

# WELCOME

**Wilde Lake Middle School**

**“Home of the Tiger Sharks”**



# Navigating Middle School

WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION  
TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



# WLMS ADMIN TEAM

Mr. Rattay - Principal



Ms. Keck - Assistant  
Principal (Gr 6 & 8)



Mrs. Harmon- Assistant  
Principal (Gr 6 & 7)



# Meet the Staff

## Front Office

Mrs. Godwin - Admin Secretary  
Mrs. Gallo - Teacher Secretary  
Ms. Lewis - Teacher Secretary

## School Counselors

Mrs. Cornelius - 6th  
Ms. Hill - Counseling Secretary

## Liaisons

Mrs. Sherry Strothers - BSAP  
Ms. Evelia Sosa - Spanish  
Interpreter

## 6th Grade Team Leader

Mrs. Gagern

## Spec Ed ITL

Mrs. Regan

## GT Resource Teacher

Mrs. Perry



**We want to  
inspire and  
engage  
every student  
to discover  
and reach  
their full  
potential.**



# One Focus: Every Student Achieving

HCPSS Strategic Call to Action: Learning and Leading with Equity

— 2022 and Beyond —

**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

# WLMS Vision & Mission



## Vision

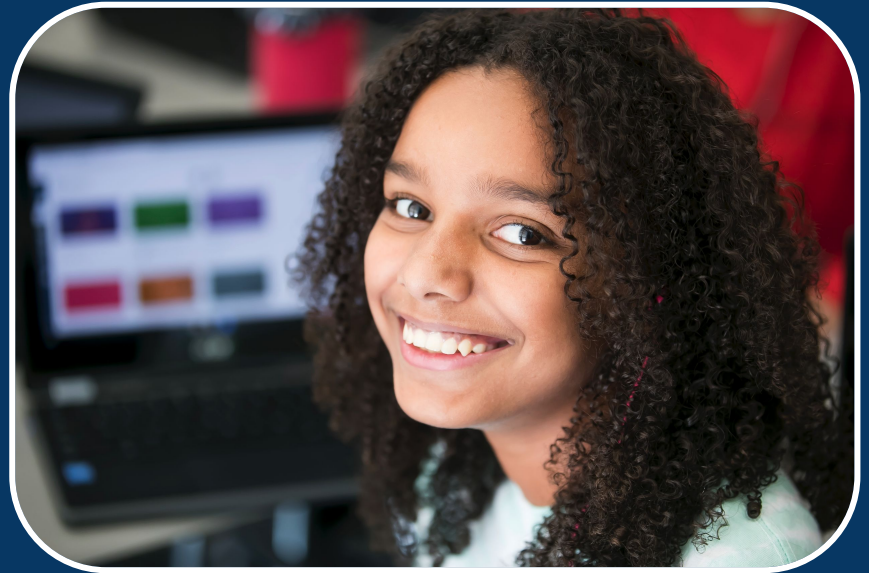
Develop learners who take risks, embrace challenges, and make positive contributions in our diverse community.

## Mission

*Committed to celebrating our diversity and the development of student and staff strengths.*

- Students will become self-advocates and creative problem solvers in a safe and rigorous environment.
- Staff will engage students in high quality instruction to cultivate academic achievement.
- The school will partner with families to foster academic, social, and emotional student growth.

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



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

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

Academic  
Behaviors

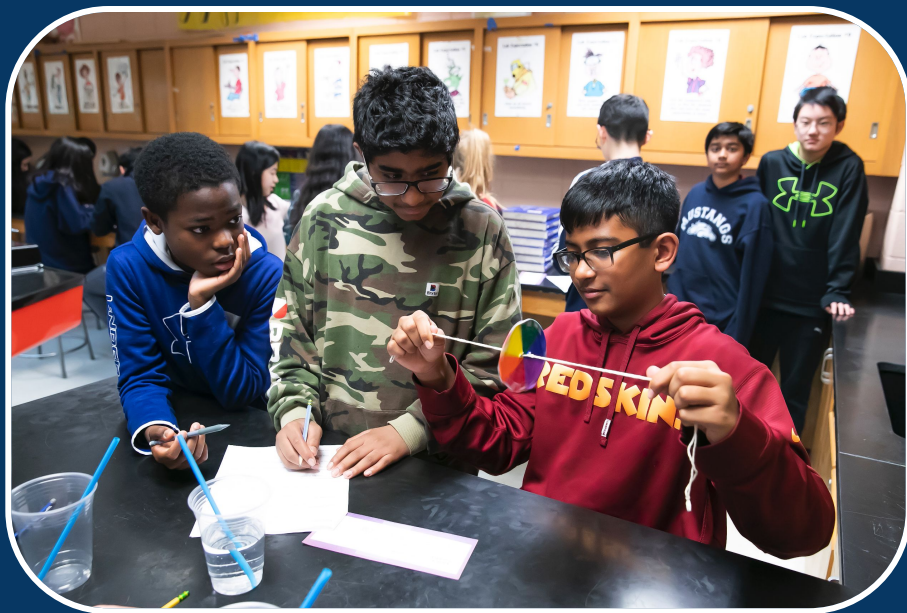
- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information Media and Technology Skills

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.



# In accordance with state requirements, each year middle school students receive instruction in the following areas:

- English Language Arts
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- 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, 6th grade
- Financial Literacy, 7th grade
- Careers, 8th grade

*Note: These classes are always connected to PE & Health rotation*







## Fine Arts Options

Students in grade 6 will choose from the following options:

- **Band (Full Year)**
- **Chorus (Full Year)**
- **Orchestra (Full Year)**
- **Art/General Music/Theater Arts combination w/ Family Consumer Science (Full Year in Quarter Rotations)**

Every 6th Grader takes these five classes:

- ELA
- Science
- Math
- Social Studies
- PhysEd (SEM)/  
HealthEd (Q)/  
TechEd (Q)

Families and students can pick their Fine Arts Option (6th Class) You will CHOOSE ONE bullet:

- Chorus (FY)
- Band (FY)
- Orchestra (FY)
- **\*Fine Arts Rotation:** Art, Gen Mus, FACS, Theater (1Q each)

## **Student's Final Class (7th Course):**

- Your child may be **recommended** by their current teachers for a **Reading or Math intervention class**.
- Your child may be **INVITED** by the county for a **GT Research Class** (must be recommended for GT ELA & GT MATH).
- If not recommended or invited for either of the above then they will be placed into a rotation of Digital Citizenship, 21st Century, or Boost your Brain.

# Middle School G/T Classes



G/T  
Math



G/T  
English



G/T  
Science



G/T  
Social  
Studies



# G/T Mathematics

- ★ Accelerated and enriched sequence that follows a curriculum of concepts at least two years above the general education curriculum.
- ★ There are also math courses one year 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 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 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





# Placement Process for Middle School G/T Classes

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Throughout Middle School**

- Multiple criteria examined (CogAT, MAP, MCAP, class performance)
- CogAT administered to all students in 3rd grade and new HCPSS students in middle school
- ALL students reviewed

# 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

## Who can initiate the placement process in middle school?

Teachers

Families

Students

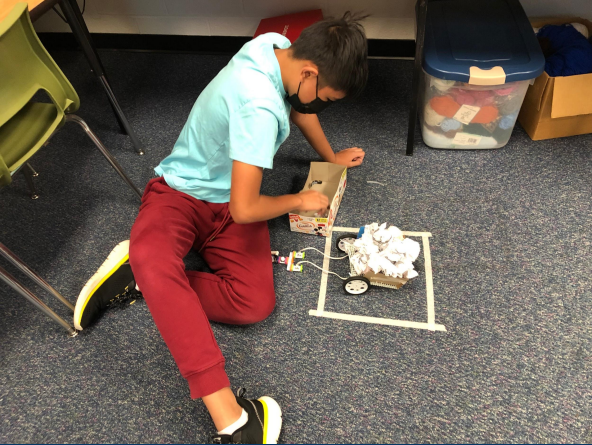
# Middle School G/T Research Class

- 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

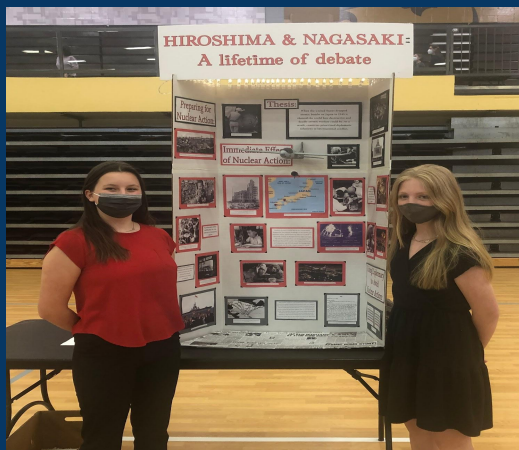
## Research

- Secondary and Primary





# G/T Instructional Seminars



# Supporting Student Achievement & Growth



# Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success
- Happiness





## **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.**





# Tips For Parents: Supporting Your Child's Development Of Positive Academic Behaviors

- Talk to your child about school and how they are feeling.
- Create a regular time and routine for homework completion.
- Encourage your child to be responsible, for example regularly checking Canvas.
- Take school attendance seriously
- Build your student's confidence and identify areas of strength
- Create a bedtime routine and limit screen time



# Important Dates

Date	Activity
2/1/24 - 2/14/24	<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>
5/30/24	Rising 6th Grade Visit
8/22/24	G6 Student Orientation and Block Party

# Scheduling Q&A

WE ARE HERE TO

MAKE GOOD THINGS

HAPPEN

