

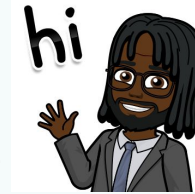
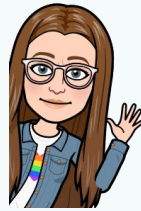


# Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO  
PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL



# Meet the Staff



Kelly Hearn, Principal

Heather Dinicola, Assistant Principal

Jenny Canfield, 6th Grade Team Leader

Caroline Sneller, GT Resource Teacher

Sean Jones, BSAP Liaison

Ashley Anderson, Hispanic Student Liaison

Julia D'Anna, 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
- G/T Programs
- Easing into Middle School



Middle school is a defining point for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in postsecondary pathways.

But don't worry, there are so many people here to support them!



# 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:

- Binder with dividers for all classes
- Weekly Planner/Agenda Book
- Chromebook
- Too many supplies makes lockers difficult to manage



# Transitioning to Middle School

## Student Liaison Resources:

- Ashley Anderson, Hispanic Student Liaison
- Sean Jones, Black Student Achievement Liaison
- Morgan Kempthorn, Rainbow Representative

Liaisons act as a resource in each school, working in collaboration with administrators, staff, families, and the community





# 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)



## Fine Arts Options (Course 6)

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



# 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
- Academic 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](mailto:michelle_wheLAN@hcpss.org).

# Special Education Intervention Courses (IEP)

Middle School and Elementary Special Education teams will be working together to ensure a smooth transition to 6th grade.

To consider the needs of every learner, IEP transition meetings will be held at your child's elementary school this spring to review your child's IEP/needs, schedule, and answer any questions you may have about the jump to 6th grade.

If you have any questions or concerns before then, please reach out to Julia D'Anna at [julia\\_danna@hcpss.org](mailto:julia_danna@hcpss.org)

What a great day to be a Patapsco Knight!





# Multi-Language Learner Intervention Courses

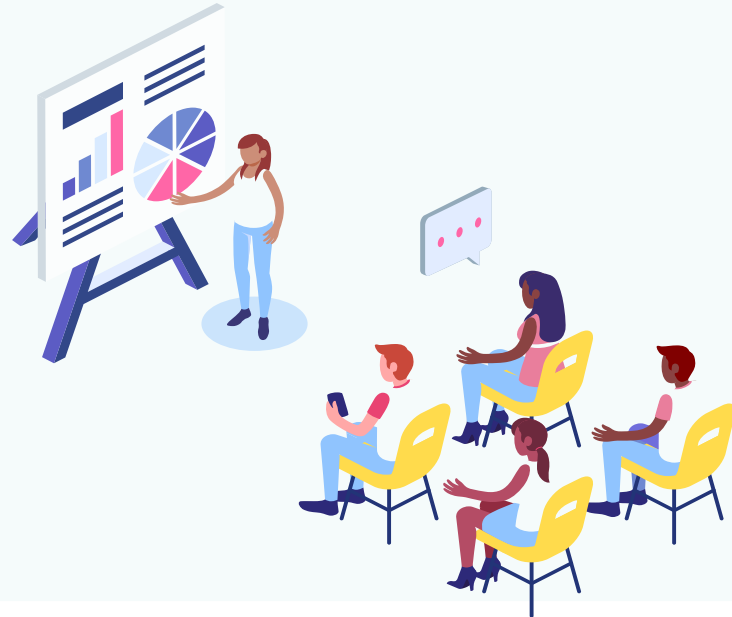
Middle School and Elementary ESOL teachers will be working together to ensure that students are placed appropriately for sixth grade.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Whyte at [Georgia\\_Whyte@hcpss.org](mailto:Georgia_Whyte@hcpss.org)



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

- Technology
- Financial Literacy
- Careers



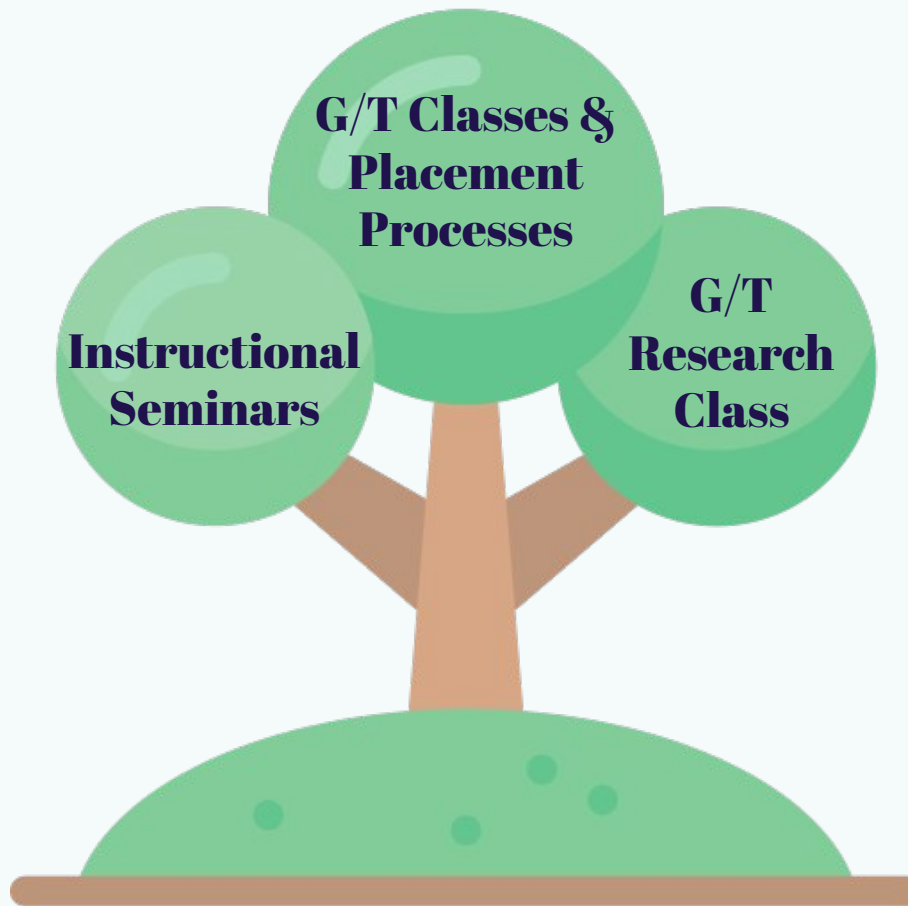
# Grade 6 Example Schedule

Course 1	English
Course 2	Mathematics
Course 3	Science
Course 4	Social Studies
Course 5	Physical Education/Health/Tech
Course 6 (Fine Art Choice)	<b>Band, Chorus, Orchestra (year-long course)</b> OR <b>Art, Music, Theater, and Family and Consumer Science (FACS)</b> (each one quarter)
Course 7 (Elective/Intervention)	<b>1 Quarter each</b> - Digital Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, Boost Your Brain, Reader's and Writer's Cafe <b>2 Quarters</b> - GT Research <b>Year-long</b> - ESOL, Special Education/Mathematics/Reading Intervention

# Gifted and Talented Program

Caroline Sneller  
caroline\_sneller@hcpss.org





**Gifted & Talented Program at Patapsco Middle School**

# Talent Development Offerings: 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?**

- Every student receives an Instructional Seminar orientation at the beginning of the school year
- Fliers will then go home with each student detailing seminar offerings/expectations and next steps for signing up
- Additional information available on school website

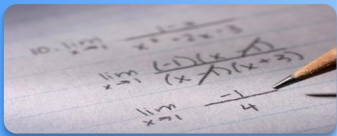
# THIS IS WHAT WE OFFERED THIS YEAR!

- TELEVISION PRODUCTION/KNIGHT NEWS NETWORK (KNN) [EVERY WEEK]
- MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK CLUB [ONCE A MONTH]
- BEGINNING/ADVANCED DEBATE [ADVANCED: EVERY WEEK, BEGINNING: EVERY OTHER ]
- WRITERS' WORKSHOP [EVERY OTHER WEEK]
- LEADERSHIP [EVERY OTHER WEEK]
- MATHEMATICAL LOGIC & PROBLEM SOLVING [EVERY OTHER WEEK]
- PHOTOGRAPHY/PHOTOJOURNALISM [EVERY OTHER WEEK]
- LITTLEBITS (SPRING SEMESTER ONLY) [EVERY OTHER WEEK]





# 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

## In 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## Throughout Middle School:

- Multiple criteria examined (CogAT, MAP, MCAP, class performance)
- CogAT administered to all new HCPSS students entering middle school
- ALL students continue to be reviewed by content teachers to ensure appropriate placement

# 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.*

# 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*



**GT RESEARCH**



# 6th Grade Research Goals:

- Original
- Primary Research Methods
- Authentic Product
- Authentic Audience
- Contribution to the Community/Field



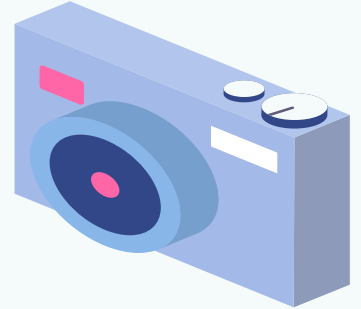
# Finding the Right Balance Between

- 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/or potential career paths. 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
2/1/2024 - 2/14/2024	<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 2/14/24.</li><li>• Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate.</li></ul>
5/30/2024	Rising 6th Grade Visit Day
Fall of 2024 (August)	6th grade orientation



# Get Connected:

[pms.hcpss.org](https://pms.hcpss.org)

PMS Google Calendar

Twitter: @hcpss\_pms

Instagram: PatapscoMs

[patapscopta.weebly.com/](https://patapscopta.weebly.com/)

[facebook.com/patapscopta/](https://facebook.com/patapscopta/)

App store: HCPSS app

School Messenger (Community Member)



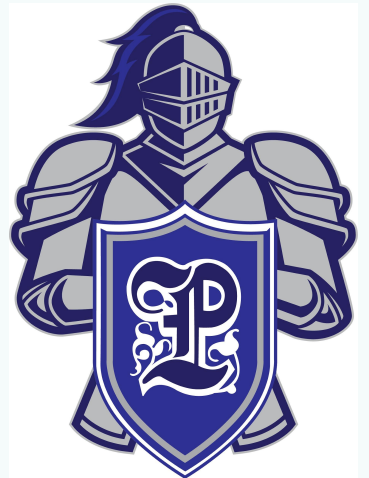


# PTA's Welcome

Ms. Megan Mason, PTA President

[patapscopta@gmail.com](mailto:patapscopta@gmail.com)

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







## #OnePatapsco

A place where everyone is valued and important.

Welcome to our family!

