

# JULIUS WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Grade 6 Students:

Welcome to Julius West Middle School. We are proud to be an IB World School authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) to all of our students. As an IB World School, students enroll in classes leading to a broad liberal arts education and will have an opportunity to study eight different subjects as part of the program. The eight subjects and corresponding JW Grade 6 course offerings are listed below:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Description</b>
Language A (English)	• Heterogeneous grouping
Language A (Reading)	• Heterogeneous grouping
Math	• Math 6, Math 7, Investigations in Math (IM)
Humanities (Social Studies)	• Heterogeneous grouping
Investigations in Science	• Heterogeneous grouping
Language B (world language)	• French 1A, Spanish 1A, Chinese 1 (pending enrollment)
PE/Health	• Daily class for all students
Arts	• Available through elective classes
Technology	• Available through elective and selected academic classes
Special Education and ESOL services are provided for identified students.	

Grade 5 teachers will be making recommendations for course placement and you will be notified by mail of these decisions prior to the end of the school year.

In addition to being an IB World School we are also pleased to be a part of the middle school reform process that Montgomery County Public Schools initiated several years ago. One of the cornerstones of middle school reform includes providing all students with access to rigorous and challenging instruction – a perfect fit with the IB Middle Years Programme.

Access to advanced curriculum is available to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in their Language A, Humanities and Science classes. In addition, students who meet the criteria listed below may also enroll in a high school credit world language class and may choose to study French 1A, Spanish 1A or Chinese 1 (pending sufficient enrollment). These students will have a daily foreign language class in place of a reading class. For additional information regarding high school credit classes taken in middle school, please see the back of the pink registration card.

Students who participate in the grade 6 daily world language program are most successful if they meet the following criteria:

- Read above grade level as noted on report cards
- Have reading/language arts report card grades of A/B or 3/4
- Score at an advanced or high proficient level on Grade 4 MSA Reading Test
- Score above grade level on MAP-R Tests

Students who do not begin daily world language study in 6<sup>th</sup> grade may do so in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

As we develop an articulation of International Baccalaureate (IB) programs in the Richard Montgomery cluster, some parents and students may be curious to know how middle school choices in grade 6 will affect participation in the final 2 years of the IB Middle Years Programme and/or the IB Magnet Diploma Program at Richard Montgomery High School. At a minimum, students will need to have completed Algebra 1 and level 1 of a world language by the end of Grade 8 in order to be eligible to earn a Middle Years Programme Certificate at the end of Grade 10 and/or to apply to the IB Magnet Program at Richard Montgomery HS. Please visit the MYP page located on the Julius West Website, <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/westms/> and click on “Planning with the End in Mind” to learn more about middle school course selection and IB programs in the RM cluster.

Questions about the IB Middle Years Programme may be referred to Gail Fribush, IBMYP Coordinator at 301-279-3979. Individual questions regarding your child’s program may be referred to Mark Samara in the counseling office at [mark\\_a\\_samara@mcpsmd.org](mailto:mark_a_samara@mcpsmd.org) or 301-279-3993. We look forward to working as partners with you to ensure a smooth transition to Julius West for your child.

Sincerely,

Nanette W. Poirier  
Principal

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