

## SPECIALISTS MISSION STATEMENT

Hollis Brookline Middle School promotes the development of life skills through: music, physical education, art, computer, guidance, technology education, library media and wellness. As an integral part of a student's academic and social well being, our curriculum fosters a well-rounded student who can realize and fulfill their potential to be a productive member of society. Life skills develop strategies for our students to appreciate and confront real-life experiences. We strive to present a variety of formats to teach our students:

- Critical thinking skills to solve problems in different situations
- Effective communication in a variety of settings
- To think and express themselves creatively
- Self-awareness physically, mentally, emotionally and socially
- How to recognize and accept social, physical and cultural differences
- How to appreciate, recognize, and demonstrate different levels of craftsmanship
- Time management and wise use of resources
- The connection between school and career opportunities
- How to make safe, healthy decisions

**Physical education** is the class where brain cells grow because of activity. Students are required to wear sneakers and clothing they can be active in. A combination locker is assigned to each student for their clothing and valuables. It is a **year long** class that meets twice a week. In seventh grade, students will have **Mrs. Hoffman**. Students will focus on units to develop and improve team building skills, unique and traditional team sports units, and life long activities. In eighth grade students will have **Mr. Simo** and participate in units like ultimate frisbee, disc golf, modified flag rugby, volleyball, adventure education (including the climbing wall), yoga, fitness, golf, and lawn games.

**Music education** is an interactive and kinesthetic class setting. We strive to provide a learning environment where students are encouraged to engage in the creative practices of imagining, investigating, constructing and reflecting. Music classes include band, chorus, and general music. It is a **year-long** class that meets every other day. Students should bring a pencil to each music class throughout the year. General Music students will also need a 1" three ringed binder and headphones/earbuds (wired.) General Music students complete units on acoustic guitar, synthesized piano, African drums, bucket drums, music history and composition. Choral and band students will continue developing musicianship skills as they learn more about their instrument/voice. Band students will need a black 1" three ring binder with at least 20 clear sheet protectors. Concert dates for the year will be available the first day of music class. **Ms. Costa** teaches chorus and general music. **Ms. Nault** teaches band and general music.

**Visual arts education** is taught by Ms. Argerake. Students at HBMS will take art class for one quarter. 8th graders will have art class first or second quarter, while 7th graders will have art class in the third or fourth quarter. The art program at HBMS is project-based, with a focus on

artistic voice and choice. Students will explore creative projects inspired by our ever changing art making world, which will include units on drawing, painting, digital, and 3D assignments. Students will also be creating a digital portfolio that represents their artistic journeys throughout their middle school years.

**Health** is taught by Ms. St. Pierre. All **8th graders** will start the year with Health, followed by the 7th graders in the second semester.

We will cover many health topics; physical, mental, emotional, and social health to name a few. Please be prepared for health class with a **single subject notebook, pocket folder, highlighter, pens and pencils.** (**Helpful Hint:** If you can, color coordinate your folder and notebook so when you are at your locker, you will be able to find your health folder and notebook quickly.)

**Technology Education** is taught by **Mr. Schmidt**. All 7th graders will have TechEd in either Quarter 1 or 2, while all 8th graders will take TechEd in either Quarter 3 or 4. The projects we work on each quarter are designed to help students, not just in gaining knowledge and understanding of design, construction, and woodworking and the tools used in those activities, but also in providing students practice in problem solving and collaboration with others. Emphasis is placed on working safely and the cleaning of work areas to maintain a safe environment.

**Computer Science** for seventh grade will be taught by **Ms. Boudreau** during the first two marking periods and eighth grade for quarters three and four. Ms. Boudreau will be instructing the students on the following items:

All students will engage in learning activities that will develop their skills in areas crucial for current and future academic and real world success. Students will work on improving their typing skills with daily practice. As part of the quarter's Digital Citizenship unit, students will learn and demonstrate proficiency in digital literacy, cyber-security, as well as safe and appropriate online communication.

Both grade levels will also learn the importance of a website's user interface by creating an informational, engaging and organized website. Seventh grade students will use Google Sites while eighth grade students will design and code their own website using HTML. Other computer science projects students will take part in during their time at HBMS include digital animation and coding..

Students will also set up their Google Drive in order to build a portfolio of their work for their two years here at HBMS as part of the ICT Portfolio requirement.

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We welcome those who are new to the Hollis Brookline Middle School community and are eager to see those who are returning. See you soon!