

## ***Learning Opportunities for High-Performing Middle School Students***

### **Introduction**

Frederick County Public Schools offer high-performing students in grades 6, 7 and 8 a wide range of instructional services to meet their learning needs and to provide academic challenge.

### **Honors Classes**

Honors classes are designed for students who consistently learn quickly and enjoy the challenge of intense, in-depth learning. Honors courses include an emphasis on abstract material and require students to have self-discipline and the commitment to meet rigorous expectations and timelines. All middle schools offer honors classes for mathematics and English.

### **Honors Mathematics Sequence**

Mathematically talented students may pursue the Honors Math sequence, as follows:

- Grade 6: *Introduction to Algebra and Geometry-Part I*
- Grade 7: *Introduction to Algebra and Geometry-Part II*
- Grade 8: *Algebra I with Data Analysis*
- Grade 9: *Geometry*

Students meeting advanced-level performance and assessment standards may be accelerated to *Algebra with Data Analysis* in grade seven and continue the sequence with *Geometry* in grade 8. Students who pass *Algebra I with Data Analysis* and/or *Geometry* and pass the Frederick County Criterion Referenced Evaluation System (CRES) test will earn high school credit.

### **Exploratory Foreign Language**

Exploratory Foreign Language may be offered in grades 6, 7 and 8. This yearlong course allows students to explore French, German, Latin and Spanish and introduces the importance of sign language.

### **Foreign Language Acceleration**

High-performing students may have the opportunity to pursue the following foreign language sequence if enrollment is sufficient:

- Grade 6: 18-week or full-year Exploratory Foreign Language course
- Grade 7: French I, German I, Latin I or Spanish I
- Grade 8: French I or II, German I or II, Latin I or II or Spanish I or II

Students passing Level I and Level II Foreign Language classes and passing the CRES test will earn high school graduation credit.



### **Other Courses of Interest**

Recognizing that there are multiple ways for students to demonstrate intellectual abilities, middle schools offer, for example, the following excellent full-year courses:

- Art
- Band
- Chorus
- Life Skills
- Technology
- Theater



### **Renzulli Schoolwide Enrichment**

All middle schools offer the Renzulli Schoolwide Enrichment Program, which allows high-performing students the opportunity to participate in a variety of learning activities designed to enrich and/or extend classroom studies. Students may conduct advanced research and independent investigations in an area of interest to them with the guidance and assistance of the Renzulli resource teacher. Students, parents or teachers may initiate a referral for these services.

# School-Based Opportunities

Contact your school to learn which of the following site-based opportunities are offered:

**Destination Imagination** is a creative problem-solving team competition based on student solutions to long-term and spontaneous challenges. Students learn creative problem-solving skills, task commitment and teamwork through the guidance of a parent team manager. All registered teams participate in a regional tournament in March. Top-performing teams in the regional tournament may be invited to compete in state and global finals.

**Junior Great Books** is a supplemental literature program of interpretive reading, guided shared inquiry and small-group discussion. The program is available to high-performing students who wish to improve their achievement in reading, critical thinking and communication.

**MathCounts** is an activity that promotes mathematics achievement. Schools select students in grades 7 and 8 to practice and then participate individually and as part of a team in written and oral regional, state and national competitions.

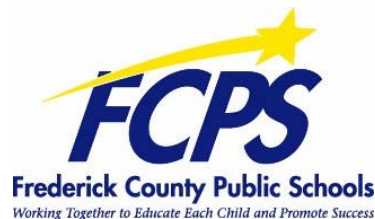
**Middle School Debate** teams allow students to learn research skills, build arguments through logic, and practice oratorical skills. Teams may choose to participate in an intra-county debate tournament in the spring.

**Socratic Seminars**, modeled on a shared-inquiry discussion process, afford students opportunities to read and discuss historical essays, speeches, documents, letters and expository text in various content areas.

**Extracurricular Activities** are designed to complete the middle school experience. Yearbook and newspaper publications challenge students with an interest in language arts. Chess clubs, academic competitions, student government and student service learning projects provide support for individual student interests.

For more information, please contact the middle school principal, guidance counselor or Renzulli resource teacher.

The Frederick County Public School system does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. For more information contact the Executive Director of Legal Services, 301-696-6851.



*Frederick, Maryland*

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