

Gifted Child Committee Report

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Events:

3/5 -- Kim attended MCPS and MCCPTA Curriculum meeting. Elementary School Director of OSSI also attended meeting.

3/8 -- Lang met with Lori-Christina Webb and Kurshanna Johnson at Carver. We are hoping to organize an event soon for MCPS administrators to meet parents and present updates focusing on middle school magnets and new course offerings for advanced learners at certain local schools. The details are TBD.

Middle School Updates:

Middle School Magnet Admission Changes

MCPS issued a FAQ explaining the changes in the middle school magnet admission process:

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Eastern%20and%20Takoma%20Park%20Magnet%20ProgramsFINAL\(1\).pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Eastern%20and%20Takoma%20Park%20Magnet%20ProgramsFINAL(1).pdf)

Middle School Field Test of New Courses

MCPS also provided information about the local middle school field test, in which new course offerings will be field tested (piloted) next fall at 20 middle schools. These schools were identified through the magnet admission process as each having a cohort of at least 20 highly able students:

- The Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs is developing two enriched and accelerated courses for highly able cohorts in the local middle school field study catchment area -- Benjamin Banneker, Briggs Chaney, William H. Farquhar, Robert Frost, Herbert Hoover, Cabin John, Francis Scott Key, Col. E. Brooke Lee, Newport Mill, Rosa M. Parks, North Bethesda, Thomas W. Pyle, Silver Creek, Silver Spring International, Sligo, Tilden, Julius West, Westland, Earle B. Wood, and White Oak middle schools. The three Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) schools - Argyle, A. Mario Loiederman, and Parkland - are not participating.
- Course offerings will begin for 6th graders in the 2018–2019 school year and include a mathematics course and a humanities course. All middle schools in the catchment area will implement one or both courses.

- Middle school principals will be notified of student cohort course assignments in March. For scheduling purposes, students identified in the highly able cohorts will be grouped together in class sections. Decisions regarding the number of courses offered at each school will be finalized based on student enrollment and performance data.
- School staff in the field test catchment area will receive professional learning, consultation on master scheduling, and central office support.
- Schools will communicate with their communities regarding the new courses by the end of March. Notification of individual placements will be sent in early April. Parents therefore are asked not to approach school staff about the new courses until after the individual placement information is communicated.

Changes to the Upcounty Middle School Magnet Programs

The middle school Humanities and Communication magnet program that has been housed at Roberto Clemente will be moving to MLK Middle School. The move will affect students starting in the program as 6th graders next year (2018-2019). Students currently enrolled in the program (this year's 6th and 7th graders) will finish at Clemente. Clemente will continue to host the Mathematics, Science, Computer Science magnet program.

A copy of the announcement can be found here:

https://connectdocs.blackboard.com/xythoswfs/webui/xy-908669_1-t_UEvzFQ3X