MIDDLE SCHOOL 2024-25 PROGRAM OF STUDIES

WCPS | Washington County Public Schools



Preparing Students for College & Career

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Middle School Program of Studies

The Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards establish shared goals and high expectations for what students should understand and be able to do in grades Pre-K–12. The goal is to ensure all students will be well-prepared for success in college and the workplace. Students in middle school will take English, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes daily. In addition, students will have access to an array of world languages, performing and fine arts, career and technology education, and physical education and health classes. The Program of Studies is designed to help students and their parents and guardians navigate course selection through middle school to prepare for high school.

Leaving elementary school and transitioning to middle school can be challenging for students. Students will go from having one or two primary teachers to many teachers. In addition, students will start earning letter grades and have a greater selection of academic and elective courses. Parents and guardians can support students in that transition by:

- Encouraging your child to challenge them self by working up to their ability in appropriate classes.
- Encouraging your child to set short and long-term goals.
- Helping your child organize their materials.
- Encouraging your child to write down homework assignments and complete homework assignments independently.
- Encouraging your child to take advantage of opportunities to explore their interests.
- Attending parent conferences and staying involved in your child's academic success. Contact your child's teachers or school counselor if you have questions or concerns.

Attendance

WCPS follows the requirements in the Maryland Student Records System Manual (MSRSM) and district regulations/procedures when determining if a student is counted present for a full-day or half -day. Days attending and absent must be reported to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to the nearest half-day.

A student is "present" or "attending" if the student is attending an instructional program approved by the State, local school system, and/or school. A student is reported present for a full-day of attendance if the student is attending.

Maryland State Department of Education now defines full-day and half-day absences using the following thresholds: A student is "present" or "attending" for a partial day of attendance if the student attends an instructional program approved by the State, local school system, and/or school for 10% to 50% of the school day.

To comply with this definition, middle and high schools will use these definitions to determine Present or Full-day/Half-day Absences:

- The student is full-day absent if the student is present for less than 40 minutes.
- The student is half-day absent if the student is present for at least 40 minutes but less than 3 hours and 25 minutes.
- The student is present for the day if the student is present for more than 3 hours and 25 minutes.

All school absences are recorded as excused or unexcused. All absences (other than those related to school discipline) require a parent note, which explains the reason for the absence, upon the student's return to school. Failure to provide a parent note within 30 days may result in the absence being coded as unexcused. When the combined number of excused and unexcused absences reaches twelve (12) days, only official/legal documentation will be accepted for absences to be excused (i.e., doctor notes, licensed/certified health care provider, and/or legal summons).

College and Career Readiness (CCR)

A student is considered CCR when the student meets standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics that enables the student to be successful in an entry-level credit-bearing course or postsecondary training at a community college. In order to measure if a student is on track for college and career readiness, federal and state laws require all students in grades 3-8 to participate in English and Mathematics assessments. These assessments are called the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in Maryland. In addition, students also take science and social studies state assessments during their 8th-grade year.

Washington County gives local assessments that identify students who are not on track to be CCR in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Students who are not on track to be CCR will receive supplemental instruction in English and Mathematics. Most students who qualify for supplemental instruction will receive it during their math and ELA classes. In some cases, students will participate in an additional intervention class and receive tutoring services before or after school.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1997 also requires that states provide an "alternate assessment" when implementing statewide accountability systems. Students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the MCAP and MISA assessments, even with accommodations, participate in the alternative assessments. These assess students' attainment of their instructional level reading, mathematics, and science mastery objectives that are aligned with grade-level Maryland Content Standards

Grading Policy

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for assuring the practice of regularly reporting the progress of students a they proceed through their formal educational experiences. Such reporting has several purposes: 1) to inform students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of academic progress and needs with regard to the instructional program, 2) to give their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) needed insights into their student's academic achievement, progress, and standing, 3) to provide teachers with information about the progress and needs of students in their classes, 4) to provide staff

with information about the progress and needs of students, and 5) to inform colleges or prospective employers of the nature of a student's educational program and their achievement.

- **A** (90-100%)
  indicates performance that consistently exceeds Washington County standards & requirements
- **B** (80-89%)
  indicates performance that consistently meets & occasionally exceeds Washington County standards & requirements
- **C** (70-79%)
- *indicates performance that meets Washington County standards & requirements*
- **D** (60-69%)
- *indicates performance that minimally meets Washington County standards & requirements*
- **F** (0-59%)
  indicates failure to meet Washington County standards & requirements

Reporting Student Progress

Report cards are available in digital format to parents at the conclusion of each marking period. The interim/progress report reflects the progress of the student through the date of issuance and does not represent the marking period or final grade.

Credits from Middle School

Credit will be awarded for courses taken prior to enrollment in high school in each academic curricular area under the following circumstances:

- The course is identified as an approved course for high school credit;
- The middle school course follows the outcomes and rigor of the approved high school course;
- The student passed the approved middle school course and any associated state assessments.

Credit awarded in the middle school will not be calculated in a student's high school grade point average (GPA). Only grades earned for courses taken in high school will be used in the calculation of a student's high school GPA.

Credit will not be awarded in the middle school when it is determined that the course should be repeated before continuing with the sequence of courses in any given content area. Transfer students will have transcripts reviewed on an individual basis to determine if MSDE guidelines permit the awarding of credit.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To earn a high school diploma, students must:

- Earn the minimum number of required credits
- Complete the requirements for a Completer Program
- Meet the state assessment requirements
- Complete a minimum of 75 hours of approved Student Service Learning (SSL) hours

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The minimum credit requirements for graduation from Washington County Public Schools adhere to but are not limited by, the standards established by the State of Maryland. Students must earn a minimum of 24 credits as outlined in the table below.

STUDENTS MUST EARN A MINIMUM OF 24 CREDITS AS OUTLINED IN THE TABLE BELOW:

SUBJECT	REQUIREMENTS	ASSESSMENT	CREDITS
ENGLISH	☐ 4 English credits	*English MCAP**	4
MATHEMATICS	☐ 1 Algebraic concepts ☐ 1 Geometric concepts ☐ 2 additional Mathematics credits *Students shall enroll in a mathematics course in each year of high school.*	*Algebra I MCAP**	4
SCIENCE	☐ Biology (Life Science) ☐ 2 additional Science credits	*Life Science MISA†*	3
SOCIAL STUDIES	☐ 1 United States Studies II ☐ 1 Local, State, and National Government ☐ 1 World History	*Government MCAP**	3
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	☐ Physical Education I		1
HEALTH/ FINANCIAL LITERACY	☐ Health Education with Financial Literacy		1
FINE ARTS	☐ Fine Arts		1
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION	☐ Foundations of Technology or Foundations of Computer Science		1
ELECTIVES	☐ Electives		6

** Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)*
† Maryland Integrated Science Assessments (MISA)

Homework Policy

WCPS supports the concept of assigning homework that is meaningful and appropriate to the reinforcement of school studies and skills. The purpose of homework is to:

- Help young children develop good study habits.
- Promote positive attitudes toward school.
- Develop self-discipline and independence.
- Develop a sense of responsibility.
- Communicate to students that learning takes place outside as well as inside the school.
- Provide opportunities for students to practice skills, prepare to learn new information, or elaborate on introduced material.
- Provide a communication link between home and school.

Homework should be an extension of the school day. When homework is assigned for practice, it should be structured around content with which students are familiar. When homework is assigned to prepare students for new content, homework can be assigned that is meant to promote critical thinking and not for practice. Homework assignments are intended to encourage and further learning; they should never be excessive, nor used as punishment. Teachers are encouraged to maintain communication with parents/families regarding their guidelines for homework. Decisions related to frequency and amounts of homework should be determined based on grade level, students' progress, and course needs.

Reference: Classroom Instruction That Works, Robert Marzano, 1991

Student Service Learning

Students need to complete 75 hours of service learning to graduate. Students may meet 60 hours of this requirement through projects embedded in the curriculum through middle school and in the high school Health course.

GRADE LEVEL	POSSIBLE NUMBER OF HOURS EARNED
6	15
7	15
8	15
10	15

Students are responsible for completing the last 15 hours independently. All independent hours earned need to be pre-approved by the student's middle school counselor or the student's high school counselor and must meet the Maryland State Department of Education's seven best practices for Student Service Learning criteria. Students may also participate with a community partner agency to complete hours. Information on community partner agencies and the Washington County Student Service Learning Record of Participation sheet can be obtained from all middle and high school counseling offices.

WCPS Student Information System:

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to view student educational information online by signing up for Synergy “ParentVUE” portal. Through ParentVUE, parents and legal guardians can access real-time information about their child’s schedule, assignments, and grades. A single login will allow parents/guardians to view information on all WCPS students in the family. Parents/guardians must use a computer and web browser to log in to ParentVUE for the first time and to create an account. To log in for the first time, contact your child’s school for a username and password.

Advanced Programs

WCPS Advanced Programs is the umbrella term for programs that serve gifted and talented learners and highly able learners. WCPS Magnet Programs are designed to meet the unique academic strengths and social/emotional needs of the Gifted and Talented (GATE) student with gifts and talents in specific content areas.

Definitions

Gifted and Talented

A ***gifted and talented learner*** is defined by Maryland's Annotated Code § 8-201 as an elementary or secondary student who is identified by professionally qualified individuals as:
(1) Having outstanding talent and performing, or showing the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment **when compared with other students of a similar age, experience, or environment**;
(2) Exhibiting high performance capability in intellectual, creative, or artistic areas;
(3) Possessing an unusual leadership capacity; or
(4) Excelling in specific academic fields.

Students are formally identified as "gifted and talented" (**GATE**)* based on CogAT results and on multiple criteria of ability/aptitude, performance, and potential.

Highly Able

A ***highly able learner*** is one who demonstrates above average ability and/or performs at advanced levels in one or more content areas.

WCPS Merit Courses

Every WCPS Middle School has merit courses designed for both highly able learners and gifted learners. Every rising Grade 6 student is reviewed by the Office of Advanced Programs and content specialists for placement in one or more merit courses based on performance and/or ability. Merit courses are available for English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. WCPS merit courses follow the WCPS Essential Curriculum as do the grade-level courses. The pace of WCPS merit courses is typically faster and content is more in-depth in its exploration. In Merit Math, the student will also experience acceleration to the next grade level of a given topic. In all other merit courses, the readings tend to be above grade-level, which demands that students are reading and performing above grade level. Multiple criteria are used for placement in WCPS Merit Programs and no student is guaranteed placement in merit courses.

WCPS Magnet Programs

Magnet Programs serve academically gifted and/or creatively gifted (GATE) learners and are located at specific middle schools throughout Washington County. All students are screened for WCPS Academic Middle School Magnet Programs during Grade 5, using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and available performance data. Students are invited to apply to Academic Magnet Programs based on qualifying scores. The magnet programs are highly competitive and thematically-based. A student placed in a magnet program school takes the magnet program courses offered at the school. All magnet students are expected to complete summer assignments, which "front-load" content and allow magnet teachers to increase the depth of unit exploration throughout the school year. The magnet program participant may or may not have merit courses for the other subject areas in their schedule. WCPS Academic Magnet Program courses follow the WCPS Essential Curriculum. They are regularly taught 1-2 years above the current grade level. Resources used in the Academic Magnet Programs include those designed by

nationally and internationally-recognized Centers for Gifted Education and Research, such as the College of William and Mary.

Since openings are limited in WCPS Academic Magnet Programs, the WCPS Merit courses in the "home" school (school in their attendance zone) are a great option for students with gifts and talents in one or more academic areas. Multiple criteria are used to determine placement in WCPS Magnet Programs and no student is guaranteed placement.

Academic Magnet Program Descriptions

Boonsboro Middle Magnet School for Global Citizenship
Magnet students will study the impact of language and global culture on communications while building global literacy and examining their roles and responsibilities as global citizens. Students will analyze culture and language through collaboration, global literature, and current events. Problem-based learning related to global issues is a primary focus to provide students with the opportunity to promote awareness and create actions plans to help solve problems within school, the community, and/or globally. In addition, students will be provided the option to join various clubs to be able to implement these action plans. Students with aptitudes for/interests in reading, writing, and learning about other cultures and languages will enjoy this program. Each year, magnet program students take special English language arts (ELA) and social studies classes that infuse the magnet theme into the curriculum; they are also enrolled in a full-immersion Spanish course. Upon successful completion of three years in Spanish, students will enter high school with two language credits. They may also earn a high school credit for Foundations of Technology.
Coursework moves at an accelerated pace that is one to two years above grade level in terms of breadth and/or depth. Within this program, students will take action and create community projects to promote the global theme at both the local and global community levels. In addition, students will frequently collaborate with other students in Maryland and globally via digital exchange, online discussions, and written communications. Past program activities have included guest speakers, field experiences, multimedia projects using various technology tools, student-led social action projects, ongoing digital exchange with Peru and Japan, student-led conferences, and other "showcase" events; all promoting and celebrating diversity and multiple perspectives. In addition, our magnet students participate in the school-wide Multicultural Night.

- Gifted Focus: ELA, Social Studies, & Spanish
- Qualifying Ability Score Area: verbal

E. Russell Hicks Magnet Program for the Humanities
Students with aptitudes for and interests in the humanities (literature, social sciences, history of the arts) will enjoy this program. Magnet program students take specialized, cross-curricular English Language Arts and social studies classes that infuse the magnet theme into the curriculum. These courses, which move at an accelerated pace one to two years above grade level in terms of complexity, utilize the William and Mary curriculum for gifted and talented students, incorporating a wide selection of both classical and modern literature. Students will take deep dives into primary source materials to interpret their historical importance and impact on our changing world. Each summer, students complete a multi-disciplinary project that allows them to extend their learning and hit the ground running at the start of the next school year. The ultimate goal of this magnet program is not only to provide students with the skills necessary to be successful in advanced opportunities in high school and beyond, but more importantly to prepare them to participate as informed, critically-minded global citizens. Students are granted unique academic experiences that encourage analytical thinking and creativity, including field experiences in the Smithsonian Forensics program and the Holocaust museum, participation in our consistently top-rated choral, band and orchestra programs, art club, and the Morning Announcements Crew. Additionally, students have the opportunity to earn high school credit in both Spanish and Career Technical Education (CTE).

- Gifted Focus: ELA & Social Studies
- Qualifying Ability Score Area: verbal

Northern Middle School IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP)
As an IB World School, Northern Middle School provides competitive IB MYP students with a well-rounded preparation for high school. International Baccalaureate programs represent the gold standard of internationally-recognized, rigorous curriculum. The IB Middle Years Programme is a five-year programme, starting in the 6th grade and culminating with the awarding of an IB MYP Credential in the 10th grade. The Middle Years Programme aligns vertically with both North Hagerstown High School's IB Career-related Programme and their IB Diploma Programme. The IB MYP consists of eight subject groups, which all students take throughout their MYP journey: Language Acquisition (French and Spanish), Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies, Science, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design. Inquiry is used in all subject areas to expand student knowledge and understanding of the world around them. The student-centered framework, which is built around the ten traits of the IB Learner Profile, enhances the WCPS Essential Curriculum by building critical thinking skills in an internationally minded classroom. All of our students are expected to participate and contribute to our Service in Action initiative. Additionally, students complete a compacted math curriculum that would permit them to take Magnet Algebra I in Grade 7 and Magnet Geometry in Grade 8.

- Gifted Focus: ELA & Math
- Qualifying Ability Score Area: verbal and quantitative

Springfield Magnet Program for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
Magnet students will connect the study of technology to the areas of math and science as they enhance the problem-solving skills needed for success in S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and math) related fields. Students with aptitudes for/interests in math, science, and technology will enjoy this program. Magnet program students take rigorous math and science classes that infuse the magnet theme into the curriculum. This coursework moves at an accelerated pace in terms of breadth and/or depth. Students will take Magnet Algebra I and Magnet Geometry during this program to allow more time for

AP Math courses in high school. Students also have the option to take Foundations of Technology for a high school credit in 8th grade. Students have regular access to laptop computers and probeware that will enhance assignment/project production and new learning. Past activities have included field experiences, a campus-wide engineering day, and guest speakers.

- Gifted Focus: Math & Science
- Qualifying Ability Score Area: quantitative, verbal, and nonverbal

Creative and Performing Arts Magnet Program Description

Western Heights School Arts: SCAPE Avenue A
Arts: SCAPE provides expanded opportunities to magnet students in the visual and performing arts, while incorporating best practices through arts integration (AI) throughout all content areas.

Avenue A (Academic) is designed for students who are highly gifted in English Language Arts and Creative Writing. These academically gifted students will be invited to apply following the current screening model. Advanced level coursework will utilize best practices from gifted education and arts integration (AI).

Students invited to apply to Avenue A may also apply to Avenue B – the Creative Performing Arts Avenue. Dual applicants must also engage in the Avenue B audition process, in addition to completing the interview and task associated with the Avenue A application process.

- Gifted Focus: ELA & creative writing
- Qualifying Ability Score Area: verbal and nonverbal

Western Heights Middle School Arts: SCAPE Avenue B
Arts: SCAPE is designed to provide expanded opportunities to magnet students in the visual and performing arts, while incorporating best practices through arts integration (AI). WHMS offers two

Avenue – Academic and Creative. The ultimate goal of Arts: SCAPE is talent development for all students.

Avenue B is designed for students who have demonstrated talent or the potential for exceptional talent in the creative and performing arts. Any current Grade 5 student may apply for Avenue B. Avenue B will be accessed via the audition/portfolio process, which mirrors the current criteria used for admission to the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BISFA). These creatively gifted and talented students will select a visual/performing arts concentration path. Avenue B applicants may apply for entrance to two (2) of the offered areas; Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Dance, Graphic Design, Creative Writing, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Students may enter into one area.

- Gifted Focus: non-Academic Program; creative and performing arts
- Qualifying Ability Score Area: none, but strongly suggested for students with a high nonverbal ability score
- Requires audition or portfolio depending on area of talent

Signature Program Descriptions

Signature Integrated Instruction

These programs are designed for students who are interested in a particular theme and *may or may not be identified as gifted and talented (GATE)*. Signature Integrated Instruction Programs are located at the student's home school, open to all students in that school and do not require a formal application at the county level. Signature programs are not typically extended through the competitive application process to other students in the county. These programs integrate the theme into content area instruction and offer specialized enrichment opportunities through Encore or classroom instruction. These two programs include:

- **Arts Integration at Western Heights Middle School (School-Wide)**
  - Content courses infuse the arts into instruction and often offer student choices for products that incorporate the arts.
  - Elective opportunities include band, chorus, creative writing, dance, graphic design, orchestra, theater, and visual arts.

- **International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) at Northern Middle School (School-Wide Program)**
  - All students in NMS participate in IB MYP.
  - The IB MYP student participates in MYP Years 1, 2, and 3 of courses. Assigned courses may be Merit and/or Grade Level.
  - Students who transition to North Hagerstown High School will complete Years 4 and 5 of IB MYP along with the Personal Project.

Transportation

Transportation is not provided to WCPS Magnet Program participants who reside outside the attendance zone of the magnet program school. For this reason, WCPS Merit Programs are an option for qualified students at every WCPS middle school.

Identification and Placement

More information regarding WCPS Magnet Programs may be found at tinyurl.com/wcpsadvancedprograms.

Career & Technology Education Courses



In Career and Technology Education, students develop an understanding of the progression and scope of technology. Through group and individual activities, students will develop an awareness of the designed (human-made) world. Through analyzing technological products and processes, students will assess the impacts of technology. Students will begin to identify that core technologies are the building blocks to all technological systems. Problem-solving skills are enhanced throughout the course using hands-on activities.

Middle School Career and Technology Education Pathways

8th Grade	Grade 8 Technical Education (808)	Grade 8 Foundations of Technology (FOT) (870/870SM)	Grade 8 Honors Foundations of Computer Science (A350H/A350HSM)
7th Grade	Grade 7 Technical Education (807)		
6th Grade	Grade 6 Technical Education (806)		
	ON GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY All students must take on grade level Technical Education classes.		
Technical Education and FOT are all grade level classes.			

COMMUNICATION

850/850SM Grade Level 6

Students are introduced to the history of the computer and internet. This course also examines the intent and correct usage of social media, develops basic computer programming skills, and introduces students to the Google platform and its various capabilities.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

806/806SM Grade Level 6

Students develop an understanding of the progression and scope of technology. Through group and individual activities, students will develop an awareness of the designed (human-made) world. Students will begin to see the relationships among technologies and the connection between other fields of study, specifically math and science. Through analyzing technological products and processes, students will assess the impacts of technology. Students will begin to identify that the core technologies are the building blocks to all technological systems. Problem-solving skills are enhanced throughout the course using hands-on activities.

AEROSPACE

863/863SM Grade Level 7

Students are introduced to the historical development of flight, while engaging in interesting, hands-on aviation and space-related STEM activities.

COMMUNICATION

851/851SM Grade Level 7

Students are introduced to the evolution of technology and specific milestones in history of the computer and Internet. This course also examines Adobe Photoshop and develops higher-level computer programming skills through computational thinking.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

794/794SM Grade Level 7

Students are introduced to desktop publishing and/or word processing software to teach them to produce documents in a professional, effective manner. Students learn to communicate ideas to readers. These skills help students produce effective documents with any software program.

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE

800/800SM Grade Level 7

Students will learn the scientific and technological concepts involved in the production of agricultural commodities, such as food, fiber, horticultural crops, and other plant and animal products. The course also explores food processing and marketing, health, nutrition and food consumption, and the conservation of land and water resources. Available at Boonsboro Middle School.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

807/807SM Grade Level 7

Students will focus on the design process. Brainstorming, modeling, testing, evaluating, and modifying will be used to apply the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Students participate in engineering design activities to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect design. Throughout the design process, students will develop skills to communicate design information. Students will learn how various inventions and innovations impact their lives.

COMMUNICATION

852/852SM Grade Level 8

Students are introduced to the Microsoft platform and examine the intent and correct usage of those programs. This course also develops advanced computer computational thinking skills and enhances students' knowledge of the Google platform and its various capabilities.

FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

870/870SM Grade Level 8 1 High School Technology Credit

Students will focus on the three dimensions of technological literacy: knowledge, ways of thinking and acting, and capabilities with the goal of students developing the characteristics of a technologically literate citizen. The course is designed to engage students in exploring and deepening their understanding of "big ideas" regarding technology and makes use of a variety of assessment instruments to reveal the extent of understanding. Students will develop an understanding of the influence of technology on history by learning how people have increased their capability by using their skills to innovate, improvise and invent. They will gain an understanding of how technological innovation results when ideas, knowledge, or skills are shared within a technology, among technologies or across other fields of study. Students will develop an understanding of engineering design, the formal process that transforms ideas into products or systems of the designed world. They will select and use manufacturing technologies and understand that modern manufacturing technologies influence peoples' quality of life. Students will select and use construction technologies that impact the design of structures. Students will select and use energy and power technologies and explore the processing and controlling of energy resources. They will become familiar with information and communications technologies and their role in maintaining competitive economic growth. The course will conclude with the synthesizing of major ideas through an understanding of the core concepts of technology with an emphasis on systems-thinking and related principles. This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Technology Literacy.

HONORS FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

A350H Grade Level 8 1 High School Technology Credit

Foundations of Computer Science, the first course in the computer science completer, is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the courses is designed to focus the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal is to develop in students the computational thinking practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers, and societal and ethical issues. This course includes a broad range of topics in computing, including robotics; programming in several languages such as Processing and Java; and cyber security.

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE

800/800SM Grade Level 8

Students may select several occupational families, which are related to the areas of interest initially investigated during the sixth and seventh grades. Learning activities should be provided which emphasize "hands-on" experiences in realistic or simulated work environments. Activities such as constructing small wood or metal projects, distributing and selling a product, or

landscaping a portion of the school campus enable students to examine various work roles and acquire manipulative skills and knowledge related to the occupational area. The subject areas of mathematics, science, social studies and English should be integrated with the learning activities of the program. Offered at Boonsboro Middle School.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

808/808SM Grade Level 8

Students will learn how technological systems work together to solve problems and extend human capabilities. A technological system consists of parts (such as electrical and mechanical) working together to accomplish a task. Systems have inputs, processes, outputs, and feedback. This course will give students a general background on the different types of systems, how systems have evolved over time, how systems can be modified, and how systems work together.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME DESIGN SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Design Subject Group. The Design Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Perspective* and *Adaptation that* are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Scientific & Technical Innovation* and *Identities & Relationships.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Digital Arts and Technology Education

MYP806/MYP806SM Grade Level 6
MYP807/MYP807SM Grade Level 7
MYP808/MYP808SM Grade Level 8

MYP Foundations of Technology

MYP870/MYP870SM Grade Level 8

English Language Arts Courses

Students are required to complete three courses in middle school English Language Arts (ELA). In each course, students will work to enhance their skills in reading and writing through participation in the Essential Curriculum. Student progress toward grade-level standards will be assessed each year using the MCAP (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) exam for English Language Arts/Literacy.



Middle School English Pathways

8th Grade	English Language Arts 8 (108)	Merit English Language Arts 8 (118)	Magnet English Language Arts 8 (118MG)
7th Grade	English Language Arts 7 (107)	Merit English Language Arts 7 (117)	Magnet English Language Arts 7 (117MG)
6th Grade	English Language Arts 6 (106)	Merit English Language Arts 6 (116)	Magnet English Language Arts 6 (116MG)
	ON GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY *Students with on grade level reading and writing skills.*	**MERIT / PRE-AP PATHWAY** *Students with on or above grade level reading and writing skills.*	**MAGNET / PRE-AP PATHWAY** *Students placed in the Magnet Program at Boonsboro, E. Russell Hicks, Northern or Western Heights Middle Schools*
Students entering middle school will be recommended for placement according to multiple criteria of ability/aptitude, performance, and potential as reviewed by the current elementary school, Office of Advanced Programs, and the Middle School ELA Content Specialist. Students in the on-grade level pathway in Grade 6 may advance to Merit in Grades 7 and/or 8 based on performance data. *Placement in the more advanced Merit course is not guaranteed.*			

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

106 Grade Level 6

English Language Arts 6 is a standard course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. Language Arts (grade 6) courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Units of study may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts.

MERIT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

116 Grade Level 6

Merit English Language Arts 6 is a rigorous course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. This course introduces pre-Advanced Placement (AP) strategies and is designed to prepare students for the challenges posed by Advanced Placement English courses in high school. This course builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Units of study may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts.

MAGNET ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

116MG Grade Level 6

Magnet English Language Arts 6 is a rigorous course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards and is designed for gifted readers and writers. Best practices from gifted education and Advanced Placement (AP) strategies are used to deliver content. Research-based gifted education resources, such as those from the College of William and Mary, are woven into the WCPS Essential Curriculum ELA Standards. Projects and topics often overlap Magnet Social Studies and units integrate the school's WCPS Magnet Program Theme. This course is designed to prepare students for the challenges posed by Advanced Placement English courses in high school. Students independently read significantly complex works of fiction and literary nonfiction and participate in discussions to evaluate the texts for content, organization, and language. Research and writing serve to support the analysis of literary and informational texts. Research exercises focus on developing thought-provoking questions and a plan for collecting information to address those questions. Writing exercises focus on implementing the writing process in its entirety, from generating a topic to publishing the final draft.

Integrated grammar and vocabulary study enhance students' comprehension and communication skills. Instruction in magnet classes is at a rigorous pre-AP level. Students are expected to complete above grade-level assignments, both in class and for independent practice. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts. The *successful* magnet ELA student will be prepared to bypass Honors English 9 and enter into Honors English 10 at the North Hagerstown High International Baccalaureate Programme.
Prerequisite: Acceptance into the WCPS Magnet Program at Boonsboro, E. Russell Hicks, Northern, or Western Heights Middle Schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

107 Grade Level 7

English Language Arts 7 is a standard course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. Language Arts (grade 7) courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Units of study may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts.

MERIT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

117 Grade Level 7

Merit English Language Arts 7 is a rigorous course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. This course utilizes pre-Advanced Placement (AP) strategies and is designed to prepare students for the challenges posed by Advanced Placement English courses in high school. Language Arts (grade 7) courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts.

MAGNET ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

117MG Grade Level 7

Magnet English Language Arts 7 is a rigorous course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards and is designed for gifted readers and writers. Best practices from gifted education and Advanced Placement (AP) strategies are used to deliver content. Research-based gifted education resources, such as those from the College of William and Mary, are woven into the WCPS Essential Curriculum ELA Standards. Projects and topics often overlap Magnet Social Studies and units integrate the school's WCPS Magnet Program Theme. This course is designed to prepare students for the challenges posed by Advanced Placement English courses in high school. Students independently read significantly complex works of fiction and literary nonfiction, applying strategies for text annotation, to prepare them for a rich analysis of the texts for content, organization, and language. Research and writing serve to support the analysis of literary and informational texts. Research exercises focus on evaluating the relevance of several sources to select those that most sufficiently address the research questions. Writing exercises focus on refining individual use of the writing process, with specific attention to editing and revision. Integrated grammar and vocabulary study enhance students' comprehension and communication skills. Instruction in merit classes is at a rigorous pre-AP level. Students are expected to complete above grade-level assignments, both in class and for independent practice. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts. The *successful* magnet ELA student will be prepared to bypass Honors English 9 and enter into Honors English 10 at the North Hagerstown High International Baccalaureate Programme.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the WCPS Magnet Program at Boonsboro, E. Russell Hicks, Northern, or Western Heights Middle Schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

108 Grade Level 8

English Language Arts 8 is a standard course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. Language Arts (grade 8) courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Units of study may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts.

MERIT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

118 Grade Level 8

Merit English Language Arts 8 is a rigorous course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards. This course utilizes pre-Advanced Placement (AP) strategies and is designed to prepare students for the challenges posed by Advanced Placement English courses in high school. Language Arts (grade 8) courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Units of study may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts.

MAGNET ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

118MG Grade Level 8

Magnet English Language Arts 8 is a rigorous course of study that is aligned with Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards and is designed for gifted readers and writers. Best practices from gifted education and Advanced Placement (AP) strategies are used to deliver content. Research-based gifted education resources, such as those from the College of William and Mary, are woven into the WCPS Essential Curriculum ELA Standards. Projects and topics often overlap Magnet Social Studies and units integrate the school's WCPS Magnet Program Theme. This course is designed to prepare students for the challenges posed by Advanced Placement English courses in high school. Students independently read significantly complex works of fiction and literary nonfiction, using annotation strategies to monitor their thinking and develop questions to guide analysis. Those self-selected questions serve as the basis for evaluation of texts for content, organization, and language. Research and writing serve to support the analysis of literary and informational texts. Research exercises focus on evaluating the credibility and accuracy of several sources to develop a larger, contextual understanding about the issue under investigation. Writing exercises focus on demonstrating command of the writing process, with emphasis on producing written work in which they have selected, organized, and analyzed relevant content for a range of audiences and purposes. Integrated grammar and vocabulary study enhance students' comprehension and communication skills. Instruction in this magnet classes is at a rigorous pre-AP level. Students are expected to complete above grade-level assignments, both in class and for independent practice. Toward the end of each school year, students take the MCAP English Language Arts and Literacy assessments, which are focused on the content outlined in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for each grade level. Students read literary and informational passages and engage in multi-media such as video or audio pieces in order to demonstrate their reading comprehension and literacy skills through responding to text-based questions and writing prompts. The *successful* magnet ELA student will be prepared to bypass Honors English 9 and enter into Honors English 10 at the North Hagerstown High International Baccalaureate Programme.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the WCPS Magnet Program at Boonsboro, E. Russell Hicks, Northern, or Western Heights Middle Schools.

CREATIVE WRITING

130 Grade Level 6-8

Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Language and Literature Subject Group. The Language and Literature Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Perspective* and *Style, that* are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Fairness & Development* and *Identities & Relationships.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Language and Literature

MYP106 Grade Level 6
MYP107 Grade Level 7
MYP108 Grade Level 8

MYP Merit Language and Literature

MYP116 Grade Level 6
MYP117 Grade Level 7
MYP118 Grade Level 8

MYP Magnet Language and Literature

MYP116MG Grade Level 6
MYP117MG Grade Level 7
MYP118MG Grade Level 8

English Learner Courses



English Learner (EL) courses develop academic English language proficiency by narrating, explaining, arguing, and informing content from a variety of sources from English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Guided by WIDA English Language Development Standards and Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards, the WCPS EL program adjusts instruction to students' strengths and needs in order for ELs to communicate effectively in English with cultural proficiency, to achieve in academic subjects, and to fully acquire English. Proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking is measured annually on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

English Learner Course Pathway

Accelerated English Learner	Long term learner
Advanced EL	Level 4 Proficiency Level
Intermediate EL	Level 3 Proficiency Level
Beginner EL	Level 2 Proficiency Level
Newcomer EL	Level 1 Proficiency Level

NEWCOMER ENGLISH LEARNER (EL)

181/181SM Grade Level 6, 7, 8

Students focus on developing social and academic language in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while targeting academic vocabulary and academic skills. This course is designed for students who are new to the country with limited English proficiency and is aligned to the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Prerequisite: Level 1 Proficiency

BEGINNER ENGLISH LEARNER (EL)

180/180SM Grade Level 6, 7, 8

Students continue to develop social and academic language while building speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. This course aligns to the WIDA English Language Development Standards and the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. The course is for beginning level EL students (Level 2) and/or those recommended by the EL teacher and the counselor.

Prerequisite: Level 2 Proficiency

INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH LEARNER (EL)

182/182SM Grade Level 6, 7, 8

Students focus on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing with an emphasis on more complex text, reading comprehension, and academic writing. This course aligns to both the WIDA English Language Development Standards and the Maryland College and Career-Ready English Standards. The course is for intermediate level EL students (Level
3) and/or those recommended by the EL teacher and the counselor.

Prerequisite: Level 3 Proficiency

ADVANCED ENGLISH LEARNER (EL)

184/184SM Grade Level 6, 7, 8

Students develop fluency in reading critically and in crafting well written compositions including the use of descriptive, narrative, and argumentative techniques. This course aligns to both the WIDA English Language Development Standards and the Maryland College and Career-Ready English Standards. It expands and bridges ELs' critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. Complex informational texts are used to teach literacy skills in English that transfer to academic content areas to ensure more independent success and work toward career and college readiness.

Prerequisite: Level 4 Proficiency

ACCELERATED ENGLISH LEARNER (EL)

186/186SM Grade Level 6, 7, 8

Developed for Long-Term English Learners, this course integrates high-interest subject-matter content to accelerate English literacy, language development, and academic vocabulary. Students will read and respond to multiple genres of text with a focus on comprehension, vocabulary development, and advanced grammatical structures needed to read and write academic, grade-level language. This course aligns with the Maryland College and Career-Ready English Language Development Standards. Students are enrolled upon recommendation of the EL teacher.

Fine Arts Courses



The Washington County Public Schools fine arts curriculum is aligned with the National Core Arts Standards and the Maryland State Department of Education's Fine Arts Standards. These standards address four areas/artistic processes including Creating, Presenting/Performing, Responding, and Connecting within the framework of developing 21st century skills. Students learn arts-specific techniques, as well as how to present and perform their works. Analysis, evaluation, and refinement of artistic products and learning to think and produce creatively through the sequential pathway of the middle school fine arts program enables students to make personal, cultural, and historical connections and helps prepare students for achievement and lifelong learning within and through the arts.

ART 6

606/606SM Grade Level 6

Students study fundamental visual art elements (e.g., color, line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (e.g., balance, rhythm, contrast, etc.). Students survey art history and appreciation, demonstrate basic skills (e.g., drawing) and conceptual experiences, as well as use a wide variety of techniques and materials. Evaluation (critique/grading) of student works are teacher-directed with participation from students. Students improve their artwork and are held accountable for the respect of materials and other students in the class.

BAND 6

636/636SM Grade Level 6

Students learn to produce a characteristic sound on their instrument and perform as a part of an ensemble. In addition to learning proper tone production and control, students learn music reading skills, sight-reading skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of band literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally appropriate for their knowledge and skill level. Band is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

ORCHESTRA 6

646/646SM Grade Level 6

Students learn to produce a characteristic sound on their instrument and perform as a part of a string ensemble. In addition to learning proper tone production and control, students learn music reading skills, sight-reading skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of orchestra literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally appropriate for their knowledge and skill level. Orchestra is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

GENERAL MUSIC 6

616/616SM Grade Level 6

Students learn the basic elements of music with emphasis on developing critical listening skills and

gaining an understanding of music's role as part of the wider context of history and culture through time. Listening materials are drawn from a wide variety of sources including classical music, non-Western music, American popular music and the American folk music tradition.

ADVANCED DANCE 6

676ADV Grade Level 6

Students learn the advanced techniques associated with the American dance disciplines of ballet, lyrical, modern, jazz and hip hop. Each unit culminates in student created choreography, which combines advanced technique and history associated with each discipline. Students will be placed in this course based on prior studio experience.

BASIC DANCE 6

676 Grade Level 6

Students learn the basic techniques associated with the American dance disciplines of ballet, lyrical, modern, jazz and hip hop. Each unit culminates in student created choreography, which combines basic technique and history associated with each discipline.

KEYBOARD/GUITAR 6

662/662SM Grade Level 6

Students learn basic guitar and piano technique. Topics studied include playing single notes of several scales; chords; reading guitar and keyboard notation, lead sheets, and standard notation; and students will learn a variety of guitar and piano styles encompassing both classical and modern performance techniques. The class will take a student from a complete beginner to an early intermediate player.

ART 7

607/607SM Grade Level 7

Students continue to study fundamental visual art elements (e.g., color, line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (e.g., balance, rhythm, contrast, etc.). Students survey new periods of art history and appreciation, demonstrate developing skills (e.g., drawing) and conceptual experiences, as well as use a wide variety of techniques and materials. Evaluation (critique/grading) of student works are teacher-directed with increasing participation from students. Students improve their artwork focusing on refining and evaluating. Students also are held accountable for the respect of materials and other students in the class.

ADVANCED ART

607ADV Grade Level 7

Students expand upon observational drawing skills learned during the previous semester. Students will focus on proportion, composition, shading and form as they explore the use of a variety of art media. Additional focus will be placed on the exploration of the art world through studio habits such as developing craft, envisioning, and understanding art works.

BAND 7

637/637SM Grade Level 7

Students continue the development of a characteristic sound on their instrument as part of an instrumental ensemble experience. In addition to learning proper tone production and control, students learn music reading skills, sight-reading skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of band literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally

appropriate for their knowledge and skill level. Band is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

ORCHESTRA 7

647/647SM Grade Level 7

Students continue the development of a characteristic sound on their instrument as part of a string ensemble experience. In addition to learning proper tone production and control, students learn music reading skills, sight-reading skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of orchestra literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally appropriate for their knowledge and skill level. Orchestra is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

GENERAL MUSIC 7

617/617SM Grade Level 7

Students learn the basic elements of music with emphasis on developing critical listening skills and gaining an understanding of music's role as part of the wider context of history and culture through time. Listening materials are drawn from a wide variety of sources including classical music, non-Western music, American popular music and the American folk music tradition.

ADVANCED DANCE 7

677ADV Grade Level 7

Students learn the advanced techniques associated with the American dance disciplines of ballet, lyrical, modern, jazz and hip hop. Each unit culminates in student created choreography, which combines advanced technique and history associated with each discipline. Students will be placed in this course-based performance in the 6th grade year. The technique taught builds upon the 6th grade course.

BASIC DANCE 7

677 Grade Level 7

Students learn the basic techniques associated with the American dance disciplines of ballet, lyrical, modern, jazz and hip hop. Each unit culminates in student created choreography, which combines basic technique and history associated with each discipline. All technique will build upon the 6th grade coursework.

KEYBOARD/GUITAR 7

762/762SM Grade Level 7

Students learn basic guitar and piano technique. Topics studied include playing single notes of several scales; chords; reading guitar and keyboard notation, lead sheets, and standard notation; and students will learn a variety of guitar and piano styles encompassing both classical and modern performance techniques. The class will take a student from a complete beginner to an early intermediate player.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

614/614SM Grade Level 7 and 8

Students are introduced to the technology of producing, printing and filing digital images. Students will be introduced to design principles as they apply to Photography. A variety of subjects will be covered including Portraiture, Still Life, Landscape, Action, Abstract and others as time permits. A brief overview of the history of Photography will introduce students to major Artists and trends in Photography.

ART 8

608/608SM Grade Level 8

Students learn the advanced study of fundamental visual art elements (e.g., color, line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (e.g., balance, rhythm, contrast, etc.). Students survey new periods of art history and appreciation, demonstrate advanced skills (e.g., drawing) and conceptual experiences, as well as use a wide variety of techniques and materials. Evaluation (critique/grading) of student works remain teacher-directed with a continuing shift towards student ownership of the process. Students further refine their artwork and begin to focus on preparing pieces for presentation. Students continue to be held accountable for the respect of materials and other students in the class.

ADVANCED ART

608ADV Grade Level 8

Students expand upon the elements and principles of art with continued exploration of basic art media and techniques in drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media. This course will consist of a more in-depth study of art history, aesthetics and criticism. Students will develop the ability to talk about their work and the work of others during in classroom critiques.

PRINTMAKING

880/880SM Grade Level 8

Students learn the basic principles and concepts of the relief printmaking processes, etching, and screen printing. Students are introduced to linoleum and progress to more advanced additive, reductive, and color methods of printing. Students will learn to edition prints as well as explore experimentation.

BAND 8

638/638SM Grade Level 8

Students continue the development of a characteristic sound on their instrument as part of an instrumental ensemble experience. In addition to learning proper tone production and control, students learn music reading skills, sight-reading skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of band literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally appropriate for their knowledge and skill level. Band is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

ORCHESTRA 8

648/648SM Grade Level 8

Students continue the development of a characteristic sound on their instrument as part of a string ensemble experience. In addition to learning proper tone production and control, students learn music reading skills, sight-reading skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of orchestra literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally appropriate for their knowledge and skill level. Orchestra is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

GENERAL MUSIC 8

618/618SM Grade Level 8

Students learn the basic elements of music with emphasis on developing critical listening skills and gaining an understanding of music's role as part of the wider context of history and culture through time. Listening materials are drawn from a wide variety of sources including classical music, non-Western music, American popular music and the American folk music tradition.

DANCE 8

678 Grade Level 8

Students learn the advanced techniques associated with the American dance disciplines of ballet, lyrical, modern, jazz and hip hop. Each unit culminates in student created choreography, which combines advanced technique and history associated with each discipline. The technique taught builds upon the 7th grade course. This course is intended for all 8th grade dancers, regardless of past experience.

KEYBOARD/GUITAR 8

862/862SM Grade Level 8

Students learn basic guitar and piano technique. Topics studied include playing single notes of several scales; chords; reading guitar and keyboard notation, lead sheets, and standard notation; and students will learn a variety of guitar and piano styles encompassing both classical and modern performance techniques. The class will take a student from a complete beginner to an early intermediate player.

PERFORMING ARTS

656/656SM Grade Level 6
657/657SM Grade Level 7
658/658SM Grade Level 8

Students demonstrate knowledge of a wide variety of musical topics. Students learn to read rhythms and play them on instruments. They learn the development of classic and modern music history, gain an understanding of musical form, compare and contrast pivotal points in music history and representative musicians. Students develop understandings of careers in music performance, business, and technology.

CHORUS

626/626SM Grade Level 6
627/627SM Grade Level 7
628/628SM Grade Level 8

Students learn to use their vocal instrument to create a characteristic vocal sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production technique, students learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance/ensemble skills through their interaction with and study of choral literature from various musical time periods and cultures that is developmentally appropriate for their vocal knowledge and skill level. Chorus is a performance-based class and participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME ARTS SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Arts Subject Group, which includes Visual and Performing Arts. The Arts Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Perspective* and *Composition that* are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Orientation in Time & Space* and Personal *& Cultural Expression.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Art

MYP606/MYP606SM Grade Level 6
MYP607/MYP607SM Grade Level 7
MYP608/MYP608SM Grade Level 8

MYP Band

MYP636/MYP636SM Grade Level 6
MYP637/MYP637SM Grade Level 7
MYP638/MYP638SM Grade Level 8

MYP Chorus

MYP626/MYP626SM Grade Level 6
MYP627/MYP627SM Grade Level 7
MYP628/MYP628SM Grade Level 8

MYP Orchestra

MYP646/MYP646SM Grade Level 6
MYP647/MYP647SM Grade Level 7
MYP648/MYP648SM Grade Level 8

MYP Performing Arts

MYP656/MYP656SM Grade Level 6
MYP657/MYP657SM Grade Level 7
MYP658/MYP658SM Grade Level 8

MYP General Music

MYP616/MYP616SM Grade Level 6
MYP617/MYP617SM Grade Level 7
MYP618/MYP618SM Grade Level 8

WESTERN HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS: SCAPE AVENUE B MAGNET PROGRAM

The following courses are offered only at Western Heights Middle School. Discover more about the Avenue B Magnet Program in the Signature Programs Descriptions section.

These courses are designed for students who have demonstrated talent or the potential for exceptional talent in creative and performing arts. Participation in these courses is reserved for students who have been accepted to the Avenue B Magnet Program through the audition/portfolio process.

Magnet Band

636MG Grade Level 6
637MG Grade Level 7
638MG Grade Level 8

Magnet Orchestra

646MG Grade Level 6
647MG Grade Level 7
648MG Grade Level 8

Magnet Chorus

626MG Grade Level 6
627MG Grade Level 7
628MG Grade Level 8

Magnet Creative Writing

130MG Grade Level 6-8

Magnet Dance

676MG Grade Level 6
677MG Grade Level 7
678MG Grade Level 8

Magnet Graphic Design

806MG Grade Level 6
807MG Grade Level 7
808MG Grade Level 8

Magnet Theatre

656MG Grade Level 6
657MG Grade Level 7
658MG Grade Level 8

Magnet Visual Arts

606MG Grade Level 6
607MG Grade Level 7
608MG Grade Level 8

Mathematics Courses



The Washington County Public Schools mathematics curriculum follows the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. The standards concentrate on a clear set of math skills and concepts that students need to be prepared for mathematics in college, career and in life. Students learn concepts in an organized way both during the school year and across grade levels. The standards provide opportunities for students to not only determine how to solve a problem, but also why a solution makes sense and when it is appropriate to use various methods to solve real-world problems.

Middle School Mathematics Pathways

8th Grade	Grade 8 Mathematics (308)	Grade 8 Algebra (318)	Magnet Grade 8 Geometry (328MG)
7th Grade	Grade 7 Mathematics (307)	Grade 7 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics (317)	Magnet Grade 7 Algebra (327MG)
6th Grade	Grade 6 Mathematics (306)	Grade 6 Enriched Mathematics (316)	Magnet Grade 6 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics (326MG)
	ON GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY Students with on grade level mathematics skills.	***MERIT / PRE-AP PATHWAY*** Students with above grade level mathematics skills.	***MAGNET / PRE-AP PATHWAY*** Students placed in the Magnet Program at Northern or Springfield Middle Schools.
Students entering middle school will be recommended for placement according to multiple criteria of ability/aptitude, performance, and potential as reviewed by the current elementary school, the Office of Advanced Programs and the Middle School Mathematics Content Specialist. Students may be considered for Merit based on performance data when they move from Grade 6 to Grade 7. They would move from Grade 6 Mathematics to Grade 7 Accelerated and Enriched Mathematics. *Placement in the more advanced Merit course is not guaranteed.*			

GRADE 6 MATHEMATICS

306 Grade Level 6

Grade 6 Mathematics is a standard course of study aligned with the Grade 6 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will study numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions); ratio concepts; algebraic expressions and one-variable equations and inequalities; geometry (including area, surface area, and volume); measurement; and concepts of data analysis (including statistical variability). Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Grade 6 Mathematics MCAP assessment during this course.

GRADE 6 ENRICHED MATHEMATICS (Merit Program Course)

316 Grade Level 6

Grade 6 Enriched Mathematics is a rigorous course of study aligned with the Grade 6 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will study numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order with positive and negative rational numbers - whole numbers, fractions, decimals); ratio concepts; algebraic expressions and one-variable equations and inequalities; geometry (including area, surface area, and volume); measurement; and concepts of data analysis (including statistical variability). Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Grade 6 Mathematics MCAP assessment during this course.

MAGNET GRADE 6 ACCELERATED & ENRICHED MATHEMATICS

326MG Grade Level 6

Magnet Grade 6 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics is a rigorous course of study aligned with all of the Grade 6, all of the Grade 7 and some of the Grade 8 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. In this accelerated course, students will compute with positive and negative rational numbers and will expand their understanding of real numbers to also include irrational numbers. Students will build an understanding of ratio concepts and use that understanding to analyze proportional relationships in context and to compare relationships represented in graphs, tables and equations. Students will use the operations of rational numbers to formulate expressions and equations in one variable and will use these linear equations to solve problems with one solution, no solutions, or infinitely many solutions. Students will solve mathematical and real-world problems involving area, surface area, and volume. Students engage in learning experiences around statistics and probability which allow them to draw inferences and to compare two populations, and to evaluate probability to models. Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Grade 6 Mathematics MCAP assessment during this course.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Magnet program at Northern or Springfield Middle Schools during Grade 6, only.

GRADE 7 MATHEMATICS

307 Grade Level 7

Grade 7 Mathematics is a standard course of study aligned with the Grade 7 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will study the number system (including proficiency in skills involving positive and negative rational numbers and operations); ratio concepts to analyze proportional relationships; algebraic expressions and one-variable equations and inequalities with rational numbers; algebraic formulas; measurement and geometry (including area, surface area, volume, and angle relationships); and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their

relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Grade 7 Mathematics MCAP assessment during this course.

GRADE 7 ACCELERATED & ENRICHED MATHEMATICS (Merit Program Course)

317 Grade Level 7

Grade 7 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics is a rigorous course of study aligned with all of the Grade 7 and some of the Grade 8 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. In this accelerated course, students will study the number system (including proficiency in skills involving positive and negative rational numbers and operations, and understanding irrational numbers); ratio concepts to analyze proportional relationships (including comparison of relationships represented in graphs, tables and equations); algebraic expressions and one-variable equations and inequalities with rational numbers (including linear equations with one solution, no solution, or infinitely many solutions); algebraic formulas; measurement and geometry (including area, surface area, volume, and angle relationships); and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Grade 7 Mathematics MCAP assessment during this course.

Prerequisite: Outstanding performance during Grade 6 Math, or satisfactory performance during Grade 6 Enriched Mathematics, all determined using multiple data points.

MAGNET GRADE 7 ALGEBRA

327MG Grade Level 7 1 Algebra Mathematics High School Credit

Magnet Grade 7 Algebra is a rigorous course of study aligned with the remaining Grade 8 and all of the high school Algebra 1 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. All of this includes properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first-degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations. This advanced course, for high school credit, includes additional standards integrated into the course. Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Algebra 1 MCAP assessment during this course and must attain a state-determined score to meet high school graduation requirements.

Prerequisite: Magnet Grade 6 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics at Northern or Springfield Middle Schools, only.

GRADE 8 MATHEMATICS

308 Grade Level 8

Grade 8 Mathematics is a standard course of study aligned with the Grade 8 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will study real numbers (including irrational numbers, and proficiency in skills involving rational numbers and operations); one- and two-variable linear equations (including one, zero, or infinitely many solutions in context); linear functions (including representation and comparison graphically, algebraically, numerically in tables, and by verbal descriptions); measurement and geometry (including volume, similarity, congruency, transformations, angle relationships, and right triangles using the Pythagorean Theorem); and statistics (including patterns of association in bivariate categorical data). Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Grade 8 Mathematics MCAP assessment during this course.

GRADE 8 ALGEBRA (Merit Program Course)

318 Grade Level 8 1 Algebra Mathematics High School Credit

Grade 8 Algebra is a rigorous course of study aligned with the remaining Grade 8 and all of the high school Algebra 1 Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. All of this includes properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first-degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations. This advanced course, for high school credit, includes additional standards integrated into the course. Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically.

Students will take the Algebra 1 MCAP assessment during this course and must attain a state-determined score to meet high school graduation requirements.

Prerequisite: Outstanding performance during Grade 7 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics, determined using multiple data points.

MAGNET GRADE 8 GEOMETRY

328MG Grade Level 8 1 Geometry Mathematics High School Credit

Magnet Grade 8 Geometry is a rigorous course of study aligned with the remaining Grade 8 and all of the high school Geometry Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Students will explore complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations and justifications of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments or proof. This exploration includes, but is not limited to, concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion. This advanced course, for high school credit, includes additional standards integrated into the course. Students will gain skills during this course to be able to demonstrate their understanding of mathematics by modeling and solving real-world problems, making sense of quantities and their relationships, and reasoning mathematically. Students will take the Geometry MCAP assessment during this course.

Prerequisite: Magnet Grade 7 Algebra credit earned at Northern and Springfield Middle Schools.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME MATH SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Language and Literature Subject Group. The Language and Literature Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Perspective* and *Models* that are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Globalization & Sustainability* and *Orientation in Time & Space.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Math

MYP306	Grade Mathematics 6
MYP307	Grade Mathematics 7
MYP308	Grade Mathematics 8

MYP Grade 6 Enriched Mathematics (Merit Program Course)

MYP316	Grade Level 6

MYP Magnet Grade 6 Accelerated and Enriched Mathematics

MYP326MG	Grade Level 6

MYP Grade 7 Accelerated and Enriched Mathematics (Merit Program Course)

MYP317	Grade Level 7

MYP Magnet Grade 7 Algebra

MYP327MG	Grade Level 7

MYP Grade 8 Algebra (Merit Program Course)

MYP318	Grade Level 8

MYP Magnet Grade 8 Geometry

MYP328MG	Grade Level 8

Physical Education/Health Courses

The Washington County Public School's middle school Physical Education and Health Education programs are aligned with the Maryland State Department of Education's Health and Physical Education Standards. Classes and units are designed so students will learn decision-making skills and techniques that will assist in promoting responsible and safe behaviors. Through Health and Physical Education classes students will develop and modify skills and strategies to assist them in employing behaviors that promote healthy active lifestyles.



Middle School Physical Education & Health Pathways

8th Grade	Grade 8 Physical Education (708)	Grade 8 Health (718)
7th Grade	Grade 7 Physical Education (707)	Grade 7 Health (717)
6th Grade	Grade 6 Physical Education (706)	Grade 6 Health (716)
	GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY All students must take on grade level Physical Education classes.	***GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY*** All students must take on grade level Health Education classes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

706/706SM Grade Level 6

Physical Education (grade 6) courses involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport a physically active lifestyle and social development through physical activity. Activities include those that increase strength endurance and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health. Health topics (such as the effects of drugs and alcohol sexual education and healthy lifestyles) may also be included. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

HEALTH 6

716/716SM Grade Level 6

Health topics covered in the grade 6 Health Education course include mental health and stress management, substance abuse, safety and violence prevention, nutrition and disease prevention. The course may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development and community resources.

As part of the instructional health program, all 6th grade Washington County Public School students are provided the opportunity to participate in lessons relating to family life and human development. The approved Health Education curriculum is based on the national and state health education standards and in accordance with Maryland Regulations (COMAR 13A.04.18). Specific outcomes and activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for students at each grade level.

In grade 6, there are five lessons presented to boys and girls by a male-female teaching team from Girls Inc. during physical education class with the teacher present in the room. The Family Life & Sexuality curriculum will include the following topics:

- **Gender**
  - Define gender
  - Gender stereotypes
  - Define gender identity
  - Define gender roles
  - Define gender expression
- **Changes During Puberty**
  - Physical changes
  - Social changes
  - Cognitive changes
  - Emotional changes
- **Understanding Boundaries, Consent and Assault**
  - Describe physical boundaries
  - Define personal boundaries
  - What is consent?
  - What is harassment, including sexual harassment?
- **Communication with Sensitive Topics**
  - Define passive communication
  - Define aggressive communication
  - Define assertive communication
  - Define abstinence or abstaining from something.
  - Communication strategies with trusted adults
- **Understanding Healthy Relationships**
  - Relationship types (Family, Friends, or Romantic)
  - Healthy relationships
  - Unhealthy relationships

Parents of grade 6 students will receive information about the family life unit prior to the start of classroom instruction. According to State of Maryland regulations, students may be excused from this unit of study upon written request from their parent/guardian.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

707/707SM Grade Level 7

Physical Education (grade 7) courses involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport a physically active lifestyle and social development through physical activity. Activities include those that increase strength endurance and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health. Health topics (such as the effects of drugs and alcohol sexual education and healthy lifestyles) may also be included. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

HEALTH 7

717/717SM Grade Level 7

Health topics covered in the grade 7 Health Education course include mental health and stress management, substance abuse, safety and violence prevention, nutrition and disease prevention. The course may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development and community resources.

As part of the instructional health program, all 7th grade Washington County Public School students are provided the opportunity to participate in lessons relating to family life and human development. The approved Health Education curriculum is based on the national and state health education standards and in accordance with Maryland Regulations (COMAR 13A.04.18). Specific outcomes and activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for students at each grade level.

In grade 7, lessons are presented separately to boys and girls by a male-female teaching team. The Family Life & Sexuality curriculum will include the following topics:

Grade 7

- **Self-Esteem and Peer Pressure**
- **Female & Male Puberty and Reproduction**
  - Physical changes
  - Social changes
  - Cognitive changes
  - Emotional changes
- **Identity Continuum**
  - Biological sex
  - Gender identity
  - Gender expression
  - Sexual orientation
- **Risks of Sexual Activity/Abstinence/Consent**
  - Abstinence meaning
  - Meaning of consent
- **STDs/HIV/AIDS**

Parents of grade 7 students will receive information about the family life unit prior to the start of classroom instruction. According to State of Maryland regulations, students may be excused from this unit of study upon written request from their parent/guardian.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

708/708SM Grade Level 8

Physical Education (grade 8) courses involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport a physically active lifestyle and social development through physical activity. Activities include those that increase strength endurance and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health. Health topics (such as the effects of drugs and alcohol sexual education and healthy lifestyles) may also be included. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

HEALTH 8

718/718SM Grade Level 8

Health topics covered in the grade 8 Health Education course include mental health and stress management, substance abuse, safety and violence prevention, nutrition and disease prevention. The course may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development and community resources.

As part of the instructional health program, all 8th grade Washington County Public School students are provided the opportunity to participate in lessons relating to family life and human development. The approved Health Education curriculum is based on the national and state health education standards and in accordance with Maryland Regulations (COMAR 13A.04.18). Specific outcomes and activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for students at each grade level.

In grade 8, lessons are presented separately to boys and girls by a male-female teaching team. The Family Life & Sexuality curriculum will include the following topics:

Grade 8

- **Decision Making, Values, Goals**
  - Vision for my future
- **Female & Male Puberty and Reproduction**
  - Female & male anatomy
- **Teenage Pregnancy**
  - Challenges for a teenage mother.
  - Challenges for a teenage father.
- **STDs/HIV/AIDS**
  - Types of STDs
- **Sexual Behaviors and the Law**
  - Consent
- **Identity Continuum**
  - Biological sex
  - Gender identity
  - Gender expression
  - Sexual orientation
- **Contraception and Abstinence**
  - Methods of contraception
  - Abstinence only 100% way to prevent pregnancy

Parents of grade 8 students will receive information about the family life unit prior to the start of classroom instruction. According to State of Maryland regulations, students may be excused from this unit of study upon written request from their parent/guardian.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME SCIENCES HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Health & Physical Education Subject Group. The Health & Physical Education Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Communication* and *Adaptation* that are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Identities & Relationships* and *Fairness & Development.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Physical Education

MYP706/MYP706SM Grade Level 6
MYP707/MYP707SM Grade Level 7
MYP708/MYP708SM Grade Level 8

MYP Health

MYP716/MYP716SM Grade Level 6
MYP717/MYP717SM Grade Level 7
MYP718/MYP718SM Grade Level 8

Science Courses



Each middle school science course contains standards called "Performance Expectations" (PEs) from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each PE is written to include a science and engineering practice, crosscutting concept, and disciplinary core idea. This 3-dimensional approach to science learning is the key innovation of the NGSS. Instruction with the NGSS should engage students in the science and engineering practices, along with the crosscutting concepts, in order to learn the disciplinary core ideas. Each middle school grade level science course contains disciplinary core ideas from life, earth and physical science. Student understanding of science content and practices should grow increasingly more sophisticated as concepts build throughout the middle school science curriculum.

Middle School Science Pathways

8th Grade	Science 8 (408)	Merit Science 8 (418)	Magnet Science 8 (418MG)
7th Grade	Science 7 (407)	Merit Science 7 (417)	Magnet Science 7 (417MG)
6th Grade	Science 6 (406)	Merit Science 6 (416)	Magnet Science 6 (416MG)
	ON GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY Students with on grade level reading and writing skills.	***MERIT / PRE-AP PATHWAY*** Students with on or above grade level reading and writing skills.	***MAGNET / PRE-AP PATHWAY*** Students placed in the STEM Magnet Program at Springfield Middle School.
Students entering middle school will be recommended for placement according multiple criteria of ability/aptitude, performance, and potential as reviewed by the current elementary school and the Office of Advanced Programs. Students in the on-grade level pathway in Grade 6 may advance to Merit in Grades 7 and/or 8 based on performance data. *Placement in the more advanced Merit course is not guaranteed.*			

SCIENCE 6

406 Grade Level 6

Studying science in the sixth grade begins by studying populations and resources among an ecosystem. The students apply their understanding of populations and resources by engaging in a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience that benefits their local community. Students then investigate concepts related to Earth science where they focus on plate motion and rock transformations. Continuing the focus on Earth science, students then look at the interactions between the Earth, Moon and Sun. Students then use principles of physical science to investigate thermal energy transfer and how it can be controlled. Finally, the course ends with a study in understanding the impacts to Earth's Changing Climate. Students interact with these content ideas by making observations, asking questions, designing and conducting investigations, analyzing data, developing models and communicating evidence through scientific argumentation.

MERIT SCIENCE 6

416 Grade Level 6

Studying science in the sixth grade begins by studying populations and resources among an ecosystem. The students apply their understanding of populations and resources by engaging in a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience that benefits their local community. Students then investigate concepts related to Earth science where they focus on plate motion and rock transformations. Continuing the focus on Earth science, students then look at the interactions between the Earth, Moon and Sun. Students then use principles of physical science to investigate thermal energy transfer and how it can be controlled. Finally, the course ends with a study in understanding the impacts to Earth's Changing Climate. Students interact with these content ideas by making observations, asking questions, designing and conducting investigations, analyzing data, developing models and communicating evidence through scientific argumentation. Merit science addresses the same science standards with greater emphasis on rigor, creativity, and problem solving. In merit classes students are expected to engage with the science content, practices, and crosscutting concepts in greater depth and with more refined modeling and application.

MAGNET SCIENCE 6

416MG Grade Level 6

Studying science in the sixth grade begins by studying populations and resources among an ecosystem. The students apply their understanding of populations and resources by engaging in a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience that benefits their local community. Students then investigate concepts related to Earth science where they focus on plate motion and rock transformations. Continuing the focus on Earth science, students then look at the interactions between the Earth, Moon and Sun. Students then use principles of physical science to investigate thermal energy transfer and how it can be controlled. Finally, the course ends with a study in understanding the impacts to Earth's Changing Climate. Students interact with these content ideas by making observations, asking questions, designing and conducting investigations, analyzing data, developing models and communicating evidence through scientific argumentation.

Magnet Science addresses the same science standards with greater emphasis on rigor, creativity, and problem solving. In the magnet class, students are expected to engage with the science content, processes, and crosscutting concepts in greater depth and with more refined modeling and application. Best practices from gifted education, as well as gifted education resources from the College of William and Mary and Gallagher's Problem Based Instructional Units, are woven into the curriculum. Projects and topics often overlap the Magnet 6 Accelerated and Enriched Math course and integrate the school's STEM Magnet Program Theme. **Prerequisite:** Acceptance to Magnet Program at Springfield Middle School in Grade 6, only.

SCIENCE 7

407 Grade Level 7

Studying science in the seventh grade begins with students building an understanding of the interacting subsystems that are present in life science. Students use their conceptual understanding to investigate the role of microbiomes in the human body. Continuing the study of life science, students build background on how feedback systems function while looking at metabolism in the human body. Students then build scientific explanations on how matter and energy is transformed within an ecosystem. The students apply their understanding of matter and energy in ecosystems by engaging in a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience that benefits their local community. Models are then used to understand and explain the concepts behind gene expression and inherited traits. Students explore and apply the physical science of light waves to determine the impact on the transfer of energy in different scenarios. Students complete their scientific studies by developing and using models to explore phenomena related to the interactions between ocean and atmosphere that lead to changes in cloud formation, weather and climate.

MERIT SCIENCE 7

417 Grade Level 7

Studying science in the seventh grade begins with students building an understanding of the interacting subsystems that are present in life science. Students use their conceptual understanding to investigate the role of microbiomes in the human body. Continuing the study of life science, students build background on how feedback systems function while looking at metabolism in the human body. Students then build scientific explanations on how matter and energy is transformed within an ecosystem. The students apply their understanding of matter and energy in ecosystems by engaging in a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience that benefits their local community. Models are then used to understand and explain the concepts behind gene expression and inherited traits. Students explore and apply the physical science of light waves to determine the impact on the transfer of energy in different scenarios. Students complete their scientific studies by developing and using models to explore phenomena related to the interactions between ocean and atmosphere that lead to changes in cloud formation, weather and climate. Merit science addresses the same science standards with greater emphasis on rigor, creativity, and problem solving. In merit classes students are expected to engage with the science content, practices, and crosscutting concepts in greater depth and with more refined modeling and application.

Prerequisite: Outstanding performance during Science 6 or satisfactory performance during Merit Science 6.

MAGNET SCIENCE 7

417MG Grade Level 7

Studying science in the seventh grade begins with students building an understanding of the interacting subsystems that are present in life science. Students use their conceptual understanding to investigate the role of microbiomes in the human body. Continuing the study of life science, students build background on how feedback systems function while looking at metabolism in the human body. Students then build scientific explanations on how matter and energy is transformed within an ecosystem. The students apply their understanding of matter and energy in ecosystems by engaging in a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience that benefits their local community. Models are then used to understand and explain the concepts behind gene expression and inherited traits. Students explore and apply the physical science of light waves to determine the impact on the transfer of energy in different scenarios. Students complete their scientific studies by developing and using models to explore phenomena related to the interactions between ocean and atmosphere that lead to changes in cloud formation, weather and climate.

Magnet Science addresses the same science standards with greater emphasis on rigor, creativity, and problem solving. In the magnet class, students are expected to engage with the science content, processes, and crosscutting concepts in greater depth and with more

refined modeling and application. Best practices from gifted education, as well as gifted education resources from the College of William and Mary and Gallagher's Problem Based Instructional Units, are woven into the curriculum. Projects and topics often overlap the Magnet Algebra 7 course and integrate the school's STEM Magnet Program theme.
Prerequisite: Acceptance to Magnet Program at Springfield Middle School in Grade 6, only.

SCIENCE 8
408 Grade Level 8
Studying science in the eighth grade begins with students building an understanding of physical science principles by investigating concepts behind Magnetic Fields. Students continue their study of physical science by using scientific models to predict states of matter using principles of thermal energy. The exploration of the properties of matter are then applied to investigate mechanisms behind chemical reactions. The study of life science then begins as students use data to predict the likelihood of a species survival in various locations and environments. Finally, students will use scientific principles to develop a method to monitor and minimize human impact on the environment. Students will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) during this course.

MERIT SCIENCE 8
418 Grade Level 8
Studying science in the eighth grade begins with students building an understanding of physical science principles by investigating concepts behind Magnetic Fields. Students continue their study of physical science by using scientific models to predict states of matter using principles of thermal energy. The exploration of the properties of matter are then applied to investigate mechanisms behind chemical reactions. The study of life science then begins as students use data to predict the likelihood of a species survival in various locations and environments. Finally, students will use scientific principles to develop a method to monitor and minimize human impact on the environment. Students will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) during this course. Merit science addresses the same science standards with greater emphasis on rigor, creativity, and problem solving. In merit classes students are expected to engage with the science content, practices, and crosscutting concepts in greater depth and with more refined modeling and application.
Prerequisite: Outstanding performance during Science 7 or satisfactory performance during Merit Science 7.

MAGNET SCIENCE 8
418MG Grade Level 8
Studying science in the eighth grade begins with students building an understanding of physical science principles by investigating concepts behind Magnetic Fields. Students continue their study of physical science by using scientific models to predict states of matter using principles of thermal energy. The exploration of the properties of matter are then applied to investigate mechanisms behind chemical reactions. The study of life science then begins as students use data to predict the likelihood of a species survival in various locations and environments. Finally, students will use scientific principles to develop a method to monitor and minimize human impact on the environment. Students will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) during this course.

Magnet Science addresses the same science standards with greater emphasis on rigor, creativity, and problem solving. In the magnet class, students are expected to engage with the science content, processes, and crosscutting concepts in greater depth and with more refined modeling and application. Best practices from gifted education, as well as gifted education resources from the College of William and Mary and Gallagher's Problem Based Instructional Units are woven into the curriculum. Projects and topics often overlap the Magnet Grade 8 Geometry course and integrate the school's STEM Magnet Program theme.
Prerequisite: Acceptance to Magnet Program at Springfield Middle School in Grade 6, only.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME SCIENCES SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Sciences Subject Group. The Sciences Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Perspective* and *Models* that are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Globalization & Sustainability* and *Scientific & Technical Innovation.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Science

MYP406/MYP406SM Grade Level 6
MYP407/MYP407SM Grade Level 7
MYP408/MYP408SM Grade Level 8

MYP Merit Science

MYP416/MYP416SM Grade Level 6
MYP417/MYP417SM Grade Level 7
MYP418/MYP418SM Grade Level 8

Social Studies Courses



The Middle School Social Studies curriculum emphasizes instruction in Maryland's core learning goals for Social Studies: History, Geography, Economics, Political Systems and Peoples and Nations of the World. The WCPS curriculum is built on the foundations of Maryland's State Curriculum and places a heavy emphasis on the development of Social Studies Skills and Processes as identified in Maryland's Standard 6.0. The standards provide opportunities for students to engage deeply with history, to effectively integrate valuable skillsets, and to make meaning of the past in the context of the present.

Middle School Social Studies Pathway

8th Grade	United States History I (208)	Merit United States History I (218)	Magnet United States History I (218MG)
7th Grade	Geography and World Cultures (207)	Merit Geography and World Cultures (217)	Magnet Geography and World Cultures (217MG)
6th Grade	Ancient World History (206)	Merit Ancient World History (216)	Magnet Ancient World History (216MG)
	ON GRADE LEVEL PATHWAY *Students with on grade level reading and writing skills.*	**MERIT / PRE-AP PATHWAY** *Students with on or above grade level reading and writing skills.*	**MAGNET / PRE-AP PATHWAY** Students placed in the Magnet Program at Boonsboro or E. Russell Hicks Middle Schools
Students entering middle school will be recommended for placement according to multiple criteria of ability/aptitude, performance, and potential as reviewed by the current elementary school and the Office of Advanced Programs. Students in the on-grade level pathway in Grade 6 may advance to Merit in Grades 7 and/or 8 based on performance data. *Placement in the more advanced Merit course is not guaranteed.*			

ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY

206 Grade Level 6

Ancient World History students study the growth of the first civilizations and the history of groups such as the Ancient Romans and Greeks, Medieval Europe, and the Transitional Americas. The focus of this course is on the development of these major civilizations and their impact on the expansion of global interactions. Students study people and societies from historical, cultural, geographic, political and economic perspectives in order to gain insight into the human experience of different cultural groups in various settings and at different times in history. In addition to the study of these Ancient Civilizations, students are also introduced to the practices of Historical Research and Investigation through a unit of study specifically focused on these skills. Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

MERIT ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY

216 Grade Level 6

Merit Ancient World History students study the growth of the first civilizations and the history of groups such as the Ancient Romans and Greeks, Medieval Europe, and the Transitional Americas. The focus of this course is on the development of these major civilizations and their impact on the expansion of global interactions. Students study people and societies from historical, cultural, geographic, political and economic perspectives in order to gain insight into the human experience of different cultural groups in various settings and at different times in history. In addition to the study of these Ancient Civilizations, students are also introduced to the practices of Historical Research and Investigation through a unit of study specifically focused on these skills. The merit level provides expectations and opportunities for students to work independently, at an accelerated pace, to engage in more rigorous and complex content, and to develop projects and products that reflect that level of understanding. Students will be expected to complete challenging assignments above grade level, both in and out of class. Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

MAGNET ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY

216MG Grade Level 6

Magnet Ancient World History students study the growth of the first civilizations and the history of groups such as the Ancient Romans and Greeks, Medieval Europe, and the Transitional Americas. The focus of this course is on the development of these major civilizations and their impact on the expansion of global interactions. Students study people and societies from historical, cultural, geographic, political and economic perspectives in order to gain insight into the human experience of different cultural groups in various settings and at different times in history. In addition to the study of these Ancient Civilizations, students are also introduced to the

practices of Historical Research and Investigation through a unit of study specifically focused on these skills. In addition to the study of these Ancient Civilizations, students are also introduced to the practices of Historical Research and Investigation through a unit of study specifically focused on these skills. The magnet level provides expectations and opportunities for students to work independently, at an accelerated pace, to engage in more rigorous and complex content, and to develop projects and products that reflect that level of understanding. Best practices from gifted education, as well as gifted education resources, are woven into the curriculum. Projects and topics often overlap Magnet English Language Arts 6 and integrate the school's WCPS Magnet Program Theme. Students will be expected to complete challenging assignments above grade level, both in and out of class. Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

  Prerequisite: Acceptance into the WCPS Magnet Program at Boonsboro or E. Russell Hicks Middle Schools.

GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD CULTURES

207 Grade Level 7

Geography and World Cultures students study the world and its peoples through various topics stemming from an approach that considers modern issues framed through geographic, political, historical, social and economic lenses. This course explores different customs, traditions, and other unique characteristics of people and places around the globe. Students build and extend their skills by creating and interpreting maps, constructing timelines, reading primary and secondary sources, using atlases and globes, and interpreting cultural artifacts. Students also study significant events, critical movements, and people of various backgrounds that led to the development of and interaction between nations. Additionally, in 7th grade, students complete a Student Service Learning (SSL) Project as part of the state curriculum; successful participation in this curricular component earns the student 15 SSL Hours toward High School Graduation. Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

MERIT GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD CULTURES

217 Grade Level 7

Merit Geography and World Cultures students study the world and its peoples through various topics stemming from an approach that considers modern issues framed through geographic, political, historical, social and economic lenses. This course explores different customs, traditions, and other unique characteristics of people and places around the globe. Students build and extend their skills by creating and interpreting maps, constructing timelines, reading primary and secondary sources, using atlases and globes, and interpreting cultural artifacts. Students also study significant events, critical movements, and people of various backgrounds that led to the

development of and interaction between nations. Additionally, in 7th grade, students complete a Student Service Learning (SSL) Project as part of the state curriculum; successful participation in this curricular component earns the student 15 SSL Hours toward High School Graduation. The merit level provides expectations and opportunities for students to work independently, at an accelerated pace, to engage in more rigorous and complex content, and to develop projects and products that reflect that level of understanding. Students will be expected to complete challenging assignments above grade level, both in and out of class. Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

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- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

MAGNET GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD CULTURES

217MG Grade Level 7

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- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the WCPS Magnet Program at Boonsboro or E. Russell Hicks Middle Schools.

UNITED STATES STUDIES I

208 Grade Level 8

United States Studies I provides students with the opportunity to study American history from the Colonial Era through the late nineteenth century. Following a brief overview of the exploration of North America, students study in more depth the causes and events of the American Revolution, the creation of the Constitutional government, and the growth, expansion, and conflict within America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Additional topics of study include the Federalist and Jeffersonian Eras, the Industrial Revolution, Manifest Destiny, the American Civil War, Reconstruction, Immigration, and Progressive Reforms of the era. Students use primary source documents to examine political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic perspectives. They study significant events, critical movements, and people of various backgrounds that led to the building of this nation and its growth as a world power. Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

MERIT UNITED STATES STUDIES I

218 Grade Level 8

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- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

MAGNET UNITED STATES STUDIES I

218MG Grade Level 8

Magnet United States Studies I provide students with the opportunity to study American history from the Colonial Era through the late nineteenth century. Following a brief overview of the exploration of North America, students study in more depth the causes and events of the American Revolution, the creation of the Constitutional government, and the growth, expansion, and conflict within America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Additional topics of study include the Federalist and Jeffersonian Eras, the Industrial Revolution, Manifest Destiny, the American Civil War, Reconstruction, Immigration, and Progressive Reforms of the era. Students use primary source documents to examine political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic perspectives. They study significant events, critical movements, and people of various backgrounds that led to the building of this nation and its growth as a world power. The Magnet level provides expectations and opportunities for students to work independently, at an accelerated pace, to engage in more rigorous and complex content, and to develop projects and products that reflect that level of understanding. Best practices from gifted education, as well as gifted education resources, are woven into the curriculum. Projects and topics often overlap Magnet English Language Arts 8 and integrate the school's WCPS Magnet Program Theme.

Students will be expected to complete challenging assignments above grade level, both in and out of class. Projects and topics are integrated with Magnet English Language Arts 7**.** Throughout the course, students will learn, practice, and hone key historical thinking skills that will help them to interpret the past, critically analyze various perspectives, and support their own reasoned conclusions through writing. In 8th Grade, all students will take the MCAP Social Studies Assessment, measuring both their content knowledge and ability to:

- Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the WCPS Magnet Program at Boonsboro or E. Russell Hicks Middle Schools.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Individuals & Societies Subject Group. The Individuals & Societies Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Time* and *Culture* that are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Globalization & Sustainability* and *Orientation in Space & Time.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP Ancient World History
MYP206/MYP206SM Grade Level 6

MYP Merit Ancient World History
MYP216/MYP216SM Grade Level 6

MYP Geography and World Cultures
MYP207/MYP207SM Grade Level 7

MYP Merit Geography and World Cultures
MYP217/MYP217SM Grade Level 7

MYP US Studies I
MYP208/MYP208SM Grade Level 8

MYP Merit US Studies I
MYP218/MYP218SM Grade Level 8

Special Education Courses

These course descriptions include only courses for students who have been determined eligible by their IEP teams to receive instruction through the Alternate Achievement Standards (AAS). These courses do not meet graduation requirements. Therefore, the longer a student is instructed with the AAS and participate in the statewide alternate assessments, the less likely they are to earn a Maryland High School Diploma.

ESSENTIALS OF ENGLISH

916/916SM Grade Level 6
917/917SM Grade Level 7
918/918SM Grade Level 8

This course is reserved for students who have been determined eligible by their IEP team to receive instruction based on the alternate academic standards. Instruction is provided through a conceptual approach, where students build essential skills in reading, writing, listening, and communicating necessary for independent functioning as an adult. The instructional standards are aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards, however, do not cover the breadth and the depth of the general education curriculum.

ESSENTIALS OF MATHEMATICS

936/936SM Grade Level 6
937/937SM Grade Level 7
938/938SM Grade Level 8

This course is reserved for students who have been determined eligible by their IEP team to receive instruction based on the alternate academic standards. Instruction is provided with a real-world learning application approach to understanding mathematical concepts. Core concepts in counting, cardinality, base ten numbers and operations, geometry, ratios, and the math practices associated with problem-solving are a focus of instruction. The instructional standards are aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards, however, do not cover the breadth and the depth of the general education curriculum.

ESSENTIALS OF SCIENCE

946/946SM Grade Level 6
947/947SM Grade Level 7
948/948SM Grade Level 8

This course is reserved for students who have been determined eligible by their IEP team to receive instruction based on the alternate academic standards. Instruction is clustered into domains or themes that include Physical, Life, and Earth and Space Science that build on foundational knowledge from the mathematics and English/language arts content areas. The instructional standards are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards but do not represent the breadth and the depth covered by the general education curriculum.

ESSENTIALS OF SOCIAL STUDIES

926/926SM Grade Level 6
927/927SM Grade Level 7
928/928SM Grade Level 8

This course is reserved for students who have been determined eligible by their IEP team to receive instruction based on the alternate academic standards. Instruction includes information that easily falls within the areas of vocational skills, real-world learning skills, social communication, adaptive behavior skills, and home and community safety. Students study the human experience of different cultural groups in various settings and at different times in history to gain insight into the human experience.

World Language Courses



World language instruction enables students to communicate in a second language in a culturally appropriate manner by integrating communication skills. World language instruction and assessment use a proficiency-based approach, which focuses on what students can do with the language and to what degree they are able to function in the language. Instruction and assessment use authentic tasks that are performance-based. The study of culture is an integral part of the curriculum; it sets the stage for language use and heightens students' sensitivity to and appreciation for diverse groups of people, cultures, and customs.

The University of Maryland Completer program requires that students study a minimum of two years of the same language, while some colleges prefer three to four years of language study.

Please speak with your School Counseling Office for your school's language offerings.

World Language Pathways

8th grade	Level IB	Level II	Level I	Level II/IIB
7th grade	Level IA	Level I		Level II A
6th grade	World Language 6	World Language 6		Level I
	Honors	**Honors**	**Honors**	**Magnet/Honors**

WORLD LANGUAGES

506	Grade Level 6
506SM	Grade Level 6

World Languages provides students with the introduction of Honors French I/IA, German I/IA and/or Honors Spanish I/IA about the spoken and written languages and introduces the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the associated cultures.

HONORS LEVEL I

1 High School World Language Credit

547	Honors French I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
547SM	Honors French I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
580	Honors German I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
580SM	Honors German I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
527	Honors Spanish I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
527SM	Honors Spanish I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
527MG	Magnet Spanish I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
527MGSM	Magnet Spanish I	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8

Designed to introduce students to language and culture, level I world language courses prepare students to communicate authentically in the target language by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the target cultures. Students will end the course at an ACTFL novice mid proficiency level.

HONORS LEVEL IA

537	Honors French IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
537SM	Honors French IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
581	Honors German IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
581SM	Honors German IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
517	Honors Spanish IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
517SM	Honors Spanish IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
527MGA	Magnet Spanish IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7
527MGASM	Magnet Spanish IA	Grade Levels 6 or 7

Designed to introduce students to language and culture, level I world language courses prepare students to communicate authentically in the target language by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the target cultures.

HONORS LEVEL IB 1 High School World Language Credit

538	Honors French IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
538SM	Honors French IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
582	Honors German IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
582SM	Honors German IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
518	Honors Spanish IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
518SM	Honors Spanish IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
527MGB	Magnet Spanish IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8
527MGBSM	Magnet Spanish IB	Grade Levels 6, 7, or 8

Designed to introduce students to language and culture, level I world language courses prepare students to communicate authentically in the target language by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the target cultures. Students will end the course at an ACTFL novice mid proficiency level. Students will end the course at an ACTFL novice mid proficiency level.
Prerequisites: Honors Level IA

HONORS LEVEL II 1 High School World Language Credit

548	Honors French II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
548SM	Honors French II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
583	Honors German II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
583SM	Honors German II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528	Honors Spanish II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528SM	Honors Spanish II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528MG	Magnet Spanish II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528MGSM	Magnet Spanish II	Grade Levels 7 or 8

Students continue to expand and develop their language skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing using authentic tasks. Students participate in exchanges about familiar and personal topics in the present, past and future in the target language. Students communicate needs and desires in everyday living and travel situations. Students make presentations and write simple paragraphs on familiar topics in the target language. Students read to understand the main idea and some essential details. Students can demonstrate culturally appropriate etiquette and perspectives. Students will end the course at an ACTFL Novice High proficiency level.
Prerequisite: Honors/Magnet Level I or Honors Level IA and Honors Level IB

HONORS LEVEL IIA

549	Honors French IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
549SM	Honors French IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
584	Honors German IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
584SM	Honors German IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
529	Honors Spanish IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
529SM	Honors Spanish IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528MGA	Magnet Spanish IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528MGASM	Magnet Spanish IIA	Grade Levels 7 or 8

Level II world language courses build upon skills developed in level I, preparing students to communicate authentically in the target language by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics. Level II world language courses introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the target cultures. Students will end the course at an ACTFL novice high proficiency level.

Prerequisite: Honors Level I or Honors Level IA and Honors Level IB

HONORS LEVEL IIB 1 High School World Language Credit

550	Honors French IIB	Grade Levels 7 or 8
550SM	Honors French IIB	Grade Levels 7 or 8
585	Honors German IIB	Grade Levels 7 or 8
585SM	Honors German IIB	Grade Levels 7 or 8
530	Honors Spanish II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
530SM	Honors Spanish II	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528MGB	Magnet Spanish IIB	Grade Levels 7 or 8
528MGBSM	Magnet Spanish IIB	Grade Levels 7 or 8

Level II world language courses build upon skills developed in level I, preparing students to communicate authentically in the target language by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics. Level II world language courses introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the target cultures. Students will end the course at an ACTFL novice high proficiency level. Students will end the course at an ACTFL novice high proficiency level.

Prerequisite: Honors Level I and Honors Level IIA

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME LANGUAGE ACQUISITION SUBJECT GROUP COURSES

The following courses are offered only at Northern Middle School. Discover more about the IB MYP at Northern Middle School by reading the **Signature Programs Descriptions** section. Each of these Grades 6, 7, 8 courses are part of the Language Acquisition Subject Group. The Language Acquisition Subject Group is one of the 8 MYP Subjects in which MYP students must participate. These courses include the content of the foundational courses that are similarly-named on the preceding pages. IB Language B, Middle Years Program courses enable students to gain competence in modern language; these courses also encourage respect for and understanding of other languages and cultures. Additionally, the curriculum includes the following components:

- **Key Concepts and Related Concepts**, such as *Connection* and *Audience* that are explored over an MYP student's time in the Programme.
- **Global Contexts,** such as *Globalization & Sustainability* and *Personal & Cultural Expression.*
- **Approaches to Learning** skills, such as *Self-Management* and *Communication Skills.*
- **Statements of Inquiry**, which allow the students to explore the content and skills through a conceptual lens.

MYP World Languages

MYP506/MYP506SM Grade Level 6
MYP507/MYP507SM Grade Level 7
MYP508/MYP508SM Grade Level 8

MYP Spanish IA

MYP517/MYP517SM Grade Levels 6 or 7

MYP Spanish IB 1 HS World Language Credit

MYP518/MYP518SM Grade Levels 7 or 8

MYP French IA

MYP537/MYP537SM Grade Level 7

MYP French IB 1 HS World Language Credit

MYP538/MYP538SM Grade Level 8

Additional Education Opportunities

ACADEMIC SKILLS AND CONCEPTS

336/336SM Grade Level 6
337/337SM Grade Level 7
338/338SM Grade Level 8

Students improve capability to manage school tasks and improve academic performance. Instruction and support in specific academic, social, and/or self-management skills may be provided. Areas of focus include: pre-teaching re-teaching, and individualized academic intervention, study skills, organizational tasks, long-range planning for projects, test-taking skills, and self-advocacy.

READING INTERVENTION

156/156SM Grade Level 6
157/157SM Grade Level 7
158/158SM Grade Level 8

Students improve vocabulary, critical thinking, reading rate, and/or comprehension level through targeted intensive specially-designed or intentionally-designed instruction. Each student who requires this level of instruction is assessed through a variety of measures to determine specific needs and a plan is developed and implemented by the instructional team to meet those needs. This can be addressed through a customized learning plan and/or a structured intervention program. For students with disabilities in the area of reading, reading intervention will specifically target the goals that have been developed to address the identified disability-related area(s) of need. This course must be in addition to a student's grade-level, core English course.

LITERACY ACCELERATION

146/146SM Grade Level 6
147/147SM Grade Level 7
148/148SM Grade Level 8

Literacy is a course for students who require more targeted literacy instruction and strategies to access the English curriculum and grade level texts. Students in this class read high-interest and complex texts that are at grade level for sustained periods. Students also receive small-group targeted instruction based on periodic assessments of their specific literacy gaps. This course must be in addition to a student's grade-level, core English course.

MATH INTERVENTION

166/166SM Grade Level 6
167/167SM Grade Level 7
168/168SM Grade Level 8

Math Intervention is intended to improve a student's conceptual and procedural understanding of critical mathematics concepts from prior grades and problem-solving skills that support WCPS transfer goals through targeted, intensive, specially-designed or intentionally-designed instruction. Each student who requires this level of intervention is assessed through a variety of measures to determine the specific needs, and then a plan is developed and implemented by the instructional team to meet those needs. This can be addressed through a customized learning plan and/or a structured intervention program. For students with disabilities in the area of mathematics, intervention will specifically target the goals that have been developed to address the identified disability-related area(s) of need. This course must be in addition to a student's grade-level, core mathematics course (e.g. Grade 6 Math, Grade 7 Math, Grade 8 Math).

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Literacy Apprenticeship	6	146/146SM	62
Literacy Apprenticeship	7	147/147SM	62
Literacy Apprenticeship	8	148/148SM	62
Magnet Ancient World History	6	216MG	49
Magnet Band	6	636MG	32
Magnet Band	7	637MG	32
Magnet Band	8	638MG	32
Magnet Chorus	6	626MG	32
Magnet Chorus	7	627MG	32
Magnet Chorus	8	628MG	32
Magnet Creative Writing	6-8	130MG	32
Magnet Dance	6	676MG	32
Magnet Dance	7	677MG	32
Magnet Dance	8	678MG	32
Magnet English Language Arts 6	6	116MG	19
Magnet English Language Arts 7	7	117MG	21
Magnet English Language Arts 8	8	118MG	22
Magnet Geography and World Cultures	7	217MG	51
Magnet Grade 6 Accelerated & Enriched Mathematics	6	326MG	34
Magnet Grade 7 Algebra	7	327MG	35
Magnet Grade 8 Geometry	8	328MG	36
Magnet Graphic Design	6	806MG	32
Magnet Graphic Design	7	807MG	32
Magnet Graphic Design	8	808MG	32
Magnet Orchestra	6	646MG	32
Magnet Orchestra	7	647MG	32
Magnet Orchestra	8	648MG	32
Magnet Science 6	6	416MG	44
Magnet Science 7	7	417MG	45
Magnet Science 8	8	418MG	46
Magnet Spanish I	6-8	527MG/527MGSM	58

Magnet Spanish IA	6-7	527MGA/527MGASM	58
Magnet Spanish IB	6-8	527MGB/527MGBSM	59
Magnet Spanish II	7-8	528MG/528MGSM	59
Magnet Spanish IIA	7-8	528MGA/528MGASM	60
Magnet Spanish IIB	7-8	528MGB/528MGBSM	60
Magnet Theatre	6	656MG	32
Magnet Theatre	7	657MG	32
Magnet Theatre	8	658MG	32
Magnet United Stated Studies I	8	218MG	53
Magnet Visual Arts	6	606MG	32
Magnet Visual Arts	7	607MG	32
Magnet Visual Arts	8	608MG	32
Math Intervention	6	166/166SM	62
Math Intervention	7	167/167SM	62
Math Intervention	8	168/168SM	62
Merit Ancient World History	6	216	49
Merit English Language Arts 6	6	116	19
Merit English Language Arts 7	7	117	20
Merit English Language Arts 8	8	118	22
Merit Geography and World Cultures	7	217	50
Merit Science 6	6	416	44
Merit Science 7	7	417	45
Merit Science 8	8	418	46
Merit United Stated Studies I	8	218	52
MYP Ancient World History	6	MYP206/MYP206SM	54
MYP Art	6	MYP606/MYP606SM	31
MYP Art	7	MYP607/MYP607SM	31
MYP Art	8	MYP608/MYP608SM	31
MYP Band	6	MYP636/MYP636SM	31
MYP Band	7	MYP637/MYP637SM	31
MYP Band	8	MYP638/MYP638SM	31
MYP Chorus	6	MYP626/MYP626SM	31
MYP Chorus	7	MYP627/MYP627SM	31
MYP Chorus	8	MYP628/MYP628SM	31
MYP Digital Arts and Technology Education	6	MYP806/MYP806SM	17
MYP Digital Arts and Technology Education	7	MYP807/MYP807SM	17
MYP Digital Arts and Technology Education	8	MYP808/MYP808SM	17
MYP Foundations of Technology	8	MYP870/MYP870SM	17
MYP French IA	6-7	MYP537/MYP537SM	61
MYP French IB	7-8	MYP538/MYP538SM	61
MYP General Music	6	MYP616/MYP616SM	31
MYP General Music	7	MYP617/MYP617SM	31
MYP General Music	8	MYP618/MYP618SM	31
MYP Geography and World Cultures	7	MYP207/MYP207SM	54
MYP German I	7	MYP580/MYP580SM	61
MYP German IA	6-7	MYP581/MYP581SM	61
MYP German IB	7-8	MYP582/MYP582SM	61
MYP German II	8	MYP583/MYP583SM	61
MYP Grade 6 Enriched Mathematics	6	MYP316	37
MYP Grade 7 Accelerated and Enriched Mathematics	7	MYP317	37
MYP Grade 8 Algebra	8	MYP318	37
MYP Health	6	MYP716/MYP716SM	42
MYP Health	7	MYP717/MYP717SM	42
MYP Health	8	MYP718/MYP718SM	42
MYP Language and Literature	6	MYP106	23
MYP Language and Literature	7	MYP107	23
MYP Language and Literature	8	MYP108	23
MYP Magnet Grade 6 Accelerated and Enriched Mathematics	6	MYP326MG	37
MYP Magnet Grade 7 Algebra	7	MYP327MG	37

MYP Magnet Grade 8 Geometry	8	MYP328MG	37
MYP Magnet Language and Literature	6	MYP116MG	23
MYP Magnet Language and Literature	7	MYP117MG	23
MYP Magnet Language and Literature	8	MYP118MG	23
MYP Math	6	MYP306	37
MYP Math	7	MYP307	37
MYP Math	8	MYP308	37
MYP Merit Ancient World History	6	MYP216/MYP216SM	54
MYP Merit Geography and World Cultues	7	MYP217/MYP217SM	54
MYP Merit Language and Literature	6	MYP116	23
MYP Merit Language and Literature	7	MYP117	23
MYP Merit Language and Literature	8	MYP118	23
MYP Merit Science	6	MYP416/MYP416SM	47
MYP Merit Science	7	MYP417/MYP417SM	47
MYP Merit Science	8	MYP418/MYP418SM	47
MYP Merit US Studies I	8	MYP218/MYP218SM	54
MYP Orchestra	6	MYP646/MYP646SM	31
MYP Orchestra	7	MYP647/MYP647SM	31
MYP Orchestra	8	MYP648/MYP648SM	31
MYP Performing Arts	6	MYP656/MYP656SM	31
MYP Performing Arts	7	MYP657/MYP657SM	31
MYP Performing Arts	8	MYP658/MYP658SM	31
MYP Physical Education	6	MYP706/MYP706SM	42
MYP Physical Education	7	MYP707/MYP707SM	42
MYP Physical Education	8	MYP708/MYP708SM	42
MYP Science	6	MYP406/MYP406SM	47
MYP Science	7	MYP407/MYP407SM	47
MYP Science	8	MYP408/MYP408SM	47
MYP Spanish IA	6-7	MYP517/MYP517SM	61
MYP Spanish IB	7-8	MYP518/MYP518SM	61
MYP US Studies I	8	MYP208/MYP208SM	54
MYP World Languages	6	MYP506/MYP506SM	61
MYP World Languages	7	MYP507/MYP507SM	61
MYP World Languages	8	MYP508/MYP508SM	61
Newcomer English Learner	6-8	181/181SM	25
Orchestra 6	6	646/646SM	26
Orchestra 7	7	647/647SM	28
Orchestra 8	8	648/648SM	29
Performing Arts	6	656/656SM	30
Performing Arts	7	657/657SM	30
Performing Arts	8	658/658SM	30
Physical Education 6	6	706/706SM	39
Physical Education 7	7	707/707SM	40
Physical Education 8	8	708/708SM	41
Printmaking	8	880/880SM	29
Reading Intervention	6	156/156SM	62
Reading Intervention	7	157/157SM	62
Reading Intervention	8	158/158SM	62
Science 6	6	406	44
Science 7	7	407	45
Science 8	8	408	46
Technology Education	6	806/806SM	15
Technology Education	7	807/807SM	15
Technology Education	8	808/808SM	17
United Stated Studies I	8	208	52
World Languages	6	506/506SM	58