

Navigating Middle School



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A
SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO
MIDDLE SCHOOL



LAKE ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL
JANUARY 10, 2022

*Please mute your microphone
to ensure the best experience for everyone. Thank you!*

Sesión en Español

Invitamos a las familias de habla hispana a quedarse después de la presentación para analizar más a fondo la información de esta noche.

Welcome



Melissa Shindel
Principal

Agenda

- Our School & Staff
- Goals, Vision & Research
- Our schedule:
 - Overview
 - Specifics
 - Samples
- Gifted & Talented Program
- Academic Behaviors
- Resources
- Q & A



Lake Elkhorn Middle School PTSA

We need you! Stay involved!

PTSA Vice President Jen Somerville: lakeelkhornptsa@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/LEMSPTSA/>

<https://www.lems-ptsa.org/>



Meet the Staff: LEMS Administrators



Melissa Shindel
Principal



Nick Cometa
6th Grade
Administrator



Shannon Horoszczak
7th Grade
Administrator



Kamille Guinn
8th Grade
Administrator

Meet the Staff: Student Services

School Counselors:

- Ms. OliverMcCain
 - 6th grade
 - 7th grade, last names A-K
- Ms. Fischer
 - 7th grade, last names L-Z
 - 8th grade



Student Services



Ms. Torres-Gutierrez
Alternative Education



Ms. Todd
BSAP



Ms. Lobdell
Data Clerk



Ms. OliverMcCain
School Counselor
7th grade, last names A-K & All 6th



Ms. Rudnicki
School
Psychologist



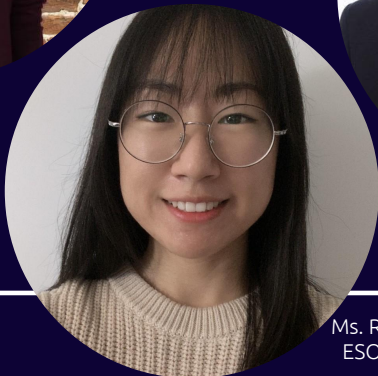
Ms. Williams
PPW



Mr. Jefferson
Alternative Education



Ms. Fischer
School Counselor
7th grade, last names L-Z & All 8th



Ms. Ryu
ESOL



Ms. Riley
Special Ed. Team Leader



Ms. Fried
School Social Worker

Meet the Staff:
6th Grade



Mrs. Figueroa
6th Grade Team Leader



Ms. Jones
ELA



Ms. Murhutta
ELA



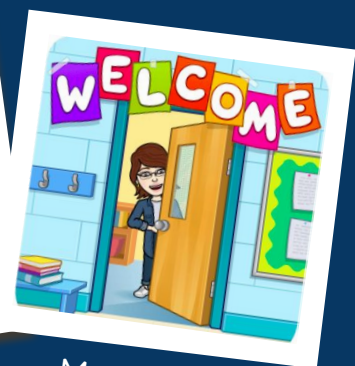
Ms. Endy
Math



Mrs. Figueroa
Math &
Geography



Mr. McCroey
Geography



Mrs. Czahor
Reading



Mrs. Keys-
Fortune
Special
Education



Mrs. Vereen
Science



Mr. Gatz
Science



Mrs. Smaw
Reading



Mrs. Williams
Special
Education



Mrs. Battista
Reading

Meet the Staff: 7th Grade



Ms. Noonan
7th Grade Team Leader

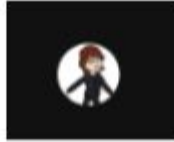
7th Grade Welcomes You!



Anthony Detomo



Denise
Madden-Darnell



Dawn Czahor



Jennifer Batista



Jeremy Rea



Kacy Valentine



Keri Youse



Stephanie
Noonan



Tahesha Todd



Zakia Smaw



Victoria Deacon



Jennifer Retterer



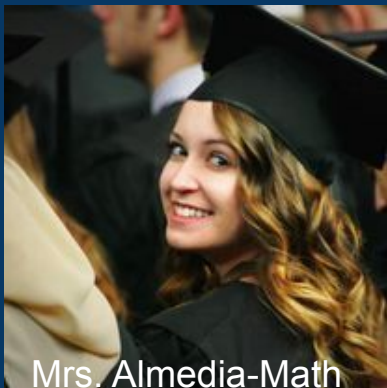
Charlene
Ward-Marr

Meet the Staff:
8th Grade



Ms. Gilliece (Lowman)
8th Grade Team Leader

8th Grade Team Welcomes You!



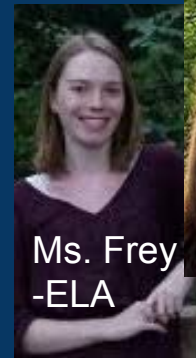
Mrs. Almedia-Math



Mr. Y-Math



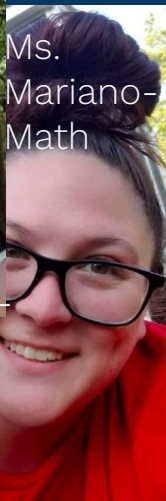
Mrs. Kang-SS



Ms. Frey-ELA



Ms. Irola-Math



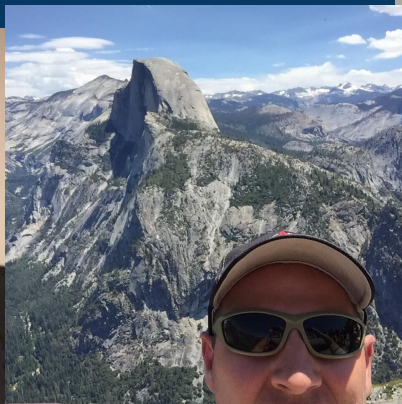
Ms. Mariano-Math



Mrs. Kyte-Math



Ms. Jordan-Science



Mr. Gatz-Science



Ms. Duley-SS



Mrs. Lowman/Gilliece-ELA

Meet the Staff:
Related Arts
and
Gifted and
Talented (G/T)
Programs



Mr. Bond
RA Grade Team Leader &
Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher

MEET THE RELATED ARTS TEAM!



Ms. White
Health



Ms. Jones
FACS



Mr. Bond
GT Research



Mr. Rea
Chorus/General Music



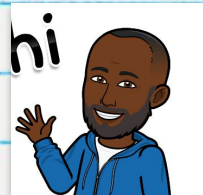
Mr. Corbett-Wilson
Band



Ms. Glass
P.E.



Mr. Watts
PE



Mr. Fahie
Health/PE



Mr. Moscato
Tech Ed



Ms. Jackson
Art



Mrs. Retterer
Orchestra/General Music



**In order to
teach a
child well
we must
know a
child well.**



Learning and Leading with Equity

The Fierce Urgency of Now

VISION: Every student and staff member embraces diversity and possesses the skills, knowledge and confidence to positively influence the larger community.

MISSION: HCPSS ensures academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.



Four Overarching Commitments

VALUE

ACHIEVE

CONNECT

EMPOWER

The research says...

- The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness MORE than anything that happens academically in high school.
- The earlier a student develops important academically related behaviors, the more likely these behaviors are to become habits.
- Middle school is a defining point for students in the college and career readiness process.

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.





Preparing
Students
for the
Future

21st Century Skills

Academic
Behaviors

- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information Media and Technology Skills

High
School
Readiness

College
and
Career
Readiness

Academics and the Middle School Schedule



**All students are enrolled in seven
50-minute classes every day.**



Lake Elkhorn Daily Schedule

7:58 a.m. – 8:04 a.m.	Breakfast & Announcements
8:04 a.m. – 8:54 a.m.	Period 1
8:57 a.m. – 9:47 a.m.	Period 2
9:50 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Period 3
10:42 a.m. - 11:12 a.m.	Lunch
11:14 a.m. - 12:04 p.m.	Period 4
12:07 p.m. - 12:57 p.m.	Period 5
1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Period 6
1:53 p.m. – 2:43 p.m.	Period 7
2:43 p.m.	Dismissal for Bus Riders
2:50 p.m.	Dismissal for Walkers and Car Riders

KEY TIMES

- **7:50 a.m.:** Doors open
- **8:00 a.m.:** Students must be in first period
- **10:42 a.m.:** 6th grade lunch
- **2:43 p.m.:** Dismissal for bus riders
- **2:50 p.m.:** Dismissal for car riders and walkers.

In accordance with state requirements, each year middle school students receive instruction in the following areas:

- English Language Arts
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies



English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics offer a Gifted and Talented (G/T) option for instruction. Mathematics has an above-grade level course in addition to the G/T options.

Students are also required to receive instruction in the following during their middle school experience:

- Technology
- Financial Literacy
- Careers



Fine Arts Options

Students in grade 6 will also get to choose from the following options:

Year-long* performing arts classes:

- Band
- Chorus
- Orchestra

- or -

- A combination of Art/General Music/Theater



**Note: Students in math and/or reading interventions may not have these options.*

Additional Course Options

- Family and Consumer Science (FACS)
- G/T Research
- Reader's and Writer's Workshop
- Boost Your Brain
- 21st Century Learning
- Interventions in reading, ESOL, and/or mathematics
- Enrichment Seminars
- Other Elective Course Offerings



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Grade 6 Courses & How They Could Look in a Day

Course 1	Full Year: English Language Arts (ELA)
Course 2	Full Year: Mathematics
Course 3	Full Year: Science
Course 4	Full Year: Social Studies
Course 5	2 quarters: Physical Education , 1 quarter: Health , 1 quarter: Tech Ed
Course 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Year: Band, Chorus, or Orchestra• Full Year: ESOL intervention or reading intervention• Quarterly: Digital Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, Boost the Brain, Reader's and Writer's Workshop
Course 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly: Art, General Music, Theater, FACS• Quarterly: Digital Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, Boost the Brain, Reader's and Writer's Workshop (if students did not have this as Course 6)• Semester/Quarterly mix: GT Research + 2 other quarterly classes• Full Year: Mathematics intervention

Mr. Bond
G/T Resource Teacher





Middle School Gifted and Talented Program



Agenda

- Overview of the Middle School G/T Education Program
- Placement Process
- Questions



Program Components

- Talent Development Offerings
- G/T Classes and Curricular Extensions



Talent Development Offerings: Enrichment Seminars



**Instruction in
Advanced-
Level Skills**



**Open to All
Interested
Students**



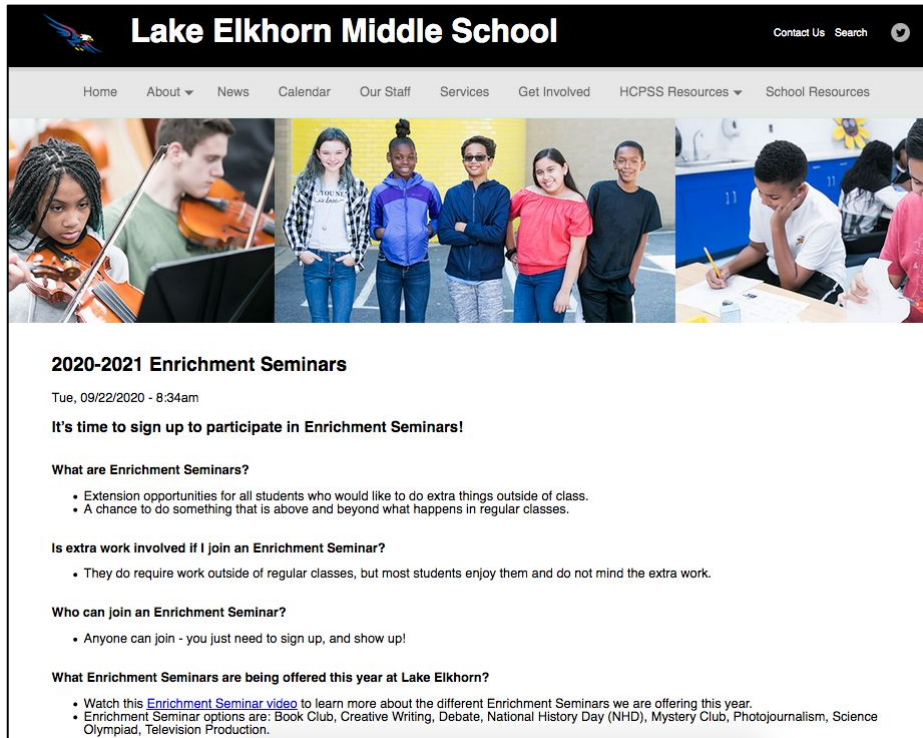
**Creative
Production or
Inquiry**



Enrichment Seminars



Where can I find out about Enrichment Seminars at LEMS?



The screenshot shows the Lake Elkhorn Middle School website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the school name, a logo, and links for 'Contact Us', 'Search', and a social media icon. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with links for 'Home', 'About', 'News', 'Calendar', 'Our Staff', 'Services', 'Get Involved', 'HCPSS Resources', and 'School Resources'. A large banner image features three photos: students playing violins, a group of six diverse students standing together, and a student working at a desk. The main content area has a heading '2020-2021 Enrichment Seminars' with a timestamp 'Tue, 09/22/2020 - 8:34am'. The text reads 'It's time to sign up to participate in Enrichment Seminars!' and includes sections for 'What are Enrichment Seminars?', 'Is extra work involved if I join an Enrichment Seminar?', 'Who can join an Enrichment Seminar?', and 'What Enrichment Seminars are being offered this year at Lake Elkhorn?' with a list of seminar options.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Contact Us Search

Home About News Calendar Our Staff Services Get Involved HCPSS Resources School Resources

2020-2021 Enrichment Seminars
Tue, 09/22/2020 - 8:34am

It's time to sign up to participate in Enrichment Seminars!

What are Enrichment Seminars?

- Extension opportunities for all students who would like to do extra things outside of class.
- A chance to do something that is above and beyond what happens in regular classes.

Is extra work involved if I join an Enrichment Seminar?

- They do require work outside of regular classes, but most students enjoy them and do not mind the extra work.

Who can join an Enrichment Seminar?

- Anyone can join - you just need to sign up, and show up!

What Enrichment Seminars are being offered this year at Lake Elkhorn?

- Watch this [Enrichment Seminar video](#) to learn more about the different Enrichment Seminars we are offering this year.
- Enrichment Seminar options are: Book Club, Creative Writing, Debate, National History Day (NHD), Mystery Club, Photojournalism, Science Olympiad, Television Production.

2021 - 2022 Enrichment Seminars at Lake Elkhorn

Book Club

Debate

Coding

Science Olympiad

Game Creation

Independent Productions

Creative Writing

Mystery Club (Creative problem solving)

Photojournalism

Television Production

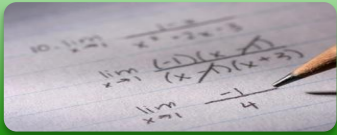
Green Team

G/T Content Classes

- Accelerated and/or Enriched Curriculum
- Advanced-Level Content
- Inquiry-Based Instruction
- Application of Knowledge



Middle School G/T Classes



G/T Math



G/T Science



G/T English



G/T Social Studies

G/T Mathematics

Provides an accelerated and enriched sequence that follows a curriculum of concepts at least two years above the general education curriculum.

- Grade 6: Pre-Algebra G/T
- Grade 7: Algebra I G/T
- Grade 8: Geometry G/T

G/T English Language Arts (ELA)

Extends the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts through

- An accelerated pace,
- Reading and analyzing challenging and complex literature and literary nonfiction independently,
- Writing a variety of interpretive, and analytical pieces, and conducting independent research.

Differentiated tasks and texts are included at all grade levels.

G/T Social Studies

Provides an enriched and accelerated curriculum, including differentiated objectives, where students explore civic and cultural principles and engage in inquiries that focus on essential, related questions.

- Grade 6: Geography and World Cultures G/T
- Grade 7: Geography and World Cultures G/T
- Grade 8: United States History G/T



G/T Science

An enriched and accelerated curriculum where students explore cross-cutting concepts, as well as science and engineering practices.

- Grade 6: Earth Science G/T
- Grade 7: Life Science G/T
- Grade 8: Physical Science G/T



5th Grade Placement Review Process for Middle School G/T

All students are reviewed as part of G/T Placement Process using multiple data points:

- Ability Measure (CogAT from 3rd grade)
- Standardized assessments (MAP, 3rd grade MCAP)
- Student performance during ES content classes, particularly on tasks requiring critical, analytical, and/or creative thinking
- Documentation from families

Parental Input in Placement Review Process

If after reviewing the Placement Committee's professional recommendation, parents/guardians still wish to enroll their students in one or more G/T classes, they may complete the Course Placement Review request online through Synergy

The deadline to submit the CPR form is February 15

Who can initiate the placement process in middle school?



- Families
- Teachers
- Students

Measures Included in the Placement Process

- Ability Measure (CogAT)
- Standardized assessments (MAP, MCAP)
- Student work samples
- Interpretation (Critique, Analysis, Creative Problem Solving)
- Student grades on assignments requiring critical, analytical, and/or creative thinking
- Documentation from families

Middle School GT Research Class

- Authentic research to address real-world problem
- For students enrolled in G/T Math and G/T ELA based upon G/T Placement Committee recommendations



Research

- Original
- Primary Research Methods
- Authentic Product
- Authentic Audience
- Contribution to the Community/Field



Opportunities for Parent Engagement

- HCPSS G/T Website: www.hcpss.org/academics/gt
- G/T Parent Academies
- HCPSS News for G/T Program Information
- HCPSS_GT Twitter



Contact Information

Mr. Bond

410-313-7600

david_bond@hcpss.org



School Counselors

- Ms. OliverMcCain
 - 6th grade
 - 7th grade, last names A-K
- Ms. Fischer
 - 7th grade, last names L-Z
 - 8th grade



Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success



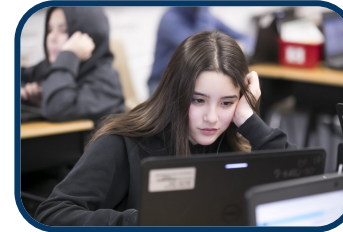


Academic Behavior

Motivation and behavior, combined, have more impact on a student's readiness than academic achievement.

-LearnED by Pearson

The earlier a student develops important academically-related behaviors, the more likely these behaviors are to become a habit.



Supporting Academic Behaviors

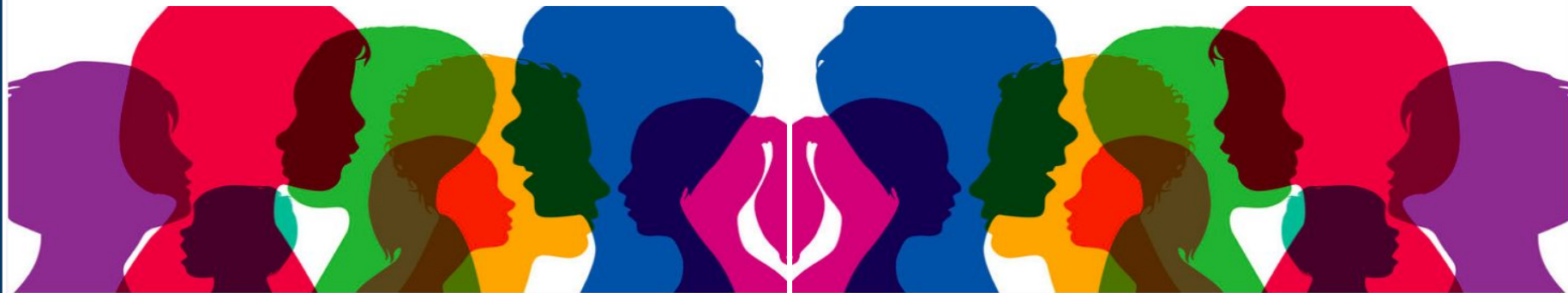
At Lake Elkhorn , staff and students:

- Start with the goal in mind
- Do what they do best, every day
- Celebrate effort and achievement
- Engage in positive experiences each school day
- Create excitement for the future.



3 Ways To Support The Whole Child

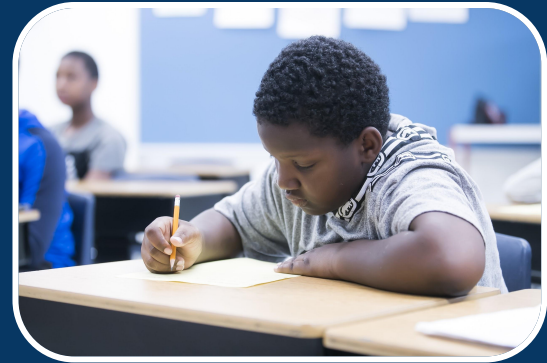
LearnED by Pearson





1. Teach kids that intelligence isn't fixed. They can grow their brains through lifelong learning.
2. Talk to students about college and potential careers. Tell them you believe in them and in their success.
3. Keep the communication lines open - set aside time to regularly talk about feelings and friendships.

Tips For Parents: Supporting Your Child's Development Of Positive Academic Behaviors

- Ensure that your child has the supplies and a place to study at home.
- Set a regular time for homework.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for chores and homework.
- Provide your child with a range of experiences to allow him/her to identify areas of strength.
- Talk to your child.



Important Dates

Date	Activity
Today! 😊	Follow us on Twitter! @hcpss_LEMS 
Today! 😊	Follow the principal on Instagram @principal_shindel 
2/8/21- 2/22/2022	Course Recommendations for rising 6th graders are available in Synergy for parents/guardians to review.
Deadline: 2/22 at 8 am	Parents will enter student course requests in Synergy
Deadline: 2/22 at 8 am	Parents will complete a Course Placement Review (CPR) as appropriate.
5/16/22	Rising 6th Grade Student Visit
August 2022	6th Grade Family & Student Orientation <i>(the week before school starts)</i>
Often	Visit our website for updates lems.hcpss.org

Sesión en Español

Invitamos a las familias que hablan español a que se queden un rato para discutir más a fondo la información de esta noche.

Por favor pasen al otro salón utilizando este código:

LEMS-rising6-room2

Maria Luz Valdez
Interprete -OR- Enlace para la Comunidad Hispana



thank
you

Any Questions?