Middle School Enrichment & Acceleration

- Welcome
- Middle School Enrichment and Acceleration Overview
- Admissions Process
- Frequently Asked Questions & Timeline
Middle School Enrichment & Acceleration

Where will students access enrichment and acceleration in middle school?

- Local Middle Schools
- Middle School Magnet Consortium (Lottery)
- Magnet (Selective) Schools
Local Middle School

What is the enrichment and acceleration at the local middle school?

- High School Credits (math, world languages, electives/vary per middle school)
- Enriched and Accelerated courses- Applied Investigations to Mathematics and Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities (Grade 6 courses)

How will students be considered for enrichment and acceleration at their local school?

- All Grade 5 students will be centrally reviewed for enrichment and acceleration at their local school
- Various data will be considered for placement
Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC)

What are the schools in the MSMC?

- Argyle Magnet for Digital Design & Development
- Loiederman Magnet for Creative and Performing Arts
- Parkland Magnet for Aerospace Technology

Entry into these schools is by lottery (60-80 seats available for Grade 6 from out of area)

What is the enrichment and acceleration at the MSMC schools?

- High School Credits (math, world languages)
- Magnet courses or electives/vary per middle school

How will students be considered for enrichment and acceleration at an MSMC school?

- Various data and parent input will be used for course placement
Magnet (Selective) Programs

Which schools offer a magnet (selective) program?

- Humanities and Communication - Eastern or Martin L. King Middle School
- Mathematics, Science, Computer Science - Roberto Clemente or Takoma Park Middle School

Program eligibility is based on a student’s home address.

What is the enrichment and acceleration at the magnet (selective) programs?

- High School Credits (math, world languages, electives/vary per middle school)
- Three magnet courses that are part of the themed program

How will students be considered for enrichment and acceleration at a magnet school?

- Entry is by selection committee that considers multiple measures which includes an above grade level assessment.
Middle School Programming
Nuts & Bolts

- Middle schools have either 7 or 8 period schedules
- All offer high school credit
  - Math
  - World Language (most offer French & Spanish)
  - Other courses vary (tech, fine art, elective)
- Student schedule is comprised of:
  - Core courses (math, science, social studies, English) and
  - Various courses such as world language, music, technology, art, computer science, etc. (Varies by middle school).
For whom is the middle school magnet themed program designed?

Students who have been successful in the programs come from diverse backgrounds and may share the following traits:

- Performs above grade level and may require acceleration and enrichment beyond the local middle school program
- May lack an academic peer group in their home school
- Demonstrates curiosity and intrinsic motivation to learn across multiple environments
- Shows strong critical and creative thinking
- Maintains a high level of commitment, persistence, independence
- Works well both collaboratively and independently
- Exhibits high interest in one or both of the themed magnet programs
Middle School Program
Nuts & Bolts

- The schools are located in Germantown (upcounty) or Silver Spring/Takoma Park (downcounty)
- **Upcounty programs** have 50 seats each for out of area; **downcounty programs** have 100 seats for out-of-area students
- Each program has a magnet theme that drives the program offerings
- **The admissions process** is selective and it considers the student’s academic profile and instructional need
- Students in the program are scheduled for three magnet courses and are part of the local schools program for the remaining courses
Downcounty Middle School
Programs

Eastern Middle School
Takoma Park Middle School
EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL
HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION MAGNET PROGRAM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Expect the Best
The Humanities Program works to serve highly able students who have a particular interest in reading, writing, and the arts.
Eastern Middle School offers a seven-period instructional day.

Students in the magnet program receive enriched education through the following unique instructional opportunities:

- Humanities English 6, 7, and 8
- Humanities World Studies 6, 7, and 8
- Humanities Media 6, 7, and 8
Eastern Magnet Program
Overview

What makes the program unique?

- Teachers in the magnet program plan collaboratively in order to develop and emphasize interdisciplinary themes.

- Students are scheduled into cohort groups for magnet classes, allowing for flexible instructional models (co-taught classes, 45 or 90 minute class periods, projects that incorporate collaborative groupings in multiple classes).
Eastern Magnet Program

Overview

What makes the program unique?

• Students read text and literature 2-4 years above grade level
• Students focus on creating documentary films and expository essay writing
  • Film composition and editing
  • Interview skills
  • Research skills
  • Thesis development and writing skills
• Students participate in national and international scholastic competitions such as National History Day and C-Span Student Cam Competition
Takoma Park Middle School
Mathematics, Science, Computer Science Magnet Program
TAKOMA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE MAGNET PROGRAM
Takoma Park Program
Overview

Core courses

- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer science
- Elective courses in world languages (Spanish and French), music, art, theater, creative writing, TV production, FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences)
Takoma Park Program Overview

Mathematics

• Focus on problem solving, abstract mathematics, and using mathematics to model as a tool to communicate understanding of the world
• Magnet Investigations into Mathematics – an advanced pre-algebra course, based on IM but accelerated and enriched with more abstract concepts
• Magnet Algebra I
• Magnet Geometry

Science

• Extends the MCPS curriculum with greater depth and more topics
• Emphasizes the interlocking nature of math and science
• Enriched with field experiences, guest speakers, and student research
Takoma Park Program Overview

Computer Science

• The only middle school that offers 3 years of computer programming
• Advanced application skills such as using Visual Basic to program MS Office
• Python
• Web design, Flash, JavaScript
Upcounty Middle School Programs

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
Roberto Clemente Middle School
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Middle School
Humanities and Communication Magnet Program

Montgomery County Public Schools
Expect the Best
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION MAGNET PROGRAM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School
Humanities & Communication Magnet Program
Dr. Martin Luther King Middle School
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School offers a seven-period instructional day.

Students in the magnet program receive enriched education through the following unique instructional opportunities:

• Humanities English 6, 7, and 8
• Humanities World Studies 6, 7, and 8
• Humanities Media 6, 7, and 8
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet Program Overview

What makes the program unique?

• Teachers in the magnet program plan collaboratively in order to develop and emphasize interdisciplinary themes.

• Students are scheduled into cohort groups for magnet classes, allowing for flexible instructional models (co-taught classes, 45 or 90 minute class periods, projects that incorporate collaborative groupings in multiple classes).
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet Program Overview

What makes the program unique?

• Students read text and literature 2-4 years above grade level
• Students focus on creating documentary films and expository essay writing
  • Film composition and editing
  • Interview skills
  • Research skills
  • Thesis development and writing skills
• Students participate in national and international scholastic competitions such as National History Day and C-Span Student Cam Competition
ROBERTO CLEMENTE MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE
MAGNET PROGRAM
Roberto Clemente Program
Overview

Core courses

- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer science
- Elective courses in world languages (Spanish and French), music, art, theater, etc.
Mathematics

- Focus on problem solving, abstract mathematics, and using mathematics to model as a tool to communicate understanding of the world
- Magnet Investigations into Mathematics – an advanced pre-algebra course, based on IM but accelerated and enriched with more abstract concepts
- Magnet Algebra I
- Magnet Geometry
Roberto Clemente Program
Overview

Science

• Extends the MCPS curriculum with greater depth and more topics
• Emphasizes the interlocking nature of math and science
• Enriched with field experiences, guest speakers, and student research

Green Bank Telescope
Green Bank Observatory, W.Va.
Science (cont.)

- 6th Grade: Matter and Its Interactions, Ecosystems Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics, Human Impacts on the Environment, and Energy/Waves
- 7th Grade: Cellular Structure and Processes, Matter and Energy Flow in Organism, Inheritance and Variation of Traits, and Earth’s History and Evolution
- 8th Grade: Forces, Motion, and Interactions, Earth, the Solar System, and the Universe, Weather and Climate, and Earth’s Materials and Systems
Computer Science

• 6th Grade: Edison Robots, Code.org CS Discoveries course, web design for electronic portfolio, and physical computing with Circuit Playground

• 7th Grade: LEGO robots, Mobile Apps with MIT App Inventor, Physical computing with Arduino, and coding art with Processing

• 8th Grade: Database management with MS Access and Python
Middle School Enriched and Acceleration in MCPS
MCPS Middle School Enriched & Acceleration

Key areas of access:

- Implementing universal screening where all Grade 5 students will be centrally reviewed for enrichment and acceleration in local middle schools and regional centers. No parent application.

- Expanding enriched and accelerated course access to local middle schools that demonstrate instructional needs. Courses include:
  - Applied Investigations to Mathematics
  - Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities
MCPS Middle School Enriched & Acceleration Process

What can parents expect of the magnet (selective) process?

• An application is not required for any Gr 5 students at all elementary schools.

• All Grade 5 students will be centrally reviewed for consideration for continued evaluation. Parent letter will be mailed home in mid-October.
  • Students can be identified for home school programming or, one or both programs
  • Parents can request or decline testing

• Testing will be in November 2018
Frequently Asked Questions

How are students identified for evaluation which includes testing?

At the beginning of this year, the central office collects students school and assessment data in reading and math, and services. Students who demonstrate a need for acceleration and enrichment will be invited to test. Letters to parents will be mailed by mid-October.
How are the students selected for each magnet program?

- The central office selection committee uses a variety of data points to determine those students whose needs would best be met in each program. It is a multiple criteria process that includes assessment and school data.

- The process is competitive and there are a limited number of seats for each program. Each program has 500 out of area seats. Students can be invited to both programs but can only accept one.
What transportation services are provided?

MCPS provides transportation from central stops for students in the middle school magnet programs, from the areas that the programs serve.

1. Transportation is provided to each middle school magnet program to and from central stops (*usually* at MCPS schools) determined by the Department of Transportation.
2. Stops may be several miles from the student’s home.
3. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the centralized stops.
4. Bus trips are usually significantly longer and vary by program and location.

*Please carefully consider transportation options and responsibilities.*
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline?

• October
  • Parent information meeting
  • Parents receive results of central review by mail
• November - Grade 5 students take the above grade level assessment at school
• December - Selection committees select students
• January - Parents receive selection results
Frequently Asked Questions

As a parent, what do I do now?

- **Local school**: Learn about your middle school options for next year (courses, extracurricular activities, programs)
- **MSMC**: Learn about the MSMC and attend the open houses
  - Loiederman, October 3 at 6 pm
  - Parkland, October 17 at 6 pm
  - Argyle, October 24 at 6 pm
- **Magnet (selective) Programs**:
  - Parent Information Meeting, October 4 at Kennedy HS at 7 pm
  - Parent Information Meeting, October 15 at Gaithersburg HS at 7 pm
CONTACTS

• **Program Questions:**
  • Steven Orders, Magnet Coordinator, Clemente MS, 301-284-4774
  • Matt Kerwin, Magnet Coordinator, Eastern MS, 301-650-6654
  • Margaret Kay, Magnet Coordinator, King MS, 301-353-8080
  • Scott Degasperis, Magnet Coordinator, Takoma Park MS, 301-562-5220
  • Kurshanna Dean, director, Accelerated & Enriched Instruction, 240-740-3110

• **Admission Process Questions:**
  • Carla Malozowski and Betty Shevitz, Instructional Specialists, DCCAPS, 240-740-2540

Visit the Web site: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/specialprograms/

*DCCAPS- Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services*