

Middle School Program of Studies

Presentation to
PTA Council
January 2, 2012



Maryland's Third Wave of Reform

- 2011-12
 - Addressing Standards for Mathematical Practices
 - Infusing Writing Standards into Instruction
- 2012-13
 - Beginning implementation of additional content standards from the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum in English Language Arts and Mathematics

Maryland's Third Wave of Reform

- 2013-14
 - Implementing fully the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum in English Language Arts and Mathematics
 - Using New State-Mandated Teacher and Principal Evaluation Instruments
 - Field Testing of New PARCC Assessments
- 2014-15
 - Replacing MSAs with New PARCC Assessments

Current Program

- English
- Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Related Arts (Bold = COMAR required)
 - **Fine Arts (art, music, band, orchestra, chorus)**
 - **Physical Education**
 - **Health**
 - World Languages
 - Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Technology Education
- Core Plus

Customizing Reading Instruction

- Reading instruction should be customized to meet the level of development of the student.
 - All middle school students need a focus on literacy within subject classes.
 - Some continue to need a focus on basic and intermediate reading skills.

Other Considerations

- Fitness Needs of Students
- Earlier Language Study

Proposed Program

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Related Arts (Bold = COMAR required)
 - **Fine Arts (art, music, band, orchestra, chorus)**
 - **Physical Education**
 - **Health**
 - World Languages
 - Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Technology Education
- Seminars (Core Plus)

Meeting the Needs of All Learners

- Customizing Language Arts and Mathematics
 - One 50-minute period of instruction (most students)
 - 100 minutes of instruction – different approach to mastering same standards (some students)
 - One 50-minute period of instruction and one 50-minute intervention focused on specific needs (some students)
 - Some co-taught classes (content teacher and special education teacher)

Meeting the Needs of All Learners

- World Language
 - 6th graders
 - Alternate-day instruction
 - Online resources
 - Phase-in
 - Current 7th graders will have one year of language in 8th grade.
 - Current 6th graders will have every-other-day instruction in 7th grade and full-year instruction in 8th grade.
 - Beyond that, all students will have language every other day in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

Proposed Schedule

Approach: 7 (50-minute) instructional periods

English Language Arts

Social Studies

Mathematics

Science

Seminars/Core Plus – Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Interventions, Seminars

Related Arts Rotations

Related Arts Rotations

Proposed Scheduling Parameters (Students)

- **Student's literacy instruction will be customized.**
- **Student instructional time allotted for content courses will be increased – seven 50-minute periods.**
- **All students will receive 90 days/year of physical education.**
- **Students will be given the option to begin world language instruction in 6th grade.**

Proposed Scheduling Parameters (Staff)

- All teachers will have 50 minutes of individual planning time and a 30-minute duty-free lunch period.
- All teachers will be assigned 6 periods. One period can be a Program Implementation Period.

Program Implementation Period

- Definition – period used for instructional collaboration, analysis of data, development of assessments, enhancement of parent communication, or administrative tasks.
- Teachers of mathematics, English, science, and social studies must be assigned a Program Implementation Period.
- Most related arts teachers will have 6 classes per day with no other duties assigned.

Transition Issues – Programming and Scheduling

- Pull-out programs will continue (sectionals/GT).
- Innovation and Inquiry Module course curricula will be developed (graded course offered during Related Arts or Core Plus).
- Related Arts will be scheduled on a quarterly or semester A/B basis determined by the efficient use of staff and facilities.

Supports for Implementation

- Assistance will be provided to administrators in building schedules that meet the needs of all learners.
- Professional development on disciplinary literacy will be provided.
- Professional development for effective use of 100-minute instructional blocks will be provided to selected teachers.
- Curriculum will be redesigned to meet the demands of the new program.
- Reassigned teachers will have access to support with new assignments.

Student Schedules

Sample Schedule for Students Identified for Additional Support in One Area

Approach: 7 (50-minute) Instructional Periods		
	With World Language	With Performing Arts
English Language Arts	English Language Arts	English Language Arts
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Science	Science	Science
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
English Language Arts / Mathematics Seminar or Reading Intervention (Students will receive either 100 minutes of English Language Arts or Mathematics.)	English Language Arts / Mathematics Seminar or Reading Intervention (Students will receive either 100 minutes of English Language Arts or Mathematics.)	English Language Arts / Mathematics Seminar or Reading Intervention (Students will receive either 100 minutes of English Language Arts or Mathematics.)
Health, Fine Arts, and other Related Arts and/or Innovation and Inquiry Modules	Health, Fine Arts, other Related Arts and/or Innovation and Inquiry Modules	Band, Orchestra, Chorus
Physical Education and/or Innovation and Inquiry Modules and/or Related Arts	Physical Education and World Language	Physical Education, Health, and FACS

Student Schedules

Sample Schedule for Students Identified for Additional Support in English Language Arts and Mathematics

Approach: 7 (50-minute) Instructional Periods
English Language Arts
Social Studies
Science
Mathematics
English Language Arts Seminar or Reading Intervention
Mathematics Seminar
Physical Education, Health, and Fine Arts

Student Schedules

Sample Schedule for Students Participating in G/T Programming

Approach: 7 (50-minute) Instructional Periods		
With World Language and Performing Arts	With World Language	With Performing Arts
English Language Arts or English Language Arts G/T	English Language Arts or English Language Arts G/T	English Language Arts or English Language Arts G/T
Social Studies or Social Studies G/T	Social Studies or Social Studies G/T	Social Studies or Social Studies G/T
Science or Science G/T	Science or Science G/T	Science or Science G/T
Mathematics or Mathematics G/T	Mathematics or Mathematics G/T	Mathematics or Mathematics G/T
Band, Orchestra, or Chorus	*G/T Instructional Seminars, or Innovation and Inquiry Modules	Band, Orchestra, or Chorus
Health, other Related Arts or *G/T Instructional Seminars	Health, other Related Arts or *G/T Instructional Seminars	Health, other Related Arts or *G/T Instructional Seminars
Physical Education and World Language	Physical Education and World Language	Physical Education and Innovation and Inquiry Modules or Related Arts or *G/T Instructional Seminars
<p><i>*Instructional Seminars can be offered through the school day as pull-outs or scheduled during these blocks and are open to all interested students.</i></p>		

Feedback from Staff

- Over 50 meetings with staff (teachers, administrators, curriculum personnel)
- Feedback
 - Concerns regarding students needing additional reading support
 - Re-assignment of reading teachers
 - Infusion of disciplinary literacy into content classes
 - Maintaining the quality of MS Programming – Performing Arts, GT, World Languages, Related Arts
 - Planning and preparation time for related arts teachers

Next Steps

- Public Hearing: January 12, 2012
- Work Session: January 19, 2012
- Board Action: January 26, 2012

A yellow school bus is shown from a side-on perspective, with a row of children looking out of the windows. The children are of various ethnicities and are smiling or looking towards the camera. The bus has a yellow upper section and a black lower section. The windows are framed by yellow vertical bars.

HCPSS

Excellence in Teaching and Learning