

High School Options

Overview

Eighth-grade students are encouraged to investigate their options for high school. In addition to a broad spectrum of programs in each high school, Chesterfield County Public Schools offers students the opportunity to participate in specialty centers and governor's schools that target specific interests. Specialty centers and governor's schools are open to students from every district in Chesterfield. Dec. 1, 2008, is the deadline to apply to attend a governor's school. Dec. 5, 2008, is the deadline to apply to attend a specialty center. Go to chesterfield.k12.va.us for more information. Click on "schools," then "specialty centers."

Health Science

639-8340, ext. 8420 • Cosby High, 14300 Fox Club Parkway
Kim Raimist, specialty center coordinator

The Health Science Specialty Center focuses on preparing students for health-care opportunities at all levels. Through experiential learning and practical applications, students will explore health-care careers and participate in mentorships and internships with local health-care partners, including hospitals, community colleges, universities and other organizations and facilities. Students will pursue one of these pathways:

- for students seeking employment after high school as a certified coding specialist, home health aide, emergency medical technician or pharmacy technician
- for students interested in careers as a clinical lab technician, dental hygienist, respiratory therapist or optician
- for students planning to attend college and considering becoming a dentist, pharmacist, nurse anesthetist or physician

Humanities

378-2480, ext. 246 • Monacan High, 11501 Smoketree Drive
Clare Tilton, specialty center coordinator

The Humanities curriculum aims to develop students' powers of critical and creative thinking, enabling them to understand and evaluate the legacies of world civilizations. Students view these human endeavors through the lenses of art, music, literature, history, philosophy and science. The core classes of Humanities (history, English and "Perspectives on the Human Experience") are team taught in each grade level through an integrated and challenging curriculum. The Humanities program includes Advanced Placement courses as well as an emphasis on service learning. The Humanities Specialty Center provides an active learning environment that uses stimulating college-level texts, student-centered classes, lively discussions and state-of-the-art technology.

International Baccalaureate

743-3683 • Meadowbrook High, 4901 Cogbill Road
Carolyn Henly, International Baccalaureate coordinator

379-1161 • Midlothian High School, 401 Charter Colony Parkway
Donna Crane, International Baccalaureate coordinator

The International Baccalaureate program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The International Baccalaureate programs at Midlothian and Meadowbrook high schools are challenging and rigorous dual

diploma programs based on internationally recognized standards and requirements. In addition to the Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma, successful students are awarded the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma, which is recognized as a standard of excellence and accepted by universities throughout the world. International Baccalaureate is a broad-based academic program centered on the "Theory of Knowledge" course, which provides interdisciplinary connections. Students participate in a combination of required courses in two levels of intensity — courses similar to Advanced Placement classes and courses in specific disciplines providing more intense and in-depth study.

Leadership and International Relations

378-2420, ext. 165 • James River High, 3700 James River Road
Sarah Mansfield, specialty center coordinator

The goal of the Leadership and International Relations Specialty Center is to offer a unique learning experience to students who possess the ability to become leaders and who desire to affect the world. Students are challenged to push themselves to reach their full potential. They come from different cultures and beliefs, and they all strive to do great things. In addition to helping students develop skills necessary for success in any field, the program prepares students by focusing on ethical behavior, building a strong appreciation of international affairs and practicing servant leadership. Students develop problem-solving, critical-thinking and decision-making skills. The center partners with the Jepson School of Leadership at the University of Richmond.

Mass Communications

739-6271 • Manchester High, 12601 Bailey Bridge Road
Kathy Hoof, specialty center coordinator

The Mass Communications Specialty Center offers hands-on learning in television production, graphic design, journalism, oral communication and advertising. Students develop expertise in visual, written and oral communication skills as they create videos, magazines, newspapers, advertisements and multimedia presentations.

Mathematics and Science

739-6241 • Clover Hill High, 13900 Hull Street Road
Sloan Burns, specialty center coordinator

The Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill focuses on interdisciplinary experiences in English, social studies, mathematics and science. The center emphasizes problem-solving, thinking, communication, technology and research skills. The center features an integrated curriculum in mathematics in which the major topics in traditional high school math courses are taught in three years via a thematic approach. An accelerated approach allows students to take all Advanced Placement courses in biology, chemistry and physics and to take dual enrollment classes in engineering and linear algebra.

Pre-engineering

768-6110, ext. 165 • Lloyd C. Bird High, 10301 Courthouse Road
Nancy Hoover, specialty center coordinator

With a rigorous academic track emphasizing advanced study in math and science, the Pre-engineering Specialty Center offers an exploration of the various disciplines within the field of engineering. The goal is to enhance awareness of the field of engineering and help students narrow their focus of study as they enter college. Using technology extensively, the program focuses on blending various core components of each area, highlighting specialized units of engineering and providing a broad understanding of this educational and career path.

Spanish Immersion

739-6272 • Manchester High, 12601 Bailey Bridge Road
Kristal Johnson, specialty center coordinator

The Spanish Immersion Specialty Center provides an opportunity for students to develop a high level of proficiency in Spanish while preparing for college. Students will use Spanish as a vehicle to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as technological and metacognitive skills. Students will become effective participants in the global community as they gain knowledge of the history, culture and customs of the Hispanic world. They will emerge bilingual and biliterate in Spanish, one of the most spoken languages in the world.

Teaching and Learning Through Technology

590-3108, ext. 203 • Matoaca High, 17700 Longhouse Lane
Stacy Bradshaw, specialty center coordinator

The Teaching and Learning Through Technology Specialty Center provides a computer-enriched learning environment. Fostering critical thinking, problem solving, communication and research, the program challenges and motivates students to master subject content and develop the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive technological global economy. Students extensively use technology within every classroom and discipline. The center builds collaborative relationships with the business and academic communities. Students choose a concentration area after their ninth-grade year focusing on networking, arts, graphics and media, programming or hardware support and services.

Visual and Performing Arts

768-6245, ext. 664 • Thomas Dale High, 3626 W. Hundred Road
Pam Barton, specialty center coordinator

The Visual and Performing Arts Specialty Center attracts students who are highly interested and talented in music, theater, dance or visual arts. Students explore and expand their creative potential in an exciting and unique arts community within a fully comprehensive high school, which offers advantages such as a variety of academic and arts classes, clubs, sports and service organizations. The program is designed to provide a well-rounded education with excellent core academic classes coupled with a challenging honors arts curriculum to prepare students for excellent collegiate and professional opportunities. The specialty center offers accelerated courses in the arts and academic areas. This includes honors, Advanced Placement and dual enrollment. The program offers intensive instruction in dance, music, art or theater and provides residencies, master classes and internships with professional artists. Visit SpecialtyCenterArts.com to view clips and other information.

Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology

722-0200 • 512 W. Washington St., Petersburg
Dr. James L. Ruffa, director

Enrolling students from 14 school divisions, the Appomattox Regional Governor's School provides a specialized comprehensive program that serves a diverse population of gifted students who demonstrate a strong commitment to the arts. Instructional models emphasize problem-based learning, communication and integration of the arts and technologies within the academic subjects. Students have opportunities to take accelerated courses in the humanities, fine and performing arts, mathematics, science and technology and to take dual enrollment college credit courses.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies

354-6800 • 1000 N. Lombardy St., Richmond
N. Douglas Hunt, director

Enrolling students from 11 school divisions, the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School provides broad-based educational opportunities that develop gifted students' understanding of world cultures and languages, as well as their ability to lead, participate and contribute in a rapidly changing global society. Differentiated instruction nurtures diversity, talent and the unique needs of the gifted learner. There are optimal learning opportunities in social sciences, international languages, mathematics, science, English and fine arts. The school offers Advanced Placement courses and dual enrollment college credit courses.

Career and Technical Education

768-6160 • Chesterfield Technical Center, 10101 Courthouse Road
J. Michael Rose, executive principal

The Chesterfield Technical Center is an extension of the county high schools, offering students three-credit electives not available at their home schools. Emphasizing hands-on technical training, the center offers 17 one-year and 13 two-year courses. Areas of study include biotechnologies, practical nursing, culinary arts, veterinary science, AutoCAD, automotive, law enforcement and dental occupations. Courses benefit college-bound students and students who plan to go directly into the job market. Students in grades 9-11 may apply for admission by submitting an application through their home school counselor during the second semester each year.

Coordinated Studies

743-3711 • Fulghum Center, 4003 Cogbill Road
Gabe Pascarella, assistant director

The Coordinated Studies Department offers online courses to expand learning opportunities for all high school students. Alternative choices exist to provide educational options for those students who are deeply interested in and committed to learning or who require nontraditional programs to complete their education. Coordinated Studies offers courses in a 24-7 environment, which permits students to complete courses when it is convenient for them. All courses must be counselor and principal approved. During the summer, Coordinated Studies courses are available to all students, subject to counselor and principal approval, at the summer school fee.