

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.



One Focus: Every Student Achieving

HCPSS Strategic Call to Action: Learning and Leading with Equity

— 2022 and Beyond —

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

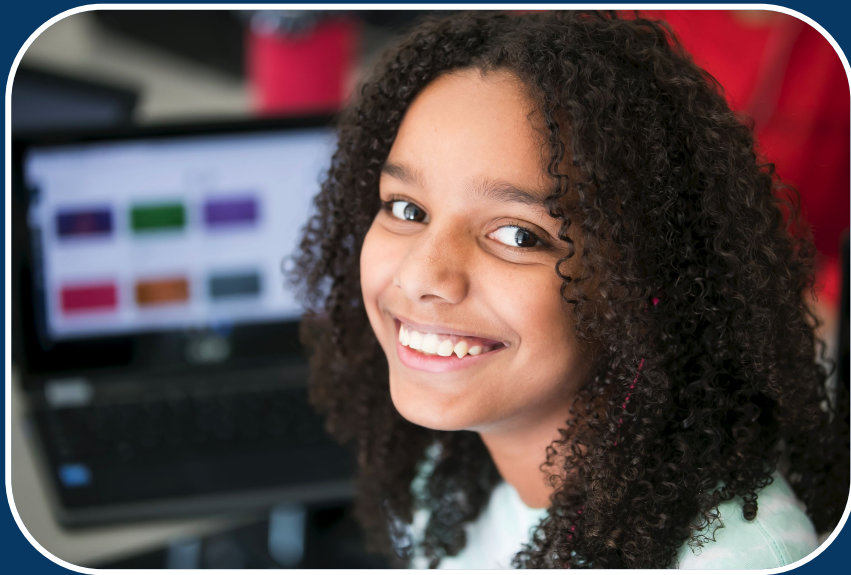
VALUE

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**

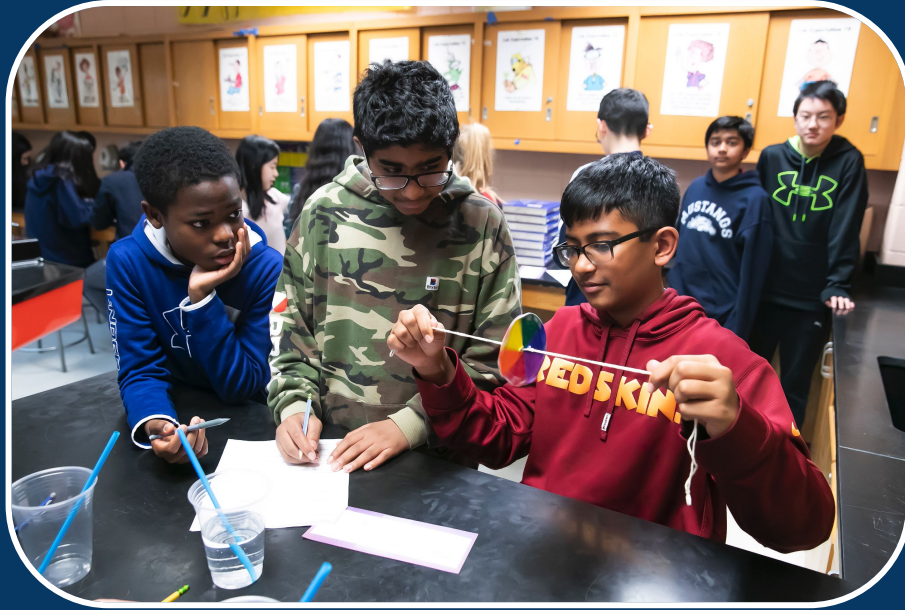
The diagram features a large blue oval on the left containing two dark blue rounded rectangles: '21st Century Skills' at the top and 'Academic Behaviors' at the bottom. To the right of this oval is a light blue speech bubble pointing towards the '21st Century Skills' box. Inside this speech bubble is a dark blue rounded rectangle labeled 'High School Readiness'. To the right of the 'High School Readiness' box is another dark blue rounded rectangle labeled 'College and Career Readiness'. A light blue arrow points from the 'College and Career Readiness' box towards the right edge of the frame. The entire diagram is set against a white background with a dark blue border.

**Academic
Behaviors**

- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information Media and Technology Skills

**High
School
Readiness**

**College
and
Career
Readiness**



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.**



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) (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 - ESOL, Special Education/Mathematics/Reading Intervention

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

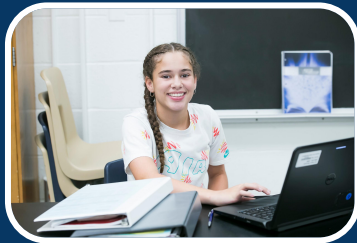
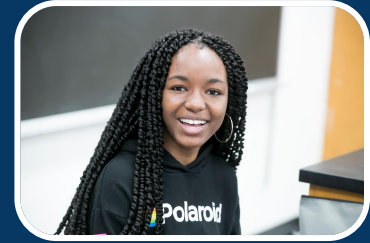
- English Language Arts
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies



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





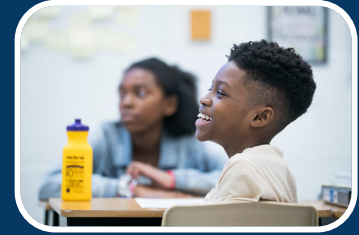
Fine Arts Options

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





GIFTED &
TALENTED

EDUCATION PROGRAM

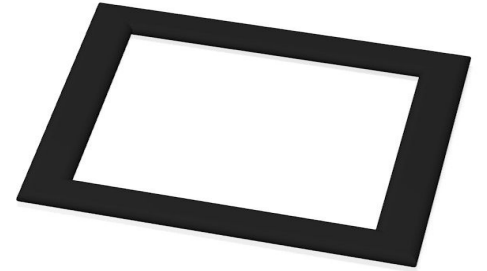


**Howard
County**
Public School System



Agenda

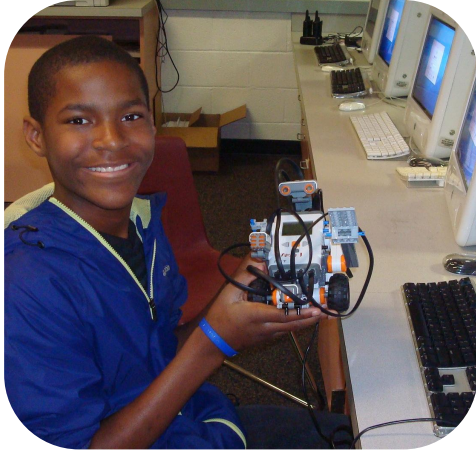
- Overview of the Middle School G/T Education Program
- Placement Process
- Questions



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

COMET Newsletter

Book Club

Creative Problem Solving

Leadership

Film Institute

Beginning Debate

Advanced Debate

Animal and Environmental Sciences

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.



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



3 Ways To Support The Whole Child

LearnED by Pearson



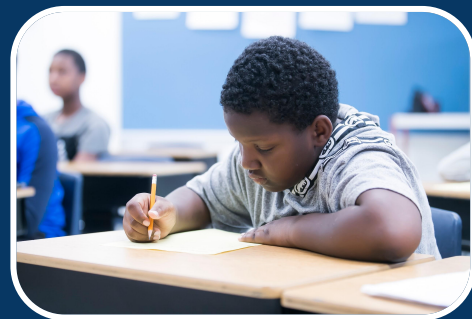
1. Teach kids that intelligence isn't fixed. They can grow their brains through lifelong learning.
2. Talk to students about college and potential careers. Tell them you believe in them and in their success.
3. Keep the communication lines open - set aside time to regularly talk about feelings and friendships.

Important Dates

Date	Activity
2/2/23 - 2/17/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.





thank
you

Any Questions?