Welcome to Corkran Middle School

Incoming 6th Grade Parent/Guardian Information Session

Meet Our Team!

Administrators:
Principal - Mr. Zetwick
Assistant Principals - Mrs. Meadows & Mr. Ascione

School Counselors:
Grade 6 - Mr. Kahn
Grade 7 - Mrs. Mech
Grade 8 - Mrs. Natelli
Questions...

Please take a copy of our presentation. Record any questions you have on it.
We will take questions at the end of the presentation, as time allows.

Essential Question

What will my child's 6th grade schedule look like next year?
The 6th Grade Schedule

**Students will have:**

- 6 classes each day
  - 4 core classes: Language Arts (advanced or standard), Math (Math 6 or Math 6/7), Social Studies, Science
  - 2 encore classes every day
  - 1 daily advisory period

Lunch with ONLY 6th graders at 10:22 AM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home-room</th>
<th>Core Class (LA)</th>
<th>Core Class (SS)</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Core Class (Math)</th>
<th>Core Class (Sci)</th>
<th>Encore Class</th>
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<th>Advisory</th>
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Corkran Middle School - 6th Grade Bell Schedule

**Middle School Schedule**

- 8:15 - 8:30 - Homeroom/Morning Meeting
- 8:34 - 9:24 - Period 1 (Core)
- 9:28 - 10:18 - Period 2 (Core)
- 10:22 - 10:47 - Lunch
- 10:51 - 11:41 - Period 3 (Core)
- 11:45 - 12:35 - Period 4 (Core)
- 12:39 - 1:29 - Period 5 (Encore)
- 1:33 - 2:23 - Period 6 (Encore)
- 2:27 - 2:55 - Advisory

**Advisory provides time for weekly grade sheets, agenda book usage, organization, personal/social lessons, Cardinal Corner, and team-building**
Language Arts - Advanced and Standard

Every 5th grade student will be leveled based on elementary school input, PARCC scores, reading records, etc.

Highlights of Language Arts:
- Monitored Reading
- Vocabulary Development
- Grammar and Usage
- Public Speaking

Advanced Language Arts has a similar curriculum, however, with greater depth and at an accelerated pace with higher level reading materials.

Please contact Mr. Kahn or your child's 5th grade teacher if you have a question regarding placement.

Phone - 410-222-6493
E-Mail - mkahn@aacps.org

Math - Math 6 (Grade Level) and Math 6/7 (Accelerated)

Every 5th grade student will be leveled based on elementary school input, PARCC scores, quarterly assessments, etc.

What is the difference between Math 6 and Math 6/7?

Math 6 students will work within the CC standards for 6th grade. Students need to be proficient in basic computation, rounding, place value, and number line usage.

Math 6/7 students will work on the CC standards for 6th grade and the first half of 7th grade. The pace will be faster than the Math 6 class. In addition to the above skills, students should be proficient in fraction operations, least common multiples, greatest common factors, and excel at communicating mathematically.

Please contact Mr. Kahn or your child's 5th grade teacher if you have a question regarding placement.

Phone - 410-222-6493
E-Mail - mkahn@aacps.org
Science and Social Studies

Science 6 includes:
- Matter and Atoms
- Biochemical Cycles
- Molecules of Life
- Ecosystems
- Astronomy
- Environmental Issues
- Use Technology to conduct investigations and analyze data to come to conclusions about research

Social Studies 6 includes:
- Geography
- River Valley Civilizations
- Classical European History
  - Greece and Rome
- Africa
- The Americas
- Students will analyze maps, charts, tables, political cartoons, etc.

Middle School Course Sequence

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>English/Language Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Social Studies</td>
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* Students in EITHER math sequence can access advanced math courses in high school.

* In order to continue in the accelerated math pathway, students must earn a PARCC score of a 725 or higher in Math AND a final grade of at least a C (70%). Students who do not meet these criteria will be placed in grade-level math for the following year.

* In 8th grade, Algebra 1 is a high school credit class. The student must pass the class to earn credit, and the final grade will be recorded on the student's high school transcript. Students will also be required to take and pass Algebra PARCC (this is a high school graduation requirement).
Encore Courses

- Encore Courses rotate on an A/B day basis.

- Some encore courses are year-long, while others will only last for one semester (half of the year).

- All students are required to take Physical Education & Health
  - This class will be on an A or B day / every other day
  - This class lasts all year
  - There will be 3 marking periods in the gym and 1 marking period in the health classroom

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Physical Education & Health

- Required for all students in grades 6, 7, & 8
- Health Curriculum Topics:
  > Mental/Emotional Health, Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drugs, Personal/Consumer Health, Family Life/
  Human Sexuality, Safety/Injury Prevention,
  Nutrition and Fitness, Disease Prevention/Control
- Fitness testing
- Athletic dress required
- No showers required
World Language

- All students will have the option to choose a world language course (A or B day all year):
  - Spanish 1A
  - French 1A

  **Students will continue in their selected world language through 8th grade, and will earn two high school credits by the end of 8th grade if they successfully pass the class.

  **If students do not take a world language in 6th grade, they cannot enter the world language track until high school.

  **Students who wish to apply to a magnet program in high school will need to have a world language credit from middle school.

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World Classical Language
Spanish or French

- Practicing all modes of communication: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Singing, conversing, writing poems and biographies, and watching authentic videos.
- Doing research and creating cultural projects
- Fun projects, games, partner activities, and skits

Course Sequence

** All 6th grade students can choose to take a world language, unless they are recommended for a reading or math intervention. Students are expected to remain in the same world language sequence throughout middle school.

6th - Language 1A (1st half of HS credit course, every other day)
7th - Language 1B (2nd half of HS credit course, every other day)
8th - Language 2 (second HS credit course, every day)

- The final grades earned in 1B and 2 will go on your child's high school transcript. It must be a D or higher to earn credit.
Year-Long Encore Choices

Performance-based encore courses will be on A or B days (every other day) all year long.

Band*  
Chorus*  
Dance*  
Dance for Athletes*  
Percussion Ensemble*  
Orchestra*

Students MUST select at least one fine arts course. All of the above courses are fine arts.  
(Please note - classes are available based on enrollment and staffing availability. We make  
every effort to accommodate first choices.)

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Band*  Percussion Ensemble*  Orchestra*

- Band: Learn to play the oboe, clarinet, flute, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, baritone horn, trombone, or tuba
- Orchestra: Learn to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass
- Percussion Ensemble: Learn traditional percussion, including the snare drum, bass drum, and mallet

Practice tone production, musical accuracy, balance, and interpretation of music in a small group

**Public musical performances and after-school rehearsals will be required.**

Beginners and experienced players welcome!
Chorus*

- Learn proper techniques to be able to sing all styles of music
- Learn how to read and express music
- Students participate in Winter and Spring concerts
- Students who show a strong commitment and attend after-school rehearsals have a chance to attend competition festivals - including one at an amusement park!

**Public musical performances and after-school rehearsals will be required.**

Dance* / Dance for Athletes*

- **DANCE**
  - Explore creative movement and improve physical fitness
  - Areas of focus include: ballet, modern, jazz, choreography, production, design, careers, aesthetic criticism and dancer health.

- **DANCE FOR ATHLETES**
  - Develop footwork, coordination, core strength, and agility while engaging in kinesthetic movement and patterns

- Students must wear a black dance uniform (leotard, or tank top and black leggings or yoga pants for females).
- Students dance barefoot during class.
- *Public performances will be required.*
One Semester (Half-Year) Encore Choices

These encore courses will be on A or B days (every other day) for one semester.

Music Goes Global*
Project Runway*
True Colors*
Healthy Life

Students MUST select at least one fine arts course. All of the above courses are fine arts except for Healthy Life.

(Please note - classes are available based on enrollment and staffing availability. We make every effort to accommodate first choices.)

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Music Goes Global*

- Students explore music in their own lives.
- Hands-on Participation
- Read, perform, and create music
- Experience real-world applications
- Students have the opportunity to play many different instruments, including:
  - Guitar
  - Xylophones
  - Piano
  - Drums
  - And more!

**NO public performances or after-school rehearsals will be required.**
Project Runway *

- Students learn how to use a sewing machine and construct sewing projects on a daily basis!
- Students have the opportunity to make and take pillows, scarves, string bags, and we will also be making stuffed animals to donate to local children.
- One student said, “I like how creative we can be by making things out of clothes. It lets you express who you are.”

True Colors 6*

- Students will become experts on the Elements of Art through a variety of projects and mediums.
- Daily sketchbook to complete creative exercises, project sketches, and technique practices throughout the year.
- Students will get to use the following mediums:
  - Charcoal
  - Pastels
  - Oil Pastels
  - Clay
  - Paint
  - Watercolor
  - Plaster
- The end of each project is celebrated with a gallery walk to see all the amazing artwork that has been completed by classmates!!
Healthy Living

- Cooking: study nutrition, compare our lifestyle to recommended healthy life styles, learn kitchen safety, and how to fight bacteria.
- Financial planning: learn how to maintain income and expenses, balance a budget, and general monetary skills.
- Textiles unit: learn basic sewing skills, fabric choices, and create a project to be taken home.

AVID

**AVID prepares** students for a rigorous course of study that will enable them to meet requirements for college.

**Enrollment:** Students must apply, interview, and be accepted into the AVID Program.

**AVID provides** a strong writing and reading curriculum, study skills, organization, time management, college research, and the tutorial process.

The AVID team has been out to elementary schools to promote the program. We are currently interviewing students, and will communicate if students are accepted into the program. If you would like more information about the AVID program, please contact Ms. Sands or any of the counselors.

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**AVID is taken on either an A or B day all year long. AVID students will then have room for only one performance encore, or two semester encores if they choose to take a world language. If they choose not to take a world language, they will have room for additional performance and non-performance encore options.**
Clubs and Activities

*Activity days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00.*

Student Government Association  Basketball
Art Club  Chorus  Yearbook Club
SGA  TSA - Technology Student Association  Band
Recycling Club  Soccer

Counselors will be going out to the elementary schools during the week of February 25.

Your child will bring home their course selection card to get your signature that week.

Cards are due back by March 8.
How Are Middle School Students Graded?

Each subject assigns a final numerical grade each marking period.
90-100 - A  80-89 - B  70-79 - C  60-69 - D  Below 60 - E

Each final grade is made up of a variety of assignments and these assignments are all weighted differently. These assignments can include Tests/Quizzes, Classwork, Participation, County Assessments, and Homework (not more than 10%).

From the AACPS Parent Handbook - "Teachers shall assign a minimum grade of 50% to assignments or assessments for which the student made a good faith effort, as determined by the teacher, to meet the basic requirements. If a student does no work on an assignment or assessment, the teacher shall assign a grade of zero."

Parents have access to grades on Parent Connect (see next page).

6th grade students must pass (60% or higher average of their 4 marking period grades) at least 3 of their 4 core classes and the majority of their encore classes to be promoted to 7th grade.

Students make the "Honor Roll" with no more than 1 "C" with the rest "A's" and "B's". Principal's Honor Roll is all "A's".

Parent Connect

- Your active parent connect account can be used at Corkran Middle School
- Parent connect is a great opportunity for parents to check their child's grades throughout the school year.
- You can register online through our AACPS website.

http://www.aacps.org/html/school/Middle/Corkrms.asp
Summer Orientation

- We will be hosting two 6th grade orientations for students and parents (mid-late August - 1 in the AM, 1 in the PM).
- Students - Tour, Get to Know Other 6th Graders, Meet 8th Grade Mentors
- Families - Breakout Sessions (i.e. AVID, Principal Intro, Middle School Policies)
- Flyers will be coming out with more information in June.
- Please also remember - the first day of school next year is for 6th grade only!

Question Time!

FAQ
- What is an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)?
- How are students assigned to teams?
- Why do students rank all encore classes?
- Will my child get their first encore class?
- Will my child be in classes with his/her friends?
- What are the best means of communicating with my child's teachers?
- What is Service Learning?
We can't wait for you to be a Cardinal!