

Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION
TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



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



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

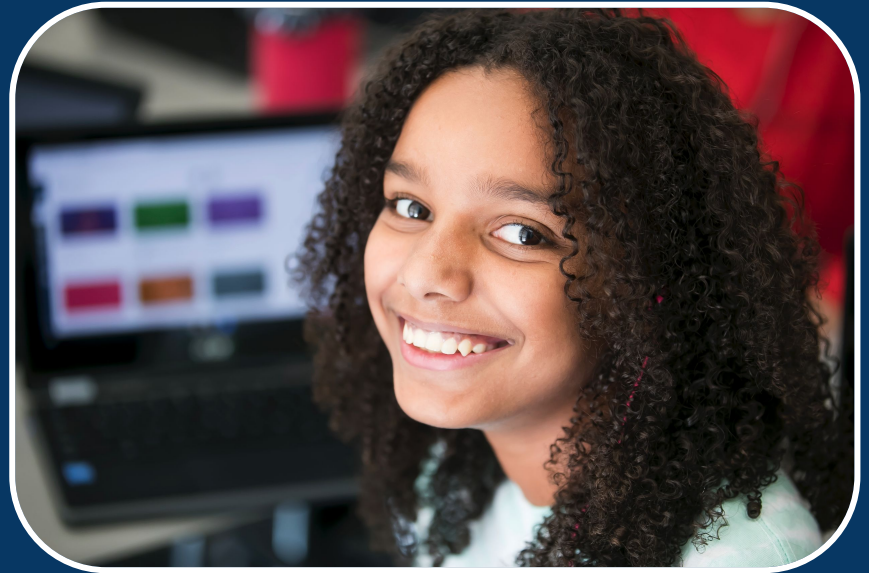
VALUE

ACHIEVE

CONNECT

EMPOWER

Middle school is a defining point for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in postsecondary pathways.



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

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

High School Readiness

Postsecondary Readiness

Academics



Please refer to the **[Middle School Course Catalog 2024-2025](#)**
For more detailed information about HCPSS middle school courses.

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 Advisory



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.

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- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

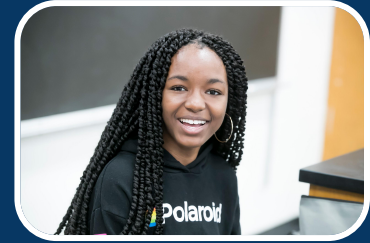
English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics offer a Gifted and Talented (G/T) option for instruction. Mathematics has an above-grade level course in addition to the G/T options.



Please refer to the Middle School GT Program Presentation for more information.

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:

- Full Year Performing Arts courses
 - Band
 - Chorus
 - Orchestra
- Quarterly Fine Arts courses
 - Art
 - General Music
 - Theater Arts



Fine Arts Options

Students in grade 6 will choose from the following options:

- Full Year Performing Arts courses

- Band
- Chorus
- Orchestra

- Quarterly Fine Arts courses

- Art
- General Music
- Theater Arts



Important: When a parent/student selects a Quarterly Fine Arts course, in the student's schedule for the year, the chosen course will be combined with 3 other quarterly courses. These 3 courses could be a combination of the other quarterly Fine Arts courses and/or the additional courses listed on the next slide. Please note that the other 3 quarter courses will be selected by the school.

Additional Courses

- Family and Consumer Science
- Reader's and Writer's Workshop
- Boost Your Brain
- 21st Century Learning
- Seminars/Interventions in reading and/or mathematics - *by recommendation*
- G/T Research - *by invitation which will come out from the elementary school later in the year.*



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 Clarksville Middle School, 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



3 Ways To Support The Whole Child

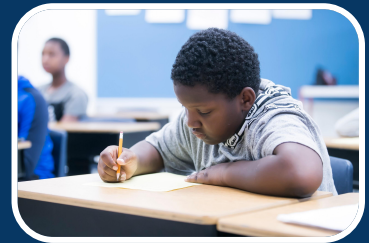
LearnED by Pearson



1. Teach kids that intelligence isn't fixed. They can grow their brains through lifelong learning.
2. Talk to students about postsecondary planning 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.

Tips For Parents: Supporting Your Child's Development Of Positive Academic Behaviors

- Talk to your child about school and how they are feeling.
- Create a regular time and routine for homework completion.
- Encourage your child to be responsible, for example regularly checking Canvas.
- Take school attendance seriously
- Build your student's confidence and identify areas of strength
- Create a bedtime routine and limit screen time



Important Dates

Date	Activity
2/1/24 - 2/14/24	<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 2/14/24.• Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate. Dues by 3/1/24
5/30/24	Rising 6th Grade Visit
8/22/24	6th Grade Orientation/Back to School Bash

The image features a central white rectangular area containing the text "thank you" in a cursive script. The text is rendered with a color gradient: "thank" is in shades of green and yellow, while "you" is in shades of blue and purple. The background of the white area is a soft bokeh of out-of-focus light spots in warm yellow and orange tones. The entire white area is framed by a dark blue border, which is itself surrounded by a white border.

thank
you