Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL
Meet the Staff

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In order to teach a child well we must know a child well.
VISION: Every student and staff member embraces diversity and possesses the skills, knowledge and confidence to positively influence the larger community.

MISSION: HCPSS ensures academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.

Four Overarching Commitments

VALUE

ACHIEVE

CONNECT

EMPOWER
Middle school is a defining point for students in the college and career readiness process.

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.
Preparing Students for the Future
21st Century Skills

Academic Behaviors

High School Readiness

College and Career Readiness

- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information Media and Technology Skills
The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness than anything that happens academically in high school.

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School
The Middle School Schedule
All students are enrolled in seven 50-minute classes four days a week. One day a week students have an alternate schedule that includes flex time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course 1</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course 2</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Course 3</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Course 4</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
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<td>Course 5</td>
<td>Physical Education/Health/Tech</td>
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<td>Course 6 (Fine Art Choice)</td>
<td>Band, Chorus, Orchestra, or Art, Music, Theater, and Family and Consumer Science (FACS) (each one quarter (or similar sequence))</td>
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<td>Course 7 (Elective/Intervention)</td>
<td>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 - ESOL, Special Education/Mathematics/Reading Intervention</td>
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In accordance with state requirements, each year middle school students receive instruction in the following areas:

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

English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics offer a Gifted and Talented (G/T) option for instruction. Mathematics has an above-grade level course in addition to the G/T options.
Students are also required to receive instruction in the following during their middle school experience:

- Technology
- Financial Literacy
- Careers
Fine Arts Options

Students in grade 6 will choose from the following options:

- Band
- Chorus
- Orchestra
- Art/General Music/Theater Arts combination
Additional Course Options

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

COMET TV
Book Club
Leadership
Beginning Debate
Animal and Environmental Sciences

COMET Newsletter
Creative Problem Solving
Film Institute
Advanced Debate
Writers Workshop
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
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
Placement Process for Middle School G/T Classes

5th Grade and Throughout Middle School

• Multiple criteria examined (CogAT, MAP, MCAP, class performance)
• CogAT administered to all students in 5th and new HCPSS students in middle school
• ALL students reviewed
Parental Input in Placement Process

If after reviewing the Placement Committee's professional recommendation, parents/guardians still wish to enroll their students in one or more G/T classes, they may complete the Course Placement Review request online through HCPSS Connect.
Who can initiate the placement process in middle school?

- Families
- Teachers
- Students
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
Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success
Academic Behavior

Motivation and behavior, combined, have more impact on a student’s readiness than academic achievement.

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

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.
Supporting Academic Behaviors

At CMS, staff and students:

- Start with the goal in mind
- Give the day’s best effort
- Celebrate effort and achievement
- Engage in positive experiences each school day
- Create excitement for the future
1. Teach kids that intelligence isn’t fixed. They can grow their brains through lifelong learning.
2. Talk to students about college and potential careers. Tell them you believe in them and in their success.
3. Keep the communication lines open - set aside time to regularly talk about feelings and friendships.
## Important Dates

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| 2/2/23 - 2/17/23 | ● Course Recommendations for rising 6th graders available in Synergy for parents to review.  
● Parents will enter student course requests in Synergy no later than 2/17/23.  
● Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate. |
| 6/1/23     | Rising 6th Grade Visit                                                   |
| 8/24/23    | 6th Grade Orientation                                                    |
Tips For Parents: Supporting Your Child’s Development Of Positive Academic Behaviors

• Talk to your child about study skills.
• Try to set aside time for homework.
• Encourage your child to be responsible for chores and homework.
• Uplift areas of strength and encourage interest exploration.
• Talk to your child about academic and non-academic interests.
Any Questions?