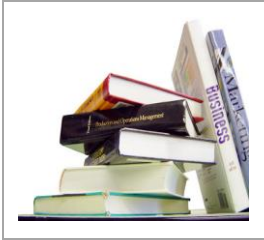


Table of Contents

Overview of Programs.....	1
Our Courses.....	2
Core Classes	2
Special Areas	2
Additional Courses	3-4
What Choices Should be Made?	4-5
Looking Ahead.....	5

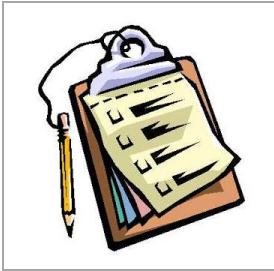
Overview of Programs

Core Classes



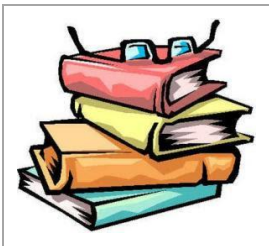
Students at Perry Hall Middle School will take Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts every school year. Additionally, they are recommended for either Reading or World Languages to complete their five core courses.

Special Areas



Students at Perry Hall Middle School are required to take Physical Education combined with Health each year. They are also required to take a Fine Arts course each year, either Art or Music. Additionally, most students take a third special area course, either an additional Fine Arts course or Technology Education.

Additional Courses



If a student is currently in the AVID program and plans to continue, they will take AVID daily rather than two special area courses. Students must take Physical Education and will choose one Fine Arts course.

Our Courses

Core Classes

Students at Perry Hall Middle School will take the following core courses in eighth grade:

- Math 8, Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2
- Science 8
- American History 8
- English Language Arts 8
- Reading or World Language

Depending on MCAP and MAP testing scores, classroom performance, and teacher recommendations, students will be scheduled for Reading or World Language. If a student is recommended for World Language, they will be asked to select Chinese, French, or Spanish.

Special Areas

Students are required to take Physical Education with Health every year. In addition, they are required to take one Fine Arts class. Depending on academic requirements, students will choose two or three specials from Art, Music, and Technology Education.

Physical Education and Health: (Required) Students are exposed to a variety of individual and team sports, cooperative, and outdoor/adventure activities, as well as fitness activities. Emphasis is placed on refining game skills/play, problem-solving strategies through the application of game concepts, increasing knowledge of personal fitness, and developing appropriate social skills. This course is year-long program with one quarter of Health included in PE.

Fine Arts Courses, Art and Music (One is Required)

Art: The art program allows students to create products (paintings, drawings, sculptures, prints) and encourages them to engage in experiences that aim to develop a visually literate individual. These standards include perceiving and responding, art history, creative production, aesthetic criticism, and productive habits of mind. This course is a year-long program.

Music: The music program provides rigorous music instruction aligned to state and national standards and designed to provide active and engaging music experiences for all students. Each course is a year-long program.

Students can choose from the following courses:

- American Music
- Chorus
- Band (must currently play an instrument)
- Strings (must currently play an instrument)

Students that choose Chorus, Band, or Strings will participate in two concerts each year, one in the Winter and one in the Spring. They will showcase the development of the performing skills learned throughout the year and are a course requirement.

Technology Education (Optional): Students in 8th grade can elect to take the course entitled Engineering: Robotics and 3D Modeling. This course prepares students for the high school Technology Education course which is a Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirement. Robotics, computer science, and coding are essential parts of this course. Students apply math, science, and engineering principals to design and program robots for specific tasks. Students also learn the fundamentals of 3D modeling, the engineering design process, and how to document ideas through brainstorming, prototyping, and communicating to solve authentic challenges. This course is a year-long program.

Additional Courses

- **AVID:** AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID classes use proven practices in order to prepare students for success in high school, college, and a career. Concepts include teaching skills and behaviors for academic success, providing intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creating a positive peer group for students, and developing a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination. Students must apply to the AVID program and be accepted after a teacher recommendation and interview process. This class takes the place of two special area courses. More information about the AVID program will be shared with students in January.

-
- *EMBRACING TRADITION* •
 - *STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE* •
 - *EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES* •
-

What Choices Should be Made

Students received a registration sheet today in school. Students should follow the steps listed below to make their course choices:

- In the section titled “My Recommendations and Choices,” teachers have recommended placement in Reading, Beginner A or B, or Intermediate World Language.
 - If you are new to World Language, the box will say **WL** and you need to choose a language where it is indicated on the form.
 - If you are recommended for World Language the box will indicate the language choice and you can move to the next step.
 - If you are recommended for Reading the box will indicate Reading and you can move to the next step.
 - If you are recommended for World Language but would like to change the language you are taking, choose the new language where it is indicated on the form. This will mean you will start that language at the Beginner A level.

Students should number their choices of specials with a 1, 2, and 3 in the order of preference for those specials.

- Students enrolled in music will continue to participate in the same program as the previous school year. Listed on the paper is the current music class, if applicable. If a student is not currently in music, N/A will be listed. If a student wishes to make a change to their music class for next year or is new to music, that choice should be marked where it is indicated on the form.
- Staffing decisions are made at the school level based on course choices made by students. As a result, once a selection has been made for special area classes, students must remain in that special for the entire school year.
- Once the form is completed, please return the signed document to the teacher listed at the top of the form.

Looking Ahead

- Counselors will continue to work with students in 8th grade to review and modify their 6-year plans which help each counselor guide and support students to reach their future college or career goals.
- Students who are considering applying to magnet schools for high school will be invited to attend a magnet night in the fall to explore schools and begin the planning process for high school. Students should also consider scheduling shadow days for schools of interest in the beginning of 8th grade.
- High school registration takes place in late November of the 8th grade school year.

Contact Us

If you have questions regarding your child's scheduling choices or information about placement, please contact your child's counselor.

Ms. Savage – A – D – nsavage2@bcps.org

Ms. Holmes – E – K – mholmes3@bcps.org

Mr. Robinson – L – Ri – jrobinson10@bcps.org

Mr. Allen – Ro – Z – ballen4@bcps.org

Ms. Farkas – AVID/All students – cfarkas@bcps.org



PERRY HALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

4300 Ebenezer Road
Perry Hall, MD 21236
443-809-5100