

Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION
TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



Meet the Staff

Dr. Drew Cockley- Principal

Mrs. Kelli Nitsch- Assistant Principal

**Mrs. Meg Savage and Mrs. Debbie Germroth-
School Counselors**

Mrs. Jocelyn Anthony-Williams- 6th grade Teacher/TL

Mr. Chris Nobis- GT Resource Teacher

Mrs. Becky Romans- World Language Teacher

Mr. Marcos Perdomo- Hispanic Achievement Liaison

Bonnie Branch
PTA Welcome

Mrs. Michelle Horner



In order to
teach a
child well
we must
know a
child well.



Learning and Leading with Equity

The Fierce Urgency of Now

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



**High
School
Readiness**



**College
and
Career
Readiness**

**21st
Century
Skills**

**Academic
Behaviors**

**High
School
Readiness**

**College
and
Career
Readiness**



21st Century Skills

Academic
Behaviors

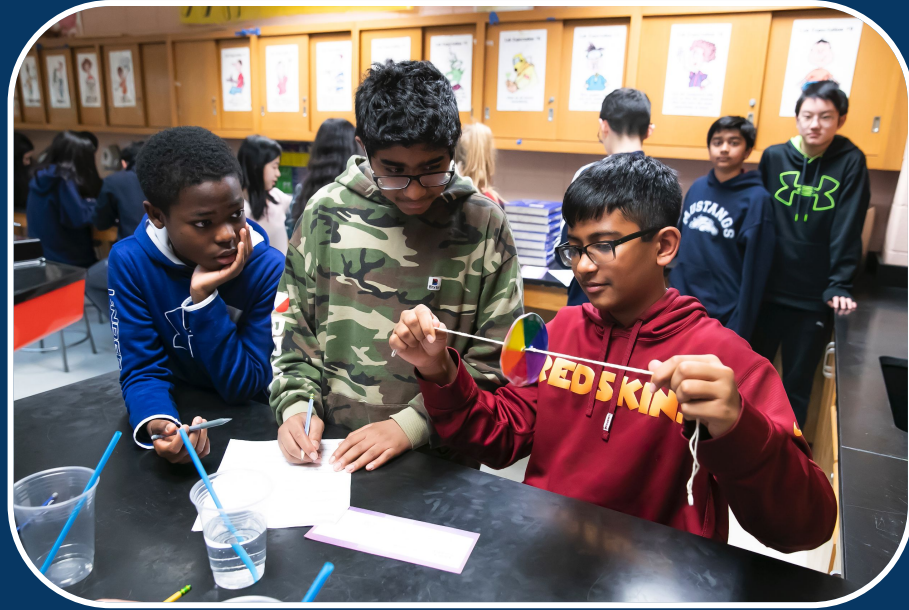
- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information Media and Technology Skills

High
School
Readiness

College
and
Career
Readiness

Academics





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 every day.



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:

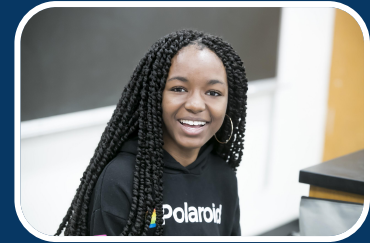
- English Language Arts
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies



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



World Language Options

- **French or Spanish are every day 50 minutes.**
7th &/or 8th grade - French 1
8th grade - French 2
- **Students receive high school credit for completing Middle School world language courses. On transcript.**

Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success





Middle School Gifted and Talented 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



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

G/T Instructional Seminars offered at Bonnie Branch are:

- **G/T Book Club** - Read advanced-level books on a variety of topics and discuss them
- **Digital Art** - Learn the creative techniques offered with the Photoshop Elements
- **Debate Team** - Develop persuasive writing, rhetoric, and speaking skills as part
- **Environmental Awareness Committee** - Develop and implement ideas for making a healthy and strong
- **Film Institute** - Learn to use digital media for communication and creating original
- **Leadership** - Learn leadership skills and implement them to address a school
- **Mathology** - Tackle math puzzles, cryptology, robotics, and more
- **Television Production** - Produce a daily television broadcast as a member
- **Writer's Workshop** - Improve upon your creative writing techniques with

Seminars offered for the SY 2015-2016:

Television Production (HCTV)

HCTV crewmembers create a daily television broadcast using advanced level journalism and technology skills. Must be able to arrive at school by 7:20 AM.

Middle School Book Club

Book Club members meet once a month at lunchtime to discuss a pre-selected book. There is also a monthly countywide meeting at the Howard County Library Miller Branch for a thought-provoking discussion of the high-quality literature.

Environmental Awareness Committee (Green Team)

Team members develop their interest in the environment, help school recycling and energy conservation efforts, and promote awareness of environmental issues in the school and community. Team members will also be responsible for submitting an entry in the Environmental Film Festival. Members meet every other week at lunchtime.

LEGO Robotics

Using the LEGO Mindstorm robotics' kit, students have the opportunity to develop skills in designing and programming a LEGO robot. Must be able to meet afterschool from 3:00-4:15 on Wednesdays through December.

School Newspaper

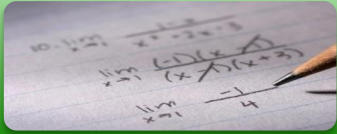
Reporters needed! Including, sports reporters, fashion reporters, and entertainment reporters! Ever wonder what it would be like to write the news, not create the news. This seminar is for students who love writing and journalism. This year we will create a school web-based newspaper and newsletter, practicing and editing writing as well.

G/T Content Classes

- Accelerated and/or Enriched Curriculum
- Advanced-Level Content
- Inquiry-Based Instruction
- Application of Knowledge



Middle School G/T Classes



G/T Math



G/T Science



G/T English



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 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



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



Placement Process For Middle School G/T – 5th Grade

5th Grade

- All students reviewed as part of G/T Placement Process using multiple data points.
 - Ability Measure (CogAT from 3rd grade)
 - Standardized assessments (MAP)
 - Student performance during elementary content classes, particularly on tasks requiring critical, analytical, and/or creative thinking
 - Documentation from families

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?



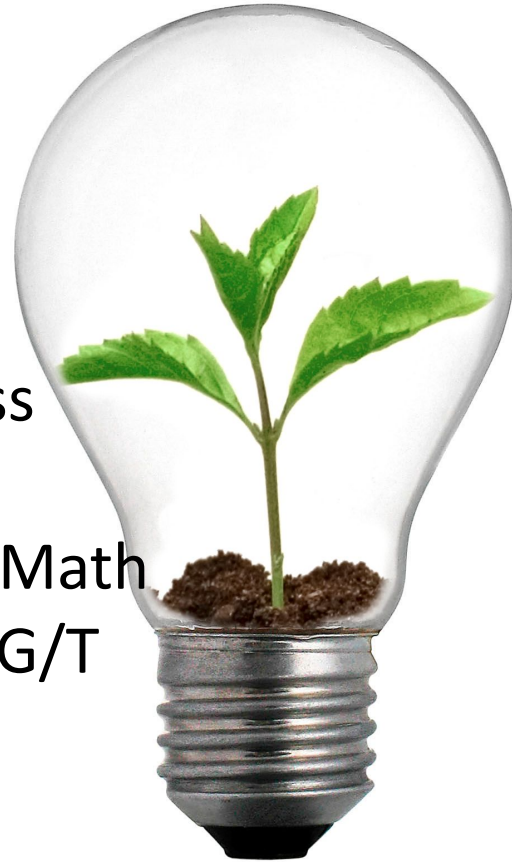
- Families
- Teachers
- Students

Measures Included in Placement Process

- Ability Measure (CogAT)
- Standardized assessments (MAP, MCAP)
- Student work samples
 - Interpretation
 - Critique
 - Analysis
 - Creative Problem Solving
- Student grades on assignments requiring critical, analytical, and/or creative thinking
- Documentation from families

Middle School GT 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 Method
- Authentic Product
- Authentic Audience
- Contribution to the Community/Field



Opportunities for Parent Engagement

- HCPSS G/T Website:
www.hcpss.org/academics/gt
- G/T Parent Academies
- HCPSS News for G/T Program Information
- HCPSS_GT Twitter



Contact Information

- Chris Nobis
- 410-313-2580
- Christopher_nobis@hcpss.org



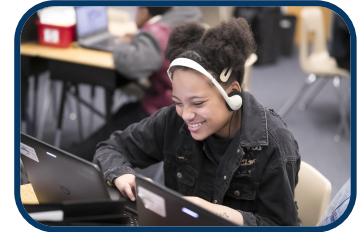
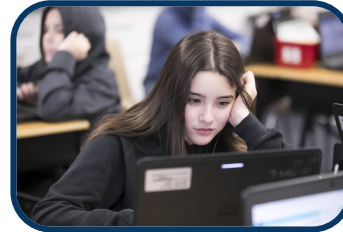


Academic Behavior

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 **Bonnie Branch**, staff and students:

- Start with the goal in mind
- Do what they do best, every day
- 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.

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

- Ensure that your child has the supplies and a place to study at home.
- Set a regular time for homework.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for chores and homework.
- Provide your child with a range of experiences to allow him/her to identify areas of strength.
- Talk to your child.



Important Dates

Date	Activity
2/8/22 - 2/22/22	<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 2/22/22.• Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate.
5/16/22	Rising 6th Grade Visit



thank
you

Any Questions?