Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Howard County Public School System
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.
**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.
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
21\textsuperscript{st} 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.
<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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<tr>
<td>Course 3</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Course 4</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 5</td>
<td>Physical Education/Health/Tech</td>
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<tr>
<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
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?

GIT Instructional Seminars offered at Bonnie Branch are:

- GIT 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 our
  healthy and strong
- Film Institute - Learn to use digital media for communication and creating c
- Leadership - Learn leadership skills and implement them to address a niche
- Mythology - Tackle math puzzles, cryptography, robotics, and more
- Television Production - Produce a daily television broadcast as a member
- Writer’s Workshop - Improve upon your creative writing techniques w

Seminars offered for the SY 2015–2016:
Television Production (HCTV)
HCTV crew members 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 after school 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.

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 **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.
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.
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| 2/8/22 - 2/22/22   | ● 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                                                  |
Any Questions?