

**Riverdale**  
**Rising 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Course Selection Form**

Beginning in the fall of 2015, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be enrolled in either a World Languages course or a Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) course. Both courses are described on the back. These are graded, yearlong courses. Spanish will no longer be offered. World Languages can only be taken one time either in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are 2 STEM classes. One is for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 7<sup>th</sup> grade STEM is called Inventions & Innovations and 8<sup>th</sup> grade STEM is called STEM Designers.

Please complete this form and return to your homeroom teacher no later than Thursday, May 14.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level for 2015-2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Check 1 according to your 15-16 grade level.

7 <sup>th</sup> Graders:	8 <sup>th</sup> Graders:
____ World Languages (If taken in 7 <sup>th</sup> , you may not take this in 8 <sup>th</sup> .)	____ World Languages
____ Inventions & Innovations	____ STEM Designers

# Course Descriptions

## World Language

World Language is a course designed to prepare students for successfully fulfilling high-school foreign language requirements. The course centers upon acquiring strategies for language learning, as well as exposing students to introductory vocabulary in Spanish, French, Latin, and German. Culture studies will include history, geography, arts, and the relevance of the romance languages in our world today. Following completion of the course, students will be able to make an informed decision about which language to pursue in high school, and understand how that language connects to English.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Inventions & Innovations

In this course, students learn all about invention and innovation. They will have opportunities to study the history of inventions and innovations, including their impacts on society. They will learn about the core concepts of technology and about the various approaches to solving problems, including engineering design and experimentation.

Students will apply their creativity in the invention and innovation of new products, processes, or systems. Finally, students learn about how various inventions and innovations impact their lives. Students participate in engineering-design activities to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Students are involved in activities and experiences where they learn about brainstorming, visualizing, sketching, modeling, constructing, testing, experimenting, and refining designs. Students also develop skills in researching for information, communicating design information, completing engineering portfolios, developing a cost analysis, working with time studies and reporting their results.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Designers

STEM Designers is a middle school course that trains students to define problems and methodically answer the question, "What is the solution?" Upon completion of this course, proficient students understand that engineering design is a process of developing solutions to problems and challenges in order to meet the needs of society. STEM Designers places emphasis on practices such as using mathematics and computational thinking; designing solutions; engaging in argument from evidence; and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. In addition to gaining a deep understanding of the relationship between engineering and design, students who complete this course will learn how both innovation and engineering design result in new technologies that benefit humans. Standards in this course are aligned with Tennessee State Standards in English Language Arts & Literacy in Technical Subjects and Tennessee State Standards in Mathematics.