



Welcome to Folly Quarter Middle School

**A 2013 Maryland and National
Blue Ribbon School of Excellence**



Incoming Parent/Guardian
Introduction to Middle School
April 16, 2015

Making a successful transition to Middle School:

**Building the foundation
for high school and beyond
to ensure that EACH of our
students is fully prepared for
a successful future**





Your Administration:

Michele Doyle-Wetzelberger

Assistant Principal –

michele_doyle-wetzelberger@hcpss.org

Rick Wilson

Principal –

rick_wilson@hcpss.org



Your Student Services Staff:

Judy Anacker-Maas

School Counselor for last names A-L

judith_anacker-maas@hcpss.org

Emy Coonts

School Counselor for last names M-Z

emelia_coonts@hcpss.org

A photograph showing several hands raised in the air, some pointing upwards, against a bright, slightly blurred background, suggesting a classroom or meeting setting.

Your Instructional Staff:

Kirsten Willging

6th Grade co-Team Leader

kirsten_willging@hcpss.org

Tori Sharp

Related Arts Team Leader

victoria_sharp@hcpss.org

Drea Neto

6th Grade co-Team Leader

andreia_neto@hcpss.org

Sherri Capurso

Science Team Leader

sherri_capurso@hcpss.org

Bill McCauley

GT Resource Teacher

bill_mccauley@hcpss.org



Contact Information

- 410-313-1506 - main number
- 410-313-1509 - fax machine
- 410-313-1514 - Student Services
- <http://fqms.hcpss.org/>
- <https://subscriptions.hocoschools.org>
- @hcpss_fqms



Please welcome your PTA President,
Mrs. Cindy Coburn





Folly Quarter Middle School PTA
A National Blue Ribbon School



Website: **www.FollyQuarterPTA.org**

Email:
FQMSPTA.President@gmail.com

Twitter: **@FQMSPTA**



Community YARD SALE

INDOOR **SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2015** **HUGE**
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 (NO early birds, Please!!)

To be held at Folly Quarter Middle School
 13500 Triadelphia Rd, Ellicott City, MD

Shop at our 70+ tables filled with Treasures you can't live without!

We also accept donations!! If you have items you wish to get rid of, but don't have the time or energy to sell them, please consider donating them to our DONATION TABLE. All donations are tax deductible. The Donation Tables only, will be open to "Invited Guests" for FREE SHOPPING. Our "Invited Guests" have been referred by local organizations who assist families experiencing economic hardship.

Donated items should be dropped off on Friday, March 20, 2015 4:00-8:00 pm at Folly Quarter Middle School. Assistance will be provided.

SPONSORED BY THE FOLLY QUARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL'S PTA, FQMS' LEO CLUB AND NEIGHBOR NETWORK





Parent Involvement In Middle School

- ☐ It's Not Elementary!
- ☐ Time is of the Essence!
- ☐ Location Location Location!!
- ☐ Parents ARE Allowed!!
- ☐ No Experience Required!

*We help make learning more fun!
Please join us!!*



Board Openings and Committee Chair Positions

6th Grade Activities & Representative

Executive Board Positions: Secretary, Treasurer & Delegate to PTAC

Committee Positions:

Community Outreach

Cultural Arts

Fundraising

Hospitality

Membership

Book Fair

Falcon Day

Health & Safety Representative

Marquee Sign

School Improvement Team

School Store – (shadow)

Spirit Wear – (shadow)

Staff Appreciation

Website Review





Did Everyone Receive?

1. A copy of this presentation
-and-
2. A copy of the brochure *“Building the Foundation for High School and Beyond”*

Please note the following corrections to this HCPSS document:

6921-Common Core Math 6 not MSM1

6922-Common Core Math 7 not MSM 2



What the research says...

“Middle school is a defining point for students in the college and career readiness process.”

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.



Another Way of Looking at These Relationships





The HCPSS Schedule Includes:

- Seven 50-minute classes each day
- Daily instruction in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science
- Reading, English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math Seminars for students noted as performing below grade-level expectations
- Reading Modules
- World Language (for 7th and 8th grade only)
- Related Arts and Performing Arts courses
- GT Research for qualifying students



All Sixth Graders Take

English

Science

Mathematics

Social Studies

Physical Ed

**Fine Arts
(Performing Arts,
General Music and/
or Art)**

Health



Related Arts

- Physical Education - every other day all year long
- Health – 1 semester
- Fine Arts (Performing Arts, General Music, or Art)
- Family and Consumer Science (when possible)
- Technology Education (when possible)



Some Sixth Graders Take

Performing Arts

Band

Orchestra

Chorus

Please note that students who participate in performing arts will occasionally be pulled from other classes for sectional (small group) instruction.





Reading Modules

- Opportunities for students to apply disciplinary literacy skills to real-life, problem-solving situations

Sixth Grade Modules Include:

Connections

Exploring the Reader Within

Reading as a Scientist: Inventions

The Future of Water

Expanding and Exploring Careers



Outdoor Education

- A multi-day and overnight educational experience in an outdoor setting at Sandy Hill Camp and Retreat Center in NorthEast, MD;
<http://www.sandyhillcamp.com/>
- Activities are focused on team building, making connections, expanding comfort-zones, and respecting the environment
- Dates are October 13 - 15, 2015

A Typical 6th Grade Schedule for a Student Not Taking Performing Arts

Mathematics

English Language Arts

Science

Social Studies

Reading Innovation and Inquiry Modules/Seminars/Interventions/
GT Research

Physical Education/Health/A Fine Art

Related Arts such as Tech Ed, General Music, or FACS/or full-
year Mathematics and/or ELA Seminar

A Typical 6th Grade Schedule for a Student Taking Performing Arts

Mathematics

English Language Arts

Science

Social Studies

Performing Arts

Physical Education and Health

Reading Modules (or GT Research) and Another Related Art



Beyond the School Day

- Thanks to our PTA, rich and varied opportunities exist for your child to extend learning, including:
 - **STEM activities, including:**
 - Computer programming
 - Lego Robotics
 - Design Process
 - Career Explorations
 - **Jazz Bands**
 - **Homework Clubs**
 - **LEO Club**
 - **Art Club**



Gifted and Talented (GT) Programs

- Please welcome Mr. Bill McCauley, GT Resource Teacher for his final orientation!
- He will be available following this general presentation for parents whose children qualified for GT coursework.

A photograph showing several hands raised in the air, suggesting an active classroom or seminar setting. The hands are of different skin tones and are positioned against a bright, slightly blurred background.

TYPE II: Instructional Seminars

- **Why?** To work with G/T Resource Teacher to extend student interests and develop advanced-level skills
- **Who?** Interested students who are committed to in-depth study
- **When?** As need and interests arise
- **What?** Take a look at some examples...



Television Production

- **Daily television show to simulate professional broadcasts**
- **Student led and produced**
 - **Producers**
 - **Directors**
 - **Scriptwriters**
 - **Anchors**
 - **Camera and Graphics Technicians**



A close-up of several hands pointing upwards, suggesting an active discussion or voting process.

Middle School Book Club



A Book Club organized and led by advanced-level readers who enjoy participating in thought-provoking literary discussions.



It is hosted at the Miller Branch of the Howard County Public Library System.



Debate

- **The Debate Instructional Seminar motivates a group of students to use their voices to engage in meaningful, persuasive discourse about contemporary issues, thereby strengthening their leadership, critical thinking, and presentation skills.**
- **Offered in all middle schools under the direct instruction of the school's G/T Resource Teacher**

A close-up photograph of several hands reaching up, with one hand holding a pen, suggesting an active seminar or classroom discussion.

Additional Seminar Topics

- **African American History**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Historical Research**
- **Journalism**
- **Math Problem Solving**
- **Shakespearean Theatre**
- **Scientific Research**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Philosophy**
- **Cryptology**



FIND THE BALANCE

Course
Success

Course
Rigor





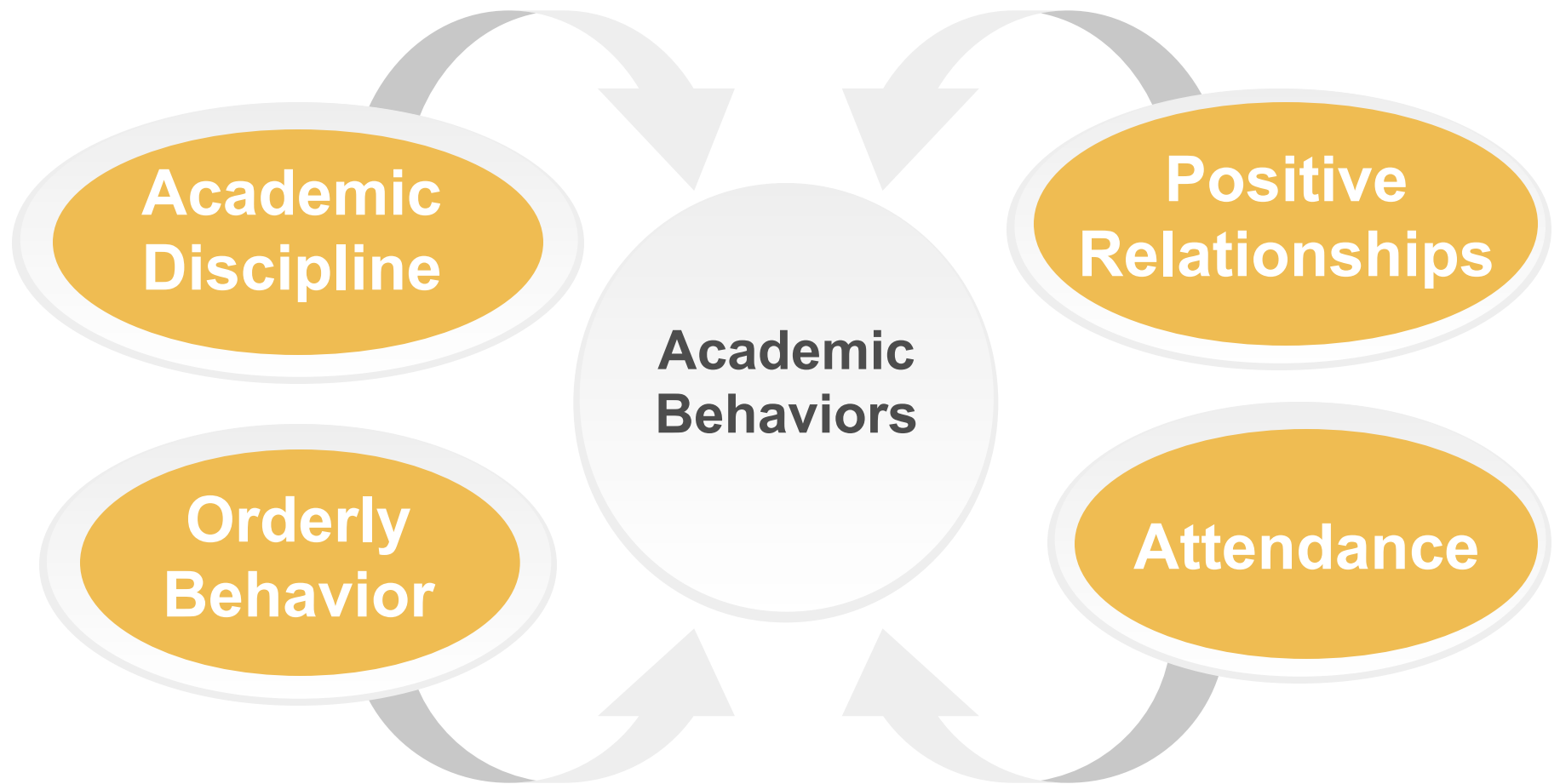
What the research says...

“The earlier a student develops important academically related behaviors, the more likely these behaviors are to become a habit.”

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.



Another Way of Looking at These Relationships






Supporting Academic Behaviors

Tips for Parents

Help your child further develop these behaviors by:

- Review current attendance rate; 96% is HCPSS and State standard for excellence.
- Review expected behaviors listed in HCPSS Code of Conduct; www.hcpss.org/aboutus/codeofconduct.pdf
- Monitor academics at home for 10-15 minutes a night per class on academics for the remainder of 5th grade including supporting organizational and effective study techniques.
- Verify that all homework is turned in on time for the remainder of 5th grade.
- Ensure that your child earns no less than a “C” in all classes during the 4th quarter in 5th grade.



Tips for Parents

Over the Summer...

Provide opportunities for social growth over the summer through participation in club, sports, camps, etc.

Be positive when discussing the transition, highlighting his/her competencies and available supports at home and school.

Provide opportunities to improve time management and organizational skills by maintaining a schedule for the last few weeks of the summer. Due to the homework demands of middle school, avoid over-committing your child to Fall evening activities.

If your child expresses excessive concern about transitioning to middle school, consult with school counselors to develop a plan before school begins.



Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:
May 19	5 th Graders visit Folly Quarter
August 20 1 – 2:30 PM	Detailed orientation for new students and parents/guardians
August 24 7:40 AM	First Day of School
Week of September 7 - September 11	Back-To-School Night
October 13-15	Outdoor Education Experience

A photograph showing several hands raised in the air, with one hand holding a pen, suggesting a classroom or meeting setting. This image is part of a header banner with a warm, orange-toned background.

Need More Details?

The HCPSS website has a section dedicated to the Middle School program at:

http://www.hcpss.org/academics/ms_program/

A photograph showing several hands raised in the air, suggesting a classroom setting where students are participating or answering questions. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color.

Closing Thoughts...

“The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness than anything that happens academically in high school.”

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.

A photograph showing several hands raised in the air, suggesting a classroom or meeting setting. The hands are of different skin tones and are positioned against a bright, slightly blurred background.

Closing Thoughts...

Folly Quarter MS Mission:

“Working together as a community to ensure that ALL students actively engage in learning, meet success now, and fully prepare for a positive future.”



Thank you for joining us this evening
and helping us meet our mission.



Please contact us with any questions.

A photograph showing several hands raised in the air, suggesting a classroom setting where students are participating or asking a question. The background is a warm, golden-yellow gradient.

GT Course Information

If you would like to hear more about
GT level course work, you are
welcome to stay and hear details
from Mr. McCauley.



AGENDA

- Overview of Middle School G/T Education Program
- Placement Procedures
- Questions



A close-up photograph of several hands raised in the air, suggesting an active classroom environment. The hands are of different skin tones and are positioned against a blurred background of a classroom.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAM MISSION

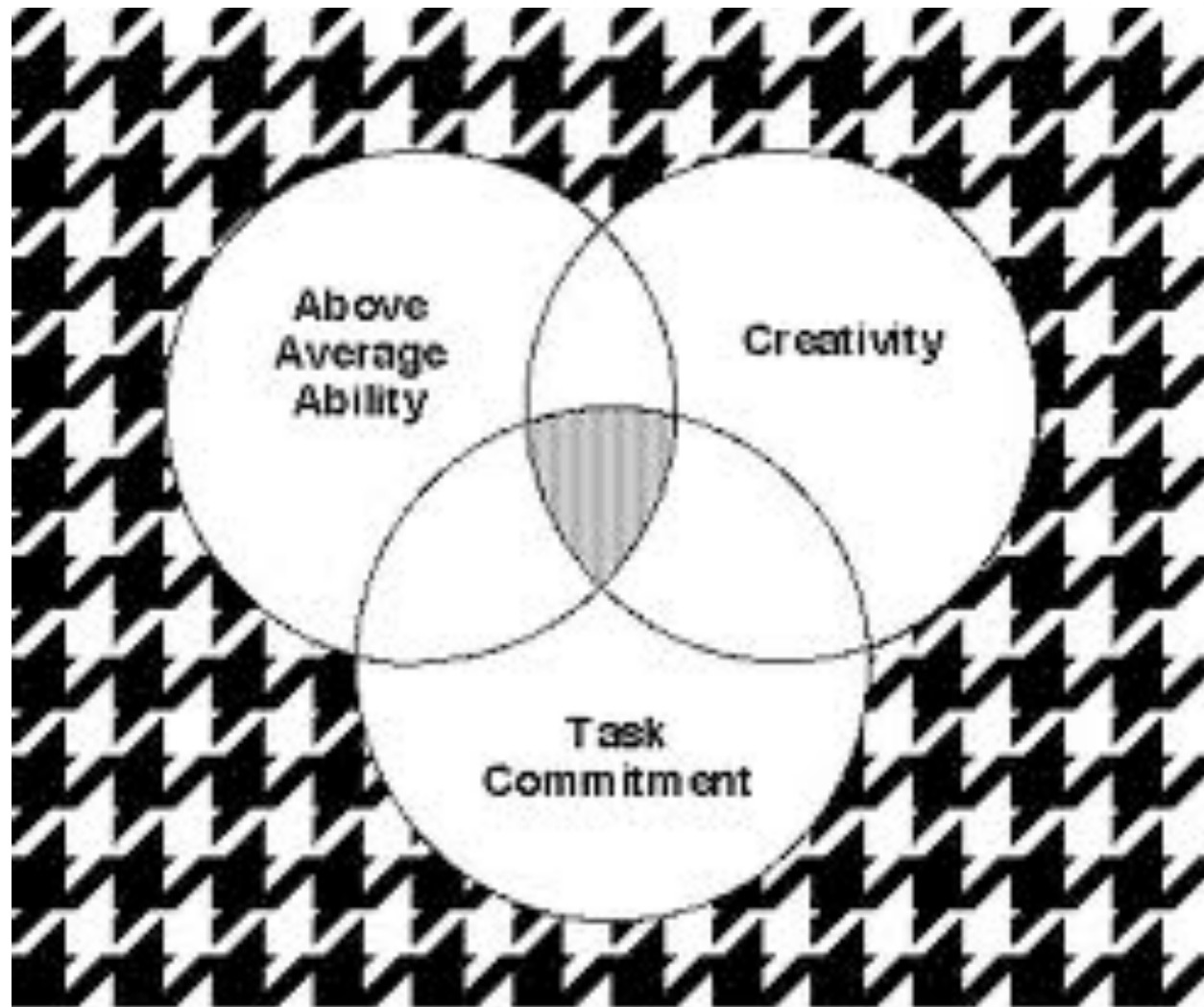
The Gifted and Talented Education Program seeks to recognize and develop talents in advanced-level learners.



A background image showing several hands pointing upwards, symbolizing achievement or goals. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange banner containing the title text.

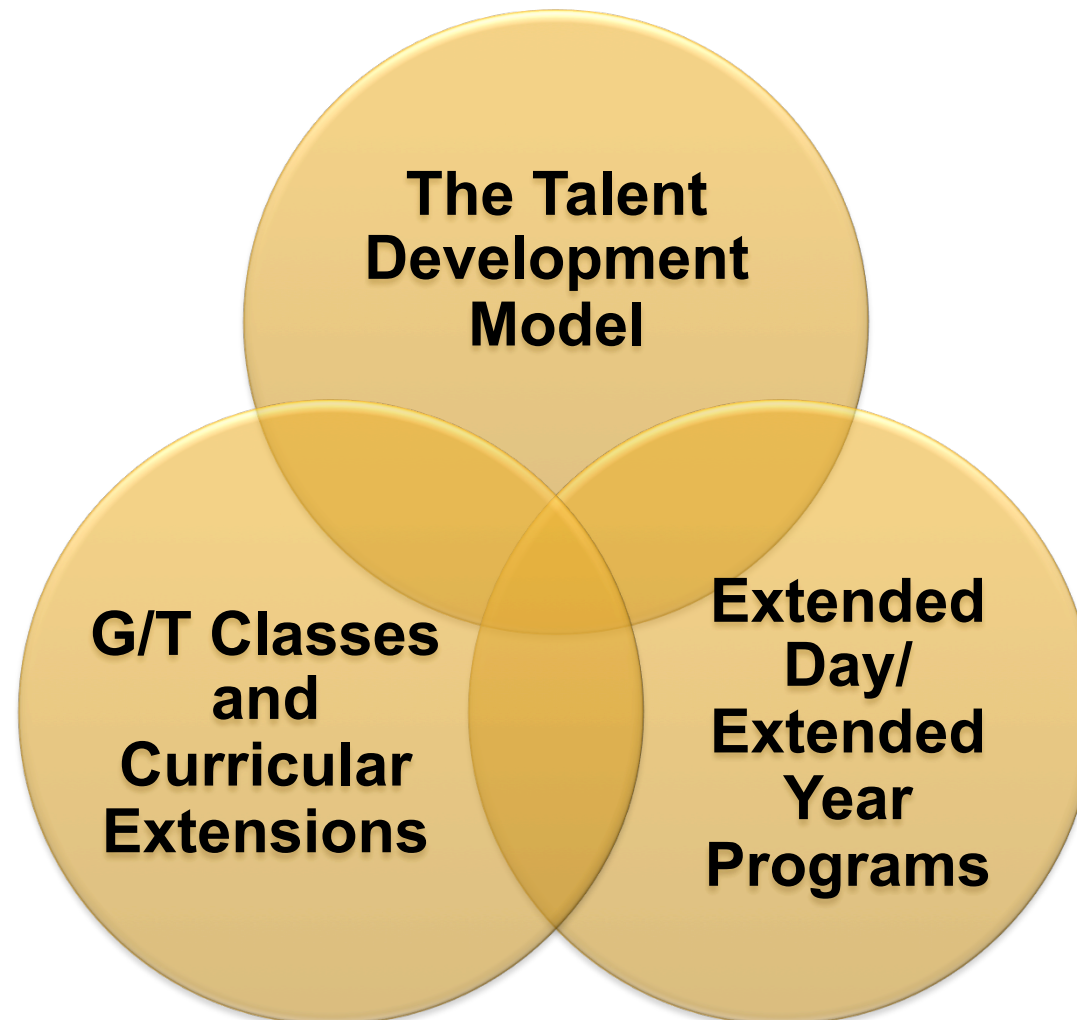
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAM GOALS

- Accelerate the achievement and performance levels of students who participate in G/T Education Program offerings
- Increase successful participation of underrepresented populations of students in G/T Education Program offerings
- Build a community of G/T Education Program advocates.





MIDDLE SCHOOL G/T EDUCATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS: AN OVERVIEW





CONTINUUM OF G/T CONTENT AREA SERVICES

Elementary

- CEUs and G/T Math

Middle

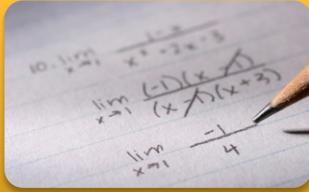
- G/T Content Area Classes

High

- G/T and AP Courses



MIDDLE SCHOOL G/T CLASSES



G/T Math



G/T Science

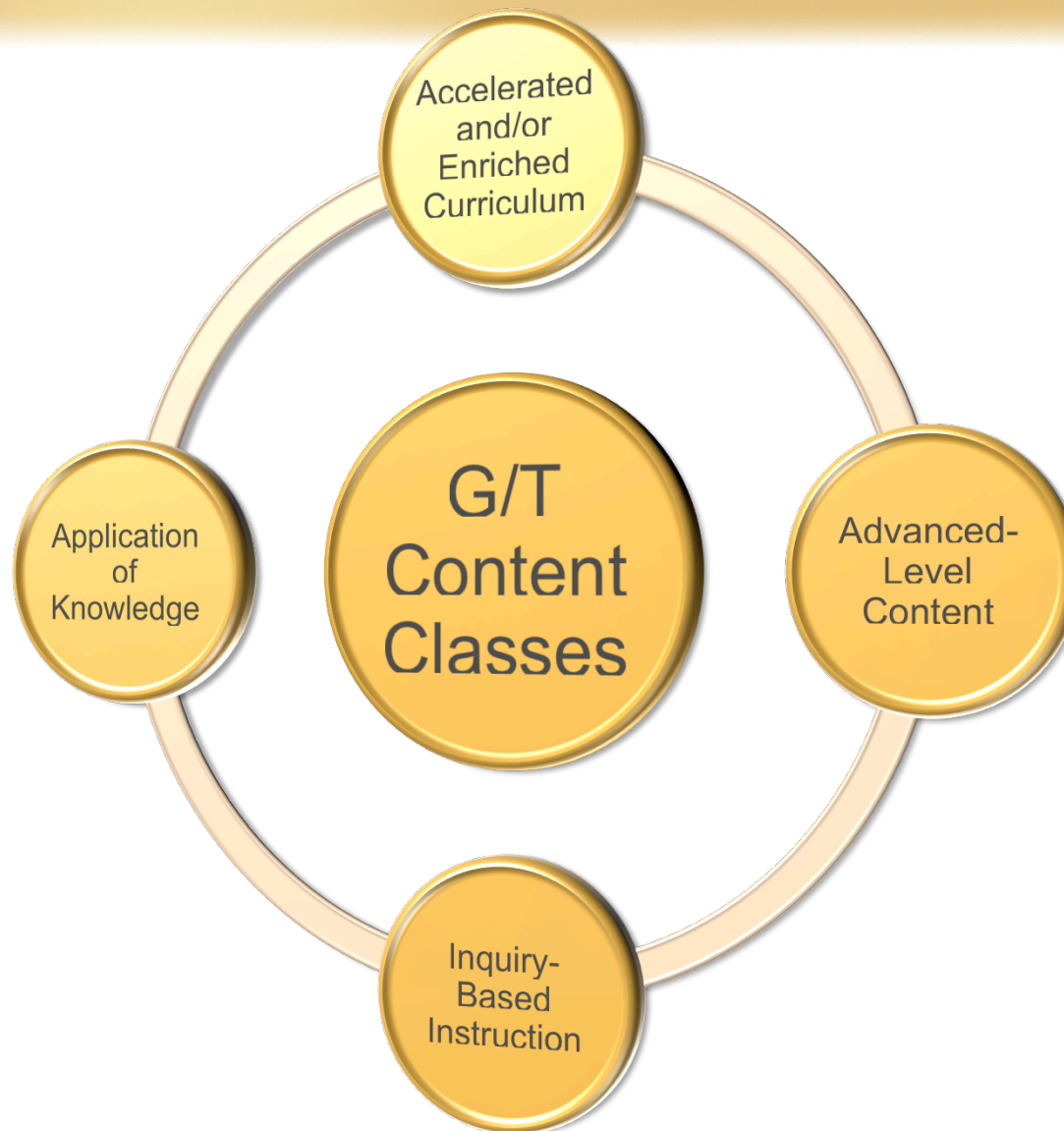


G/T English



G/T Social Studies

G/T CONTENT AREA SERVICES





G/T MATHEMATICS

An accelerated and enriched sequence that follows a curriculum of concepts at least two years above the general education curriculum.

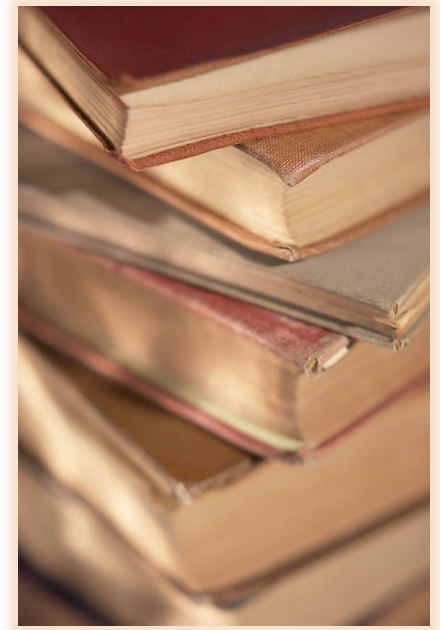
- 6 - Pre-Algebra G/T
- 7 – Algebra I/Data Analysis G/T
- 8 - Geometry G/T






An accelerated and enriched curriculum, where students use critical thinking skills to explore complex literary works and create compositions of advanced style, tone, and form.


Differentiated tasks and texts are included at all grade levels.





G/T WRITERS GUILD

 The G/T Writers Guild, set in a Writers Workshop format, provides instruction by exposing highly able students to exemplary techniques and tools and offers opportunities for talented, motivated writers to excel and to develop their unique voices.

 Throughout the workshop, students maintain a portfolio of polished work to be submitted for publication.

A blurred background image showing several hands raised in the air, suggesting a classroom or meeting setting.

G/T SOCIAL STUDIES

An enriched and accelerated curriculum, including differentiated objectives, where students explore civic and cultural principles and engage in inquiries that focus on essential, related questions.

- 6 – G/T Geography and World Cultures
- 7 – G/T Geography and World Cultures
- 8 – G/T U.S. History through the Reconstruction





G/T SCIENCE

G/T SCIENCE

An enriched and accelerated curriculum, including differentiated objectives, where students explore scientific principles and engage in ongoing original scientific research using an experimental design.

Science 6 G/T (Earth & Space Science focus)

Science 7 G/T (Biological focus)

Science 8 G/T (Physics & Chemistry focus)





- G/T Placement Process
 - CogAT Testing – administered to all 5th grade students
 - Student Performance Indicating Advanced-Level Achievement - multiple criteria examined (i.e. other assessment data, student work samples)
- G/T Placement Review Process
 - Additional work samples from outside of schools
 - Evidence of participation in advanced-level extra-curricular activities



- Accelerated Mathematics
 - Visual Arts - G/T Art
- G/T Orchestra, G/T Symphonic Band, and G/T Chorus
- G/T Summer Institutes for Talent Development



- **Why?** To emulate research tools and methodologies of professionals by investigating real world problems and presenting to authentic audiences
- **Who?** Available to any interested student
- **What?** Publication of book, scientific discovery, historical reenactment, instigation of legislation, original music/dramatic production...



RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS





MIDDLE SCHOOL G/T RESEARCH

- Enables advanced-level learners to conduct real world research
- Is designed for 6th grade students who participate in two or more G/T content area classes, including G/T English and G/T Math.
- Asks students to apply the research skills modeled in the curriculum to an original investigation
- Expects students to develop and maintain a research portfolio (binder or electronic) to document their year-long study.



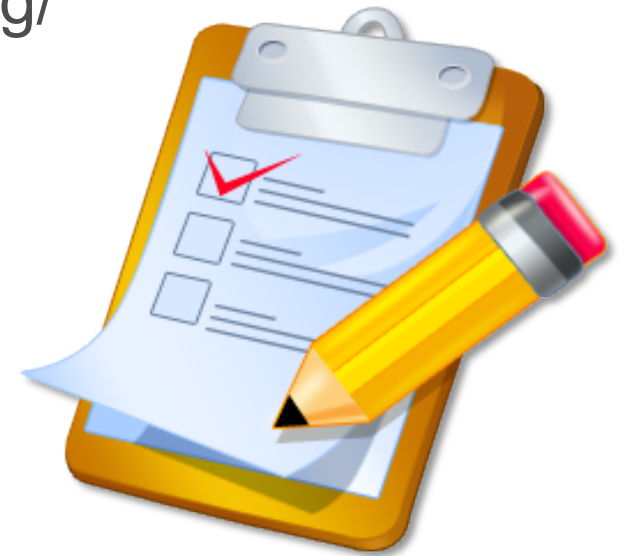
PARENT RESOURCES

HCPSS G/T Website: www.hcpss.org/academics/gt

G/T Parent Advisory Website:
hcpssgtac.wordpress.com

National Association for Gifted
Children Website:
www.nagc.org

Hoagies' Gifted:
www.hoagiesgifted.org





QUESTIONS





FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME

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