

Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION
TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



Meet the Staff

- Antoinette Roberson, Principal
- Meredith Long, Assistant Principal
- Ebony Peppers, Counselor (A-K)
- Tiffany Madison, Counselor (L-Z)
- Elizabeth Fields, GT Resource Teacher
- Kathleen Goffaux, 6th Team Leader
- Susan Thomas, ELA Team Leader



**We want to
inspire and
engage
every student
to discover
and reach
their full
potential.**

SYSTEM PRIORITIES



EQUITY FRAMEWORK

Belonging
Instructional Excellence
Opportunity and Access
Engaged and Inspired Learners

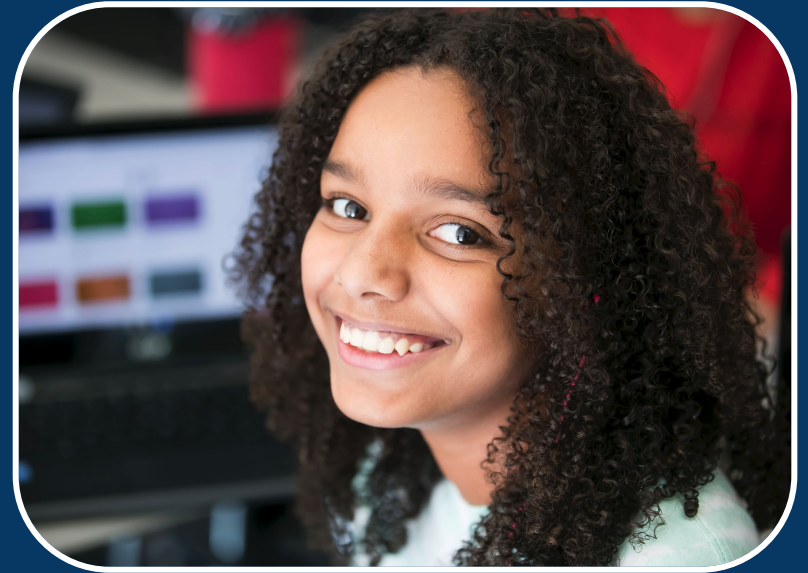
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Excellent Staff
Early Childhood
Career Pathways
Customized Instruction
Accountable Operations

FOCUS AREAS

Attendance
Proficient in Math
Reading by Grade 3
College and Career Ready
Effective Discipline Practices

Middle school is a time when students discover interests, skills, strengths and begin to connect these attributes to postsecondary pathways and prepare students for the future.



College & Career Readiness Framework

Self Awareness

Who am I?

Students shall acquire and apply self-knowledge to develop personal learning and career goals.

Career Awareness

What Careers Exist?

Students shall use the Maryland Career Clusters and career pathways including Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs of student to understand their relationship to educational achievement and lifelong learning.

Career Exploration

What Careers Interest Me?

Students shall assess career clusters and related career pathways including Career Technology Education (CTE) programs of study to develop an academic and career path.

College & Career Readiness Framework

Career Preparation

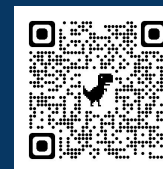
How Does My Pathway Connect to a Career?

Students shall prepare for post-secondary and career success through a sequenced academic and technical program of study and related workplace experiences.

Career Training

How Do I Prepare for a Career?

Students shall demonstrate skills to secure, maintain, and advance in employment



Academics



The Middle School Schedule



All students are enrolled in seven 50-minute classes four days a week. One day a week students will have flex time through one of their core content classes.



Grade 6 Example Schedule

Course 1	English
Course 2	Mathematics
Course 3	Science
Course 4	Social Studies
Course 5	Physical Education/Health/Tech
Course 6 (Fine Art Choice)	Band, Chorus, Orchestra, or Art, Music, Theater, and Family and Consumer Science (FACS) or CTE Life and Career Skills (each one quarter (or similar sequence))
Course 7 (Elective/Intervention)	1 Quarter - Digital Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, Boost Your Brain, Art, Music, Theater, FACS, Reader's and Writer's Cafe 2 Quarters - GT Research Year-long - ELD, Special Education/Mathematics/Reading Intervention

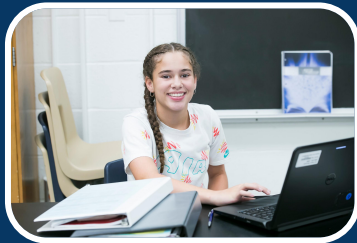
In accordance with state requirements, each year middle school students receive instruction in the following areas:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Physical Education



Students are also required to receive instruction in the following during their middle school experience:

- Technology (6th)
- CTE I (7th)
- CTE II (8th)





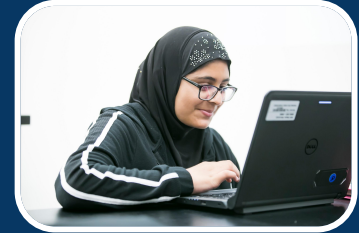
Fine Arts Options

Students in grade 6 will choose from the following options:

- Band
- Chorus
- Orchestra
- Art/General Music/Theater Arts combination

Additional Courses Added to Your Schedule

- Family and Consumer Science
- Reader's and Writer's Workshop
- Boost Your Brain
- 21st Century Learning
- Additional Fine Arts Classes
- G/T Research or Seminars/Interventions in reading and/or mathematics
- Other Elective Course Offerings



Finding the Right Balance Between

- **Course Placements**
- **Rigor**
- **Personal Interests**
- **Student Success**



Course Selection Consideration Steps

Ask teachers their input on best fit.

Balance is critical.

Challenge yourself.

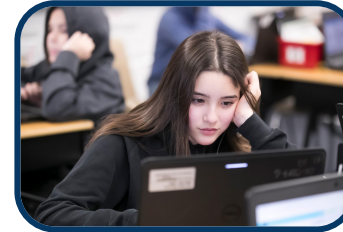
Don't forget to factor in outside activities.

Every student needs to schedule a course load that allows them to get at least 8 hours of sleep.



<https://www.hcpss.org/connect/guides/>

The earlier a student develops important academically-related behaviors, the more likely these behaviors are to become a habit.



Supporting Academic Behaviors

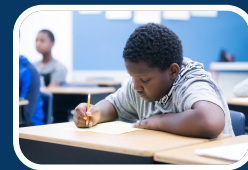
At DMS, staff and students:

- Start with the goal in mind
- Celebrate effort and achievement
- Engage in positive experiences each school day
- Create excitement for the future



Tips For Parents

- Talk to your child about school and how they are feeling.
- Work with your child to create routines around school preparation, HW, bedtime, and screen time.
- Encourage your child to be responsible, for example regularly checking Canvas.
- Acknowledge that all students will struggle at times and it is healthy to reach out for help.
- Take school attendance seriously.
- Build your student's confidence and identify areas of strength.



Frequently Asked Questions about Middle School

What does a typical day look like?

- Students are dismissed from the buses at 7:30 am, they enter the building at 7:35 am to their lockers.
- First period starts at 7:50 am, students arriving 7:50 am or after are late for the day.
- Schoolwide announcements are done the first 7 minutes of first period.
- Seven 50 minute classes every day.
- Related arts classes are typically split up throughout the day.

Will my child get lost in the building?

- Absolutely! But staff will be there to help.
- Time between classes to find their way.
- Many 6th grade teachers located near each other.
- Teachers will help them for quite a while.
- Late to class will not begin for a few weeks into the year for 6th graders.

What supplies will my child need?

- Middle school supply list is generated and approved by the county. We can only make some edits.
- It may be wise to hold off buying *everything* until teachers indicate what your child will need.
- ONE big binder is discouraged.
- Just the basics the first week- paper, pencil, folder.

Is there homework every night?

- Homework is given from most classes nightly (yes, weekends too).
- Nightly homework is NOT accepted late.
- It comprises no more than 10% of total grade.
- Work at home may also include long term projects and studying for tests and quizzes.
- Monitor Canvas for assignments.

What tests will my child take during the year?

- Next year your child will take:
 - Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)
 - CommonLit Literacy Assessment
 - Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)
 - Unit tests/quizzes
- No more than three from academics on a given day

How is Canvas used in Middle School

- Canvas is used as:
 - A gradebook- grades should be checked about once/week. A blank grade does not mean the assignment is missing
 - A forum for announcements/homework/resources- students should check these pages nightly or as needed.
 - Online assignments- Some teachers will use Canvas for assignment submissions

Important Dates

Date	Activity
1/30/25- 2/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course Recommendations for rising 6th graders available in Synergy for parents to review.• Families will enter student course requests in Synergy no later than 2/12/25.
5/29/25	Rising 6th Grade Visit



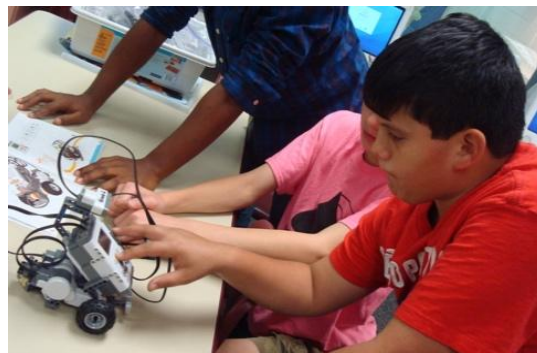
thank
you

Any Questions?



**GIFTED &
TALENTED**

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Agenda

- Overview of the Middle School G/T Education Program
- Placement Process
- Questions



Program Components

- Talent Development Offerings
- G/T Classes and Curricular Extensions

Talent Development Offerings: G/T Instructional Seminars



Instruction in
Advanced-Level Skills



Open to All
Interested Students



Creative Production
or Inquiry

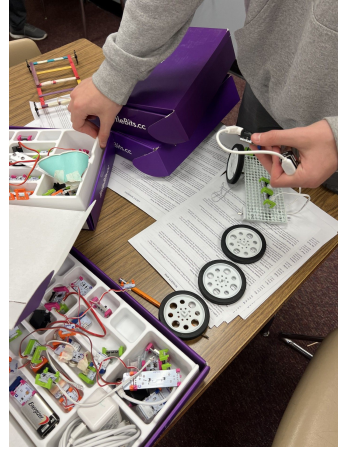
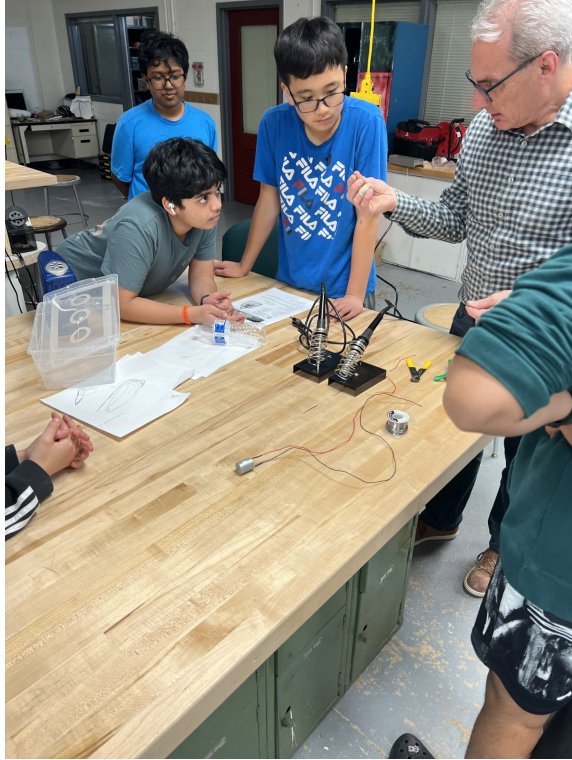
G/T Instructional Seminars: Debate



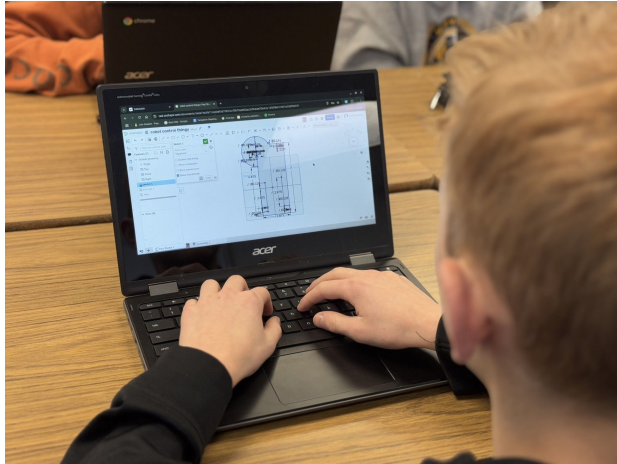
G/T Instructional Seminars: TV Studio



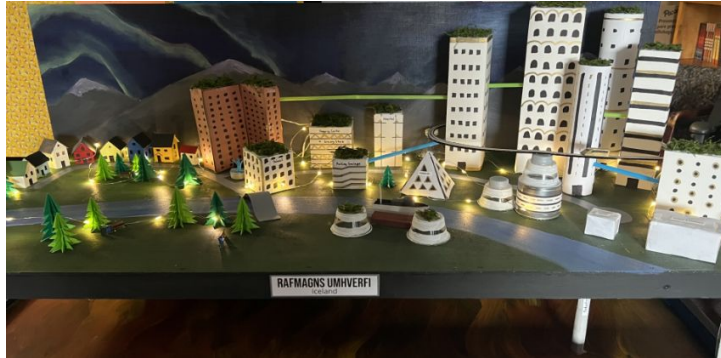
G/T Instructional : Engineering



G/T Instructional : Engineering



G/T Instructional Seminars: Future City



G/T Instructional Seminars: Environmental



Additional G/T Instructional Seminars:

Film

Journalism

Model U.N.

Python Coding

Graphic Arts

Math & Logic

Photography

Where can I find out about G/T Instructional Seminars at my student's school?

6th Grade Infor... > Announcements > Instructional Se...

Search this course

2024-2025 FY

Search entries or author...

All



Sort



View Split Screen



Expand Threads

Announcements

Important Info

People

Files



Ms. Fields (She/Her) AUTHOR | TEACHER

Posted Sep 6, 2024 8:34am

Instructional Seminars Sign-up

Hello! Instructional seminar sign-ups are finally here. Please [use this link](#) to sign up for seminars and read more about them. Feel free to come see Mrs. Fields in room 114 if you have any questions.

This topic is closed for comments.

Book Club

Do you love to read for pleasure? Are you someone who can't put a book down? Well, this is the seminar to you. You will read high interest and challenging books, discuss them with other students from school, then discuss them with other students from other Howard County middle schools. This seminar provides an opportunity for you to engage in meaningful discussions around a variety of literary works with different genres, authors, and subject matter. You will strengthen critical reading and leadership skills, hear insightful peer perspectives, and have fun. Each year, a new list of books are selected and both school and countywide discussions are made available to students. Note that this seminar requires minimal work outside of reading the monthly book club selection and meets 1-2 times per month.

Debate

Do you love to argue? Are you good at persuading others? In debate, students research current issues, write argumentative speeches, and organize arguments as a member of a team. They use public speaking skills and rhetoric to refute and close their arguments. Join this seminar to engage in meaningful, persuasive discourse about contemporary issues, and strengthen your leadership, critical thinking, and presentation skills. Students who complete Beginning Debate are eligible to try out for our school Debate Team and compete

Middle School G/T Classes



G/T
Math



G/T
English



G/T
Science



G/T
Social
Studies



G/T Mathematics

Provides an accelerated and enriched sequence that follows a curriculum of concepts at least two years above the general education curriculum.

- 6 - Pre-Algebra G/T
- 7 – Algebra I G/T
- 8 - Geometry G/T

Accelerated G/T Mathematics



The Accelerated G/T Mathematics Program is provided for students who demonstrate a need for further acceleration beyond the G/T mathematics sequence.

- 6 - Algebra 1 G/T
- 7 - Geometry G/T
- 8 - Algebra 2 G/T

Accelerated G/T Math Placement

Students are automatically review for placement in this program by G/T Office staff based upon the following initial criteria:

- 99th percentile for both the CogAT Quantitative and Quantitative-Nonverbal composite
- 99th percentile MAP-Math scores
- 4th grade MCAP performance of 810 or higher
- outstanding performance in 5th grade G/T Mathematics.

Notifications of placement are sent in late April.



G/T English

Extends the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts through

- an accelerated pace,
- reading and analyzing challenging and complex literature and literary nonfiction independently,
- writing a variety of interpretive,
- and analytical pieces, and conducting independent research.

Differentiated tasks and texts are included at all grade levels.



G/T Science

An enriched and accelerated curriculum where students explore cross-cutting concepts, as well as science and engineering practices.

6 - Earth Science G/T

7 - Life Science G/T

8 - Physical Science G/T



G/T Social Studies

Provides an enriched and accelerated curriculum, including differentiated objectives, where students explore civic and cultural principles and engage in inquiries that focus on essential, related questions.

6 – Geography and World Cultures G/T

7 – Geography and World Cultures G/T

8 – United States History G/T

Curriculum Extension Units

G/T Curriculum Extensions extend the curriculum of the G/T content area classes to provide additional rigor and challenge and to engage students in advanced-level thinking, questioning, and research.

G/T Curriculum Extension Units vary by school, with offerings such as Writers Guild, History Day, and Shakespeare Troupe/Festival



Placement Process for Middle School G/T Classes


5th Grade and Throughout Middle School

- ALL students reviewed for placement
- Multiple criteria examined (CogAT, MAP, MCAP, class performance)
- CogAT administered to all students in 3rd grade and all new HCPSS students in grades 4-8

Family Input in Placement Process

Families may enroll middle school students in G/T classes via the Course Request Process via HCPSS Connect if the desired course differs from the school recommendation.

PARENT ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION & CLASSWORK



HCPSS Connect

HCPSS Connect provides access to a variety of student information and classroom instructional tools offering personalized communication and timely, relevant and easily accessible information relating to your student.

Middle School G/T Research Class



- Authentic research to address real-world problem
- For students enrolled in G/T Math and G/T English based upon G/T Placement Committee recommendations

Research

- Original
- Primary Research Methods
- Authentic Product
- Authentic Audience
- Contribution to the Community/Field



Opportunities for Family Engagement

- HCPSS G/T Website:
<https://www.hcpss.org/academics/gifted-and-talented/>
- G/T Parent Academies
- HCPSS News for G/T Program Information

Contact Information



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