



FREEDOM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Grades 5-6

840 Glass Lane

Franklin, Tennessee 37064

615-790-4718

www.freedomintermediate.fssd.org

@fssdfis

freedomintermediate

@fssdfis



FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7-8

750 New Highway 96 West

Franklin, Tennessee 37064

615-794-0987

www.freedommiddle.fssd.org

@fssdfms

freedommiddlestars

@fssdfms



POPLAR GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 5-8

2959 Del Rio Pike

Franklin, Tennessee 37069

615-790-4721

www.poplargrovemiddle.fssd.org

@fssdpgms

poplargrovemiddle



FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence in Teaching
and Learning for All*

CENTRAL OFFICE

507 New Highway 96 West

Franklin, Tennessee 37064

615-794-6624

www.fssd.org

@franklinspecial

FranklinSSD



FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence in Teaching
and Learning for All*

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS GUIDE

FREEDOM INTERMEDIATE

FREEDOM MIDDLE

POPLAR GROVE MIDDLE

8 Great Reasons to Check Us Out!



SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!



Freedom Middle
 615-794-0987

The Franklin Special School District invites you to make an appointment today to receive a personalized tour of your child's zoned school.

The FSSD has spent over a century providing exceptional approaches to instruction with a whole child mindset. We believe our children deserve the best instruction available. We also believe that access to fine arts, physical education, and a whole-school focus on social-emotional health and mental wellbeing are just as important.

Call today to make your appointment and let us show you why our schools are among the highest-scoring and most respected in the state!



Freedom Intermediate
 615-790-4718



Franklin Elementary
 615-794-1187



Moore Elementary
 615-790-4700



Johnson Elementary
 615-794-4837



Poplar Grove Elementary
 615-790-4720



Poplar Grove Middle
 615-790-4721



Liberty Elementary
 615-790-0892



PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the FSSD's mission, the middle schools seek to:

- Develop a community of learners that emphasizes academics along with kindness, encouragement, caring, and compassion.
- Provide a comprehensive array of instructional programs and experiences for students that focus on all essential areas of education and adolescent development.
- Encourage collaboration and shared decision making involving students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and community members.
- Emphasize continuous improvement and a constant search for better ways of educating students.

BELIEFS

The Franklin Special School District holds the following beliefs:

- An excellent teaching and learning environment where success is celebrated is essential.
- Learning thrives in an environment where differing viewpoints are respected.
- Everyone can learn when instruction is differentiated to meet individual needs.
- Every individual is valued and respected.
- Parents must be actively engaged in the education of their children.
- Challenging fine arts curricula and strong physical education programs are necessary to enhance the whole learner.
- Curricula should be rigorous and relevant to real life.
- Lifelong learning is inspired by creating an atmosphere of curiosity.
- Parental and community involvement is essential to successful schools.
- Great schools are central to strong communities!

The Franklin Special School District Middle School Course Offerings Guide

describes the programs, courses, and activities that are available in grades 5-8. This guide serves as a resource to inform students and parents of the grade level content and opportunities available in the FSSD middle schools.

All courses are aligned with the Tennessee Academic Standards and taught in accordance with locally developed pacing guides, which assists FSSD teachers in planning instruction and ensuring specific content is addressed with consistency across the district. The Middle School Course Offerings Guide encompasses information on academic courses and programs. The Middle School Handbook, which is distributed at the start of the school year, provides more detailed information about the day-to-day operation of the school. Information about each school is available on the school websites under the Students and Families tab or on the individual school sites. Questions should be directed to the individual school.

ACCELERATED LEARNING

The FSSD recognizes the unique needs of both accelerated learners and students who meet the Tennessee eligibility standards for intellectually gifted. Delivery of instruction is based on the needs of our learners. An accelerated learning specialist in each school works with students and/or consults with classroom teachers to differentiate instruction for advanced learners.

INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED

According to the state of Tennessee, “Intellectually Gifted” describes a child whose intellectual abilities and potential for achievement are so outstanding that the general curriculum alone is inadequate to appropriately meet the student’s educational needs. If a parent or teacher makes a formal request for gifted eligibility testing, the school will schedule a review meeting. When appropriate, the process to gather and review data will be initiated. Decisions regarding assessment of giftedness are based on documented data.

HONORS PROGRAM

The FSSD is committed to delivering instructional programs with a deliberate focus on meeting student needs with personalized instructional experiences. Students who meet the qualifying criteria may choose to participate in the FSSD Honors Program, which offers a general education honors curriculum with content delivered at a faster pace for students who thrive with that extra challenge. Beginning in the 5th grade, the Honors Program offers more rigorous and

complex instruction that emphasizes in-depth study, analytical thinking, and creative problem solving. Qualifying students may participate in Honors classes in English/ language arts, math, science, as well as high school credit courses.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

Algebra I, Geometry, Computer Science Foundations, and World Languages are offered to middle school students for high school units of credit. In order to qualify for enrollment in these classes, students must meet the qualifying criteria. Students who maintain a passing grade, and complete the final assessment specific to each course, receive high school credit granted by Williamson County Schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) PROGRAM

The English Language Learner (ELL) program supports students from non-English language backgrounds by equipping them with reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to productively engage with peers in the general education setting. Teachers tailor academic programs to meet the individual learning needs of each student based on their English proficiency level. English language services are provided through a variety of methods: pullout programs, scheduled ELL classes, inclusion support and other service models using a variety of developmentally appropriate instructional resources.

SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

The school counseling program is an integral part of the total school environment. Licensed school counselors guide the counseling programs at each campus with the support of teachers and administrators. FSSD school counselors have expertise in addressing issues that may present obstacles to overall well-being; thereby, helping students to achieve academic and personal success. Career Exploration is incorporated into the middle level counseling program. The school counseling learning objectives are aligned with the National School Counselor Standards and are delivered in concert with the school’s curriculum, facilitated by school counselors in collaboration with classroom teachers in both large and small group format.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

The FSSD is committed to the academic, physical and social-emotional development of ALL students. One of the foremost advances in education research is the effectiveness of positive behavior support programs, school-wide systems of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. Based on training provided by Vanderbilt University and the Tennessee Department of Education, all FSSD schools incorporate a positive behavior support program as part of their overall approach to school climate and discipline.



LIBRARIES

The FSSD library media centers support the curriculum and instruction of Tennessee Academic Standards, provide students and staff with the necessary skills to become information literate, and encourage reading for pleasure, academic research, and information. The library media specialists ensure student access to a variety of age-appropriate resources including books, periodicals, videos and online resources, and supervise the responsible use of these materials by students. Library media specialists collaborate with teachers to attain curricular goals and to ensure lessons are applicable to standards taught in the classroom. Special programs like the Volunteer State Book Awards and the Battle of the Books offer students the opportunity to extend classroom requirements and achieve increased reading proficiency.

RTI2

The RTI2 framework is a multi-tiered model of instruction and interventions supporting students academically and behaviorally at all tiers. All students are screened three times each year in order to make the best instructional decisions. Along with high quality core instruction, specific time is set aside for students to receive interventions and enrichment based on need determined by screening results. For most students, these interventions are sufficient in helping them make progress. For some students, more intensive interventions or special education referrals may be necessary. Use of the RTI2 process helps students receive prompt intervention, support and enrichment within the general education environment.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A continuum of special education services is available for students with disabilities at the middle school level. Programs offered in middle schools within the FSSD include services for all federal and state defined disabilities as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The special education program is comprehensive and strives to meet the academic, behavioral, social, physical and adaptive needs of each students it serves. Options include a range of services that are determined by the Individual Education Program (IEP) team. Related services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language therapy. FSSD provides a “free and appropriate public education” (FAPE) to all students in the least restrictive educational setting that best meets each student’s needs. Questions related to special education procedures or services may be directed to the school principal or the special populations supervisor.

SERVICE LEARNING

Throughout the year, FSSD middle schools provide many opportunities for students to participate in service learning, a form of project-based learning in which academic goals are accomplished through community service events. Service learning is a powerful approach to teaching that furnishes students with authentic learning experiences in which they learn academic content in a real-world context. This approach helps to develop citizenship, responsibility, and many other positive character virtues.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

FSSD middle schools offer a rich fine arts program, showcased through the district-wide, state-of-the-art FSSD Performing Arts Center, as well as two school-based theater facilities outfitted with professional quality sound and lighting. Students are provided opportunities to participate in visual and performing arts, band, orchestra, strings, drama and chorus via major drama productions, musical concerts, performance contests, art exhibitions, and special events hosted by the city of Franklin, such as the Christmas Tree Lighting, Veterans Day Parade, Rodeo Parade and the Christmas Parade.

ATHLETICS

Middle school students participate in varsity and junior varsity sports in grades 6-8. Based on the sport and size of the school, the teams participate in either the Williamson Middle Athletic Association or the Harpeth Valley Athletic Conference. Current sports programs include:
Baseball • Basketball • Cross Country
Cheerleading/Competition Cheerleading
Football • Golf • Soccer • Softball • Tennis • Track • Volleyball • Wrestling



TECHNOLOGY

All students in grades 5 – 8 have 1:1 laptop access, enabling students to use district-owned devices to facilitate their access of online content and research opportunities. All devices have software installed to ensure that students are not able to visit inappropriate sites and to monitor key words that could indicate a health or safety concern.



5TH

GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

HUMANITIES:

READING & LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing: Opinion, Narrative, Informative, Explanatory
Reading: Literary and Informational Texts
Stories
Drama
Poetry
Standard English Language Conventions
Oral Presentations
Written Reports
Novels
Library Media Skills
Foundational Literacy Skills
Vocabulary Acquisition

HUMANITIES: SOCIAL STUDIES

Research and Critical Thinking Skills
Writing for History
Geographic Tools
Primary and Secondary Sources
History of the U.S. from Industrialization to the Civil Rights: Industrial America and Westward Expansion, Gilded Age, Progressive Era, World War I, Roaring Twenties, World War II, Post World War II, Civil Rights Movement, Tennessee History

SCIENCE

Physical Science: Matter and Its Interactions, Motion and Stability, Forces and Interactions
Life Science: From Molecules to Organisms – Structure and Process; Heredity, Inheritance and Variation of Traits; Biological Change, Unity and Diversity
Earth and Space Sciences: Earth's Place in the Universe
Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science: Engineering Design, Links Among Engineering, Technology, Science and Society

MATH

Number and Operations
Number and Operations in Fractions
Operations in Algebraic Thinking
Geometry, Measurement and Data
Problem Solving

RELATED ARTS

Exploratory French
Computer Science
Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM)
Physical Education
Art
Band
Orff Orchestra
Orchestra/Strings
Chorus

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship
Google Workspace for Education
Digital Literacy
Online Research
Video/Multimedia Experiences
Coding
Keyboarding

CO-CURRICULAR FIELD TRIPS

Nashville Walking History Tour
Literature-Aligned Trips/Events

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Competition Team
Art Club

Art Exhibits
Band
Battle of the Books
Best Buddies
Book Buddies
Comic Book Team
Choir/Honors Choir
Dance Team
Drama/Theater
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Film Club
Freedom Friends
Green Team Environmental Club
Lacrosse Club
Math Olympiad
Mini Mu Math Contest
National Junior Beta Club
National Junior Honor Society
Orchestra/Strings
Photography Club
Principal Advisory Council
Student Council
Tutoring
Walking Club
Running Club
Yearbook Club

** Extracurricular activities, co-curricular field trips, and related arts courses may vary from school to school.*



6TH

GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS



HUMANITIES:

READING & LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing: Argument, Narrative, Informative/ Explanatory
Reading: Literary and Informational Texts
Standard English Conventions
Short Stories
Poetry
High Quality Contemporary Works
Oral Presentations, Research Projects, Novels
Vocabulary Acquisition

HUMANITIES: SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography
Informational Texts
Primary Sources
World History and Geography
Early Civilizations through the Fall of the Western Roman Empire
Human Origins in Africa through the Neolithic Age
Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Israel, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome

SCIENCE

Physical Science: Energy
Life Science: Ecosystems; Interactions
Energy and Dynamics; Biological Change – Unity and Diversity
Earth and Space Sciences: Earth's Systems, Earth and Human Activity
Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science: Engineering Design

MATH

Ratios and Proportional Relationships
The Number System
Statistics and Probability
Geometry
Expressions and Equations
Problem Solving

RELATED ARTS

Exploratory Spanish
Computer Science
Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM)
Physical Education
Art
Band
Orff Orchestra (FIS)
Orchestra/Strings
Chorus

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship
Google Workspace for Education
Digital Literacy
Online Research
Video/Multimedia Experiences
Coding
Keyboarding



CO-CURRICULAR FIELD TRIPS

Literature-Aligned Trips/Events
Marine Lab in Key Largo
Carter House

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Competition Team
Art Club
Art Exhibits
Band
Battle of the Books
Best Buddies
Book Buddies
Comic Book Team
Choir/Honors Choir
Dance Team
Drama/Theater
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Film Club
Freedom Friends
Green Team Environmental Club
Lacrosse Club
Math Olympiad
Mini Mu Math Contest
National Junior Beta Club
National Junior Honor Society
Orchestra/Strings
Photography Club
Principal Advisory Council
Student Council
Tutoring
Walking Club
Running Club
Yearbook Club

** Extracurricular activities, co-curricular field trips, and related arts courses may vary from school to school.*

7TH

GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS



HUMANITIES: READING & LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing: Argument, Narrative, Informative/
Explanatory
Standard English Conventions
Writing Strategies
Stories, Dramas, Poems, Novels
Independent Reading
Oral Presentations
Literary Terminology and Analysis
Critical Thinking Skills
Composition Skills
Research Skills
Library Media Skills
Non-Fiction Texts

HUMANITIES: SOCIAL STUDIES

Map and Graph Skills
Reference Skills
Critical Thinking Skills
Informational Texts
Primary and Secondary Sources
Document-Based Writing
Climate, Environment, and Resources
World History and Geography
Middle Ages to the Exploration of the Americas
East Asia (400-1500 CE)
North Africa (400-1500 CE)
West Africa (400-1500 CE)
Byzantine Empire (400-1500 CE)
Southwest Asia (400-1500 CE)
Middle Ages in Western Europe
Indigenous Civilizations of the Americas
(400 – 1500 CE)
The Age of Exploration (1400 – 1700)

SCIENCE

Physical Science: Matter and Its Interactions
Life Science: From Molecules to Organisms
– Structure and Process; Ecosystems –
Interactions, Energy and Dynamics; Heredity
– Inheritance and Variation of Traits;
Biological Change – Unity and Diversity
Earth and Space Sciences: Earth and Human
Activity
Engineering, Technology, and Applications
of Science: Links Among Engineering,
Technology, Science and Society
*Dedicated and equipped science labs for
hands-on lessons

MATH

Ratios and the Number System
Proportional Relationships
Statistics and Probability
Expressions and Equations
Geometry

ALGEBRA I

(Based on qualifying criteria)
Number and Quantities
Seeing Structure and Expressions
Algebraic Models
Functions
Linear Functions
Linear Equations and Inequalities
Rational Expressions
Geometric Sequences and Exponential
Functions
Equations
Polynomials
Graphing Quadratic Functions
Statistics and Probability

WORLD LANGUAGE

(Based on qualifying criteria)
World Language 1A:
French – reading, writing, speaking,
listening, culture, vocabulary and grammar,
language study skills
Spanish – reading, writing, speaking,
listening, culture, vocabulary and grammar,
language study skills
(1A is the first half of this course; 1B occurs
in grade 8)

RELATED ARTS

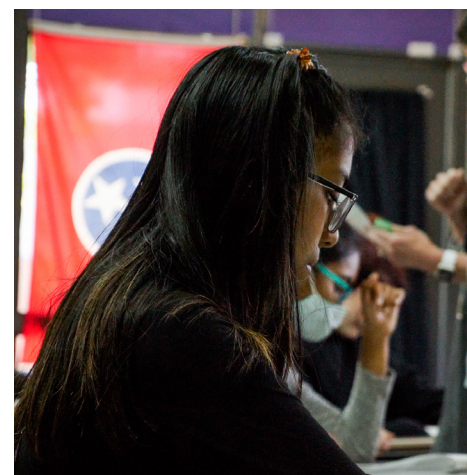
Computer
Directed Studies
Enrichment
Physical Education
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,
Math)
Art
Band
Orchestra/Strings
Chorus

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship
Google Workspace for Education
Digital Literacy
Online Research
Video/Multimedia Experiences
Coding
Keyboarding

CO-CURRICULAR FIELD TRIPS

Nashville Children's Theatre
STEM Field Trip
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Performance
Adventure Park



7TH

GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Competition Team
Art Club
Art Exhibits
Band
Battle of the Books
Best Buddies
Book Buddies
Comic Book Team
Choir/Honors Choir
Dance Team
Drama/Theater
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Film Club
Freedom Friends
Green Team Environmental Club
Lacrosse Club
Math Olympiad
Mini Mu Math Contest
National Junior Beta Club
National Junior Honor Society
Orchestra/Strings
Photography Club
Principal Advisory Council
Student Council
Tutoring
Walking Club
Running Club
Yearbook Club

** Extracurricular activities, co-curricular
field trips, and related arts courses may
vary from school to school.*



8TH GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

HUMANITIES: READING & LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing: Argument, Narrative, Informative/Explanatory
Writing Strategies
Research Projects
Standard English Language Conventions
Stories, Dramas, Poems
Literary Non-Fiction
Oral Presentations
Literary Analysis
Composition Skills for Academic Writing
Novels
Library Media Skills

HUMANITIES: SOCIAL STUDIES

Document-Based Writing
Primary and Secondary Sources
Informational Texts
United States History and Geography
Colonization of North America to Reconstruction
Colonialism
American Revolution
The Growth of the Young Nation
Sectionalism and Reform
The Jacksonian Era
Civil War and Reconstruction
Expansion and Division of the Nation

SCIENCE

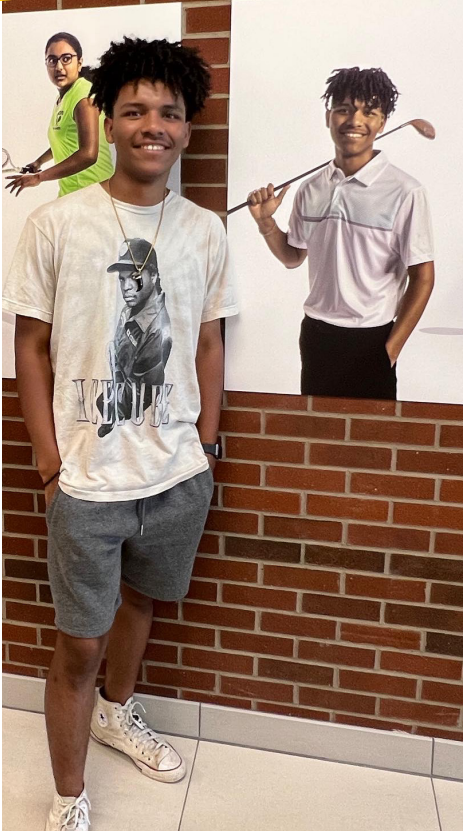
Physical Science: Motion and Stability – Forces and Interactions; Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer
Life Science: Biological Change – Unity and Diversity
Earth and Space Sciences: Earth’s Systems; Earth and Human Activity
Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science: Engineering Design
*Dedicated and equipped science labs for hands-on lessons

MATH

The Number System
Functions
Expressions and Equations
Statistics and Probability
Geometry

ALGEBRA I

(Based on qualifying criteria)
Number and Quantities
Seeing Structure and Expressions
Algebraic Models
Functions
Linear Functions
Linear Equations and Inequalities
Rational Expressions



Geometric Sequences and Exponential Functions
Equations
Polynomials
Graphing Quadratic Functions
Statistics and Probability



8TH GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS



GEOMETRY

(Based on qualifying criteria)
Expressions of Geometry’s Properties with Equations
Congruent Figures
Triangles
Similarity
Circles
Modeling and Problem Solving
Trigonometry

WORLD LANGUAGE

(Based on qualifying criteria)
World Language 1B:
French: Communication, Comprehension Skills, Advanced Readings, Passé Compose, Culture, Poetry
Spanish: Review of skills, Grammar Concepts and Vocabulary, Guided Conversations, Past and Future Tenses, Writing, Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Language, Study Skills
(1B is the second half of this course; 1A occurs in grade 7)



RELATED ARTS

Computer Science Foundations
Directed Studies
Enrichment
Physical Education
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
Art
Band
Orchestra/Strings
Chorus

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship
Google Workspace for Education
Digital Literacy
Online Research
Video/Multimedia Experiences
Coding
Keyboarding

CO-CURRICULAR FIELD TRIPS

Williamson County Water Treatment Plant
Williamson County Career Expo

Spanish Classes: Local Mexican Restaurant
Nashville Children’s Theatre
STEM Field Trip
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Performance

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Competition Team
Art Club
Art Exhibits
Band
Battle of the Books
Best Buddies
Book Buddies
Comic Book Team
Choir/Honors Choir
Dance Team
Drama/Theater
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Film Club
Freedom Friends
Green Team Environmental Club
Lacrosse Club
Math Olympiad
Mini Mu Math Contest
National Junior Beta Club
National Junior Honor Society
Orchestra/Strings
Photography Club
Principal Advisory Council
Student Council
Tutoring
Walking Club
Running Club
Yearbook Club

** Extracurricular activities, co-curricular field trips, and related arts courses may vary from school to school.*