



Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION
TO PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meet the Staff



Michael Babe, Principal

Heather Dinicola, Assistant Principal

Jenny Canfield, 6th Grade Team Leader

Samantha Castelbaum, GT Resource Teacher

Sean Jones, BSAP Liaison

Vilma Rivera, Hispanic Student Liaison

Michelle Whelan, Special Ed Team Leader

Kendra Brantley, School Counselor
(Last names: A-G)

Erin Shurtleff, School Counselor
(Last names: H-O)

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



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: How Middle School Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness

Transitioning to Middle School

Will I have any friends?

Will the teachers be nice?

Will people like me?

Will I be able to keep up with my work?

What if I get lost?

Will I be able to open my locker?

What if I don't have what I need?



What you can do to help with the transition

Reassure students that the grown ups know what they're going through and that we will help

Attend student orientation in August so they can see their classrooms and open their lockers

Have them learn their bus number

Note about supplies:

Bring a binder, something to write with, dividers, and paper. Students will have time to bring in everything else they'll need

Too many supplies makes lockers difficult to manage

The Middle School Schedule



**All students are enrolled in seven
50-minute classes every day.
One day a week students have an alternate
schedule that includes Flex (Knight) time.**



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
 - 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

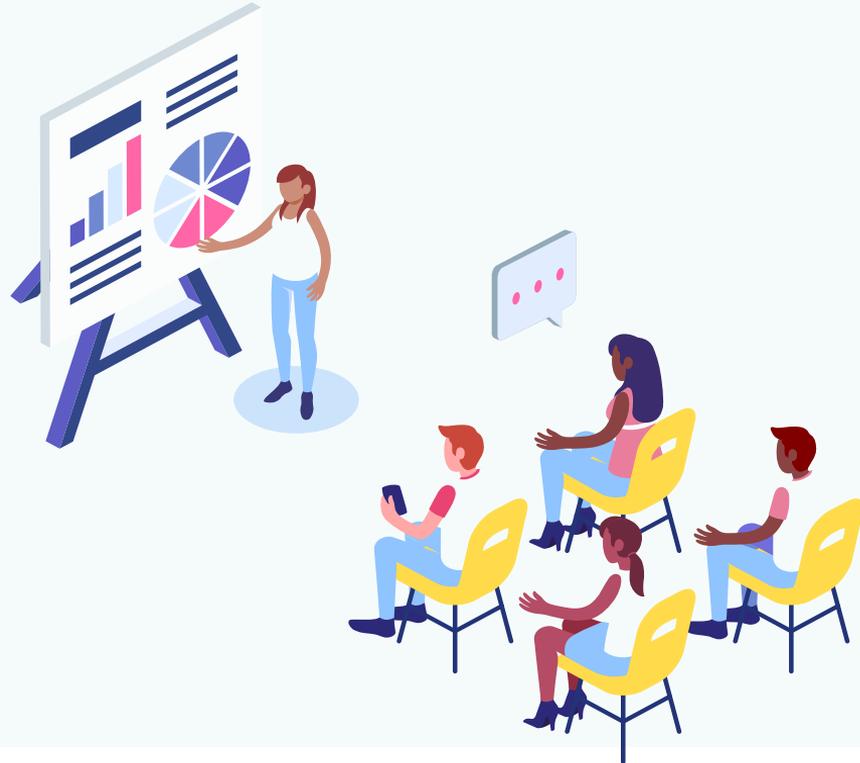
Middle School and Elementary ESOL teachers will be working together to ensure that students are placed appropriately for sixth grade.

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](#)

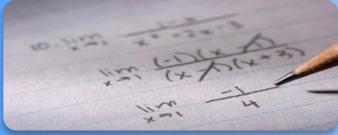
[INSTRUCTIONAL SEMINARS](#)

[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 Social Studies, English, and Science

Provides an enriched and accelerated curriculum, including differentiated objectives:

- reading and analyzing challenging and complex literature and literary nonfiction independently,
- writing a variety of interpretive, and analytical pieces, and conducting independent research.



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

Placement Process for Middle School G/T Classes

5th Grade and Throughout Middle School

- Multiple criteria examined (CogAT, MAP, MCAP, class performance)
- CogAT administered to all students in 5th and new HCPSS students in middle school
- ALL students reviewed

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



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.

- 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



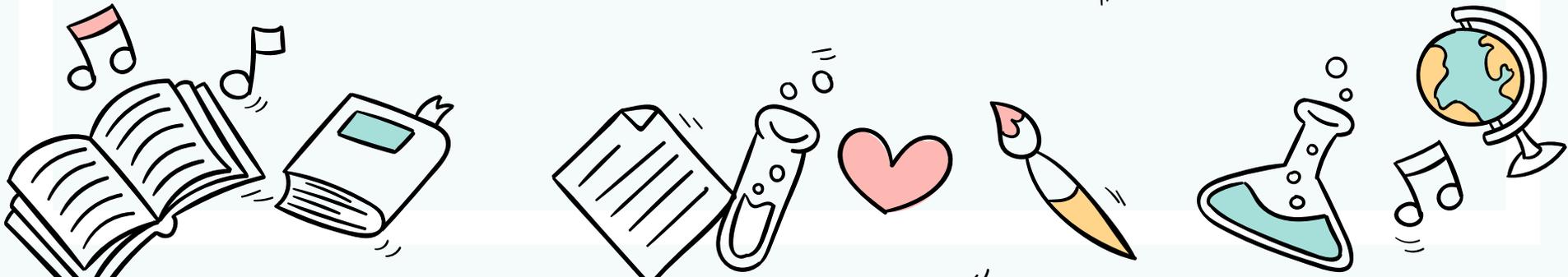
Finding the Right Balance Between

- 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
2/2/23 - 2/17/23	<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 2/17/23.● Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate.
June, 1 2023	Rising 6th Grade Visit
Fall of 2023 (August)	6th grade orientation



Get Connected:

pms.hcpss.org

PMS Google Calendar

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!

