

**Course Description Booklet
2020-2021**



An International Baccalaureate (I.B) World School.

**Montgomery Village Middle School
19300 Watkins Mill Road
Montgomery Village, Md 20886**

**Main Office: 301- 840-4660
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Welcome to Montgomery Village Middle School

Administration

Dr. Kisha Logan, Principal

Ms. Jill Raspen, Assistant Principal

Mr. Roy Liburd, Assistant Principal

Montgomery Village Middle School students receive a rigorous and comprehensive academic program at every grade level. There are seven class periods daily. All students take courses in math, world studies, science, English and physical education. As an IB (International Baccalaureate) World school, we offer every student who is not enrolled in a reading intervention the opportunity to take a world language throughout their entire middle school career.

All students participate in a physical education program every year for three quarters, and have health for one quarter.

Our students have the opportunity to sample a variety of rigorous 21st century courses throughout their three years in our electives program. These range from courses in computers, engineering and design to courses in the visual and performing arts.

Montgomery Village Middle School is a global access school with 21st century white-board technology in each classroom. Teachers and students have access to high technology research and publishing possibilities.

Here at Montgomery Village, we are concerned with the whole child and aim to deliver an extra-curricular program that is centered on students' interests. The many afterschool activities include academic supports, intramural sports, athletic teams, music ensembles, and the Extend Beyond the Bell (EBB program). Students in EBB receive expanded access to high interest after school activities that include; Cartooning, Cooking and Dance. The Student Government Association (SGA) presents an excellent opportunity for children to become involved in their school. Many teachers stay after school to provide individual academic support. Activity buses are available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for students who stay for an organized activity or who work with a teacher.

The Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is one of four programmes offered by the International Baccalaureate (IB). The Middle Years Programme services students in grades 6-10 regardless of course, so all students who attend Montgomery Village Middle School are part of the IB Programme. Students still meet the curricular aims outlined by MCPS, but in a way that prepares them for accepting the challenges of rigorous coursework later in high school, and for solving real-world problems inside and outside of the school setting. MYP helps schools develop well-rounded students by:

- Addressing the well-being of the whole child (social, emotional, physical)
- Guiding students to be better problem solvers through courses and independent projects so they can be better equipped to solve real-world problems, both in the community and their personal lives
- Helping students understand their world through the global contexts and the study of languages
- Ensuring that students receive a broad and balanced, connected education in the 8 subject areas.

The Middle Years Programme services students in grades 6-10, so students who attend Watkins Mill High School, will continue with their IB experience.

If you have questions about the Middle Years Programme, please contact the MYP Coordinator, Wendy Farmer at [Wendy M Farmer@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Wendy_M_Farmer@mcpsmd.org), or by texting 240-230-7746.)

Counseling Department

The Counseling Department works with the grade-level teams to implement a successful educational program for each child. Counselors for every grade level meet with individual students, run counseling groups, and visit classrooms to address important topics. They are available to speak to parents and facilitate team/parent conferences.

Mr. Kevin Tindoll Resource and 8th grade Counselor

Ms. Harabatch, 7th grade Counselor

Mrs. O'Malley, 7th grade Counselor

Mrs. Oliver, 6th grade Counselor

Mrs. Augustino, Counseling Secretary/Registrar; 301-840-6373 (phone)

Registration

Building upon the knowledge and skills acquired in previous years, students are encouraged to pursue a rigorous program of studies based on their individual interests and abilities. The **2019-2020** Course Description Booklet contains information on the instructional program that will be offered. It is designed to be a guide for parents and students as they register for the next year.

The Course Description Booklet contains a complete listing of courses available, student placement criteria, descriptions for courses offered, and any specific course requirements. Some classes may require nominal laboratory, project, or materials fees. Please note: the classes offered next fall for ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS **are based on student enrollment and staffing availability.**

Parents and students should give special attention to the selection of courses during registration. **The master schedule of classes and the allocation of staff is based on your initial registration. After the registration period, schedule changes will be made in exceptional cases only.** Requests for changes by a student or parent must be for educationally sound reasons and submitted in writing to the principal. A parent/counselor/team meeting will then be scheduled to discuss the request. **Course selections must be done with great care and preplanning.**

World Languages

The goal of the world languages program in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is to prepare students to be linguistically and culturally competent in languages other than English. The ability to communicate in a culturally appropriate manner with speakers of other languages is the key to success in the increasingly diverse global community of the 21st century. As students develop proficiency in world languages and an understanding of the underlying values and beliefs of other cultures, they gain the skills that are essential to meaningful communication.

All world languages courses are designated high school level courses. Students must meet the same requirements as high school students and complete a full two-semester sequence. World languages grades earned at Montgomery Village Middle School will appear on the high school transcripts.

Measures:

Students will take an MCPS Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) each quarter. Students begin to learn to communicate orally and in written form about daily life. Emphasis is on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken.

Only students who are not recommended for a reading course are eligible to enroll in a world language.

World Languages Course Offerings

Course Title	Course
French	1 A / 1 B
French	2 A / 2 B
Spanish	1 A / 1 B
Spanish	2 A / 2 B
Spanish for Spanish Speakers I	<i>*6th and 7th graders Spanish speakers who are currently taking Spanish I or II, need to speak to their world language teacher to take the test for this course.</i>

Level 1A/1B (Full Year Course)

Spanish or French

This is a high school credit-bearing course. Students begin to learn to communicate orally and in writing in a culturally appropriate manner about topics related to daily life. They interpret basic information when listening and reading. Vocabulary and basic grammatical structures are taught within the context of these familiar topics. Culture is embedded throughout the course. Students who successfully complete both semesters of 1A/1B earn one foreign language credit toward graduation.

Level 2A/2B (Full Year Course)

Spanish or French

This is a high school credit-bearing course. Students expand their ability to communicate orally and in writing in a culturally appropriate manner about topics related to daily life. They interpret information when listening and reading. Vocabulary and grammatical structures are taught within the context of these topics. Culture is embedded throughout the course. Students who successfully complete both semesters of 1A/1B earn one foreign language credit toward graduation.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 A/B (Full Year Course)

This is a high school credit-bearing course. The Spanish for Spanish Speakers course provides language instruction for students who have developed proficiency in Spanish either because it is their first language or it is spoken extensively at home. The course is designed to address the specific needs of heritage Spanish Speakers. This course utilizes a language arts approach comparable to that of English courses offered to English-speaking students. The course integrates history, culture, language, and connections related to the Spanish-speaking world.

****Students who are native speakers of French or Spanish, or students who have received comprehensive instruction in one of those languages, may request a placement exam to bypass the initial level of a language course.**

Electives

VISUAL ART

Art is investigative and performance-based in nature. Art encourages creativity and expands aesthetic and intellectual awareness by using higher level thinking skills. Instruction in visual art should engage the learner and reflect the complex nature of the discipline. This requires consistent yet varied opportunities for students to be actively involved in the artistic process. Each curricular level in middle school has an overarching theme that is intended to connect and deepen learning experiences. At each curricular level, students receive instruction on the same artistic processes, standards, and objectives; each visual art course, however, is differentiated by the media and skills students will utilize to demonstrate mastery of those curricular objectives. A semester is recommended per course in order to meet all of the curricular objectives. Students should have the opportunity to take more than one fine arts course per year.

Middle School Art 1 (Quarter Rotation)

Students in **6th Grade** will be provided multiple and varied opportunities explore *IDENTITY* and the many ways this theme can be represented through visual art. Students will develop a fundamental understanding of ideation, media techniques, formal qualities, and compositional devices. Students in Grade 6, Grade 7, and Grade 8 with no previous art experience in middle school should begin at Level 1 in the visual art sequence.

Courses Offered

- **Middle School Studio Art 1:** Students will explore a variety of traditional student media and techniques including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and crafts to create artworks.

Middle School Art 2 (Full Year Course)

Students in **7th Grade** will explore how the theme of *RELATIONSHIPS* can be used to create artworks that communicate personal meaning and individual ideas. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how artists generate and conceptualize ideas, refine craftsmanship through practice and persistence, and intentionally arrange compositional elements to communicate meaning effectively. Students with no previous art experience may begin at Level 2, with permission of the visual art teacher.

- **Middle School Studio Art 2:** Students will refine their ability to use traditional studio media and techniques, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and crafts to create artworks.

Middle School Art 3 (Full Year Course)

Students in **8th Grade** with prior visual art experience may continue with Level 3 in the visual art sequence. In Middle School Art Level 3, students will have the opportunity refine their skills and develop their personal artistic style while exploring how *INFLUENCE* can be

communicated through art. Level 3 also offers several specialized art courses that provide advanced-level students with opportunities to refine skills and master techniques in specific art media and creative processes.

- **Middle School Studio Art 3:** Students will develop a portfolio of work demonstrating proficiency in working with traditional 2D and 3D studio media and techniques including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and crafts to create artworks.

Performing Arts

Band and Orchestra courses are ensemble-structured, performance-based classes. Students will create, perform, and respond to music in a variety of styles/genres while studying the cultural, historical, personal, and social context through the analysis of instrumental music literature. Concerts are the culmination of many hours of hard work and serve as performance assessments in which students demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills outlined in the content standards. Applying this learning in a public concert is a vital component of the course and is authentic to the broader world of music performance.

Middle School Beginning Band (Full Year)

This course is for students with no prior instrumental music experience. Students prepare for participation in performing ensembles and develop technical skills necessary to perform Grade 1 Level music, a performance level established by the National Association for Music Education and not a reference to first grade. Basic instrumental skills are developed by performing a variety of music. Students are taught the elements of musical form, terms and symbols, tone production, instrument care and maintenance, and the importance of consistent practice habits. Cultural context of the music and its historical significance as they relate to performance is studied. Students may attend live performances and perform in public.

Orchestra I (Full Year)

This course is for students with no prior instrumental music experience and students can refine skills learned from their elementary Grade 4 and 5 instrumental music programs. Students prepare for participation in performing ensembles and develop technical skills necessary to perform Grade 1 Level music, a performance level established by the National Association for Music Education and not a reference to first grade. Basic instrumental skills are developed by performing a variety of music. Students are taught the elements of musical form, terms and symbols, tone production, instrument care and maintenance, and the importance of consistent practice habits. Cultural context of the music and its historical significance as they relate to performance is studied. Students may attend live performances and perform in public.

Middle School Band I (Full Year)

Students refine skills learned from their elementary Grade 4 and 5 instrumental music programs. The development of technical skills necessary to perform Grade 1 to Grade 2 Level music is stressed. Emphasis is placed on developing formal rehearsal decorum, following a conductor, and developing pitch and rhythmic security in preparation for performing an independent part in the traditional band or orchestra ensemble. Students also learn melodic form and construction as they examine and perform more complex folk melodies and melodies from master composers. Students discuss the social and intellectual influences that affected the creation of the music they are studying. They begin to develop aesthetic criteria for measuring the quality of instrumental performance. Students may attend live performances and perform in public.

Chorus (Full Year)

Chorus is offered during the student day to all students who want to sing and develop individual and ensemble vocal skills. Students will create, perform, and respond to music in a variety of styles/genres while studying the cultural, historical, personal and social context through the analysis of choral literature. Ensemble members will learn and develop the fundamentals of proper vocal technique and choral singing. Students will be equipped with skills that foster musicality and musicianship, inspiring development into lifelong musicians.

Course Offered**General Music (Quarter Rotation)**

In this course, students will have the opportunity to learn about music and instruments from a variety of world cultures. Students explore various genres of music through singing, performing on instruments, and creating music. World Beat Music is open to all sixth/ seventh grade students interested in deepening their understanding and application of musical concepts and historical study.

Middle School Theatre I (Quarter Rotation)

Students in Grades 6 with no previous theatre experience should begin at Level 1 in the curricular sequence. In this beginning level course, students will explore how the theater is a space that both creates and challenges COMMUNITY. Theatre artists create an ensemble amongst themselves which functions as a safe space for risk-taking and creating. A sustained investigation of COMMUNITY in this intermediate level course engages students to study a variety of dramatic works, participate in the creation and enhancement of ensemble, and question the role of theatre within their COMMUNITY.

COMPUTER SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Coding and Robotic Design (Quarter Rotation)

In order to prepare all students for demands of college, careers, and the rapidly changing workforce, MCPS will equip all middle school students to reach their potential through engaging, hands-on electives in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). MCPS uses external curriculum from national organizations such as Code.org and Project Lead the Way to include units in coding, robotics and engineering design processes. A variety of skills are employed to spark student interest in STEM fields, in alignment with high school programs of study that prepare students for college and careers. All 6th Graders will have the opportunity to learn the following as part of the course;

- ***Game Development***
- ***Design and Modeling***
- ***Robotics***
- ***Design and Engineering***

Computer Science Discoveries 1 and 2 (Full Year)

Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) is an introductory Code.org® computer science course that engages and empowers all students, regardless of background or prior experience, to solve problems, communicate, create projects and artifacts and have fun using computer science. Students are introduced to coding languages appropriate for beginners as well as more complex projects for students with more experience. Using Web Lab and Game Lab environments, students will progress from blocks to typed coding and learn JavaScript. Students successful in this course will be prepared for AP Computer Science Principles high school course once they have completed the second part of the course in 7th or 8th grade.

Introduction to Engineering Design A/B (Full Year)

This high school course is for Grade 8 students who have successfully completed Algebra I. Students develop a design after using computer software to produce, analyze, and evaluate models of projects and solutions. Students study the design concepts of form and function, and then use state-of-the-art technology to translate conceptual design into reproducible products.