



Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION
TO PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meet the Staff



Michael Babe, Principal



Kendra Lee, School Counselor
(Last names: A-L)

Morgan Kempthorn, School
Counselor (Last names: M-Z)

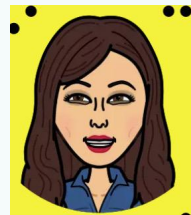
Samantha Castelbaum, GT Resource
Teacher



Jenn Meikrantz, 6th Grade Team
Leader



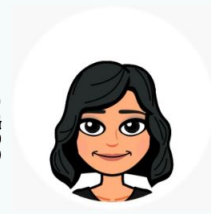
Michelle Whelan, Special Ed
Team Leader



Annie Goldthrite, School
Psychologist



Jamie Kim, International
Student Liaison





At Patapsco We Are:

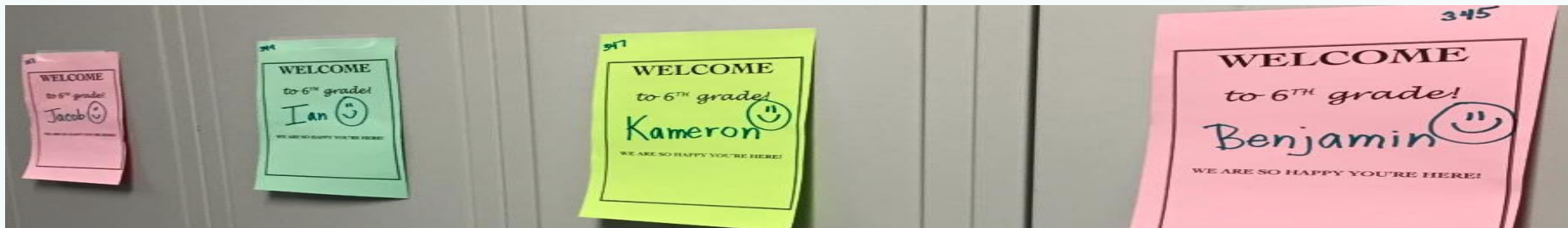
#OnePatapsco

A place where
everyone is **VALUED**
and **IMPORTANT**



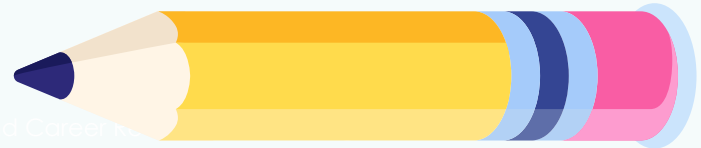
Agenda

- Welcome and Middle School Importance
- Middle School Scheduling
- GT Programs
- Easing into Middle School



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

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.

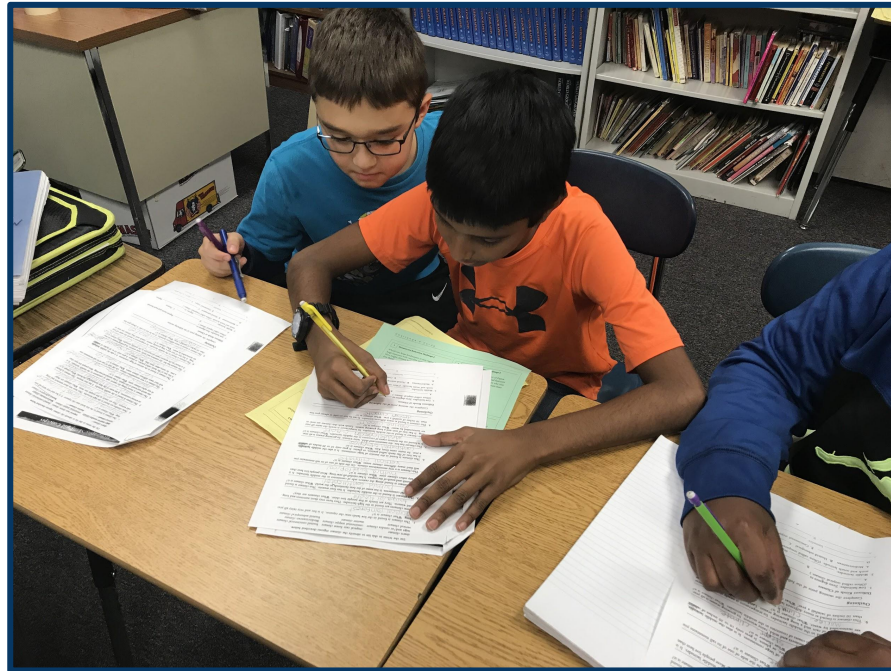


Source: The Forgotten Middle: Why Middle School Students Are on Target For College and Career Readiness

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 (two quarters) /Health (quarter) /Tech (quarter) |
| Course 6 | Fine Art Choice |
| Course 7 | Reading Module / Assigned Intervention / Other Elective Courses |

(Courses 1-5) In accordance with state requirements, each year middle school students receive instruction in the following areas:

- **English Language Arts**
- **Science**
- **Social Studies**
- **Mathematics**
- Physical Education (2 quarters)
- Health (1 quarter)
- Technology (1 quarter)



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.

Fine Arts Options (Course 6)



- Band
- Chorus
- Orchestra
- Fine Arts possibilities combo:
Art/General Music/Theater Arts/ FACS
combination



Additional Course Options (Course 7)

- Reading Modules- Reader's and Writer's Cafe, Boost the Brain, 21st Century Learning, and Digital Citizenship
- G/T Research (1 semester) or
- Seminars- Interventions in reading and/or mathematics



Special Education Intervention Courses



Middle School and Elementary Special Education Teachers will be working together to ensure a smooth transition to 6th grade. IEP transition meetings will be held in the Spring with a middle school representative to review your child's IEP/needs, schedule, and answer any questions you may have.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to our meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out to our special ed. team leader, Mrs. Whelan at michelle_whelan@hcpss.org.

Multi-Language Learner Intervention Courses

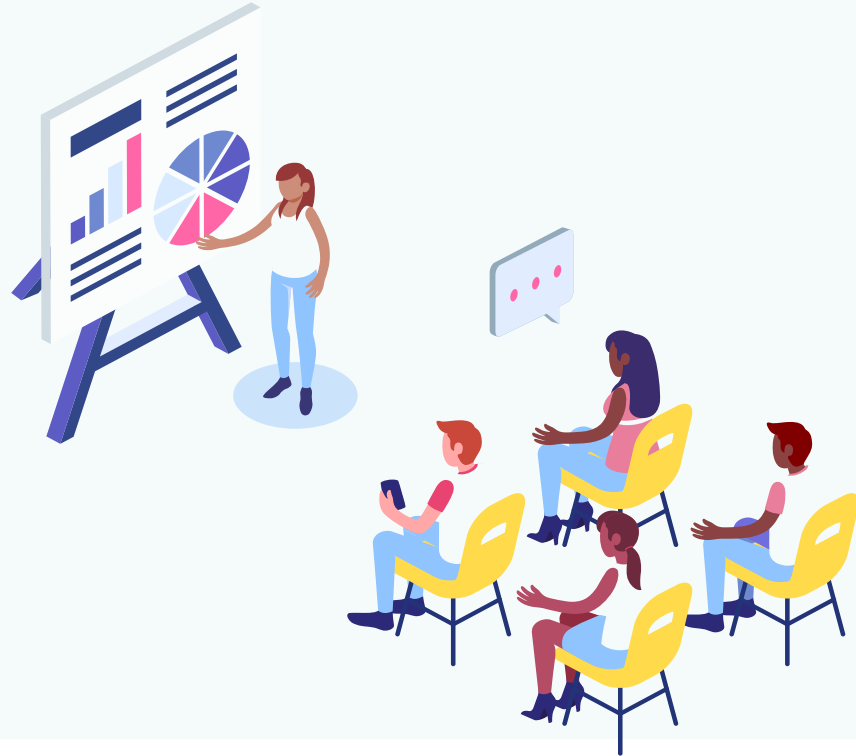
Middle School and Elementary ESOL teachers will be working together to ensure that students are placed appropriately for sixth grade.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Healey at Danielle_Healey@hcpss.org



During their middle school experience, students are also required to receive instruction in the following areas:

- Technology
- Financial Literacy
- Careers



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, year-long OR Art, Music, Theater, and Family and Consumer Science (FACS) (each one quarter) |
| Course 7 (Elective/Intervention) | 1 Quarter each - Digital Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, Boost Your Brain, Reader's and Writer's Cafe 2 Quarters - GT Research Year-long - ESOL, Special Education/Mathematics/Reading Intervention |

Gifted and Talented Program



Talent Development Offerings: G/T Instructional Seminars



**Instruction in
Advanced-Level
Skills**



**Open to All
Interested
Students**



**Creative
Production or
Inquiry**

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

PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL: G/T PROGRAM

[HOME](#)

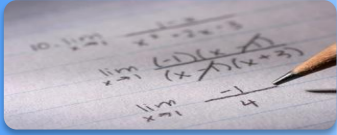
[INSTRUCTIONAL SEMINARS](#)

[PROGRAM INFORMATION](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[6TH GRADE GT RESEARCH CLASS](#)

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, 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



- 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

Middle School GT Research Class

6th Grade 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

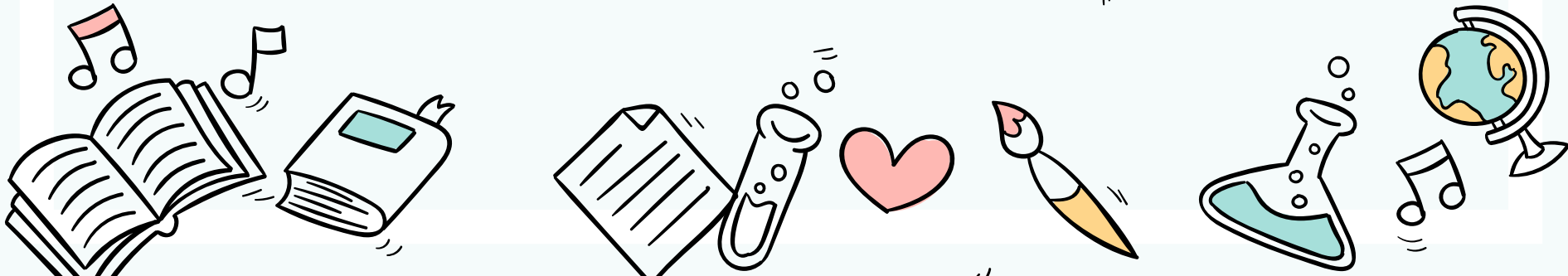
Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success



Finding the Right Balance

- Club Day
 - Supporting student interest
 - Preparing for balancing academics and extra curricular activities in the future



Supporting Academic Behaviors

At Patapsco, 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

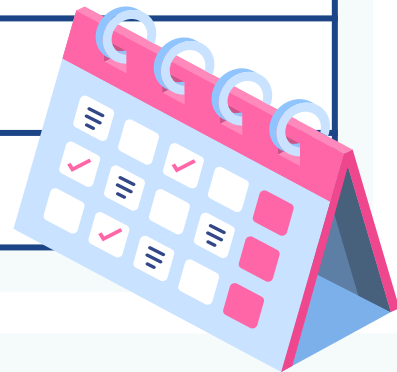
LearnED by Pearson



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.

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 |
| Fall of 2022 (August) | 6th grade orientation |



Get Connected:

pms.hcpss.org

PMS Google Calendar

facebook.com/pms.hcpss.org

Twitter: @hcpss_pms

Instagram: PatapscosMs

patapscopta.weebly.com/

facebook.com/patapscopta/

App store: HCPSS app

School Messenger (Community Member)

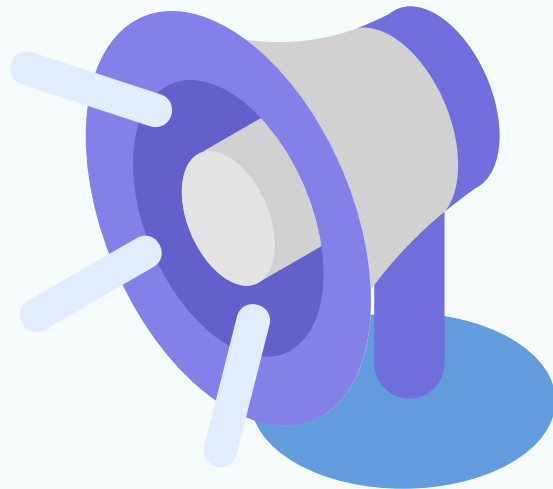


PTA's Welcome

Ms. Beth Schaeffer, PTA President

patapscopta@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/patapscopta/>





#OnePatapsco

A place where
everyone is valued
and important.

Welcome to our
family!

