

# Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION  
TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Howard  
County**  
Public School System



# MOUNT VIEW MIDDLE



# PTA

## NEW FAMILY ?

### Let's make a difference

- be a PTA member
- attend a PTA meeting
- be a volunteer
- like our facebook page

### Stay tuned

- don't miss our events
- enroll to receive newsletters
- check out MVMS Clubs
- any question contact us



PTA President, Phuong Dam

<https://mvmspta.weebly.com/index2.html>

# Meet the Staff

## **Administration:**

Ms. Lynnette Moore, Principal

Ms. Kimberly Hess, Assistant Principal

## **School Counseling Team**

Ms. Kathy O'Ferrall, Grade 6 (M-Z) and  
7th grade

Ms. Patricia Marton, Grade 6 (A-L) and  
8th grade

## **Gifted & Talented**

Ms. Susan Mako, GT Resource

## **6th Grade Team**

Ms. Octavia Cutsail, Instructional  
Team Leader



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

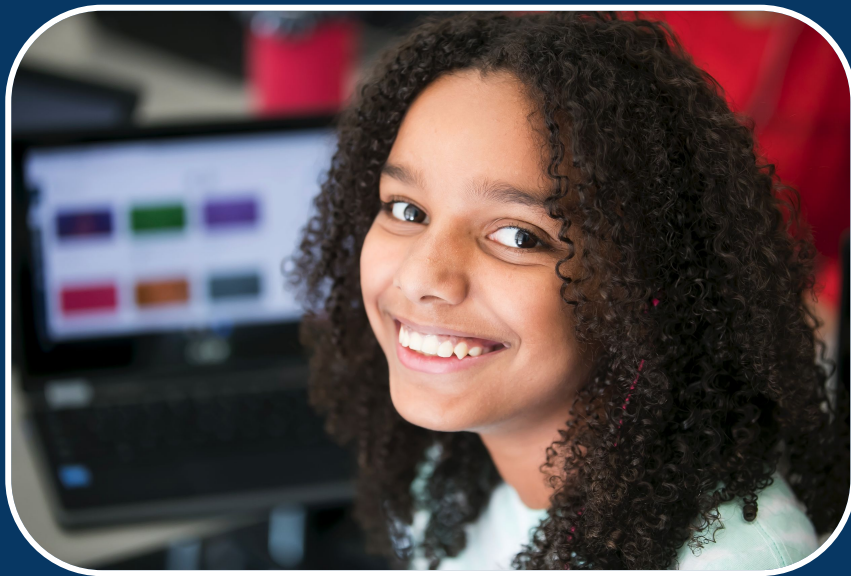
VALUE

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**

**21<sup>st</sup>  
Century  
Skills**

**Academic  
Behaviors**

**High  
School  
Readiness**

**College  
and  
Career  
Readiness**



**21<sup>st</sup>  
Century  
Skills**

The diagram illustrates a progression of skills and behaviors. On the left, two dark blue rounded rectangles are stacked vertically, labeled '21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills' and 'Academic Behaviors'. These are enclosed within a large blue oval. A light blue arrow points from this oval towards the right. In the center, a dark blue rounded rectangle labeled 'High School Readiness' is connected to the oval by a blue speech bubble tail. To the right of this, another dark blue rounded rectangle labeled 'College and Career Readiness' is connected to the 'High School Readiness' box by a light blue arrow tail. A large light blue arrow in the background points from left to right, indicating the overall direction of the progression.

**Academic  
Behaviors**

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

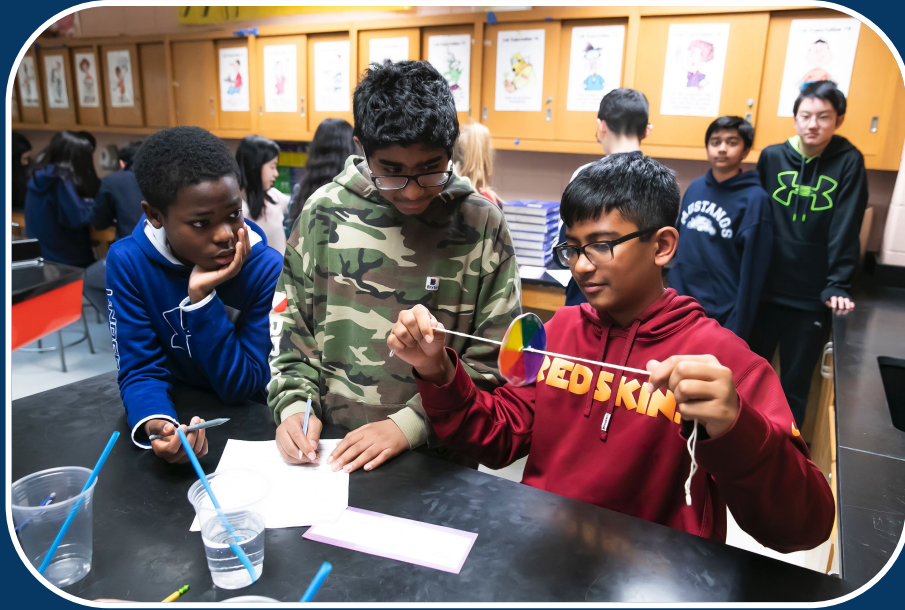
**High  
School  
Readiness**

**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 - Special Education/ESOL/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
- PE
- Science
- Social Studies

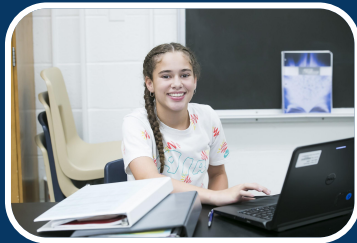
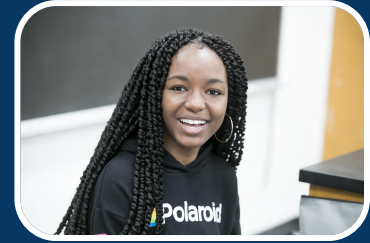


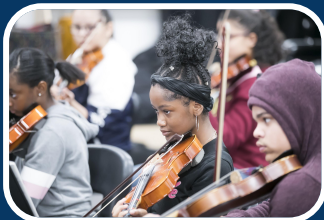
English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics offer a Gifted and Talented (G/T) option for instruction. Mathematics has an above-grade level course in addition to the G/T options.



# 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
- Related Arts Rotation



# World Language 7th-8th Grade Year-Long Options

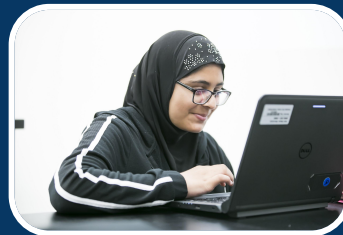
Chinese – French – Spanish



- All middle school students may enroll in a World Language Level I course in 7th grade.
- After course completion and credit attainment of a Level I World Language a student may enroll in a Level II World Language in 8th grade.
- Students can receive a high school credit for each MS World Language course they complete and pass.

## Additional Course Options

- Family and Consumer Science
- Technology Education
- G/T Research or Seminars/Interventions in reading and/or mathematics
- Reader's and Writer's Workshop
- Additional Fine Arts Classes
- Other Elective Course Offerings



# Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success





# Middle School Gifted and Talented Program



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



# 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 will my child be able to find out about G/T Instructional Seminars at MVMS?

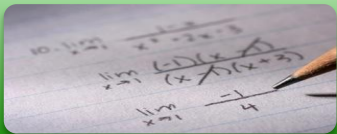
- Morning TV Show
- Canvas announcements
- 6th grade Science classes
- Lunchroom
- Viewpoint

# 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

All students reviewed as part of G/T Placement Process using multiple data points.

- Ability Measure (CogAT from 3rd grade)
- Standardized assessments (MAP, 3rd grade MCAP)
- 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 Synergy.

# 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 Research
- 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](http://www.hcpss.org/academics/gt)
- G/T Parent Academies
- HCPSS News for G/T Program Information
- HCPSS\_GT Twitter
- MVMS GT Facebook: mvmsgt



# Contact Information

- Susan Mako
- [susan\\_mako@hcpss.org](mailto:susan_mako@hcpss.org)
- [www.mvmsgt.weebly.com](http://www.mvmsgt.weebly.com)



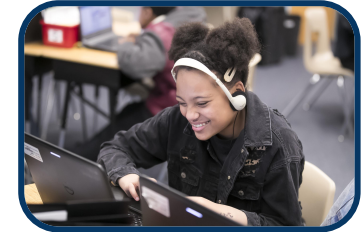
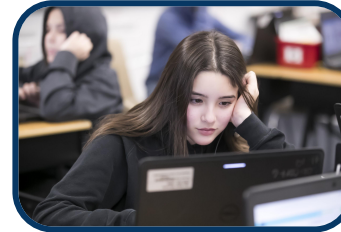


## **Academic Behavior**

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 Mount View, 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
2/3/21 - 2/15/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course Recommendations for rising 6th graders available in Synergy for parents to review.</li><li>• Parents will enter student course requests in Synergy no later than 2/15/21.</li><li>• Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate.</li></ul>
5/17/21	Virtual Rising 6th Grade Visit



Any Questions?