



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Building a Strong Foundation for
High School and Beyond**

Meet the Staff

Dave Strothers	Principal
Davita Alston	Assistant Principal
Karissa Ressler	School Counselor (Last names A-L)
Melissa Cheadle	School Counselor (Last names M-Z)
Pattie Holy-Ilenda	Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher
Val Lawrence and Beth Becker	Music Department
Chelsea Rossi	Math Department

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

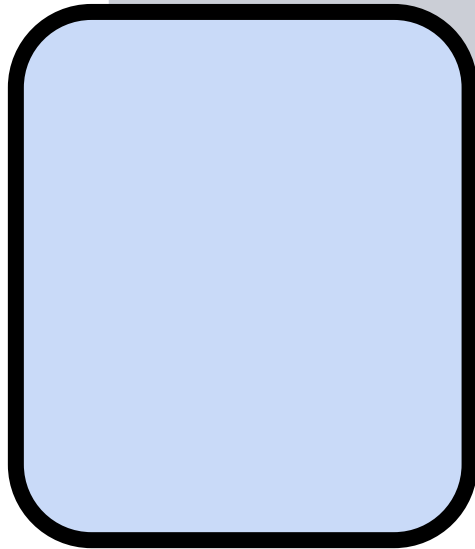
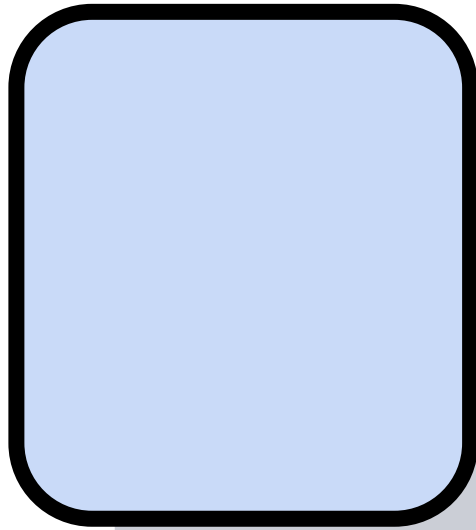
**Middle school is
a defining point
for students in
the college and
career readiness
process.**

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**

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

**High
School
Readiness**

**Academic
Behaviors**

**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.

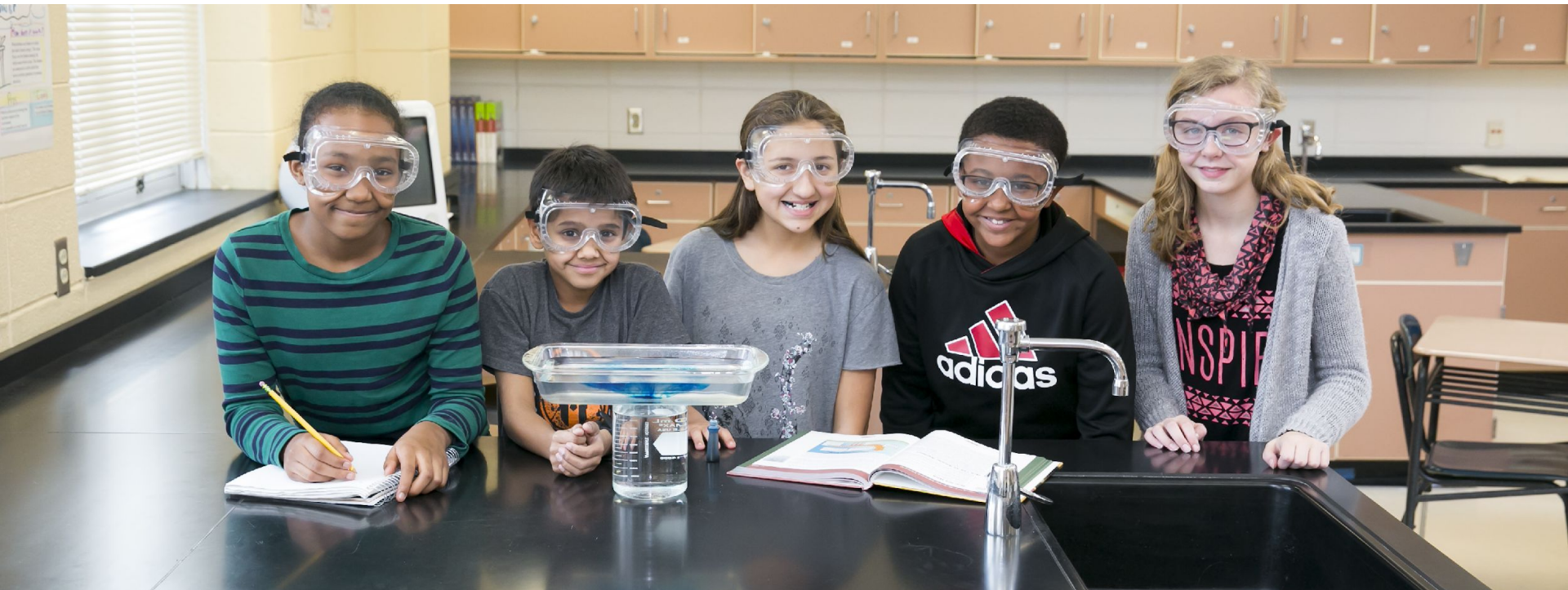
Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School



The Middle School Schedule



**All students are
enrolled in seven
50-minute classes every day.**



**All students receive daily instruction aligned
to Maryland's College and Career-Ready
Standards in:**

English

Science

Social Studies

Mathematics

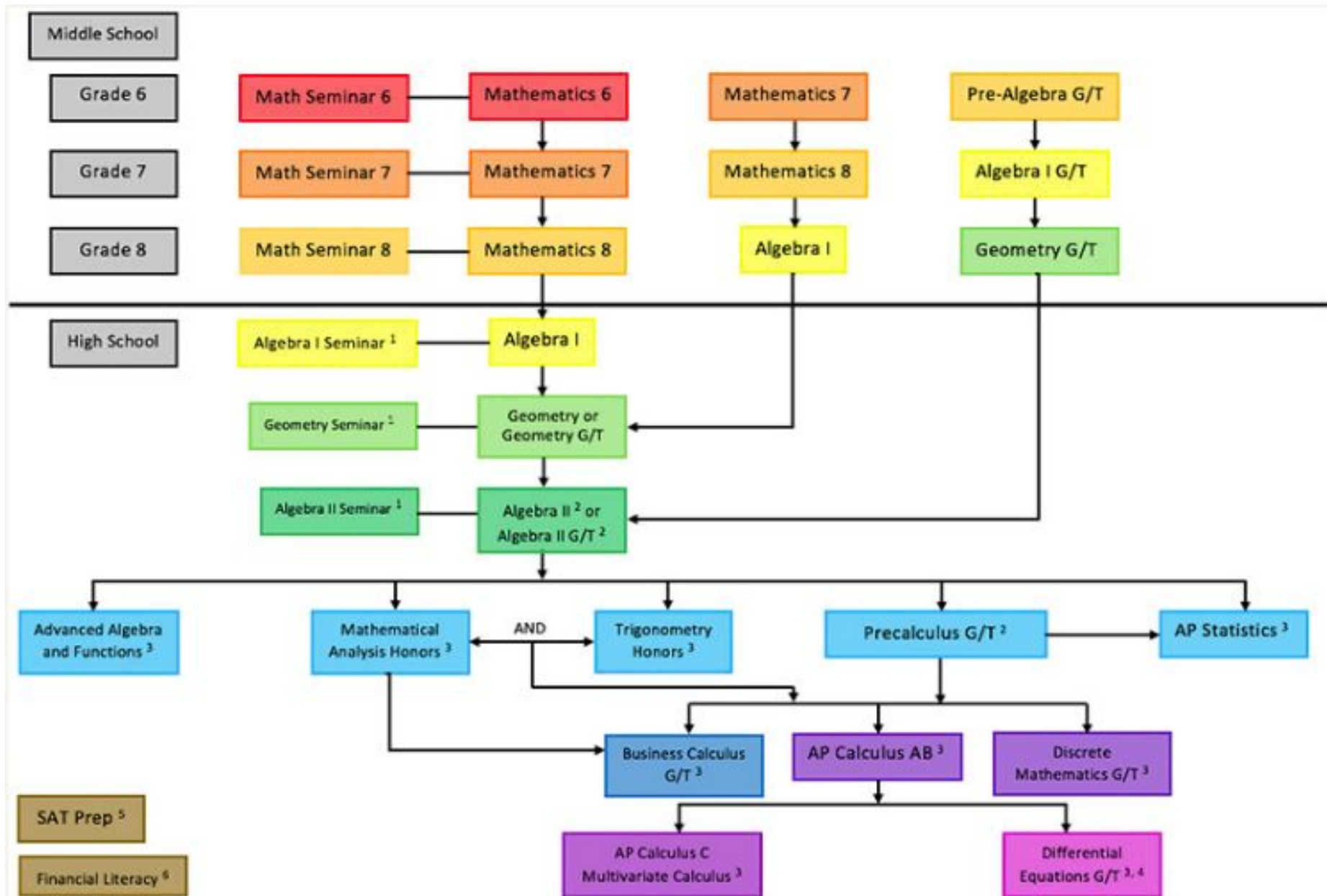


Math Courses Offered in Middle School

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
On Grade Level	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8
Above Grade Level	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra 1*
G/T	Pre-Algebra G/T	Algebra 1 G/T *	Geometry G/T*

*These classes are High School Courses. The final grade will be printed on students' transcripts. Students will be required to take and pass the MCAP as part of their graduation requirement. They do not count towards the 4 math credits needed in high school.

Math



In addition, Maryland regulations require
all students take:

Health Education

Physical Education

Fine Arts (Music and/or Visual Arts)



Music Performance Ensemble Options

Band – Chorus – Orchestra



- Year-long classes
- Includes a daily large ensemble rehearsal and a weekly small sectional that are scheduled on a rotational basis
- Ensembles are ability-based.
- Music teachers will be in contact with elementary programs to schedule meetings and auditions.

World Language 7th-8th Grade Options



French – Spanish

- Year-long classes
- All middle school students may begin French, Spanish in 7th grade.
- Students receive high school credit for completing MS world language courses.

Additional Course Options



Family and Consumer Science

Technology Education

Reading and/or Math Intervention

Innovation & Inquiry Reading Modules

GT Research

Lunch



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 **our school**, staff and students:

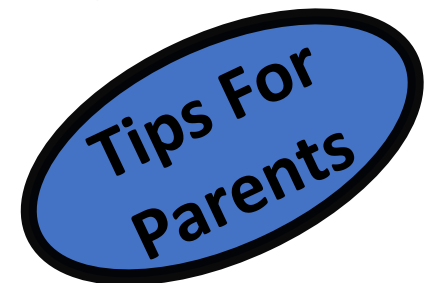
- Start with the goal in mind
- Do what they do best, every day
- Celebrate effort and achievement
- Engage in positive experiences each school day
- Create excitement for the future.

3 WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WHOLE CHILD

- 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.

Supporting Your Child's Development Of Positive Academic Behaviors

- Ensure that your child has the materials and 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
Jan 13	6th grade and new student parent orientation
EES - May 5 RES - May 11	ELMS Counselors visit 5th graders
May 19	EES and RES visit ELMS

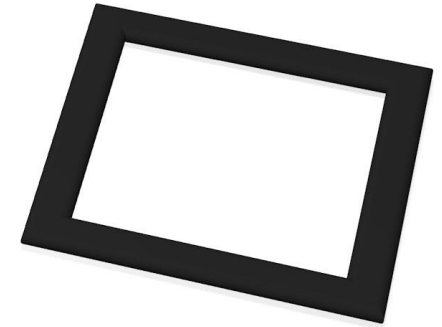


Middle School Gifted and Talented Program



Agenda

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



Program Components

- Talent Development Offerings
- G/T Classes and Curricular Extensions
- Extended Day/Extended Year Programs

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 area

- **G/T Book Club** - Read advanced-level books on a variety of topics
- **Digital Art** - Learn the creative techniques offered with technology
- **Debate Team** - Develop persuasive writing, rhetoric, and public speaking skills
- **Environmental Awareness Committee** - Develop and implement environmental projects
- **Film Institute** - Learn to use digital media for communication
- **Leadership** - Learn leadership skills and implement them in the school and community
- **Mathology** - Tackle math puzzles, cryptology, robotics, and more
- **Television Production** - Produce a daily television broadcast
- **Writer's Workshop** - Improve upon your creative writing skills

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

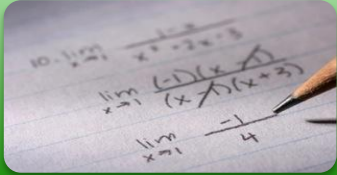
Reporters needed! Including, sports reporters, fashion reporters, and entertainment reporters! Ever wonder what it would be like to write the news, not create the news. This seminar is for students who love writing and journalism. This year we will create a school web-based newspaper and newsletter,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

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

5th Grade

- CogAT administered to ALL students in December.
 - Meets State COMAR requirement for an ability measure.
 - Helps identify students who may underperform in school.
 - No longer requires parent/teacher request for testing.
- All students reviewed as part of G/T Placement Process.

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 form.

Who can initiate the placement process in middle school?

- Families
- Teachers
- Students



Measures Included in Placement Process

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

Extended Day/Extended Year

- Accelerated Mathematics
- G/T Orchestra, G/T Symphonic Band, and G/T Chorus
- G/T Summer Institutes for Talent Development

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 Methods
- 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

- Ms. Pattie Holy-Ilenda
- G/T Resource Teacher
- ElkrIDGE Landing Middle
- philenda@hcpss.org



