all 26 middle schools)

Open Access
to Honors
courses-
available in
four core
subjects

Students
select Honors
in
1, 2, 3, or 4
core classes

Students learn
with others
who also
selected
advanced
courses

Teachers
differentiate
to meet
students'
academic
needs

Teachers
participate
in **AAP**
**Professional
Learning**

Students eligible for full-time AAP services may choose to stay at their base school and take Honors courses.

Full-Time AAP Center

(14 of 26 middle schools are designated centers)

Students are found eligible through a **central screening process**

Students access advanced curriculum for **4 core subjects**

(mathematics placement is based on readiness)

Students are in classes with other eligible students--**academic peer group**

(mathematics class may be a mix)

Teachers **differentiate** to meet students' academic needs

Teachers participate in **AAP Professional Learning**

Honors Classes

- Open enrollment: students and families self-select classes in areas of strength or interest
- Increased depth and complexity in specific subject areas
- Students learn with other students who have chosen to be challenged academically in that subject area
- Students may enroll in 1, 2, 3, or 4 Honors courses
- Offered in all middle schools

Full-Time AAP Services

- Students are found eligible through central screening process
- Increased depth, complexity, and pace in all subjects
- Students identified as having high intellectual ability are clustered in classes with peers
- Students are in advanced classes for all 4 core subject areas (math class is based on readiness)
- 14 schools are designated as centers

Questions about AAP or Honors at Kilmer?

Corey Thornblad, Kilmer MS

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher

ctthornblad@fcps.edu

703-846-8862

Additional Services

- ESOL
 - Continuum of services to support Multilingual students English Language Development
- Special Education
 - Students receive services in a variety of classroom settings based on their Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Math Course Options

Mathematics 7
7th grade standards

Mathematics 7 Honors

Pre-Algebra (Math 8 standards) + extensions

(Open access)

Algebra I Honors
criteria:

- Advanced Math in 6th grade,
- 500+ on 7th grade SOL, and
- 91st percentile on Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test

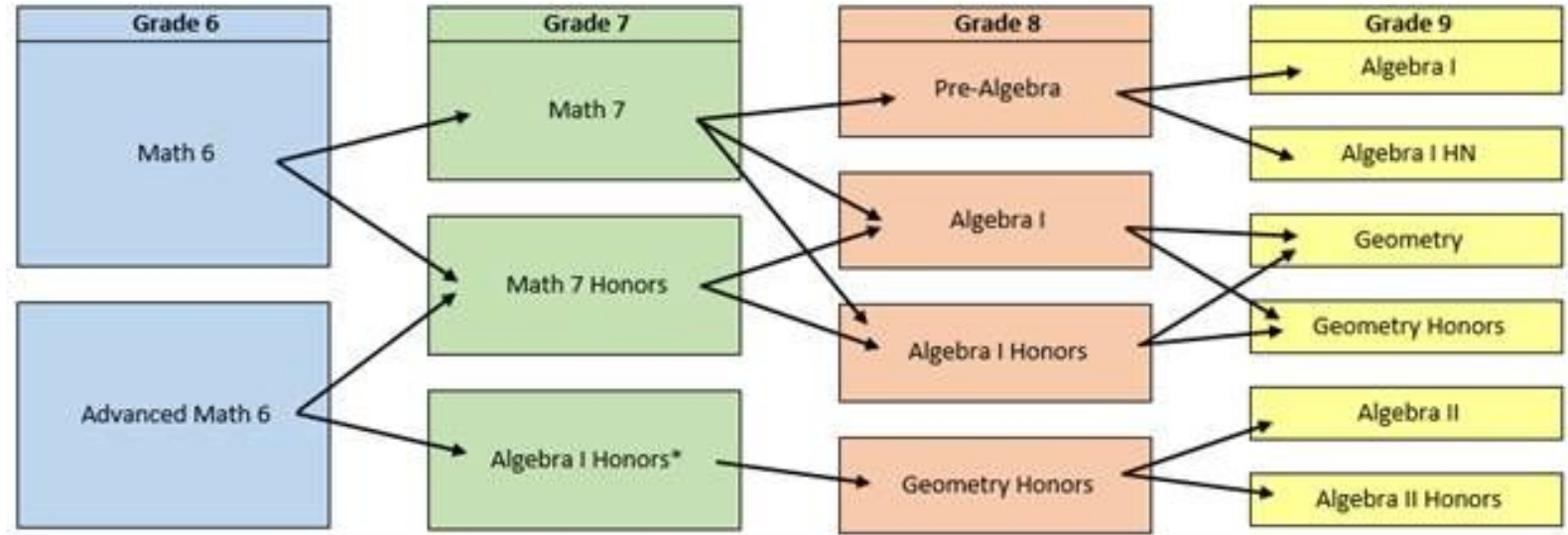
(Algebra I is a high school credit course.)

Math Course Options

- **Math 7** - a curriculum which considers the foundations of Algebra and emphasizes the concept of and operations with rational numbers. The content covers the Math 7 SOLs.
- **Math 7 Honors** - A more rigorous approach to a pre-algebra curriculum with an emphasis on problem solving. It is correlated to the 8th grade Math SOLs, but contains extensions and enrichment opportunities. Best prepares students for Algebra I Honors or Algebra 1 in grade 8.
- **Algebra I Honors** - A fast-paced approach to Algebra I, a high school credit course, which includes many extensions to the Algebra I SOLs.

Math Course Sequence

Mathematics Course Sequence



Optional Information Session 5:15-5:45 and 6:00-6:30 at our Open House, January 23

Academic Support

- We offer academic support classes focused on reading and math.
- These courses are included in a student's schedule in place of a semester or year long elective.
- Parents are notified over the summer if their child has been identified to receive additional academic support.
- Students are considered for placement at the start of the school year and again at the beginning of the second semester.

Electives Options

Year Long Electives:

- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- Spanish 1, Part A
- French 1, Part A

Semester Elective:

- Computer Solutions
- Coding 1
- Family & Consumer Science 1
- Art Foundations
- Computers in Art
- Theatre Arts Appreciation
- Technical Theatre
- Engineering 1
- Engineering 2

World Language Pathways

Option 1

7th Grade
Level 1, Part A
Year long Elective



8th Grade
Level 1, Part B
Year long Elective



1 High School Credit

Option 2

8th grade
Level 1 (Part A&B)
Year long Elective



1 High School Credit

Planning Ahead:

Marshall HS IB Program

- Students have the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma in addition to a standard or advanced high school diploma.
- IB courses provide increased exposure to academic rigor, fostering college readiness and success.
- To maximize their options in high school, middle school students should aim to complete Algebra 1, their first world language course, and at least one honors course by the end of eighth grade.

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Rising 7th Grade Open House

Tomorrow, January 23 from 5-7 pm

- Families are welcome to attend anytime during the two-hour timeframe to:
 - Speak with content area teachers
 - Attend information sessions
 - Tour Kilmer Middle School

Curriculum Resources

Visit the [Course Registration](#) page on the Kilmer website to explore:

- Course Catalogs
- Course Videos
- Registration Timeline

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Course Registration Process



Curriculum
Night Open
House

Tomorrow, Jan. 23
from 5:00-7:00 pm



Kilmer
Counselors
Meet with
6th Grade
Students

Elementary
School Visits
Feb 3-12



Course
Registration
in SIS
StudentVue

Course Selection
for 7th Grade

Before Selecting Courses:

- Join us for our Rising 7th Grade Open House tomorrow evening from 5–7 PM!
- Following the open house, parents will receive an email with links to our curriculum website, course catalog, and a list of seventh grade course options.
- We encourage families to seek feedback from 6th grade teachers to help select courses that align with each student's academic strengths and abilities.

Which course is best for you?

Consider the following questions when deciding whether to take an honors course:

- Which subjects are you doing well in this school year?
- Are you willing to put in the effort to strengthen your skills and to prepare for an honors course next year?
- Which subject do you enjoy the most?
- How will the courses you select support your goals for both middle school and high school?"

Selecting Courses

StudentVUE

- Kilmer school counselors and 6th grade teachers will guide students through the course selection process in SIS StudentVUE.
- Students will use the list of 7th grade courses as a reference when entering their choices in StudentVUE.
- Students will rank their top elective preferences from 1 to 6.
- Students are encouraged to select courses that align with their academic strengths, interests, and abilities

After Selecting Courses

- Student course requests will be viewable in SIS StudentVUE and SIS ParentVUE.
- If you have questions about your child's course requests after March 1, please reach out to a Kilmer school counselor.
- The deadline for course request changes is June 1.
- Students who qualify for Algebra 1 HN will receive notification in July.
- Final student schedules will be available in SIS StudentVUE and ParentVUE on the Thursday before the start of the school year.

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Transition Activities

- Spring 6th Grade tours
- Shifting Gears - early August
 - Half day transition program offered multiple dates in the same week
- Start of School Open House
 - The week before school starts

Want a Sneak Peek of Kilmer?

Visit our website and
sign-up for Kilmer's NYC

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/vaedufcps/subscriber/new>

Kilmer Middle School



A message from Principal Steven McFarlane



Kilmer Community,

This week I was reminded of how middle school students meet expectations when we clearly define the standard, support them along the way, and hold them accountable. A few weeks ago, we began implementing Tardy Sweeps (unannounced) to ensure our students get to class on time and ready to learn. I'm happy to report that most of our Tardy Sweeps (again, these are unannounced) result in ZERO students being tardy. In a school of 1,200 students, this is a great accomplishment. I'm proud of our students and their commitment to doing the right thing, and being ready to learn!

This past Tuesday, members of FCPS's Senior Leadership Team came to Kilmer to conduct Instructional Rounds. Senior Leadership is visiting schools throughout the county this year to align themselves around instructional practices. We were excited to be selected as one of the host schools. The Leadership Team was excited to see Kilmer teachers and students in action as they visited a total of sixteen classrooms across both grade levels.

Session Recording

The link to the recording will be available on the Course Registration page as soon as this presentation has ended.



Course Registration Timeline

Rising 7th Grade Students (Current Sixth Graders)

Students and parents are encouraged to attend our two curriculum events to learn about Kilmer Middle School and the curricular options for the 2024- 2025 school year.

Contact Information

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