

# **MATH, SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM**

## **UPCOUNTY CENTER PROGRAM**

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Roberto Clemente Middle School  
18808 Waring Station Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
(301) 601-0381



June 1, 2014

Dear Students and Parents:

We are excited that you will be joining us in the Math/Science/Computer Science Center Program at Roberto Clemente Middle School. We look forward to an enthusiastic and exciting year!

We understand that leaving a familiar place and going to a new school can be a little scary as well as exciting. To help put yourself at ease, take a moment to get acquainted with your new teachers by reading their biographies below.

We hope that you are all having a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

The Upcounty Center Team 6

### **MATHEMATICS**

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**Magnet Math 6 – Mr. Tarrick Moore – [Tarrick\\_D\\_Moore@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tarrick_D_Moore@mcpsmd.org)**

Mr. Moore graduated from Morgan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. He earned a master's degree in Secondary Mathematics from Walden University in 2008. He received his secondary math certification in 2007. In 2011, Mr. Moore completed his administration and supervision program through Hood College and received his administrative certification. Mr. Moore has been teaching with Montgomery County Public Schools since 1997 at both elementary and middle schools. Mr. Moore taught at Matsunaga Elementary for 6 years prior to coming to Clemente. At Matsunaga, he developed an enriched math summer program for incoming advanced fifth grade students. Mr. Moore has been at Roberto Clemente since 2007 and is the coach of our math team which has been ranked as 1<sup>st</sup> in the state for 2 years. He traveled to Florida in May as the coach of the National team. His team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation and will be returning as many as three students for the 2015 competition.

All students should download a preparatory math packet over the summer from the school website [www.robertoclementems.org](http://www.robertoclementems.org). The summer review packet will allow us to see where each student's strengths and weaknesses are and we can plan our instruction throughout the year accordingly. The packet is due the first day of school.

A graphing calculator is required for Algebra I courses. Our teachers use the TI-83+ calculator in the classroom, however, any graphing calculator which has a table of values function will be fine. Your teacher will be sending out forms at the beginning of the year if you need assistance with obtaining a graphing calculator.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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Ms. Lena Polishchuk - [Lena\\_Polishchuk@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lena_Polishchuk@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Polishchuk graduated from St. Petersburg University (at the time Leningrad University) with an equivalent to MS in Mathematics and Computer Science. She also graduated from Boston University with an MS in Business Management. Ms. Polishchuk has been teaching since 1981. She has been with MCPS since 1997 and with the Math/Science/Computer Science Center Program at RCMS since 2007. She previously taught Magnet Geometry in the program. Before coming to Clemente, Ms. Polishchuk taught Computer Science, including AP Computer Science, at Albert Einstein High School.

### **Getting Ready for Computer Science 6**

- A home computer will be helpful to complete out of class work. Please do not immediately telephone Dell and order a new computer. As long as your home computer is relatively new, with a modest processor speed and a few gigabytes of hard disc storage capacity, all will be well. If you do not have access to a computer, the county libraries provide computers during their operating hours. Also, at RCMS, the Media Center is available both before school and after school on select days—where you may continue out of class work, if necessary.
- A USB/flash drive of at least 4+GB will be sufficient and is the best way to back up your assignments. Virtually every student last year used a flash drive on a day to day basis for several reasons. First, saving your work on a flash drive enables you to continue work on the same item at home (contingent upon having the appropriate software). Second, some of what you learn during the second semester requires a large amount of storage space—more than your allocated server space at RCMS will allow. If you rely primarily on such a storage device, I strongly recommend that you frequently backup your storage device so that you will be able to restore your work immediately should your device malfunction or become lost.

### **Helpful Information**

Computer Science 6 is primarily an introduction to the sequence of computer science courses which will be taken by your child during the middle school and high school years. You will be taught the most appropriate logic skills to be an effective programmer.

## CENTER SCIENCE

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**Mrs. Traci Fairbairn — [Traci\\_L\\_Fairbairn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Traci_L_Fairbairn@mcpsmd.org)**

Mrs. Fairbairn holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from the College of William and Mary, a Master's of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Florida, and a Master's of Education degree from the University of Maryland. She has extensive additional coursework in math, science, and reading. She also has an advanced professional certificate.

She has been working in the education field since 1988. She has taught at Seneca Academy, Jones Lane Elementary, Stone Mill Elementary, and Ridgeview Middle School. She joined the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Center Program at Roberto Clemente in 2005.

Mrs. Fairbairn is married and is the proud parent of two children of her own. Rob who attended Takoma Park Middle School, Montgomery Blair High School, and Kenyon College. Catherine attended Ridgeview Middle School, Quince Orchard High School, Franklin and Marshall College, and University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. Both are employed in science fields in the area. Mrs. Fairbairn enjoys helping students to pursue areas of personal interest in their schoolwork and she loves to canoe and spend time on the Chesapeake Bay.

The Center Science Course features a connected curriculum in life science, earth science and physical science. Some topics we will be studying include the environment, patterns in nature, genetics & adaptation, force and motion, electricity, energy and magnetism.

This summer read a book on how to do scientific research such as Thomas Moorman's book, How To Make Your Science Project Scientific. This book is available in Montgomery County Public Libraries. You may also purchase this book if you chose to as students will be using it all three years, but it is not necessary.

Please bring in your parents' email the first week of school to give to your teacher.