

2020–2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE PREVIEW

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFERS a rigorous and supportive environment that nurtures students as they develop knowledge and skills for success in high school and beyond. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will continue to offer a variety of classes and programs designed to prepare students for the future challenges of college and the workplace. The purpose of this document is to provide a preview of changes and revisions to MCPS middle school course offerings in the 2020–2021 school year. The 2020–2021 Middle School Program Guide will be released in January 2020, and will include revisions and updates to current programming that align to local initiatives and state requirements. All changes are pending final approval and are subject to change. In the meantime, this Preview is designed to assist middle schools with articulation and course registration in preparation for the 2020–2021 school year.

COURSE CODE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 2020

- MCPS will implement a new K-12 student information system in the 2020–2021 school year, which will manage all student data including information related to course codes. As a result, a new alpha/numeric course code numbering system that indicates subject matter and instructional level has been developed for every MCPS course. These course codes will be effective in July 2020.
- Except as noted below, schools will use all current course codes and descriptions as described in the [2019–2020 Middle School Program Guide](#). The new alpha numeric code system will appear on student schedules and report cards starting July 2020 through an automated process. A comprehensive crosswalk of current course codes and new codes will be included in the 2020–2021 Middle School Program Guide.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

- MCPS is implementing a three-year rollout of New Middle School English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics curricula. The new courses will use the following course codes.
- For the 2020–2021 school year, all middle schools will implement new Math curriculum for Grades 6, 7, and 8.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS (NEW COURSE CODES)			
3060	Grade 6 Math	3062	Grade 8 Math
3061	Grade 7 Math		

Investigations in Mathematics (IM), Algebra and Geometry have not changed.

- All schools will implement the new English Language Arts (ELA) curricula for 6th grade. Cohort 1 schools will implement the new Grade 7 and 8 curricula.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (NEW COURSE CODES)			
ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLS			
1074	Grade 6 English	1075	Grade 6 Advanced English
COHORT 1 SCHOOLS*			
1076	Grade 7 English	1077	Grade 7 Advanced English
1078	Grade 8 English	1079	Grade 8 Advanced English

*Cohort 2 schools will use existing course codes for Grades 7 and 8

For additional information about the new curriculum and the implementation process, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/curriculum-implementation.aspx

ACCELERATED AND ENRICHED COURSES

- All MCPS middle schools will continue to offer accelerated and enriched courses in mathematics and social studies. These courses are designed for students who demonstrate readiness for accelerating the pace of instruction while diving deeper into concepts alongside academic peers.

Mathematics:

- All Grade 6 students who demonstrate readiness for additional acceleration in mathematics will be placed in a course that combines Grade 7 and Grade 8 mathematics into a single year of instruction. These students will matriculate to high school Algebra 1 in Grade 7 and Geometry in Grade 8. Eligible students will be identified through a centralized process that includes a central review of multiple data points of each student's academic profile.

ACCELERATED AND ENRICHED MATHEMATICS	
3006	Applied Investigations in Mathematics: All Grade 6 students ready for Grades 7–8 mathematics will be placed in this course, and grouped together in academic cohorts.
3111/3112	Algebra 1 All Grade 7 students ready for high school Algebra 1 will be placed in this course, and grouped together in academic cohorts.
3203/3204	Honors Geometry All Grade 8 students ready for high school Geometry at the honors level will be placed in this course, and grouped together in academic cohorts.

Social Studies

- All Grade 6 students who demonstrate readiness for additional enrichment and acceleration in social studies, literacy, and writing will be placed in a specialized course in Grade 6, and, if successful, continue in Grades 7 and 8. These courses are built on and extend the core social studies course. Students go beyond core as they learn additional content, explore deeper connections to today, engage in investigative inquiry to strengthen their writing through Document-Based Questions, and enhance their learning through relevant

literature connections. Eligible students will be identified through a centralized process that includes a central review of multiple data points of each student’s academic profile. In these courses, students are grouped together in academic cohorts.

ACCELERATED AND ENRICHED SOCIAL STUDIES	
2120	Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities 6
2121	Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities 7
2122	Historical Inquiry into American Studies 8

MATHEMATICS INTERVENTION

Math 180 (3063)

- Math 180 is a comprehensive system of instruction, assessment, and professional development designed to help students who are more than 2 years below grade level prepare for algebra. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest materials, and direct instruction in mathematical calculation and application skills. Students rotate among small groups, teacher-directed lessons, a computer station for reinforcement and practice, and an independent brain arcade where student complete math problems at their instructional level. Built with the student in mind, the learning experience is a uniquely motivating and fun way to accelerate to grade-level ability.

WELL-ROUNDED CURRICULUM ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Maryland School Report Card Category for access to a well-rounded curriculum counts as 10 percent of a school’s overall report card score. This holds schools and districts accountable for providing well-rounded course offerings and ensuring student enrollment in these courses in middle school.
- By definition, this identifies the percent of students enrolled in fine arts, physical education, health, and computational thinking in the middle school grade band (Grades 6-8), for a minimum of a marking period course. Current interpretation from MSDE is that if a student enrolls in any of the approved courses in these areas at any point during Grades 6, 7, or 8, the student will have met the well-rounded requirement. These courses may include full year, semester, and quarter “rotation” offerings. All high school credit bearing courses must be offered as a full year.
- Fine Arts and computational thinking requirements must be met through elective course choices. A full listing of courses that meet these requirements in computational thinking and fine arts can be found here. [Computational Learning/Fine Arts 2019 ESSA Accountability Approval List](#) Note: Courses meeting the well-rounded requirements for computational thinking include courses in computer science, technology education, and engineering.
- The following planner and guidelines for Grades 6, 7 and 8 can serve as a resource for scheduling purposes.

GRADE 6 REQUIRED COURSES	GRADE 7 REQUIRED COURSES	GRADE 8 REQUIRED COURSES
English or ESOL Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education/ Health World Language or Elective Other Elective(s) (full year, semester, or quarter rotation)	English or ESOL Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education/ Health World Language or Elective Other Elective(s) (full year, semester, or quarter rotation)	English or ESOL Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education/ Health World Language or Elective Other Elective(s) (full year, semester, or quarter rotation)
WELL-ROUNDED CURRICULUM REQUIREMENT		
(Minimum of 1 marking period course during grades 6, 7 or 8) Fine Arts Computational Thinking		

SAMPLE STUDENT PLANNERS

These planners are provided as examples to support schools with articulation and scheduling practices matched to the individual interests and needs of students.

STUDENT A: TRADITIONAL ELECTIVES SURVEY	STUDENT B: ENROLLMENT IN YEAR LONG CREATIVE OR PERFORMING ARTS	STUDENT C: ENROLLMENT IN YEAR LONG STEM/COMPUTER SCIENCE
English or ESOL Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education/Health World Language or Elective/Support Fine Arts/Computational Thinking courses by semester or quarter rotation	English or ESOL Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education/Health + One Quarter of Computational Thinking World Language or Elective/Support Full Year Dance, Choral Music, General Music, Instrumental Music, Media Arts, Theatre, or Visual Art	English or ESOL Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education/Health + One Quarter of Fine Arts World Language or Elective/Support Full Year STEM, Computer Science, or Engineering

Note: The student samples provided are meant to ensure a wide range of options and well-rounded curriculum for students. Quarter or semester options should not replace existing year-long offerings in any course.

SCHEDULING SECONDARY ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL):

- For the 2020-2021 school year, ESOL levels will be aligned to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) levels 1.0-4.4 on the WIDA ACCESS test. See chart below.

PROPOSED LEVELS	ELP 1									ELP 2					ELP 3					ELP 4					N/A												
WIDA ACCESS	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	6.0
OASIS MCPS ESOL	1									2					3					4					5					EXIT							

- For the 2020-2021, there will be changes in Grades 6-12 to ensure that ESOL courses are aligned to grade level expectations for English learners at different levels of language proficiency. These changes are a result of new accountability measures and requirements from MSDE that ESOL courses are ultimately aligned to courses that meet Maryland high school graduation requirements. These requirements include that high school English learners may only take up to two high school ESOL courses for English credit towards graduation requirements. The remaining two credits, however, must be English courses.
- To prepare English learners for these new requirements, ESOL courses will now be aligned to a grade level English course in both middle and high school. The English/Language Arts curriculum will be vetted with MSDE to ensure alignment to the MCCRS standards in ESOL courses for all English learners scoring between WIDA levels 1.0-4.4.
- ESOL students will be scheduled into English classes designed to meet their level of academic language proficiency in appropriate ways including sheltered, co-taught, single and double periods.
- New course codes and course descriptions will be available in the new course bulletin for school year 2020-2021. See chart below for new middle school courses and codes.
- To assist in this transition, and based on the recommendations of a multi-stakeholder workgroup, additional guidelines and professional development will be provided to teachers, content specialists, resource teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff who are involved in the instructional support and programming for secondary English learners.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESOL COURSES	
ELP LEVEL 1	WIDA Level 1 (sheltered English-double period): English 6 for ELs I (1271) English 7 for ELs I (1272) English 8 for ELs I (1273)
ELP LEVEL 2	WIDA Level 2 (sheltered English-double period): English 6 for ELs II (1274) English 7 for ELs II (1275) English 8 for ELs II (1276)
ELP LEVEL 3	WIDA Level 3 (receive ELD sheltered English-single period or grade level English course*): English 6 for ELs III (1277) English 7 for ELs III (1278) English 8 for ELs III (1279)
ELP LEVEL 4	WIDA Level 4 (receive ELD in a grade level English course*): Grade 6 English (1074) Grade 7 English (1076) Grade 8 English (1078)

* Use "40" level code

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Changes have been made to the calculation of high school cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) and Weighted Grade Point Average (WGPA) for students who took high school courses while in middle school. These changes apply to students who entered Grade 6 during or after the 2018-2019 school year. These changes respond to stakeholders interests in expanding participation in high school world language and mathematics courses as early as Grade 6 while also reducing academic stress and pressure for middle school students taking on this challenge.

As a result, beginning with students who entered Grade 6 in the 2018-2019 school year:

- Grades and credit earned for high school courses taken in middle school will continue to be included on the high school transcript, but the grade points will not be automatically calculated into the cumulative GPA unless requested by parents/guardians. These requests will be accepted beginning in 2020-2021.
- These changes only apply to students who entered Grade 6 during or after the 2018-2019 school year.
- Once students successfully complete a high school course taken in middle school, students and parents/guardians will be notified annually of procedures to follow to include such courses in the cumulative GPA.
- For students who entered Grade 6 in 2017-2018 and earlier, the final grade and credit for high school courses successfully completed in middle school will be reported on the high school transcript and calculated into the GPA, in alignment with regulations in place at the time students entered middle school. Students are still able to retake courses for a higher grade.
- The complete regulation can be found here: www.montgomery-schoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ikcra.pdf