

## Appendix B: Middle School Survey Results, February 2008

### Survey Question #10:

The Middle School Ad Hoc Committee has researched and addressed the following topics as they pertain to HCPS middle schools:

Advisories	Interdisciplinary teams	Science	Transition from middle school to high school
Art	Interventions	Social studies	Unified arts/Special areas
Collaborative Cooperative Model of Teaching	Language arts	Special education	
Drama	Library media	Students' social, emotional, and cognitive needs	
Enrichment	Mathematics	Team planning	
Family and consumer sciences	Music/performing arts groups	Technology education	
Foreign languages	Physical education	Technology literacy (computers)	
Health	Remediation	Transition from elementary school to middle school	

What other topic(s) do you think need to be researched and addressed by the Middle School Ad Hoc Committee that are NOT on the above list?

*The feedback below represents the exact wording/spelling of the stakeholder responses to the above question. Responses were categorized by Barbara DeRose, facilitator of the Middle School Ad Hoc Committee.*

### **Behavior/Bullying/Violence**

1. Training about sexual predators and violence (for students and faculty).
2. Programs to address bullying
3. gangs, bullying
4. PBIS
5. discipline programs
6. Positive Behavior Intervention Systems
7. behavior
8. County Wide Behavior Policy and set consequences
9. consistent county-wide guidelines for behavioral issues/consequences
10. Chronically Disruptive Students and their impact on learning
11. Where the rights of a "limited and/or disturbive" student to be placed in a "regular" class should start and end when that student will take the rights to learn in an undisturbed setting.
12. Safety and Security SRO Officers in each building the entire school day ongoing with patrol car parked near front of building
13. Positive impact of more stringent discipline policies and their consistent efforcement on academic performance and school/community citizenship
14. Inclusive classrooms Disruptive Behaviors and Suspensions
15. Behavior Management Crisis Management/Intervention Violent & Aggressive behavior in school
16. violence in schools
17. Consistant/Uniform Discipline procedures by staff/Administration
18. Bullying Program
19. social environment as it relates to expectations for behavior especially with issues involving bullying and sexual harrassment (and the many definitions this can have due to broad range of behaviors that this can include)
20. bullying and anger management in schools
21. More on how to treat "each other", I am a bus driver and witness way too much bullying...still

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22. Behavior Issues
23. Behavior
24. Student Behavior problems
25. Appropriate Discipline Models
26. Alternative education for students with repeated behavior problems; I have heard that some students are excused from punishment for violent behaviors because of their handicapping condition (or their punishment is lessened). This practice puts many students and teachers at risk because they are exposed to someone who is not expected to control himself. All parents of all students exposed to any such child should be made aware of the situation. Otherwise, the school is not accepting responsibility for the danger in which they knowingly place students.
27. social interaction
28. The social interaction of the different grades

### **Career Development/College Prep**

1. Career development
2. trade and trade skills should start in the middle school
3. career/future planning
4. Life after high school
5. Introduction to trade or vo-tech like subjects for non college bound and "limited" students
6. Career Awareness/ Preparedness
7. Career Exploration and College Awareness and Preparedness ("Know How 2 Go"-type program). See <http://www.knowhow2go.or>
8. College preparation
9. Career interests/aptitudes (should be combined, in part, with technology education)
10. student's interests in life and their plans for the future
11. Career Goal setting/choices Decision making
12. college preparatory activities
13. Exposure to careers through various medias, assemblies, guest speakers etc. Combine career aspects with skills needed and how high school path can set the ground work for following an interest and flow into future plans - college/military/technical programs etc.
14. A look into career exposure; having more of a connection with adults in the community; letting these adults share components of their fields. Students are only aware of occupational fields that they have experienced. For example, many students hear the term "engineer" yet very few know what one is or what they do.
15. Introduction to Concept of College
16. Career interest and aptitude assessment; develop a better awareness of specialized programs that are offered through HCPS, such as HTHS, SMA, Homeland Security, Biomedical, Natural Resources, and IB.
17. Careers, Future
18. Teaching daily living skills to those students requiring this instruction in order to become independent and self-sufficient.
19. There should be more of a focus on careers, especially in the eighth grade, since students need to start scheduling for high school mid-year
20. I don't know what to call the topic- getting kids to see that their future is aligned with education, too many don't have a sense of future.
21. career planning/direction in middle school as to set a focus/long term goals throughout high school
22. Do not believe there is enough emphasis placed on improving and preparing students for higher education (HS and College) with respect to note-taking and test-taking skills.
23. connecting education to real world and future work opportunities

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24. SAT preps
25. Classes that teach you how to teach

### **Character Education**

1. CHARACTER EDUCATION programs
2. Character education
3. Character Education Programs
4. Guidance should do lessons on character education, i.e., bullying, etc.
5. Peer Influence
6. Along with the social, emotional and cognitive needs we need to bring the morals back into our schools. We are definitely seeing the effects of the lack of morals and value of life in many students across not only our county, but our state and country.
7. character ed
8. character education
9. character education
10. peer pressure needs
11. conflict resolution
12. mental health and positive emotional coping skills

### **Class Size**

1. Class size as it pertains to learning environment
2. Maximum class size of 25 students

### **Core Areas**

1. Time allotments needed to be success in content areas
2. Public Speaking, Grammar and Writing Skills
3. transition math. my daughter is in this class and struggles. she received a 96% on the county mid term but can't pass the tests in this class. Her high scores on the standardized tests are why she is in this class. many children in this class are having difficulty. many were moved to everyday math. there should be a seperate test given to see if the students really can handle this class. high school students are tested before they can take honors courses and we should do the same for transitions math.
4. Government and political science
5. "content rigor" that extends what was taught in elementary school and promotes continuous forward momentum of learning from 6th-8th grade
6. Might want to think about getting back to basics instead of teaching to pass a test
7. Keeping science and social studies classes on the same class schedule so that all children in the grade complete the same lessons by the end of the school year.
8. Civics
9. TEACH GEOGRAPHY AND CONCEPTS ABOUT COUNTRIES AND REGIONS - A little less history
10. greater emphasis on basic and enhanced math skills and less reliancy on calculators
11. reading and writing skills
12. Greater emphasis placed reading and writing comprehension, overall comprehension, communicating orally and in writing, spelling and word definiftions within the English curriculum; Bottom line, emphasis on being able to think, conmprehend and reply

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13. US history
14. free writing day
15. Emphasis on writing and grammar (as part of the language arts curriculum). Many high school students have difficulty writing a basic essay because they are lacking grammar skills that were not well emphasized in elementary and middle school.
16. Too many of our 7th graders are not ready for algebra. More emphasis should be placed on maturing the fundamentals before sending out students to algebra.
17. enviromental science effective communication
18. How and where writing fits into the schedule.
19. I think that in school they should have a nature and animal class to study and do projects on them. Some people have a strong point in that kind of stuff.
20. Marien Biology
21. not enough math time
22. Black History Girl History
23. Not every student can receive the cookbook education. Having children currently in elementary, middle and high school I've found that it is only my high schooler who is able to have options to move quicker in one subject area and slower in another. Not all students need the same thing. My son in middle school is bored or frustrated with the heterogeneously grouped classes. He needs to be challenged in all subjects as he is in math. My daughter in high school is challenged with more fast paced courses in English, Science and Social Studies and takes a slower paced Math which is working out well given her learning her profile. I feel the elementary curriculum tries to put everyone on an equal par and the enrichment programs have apparently virtually stopped as far as I can tell. The middle school has been the weakest link in the chain for my children providing a watered down curriculum except for the one math class. I feel HCPS adminstration tries to be politically correct instead of addressing the needs of the student body. Perhaps this is just a function of the society we live in where everyone should get the same thing whether they need/benefit/deserve it or not.
24. introduction of physics and chemistry
25. Include parents in the decision process as to which math and english classes a child goes into BEFORE the decision is made.
26. Lost history
27. poetry
28. microbiology
29. history
30. Reading and writing are problems for all students. Please put 2 language arts classes in the schedule. If we continue to give less and less instruction for reading and writing we will have a large population of illiterate people in the near future.
31. more direct writing instruction at all grade levels, students should be taught to write research reports in depth at all grade levels-- we are focusing on the importance of expository text in elementary schools-- what children need in college and at work is writing based on research
32. grammer
33. Reading in the content areas
34. ILA needs to be enhanced (A LOT) so that honors students are prepared for high school honors English and not spending time learning what they should have already been taught in middle school!!
35. Writing
36. zooiligy and animal science
37. Poetry
38. Creative writing classes
39. Chemics
40. current politics, current science

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41. law and order crimalt justage
42. creative writing class
43. living in a contemperary world
44. LIQUA
45. Forensic Science

### **Extension of School Year/School Day**

1. Extension of the school day/year to incorporate higher stakes education, so critical to our students' global success.
2. Year round school

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

1. Extra curricular activities
2. Extracurricular activities for students' social and emotional needs
3. Collaboration with other agencies to provide extracurricular activities
4. "Club Time" Could some of our after school club times be incorporated into the school day...for example, once every three weeks? There are students who would like to participate in a club, but cannot necessarily stay after school. Thanks.
5. After school programs
6. extracurricular programs
7. Providing late buses to allow students to participate in extra curricular activities even if both parents work.
8. Intermural availability
9. year-round sports teams and tournaments between schools(like high school)in sports that allow that like swimming, ping pong, basketball etc. To reinforce the kids' team spirit.
10. Year-round sports like swimming, ping-pong, basketball, etc. This would help to reinforce teeam spirit.
11. sports
12. sports practice
13. we should have middle school teams like football and basketball to play for a school
14. we need more sports teams basketball team
15. Sports in middle schools with minimum grade requirements
16. We need more sport activities and sport teams middle schools should have their own sport teams! Thank you for your time
17. To be able to have more after school clubs like a Bowling club or a film club
18. More sports teams!!
19. sports teams similiar to high school and private middle schools
20. sports
21. sports
22. sports
23. sports
24. dance,cheer team,math clun and science club, recess,like studying nurse and building on our carrer,basketball,baseball,and track team,drama club and a fashion club the school will be mcuh better and we will have better participation and a better education and plus its building on our carrer....Thanks
25. sprots

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26. middle school sports
27. middle school sports team
28. sports
29. organized sports
30. step and drill!!! fun stuff
31. recreational sports
32. sports
33. sports
34. step and drill a dance group that student from high school and middle school with hip hop dancing experience should teach it. student of there choice club a school goverment and ect.
35. I don't know, but are there extra caricular activities like dances, social events, year books, etc. to bring the children together as friends not just classmates. That is huge with the transition to high school and a good way to move into the middle school. Is there a summer prep class or something to help children gear up for the more independent way of thinking and extra school work?
36. I think they sould add more clubs on fashion and textiles. Or more creative clubs
37. after school activities
38. after-school programs
39. dance classes, for after school.

### **Financial Literacy**

1. Financial literacy / money management
2. Financial literacy
3. monetary skills; how to write a check, balancing a checkbook, debit/credit
4. Financial Literacy & Money Management skills, such as the improtatnce of savings, Checking Acct Managment, Credit, Budget,etc.
5. Economics Personal finance
6. bussiness econmics
7. Economic Funds
8. teach the children some sort of modern day money lessons, ie. the difference in Good interest(bank account) and bad interest(mortgage), the evils of credit cards, etc.. How to save allowance money etc..
9. Financial - How to handle a their day to day finances?
10. Financial Literacy
11. life skills--i.e. balancing check books or budgeting for a family or time management
12. Financial Literacy? (may already be included above)
13. Financial - budgeting, balancing a check book, credit cards, loans, etc.
14. Life Skills & Financial Knowledge
15. This may fall under Family and Consumer Sciences, but young people need to learn how to budget and handle their finances.
16. Teach financial planning, balancing check books, paying bills, how to budget. Teach how interest rates work, bankruptcy, how to be financially responsible
17. Financial planning, teaching how to financially responsible. Balancing checkbooks, paying bills/loans, how interest works, car loans, etc
18. I think we should have a class where we are taught how to do stuff like write out a check and learn how to do stock and to do taxes the right way and to find a good company to help with our taxes.

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### **Gifted & Talented Education/Enrichment**

1. Gifted and Talented. This should be distinguished from Enrichment opportunities, which should be available to everyone.
2. Enrichment that is taken as seriously as special education.
3. enrichment
4. Gifted and Talented - not just enrichment, but challenging classes geared towards the brightest kids.
5. Gifted education Accelerated classes without jumping grades
6. Meeting the needs of Gifted/Learning disabled students, "Twice gifted" students.
7. Making classes challenging for our brightest students.
8. GT, curriculum compaction, differentiated instruction
9. A specialized cohort for advanced/accelerated STEM education
10. gifted education
11. Gifted student programs, advanced learning with possible low level college coarse work.
12. Needs of gifted, talented and high performers. Special programs for those who want and can handle more than the regular curriculum; particularly science, math, engineering.
13. Acceleration, curriculum compacting
14. Gifted and Talented Program
15. A separate Gifted and Talented program beyond enrichment; integration of the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program into the enrichment mathematics program- CTY distance learning is allowed for ILA enrichment but not for math
16. Gifted and Talented enrichment and acceleration.
17. Enrichment should be in all middle schools!
18. I think enrichment should be adressed in middle school.
19. more student enrichment programs (cooking, art, music)
20. My son is a straight A student. His classwork is not challenging (at least academically) and he is not offered enrichment (as others have been?). My son is in 'West' at PMMS and there appears to be a large discrepancy between the classwork, pace and performance of 'East' and 'West'.
21. Dedicated Gifted & Talented programming/teachers/curriculum/guidance counselors.
22. A "gifted and talented" program for our children. Committees focus on the "low" end of the educational scale....how about spending some time on the "high" end. Harford County is VERY lacking in programs for our gifted and talented students.
23. Gifted education
24. More enrichment specialties

### **Health Education/Sex Education**

1. Health education Sex education dispute resolution Drug education
2. stronger sex education
3. Parents are the most important teachers on sex education for their children (not the school) because it MUST encompass the faith and moral principles of the family. Notices must be sent home regarding sex education lessons PRIOR to the lessons so that the parent may have the option to remove the student.
4. Health/Mental Health & Wellness
5. teeange pregnasy

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### **High School Credit**

1. High school credit should be earned for appropriate classes in middle school such as geometry and algebra
2. High School credit for Algebra, Geometry and Level I Foreign Language.
3. Middle schools students who are taking either a higher math or foreign language should be able to receive high school credits for these subjects since HCPS allows middle schools students from outside of the system to have these credits on their high school transcript if they given these credits in middle schools.
4. High School Credit for High Schools Classes (Algebra I, Geometry). IF they're passing the Algebra HSA in 7th grade, they should be getting HS credit for it.
5. Classes in middle school should be for credit (pass/fail) to move onto high school. Many students do minimal work and then get to high school and continue to fail. If students know that they need to work to get to the next level then many would put forth more effort because they want to be in high school.

### **Homework**

1. no homework on weekends
2. I believe there is a need to address the issue of homework and projects assigned nightly. My child attends to 2 hours of homework every night and also has projects that he is to complete on weekends, holidays etc. I am discouraged to recall that as a child, I was able to do my homework and go out to play in the neighborhood before dinner. Perhaps if children had such an advantage today, there would be no need for PE everyday in the schools. Next, I would like to address the variety of school food of the cafeteria and little time for the children to actually get their food and eat it. I think this is a great time for socialization that the kids are not getting in their day otherwise. In addition, I would like to note that the students social, emotional and cognitive needs are not being met. Socialization is limited for Actual peer interaction and the children are not provided enough of a mental break both cognitively and emotionally. I Would like to note that after school programs should be provided and that remediation, excellence etc, could be attended to in that time period. The students are missing the basics if they have to be pulled out of another class or miss the next lesson to redo the previous one, or learn A differing material at a higher level, but never know about the basic material. It seems backwards to Schedule those things during regular classroom times.
3. Five mins. to do homework in each class
4. give homework on monday-Thursday
5. we need teem time to be free to work on projects home work ext.
6. home work because we have 6 or 7 ina half hours of school we do not need another hour to two hours of it!!!! it is ridiculous it taKES time out of your plans after school!!!
7. less homework save the trees ☺

### **Library Media**

1. library book amounts (more books)
2. library time to check out books more often because it is hard to go in homeroom or between classes.
3. library education

### **Lunch**

1. School lunch! We should have regular resturaunts to choose from. Kind of like some highschoools.
2. school lunch
3. We need to have a longer lunch period.So we don't haft to rush eating r food

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4. a longer lunch period
5. lunch
6. Students should have a longer lunch period. Half an hour is not long enough to eat and talk to friends.
7. We also need more lunch time(:
8. Lunch
9. longe lunch time
10. not enough time for lunch
11. Offer healthy foods during lunch
12. Looking into longer lunch periods. Students are only given a brief, unhealthy time period which many times allows only a few minutes to eat. This leads to obesity and other eating problems!
13. Food service...more healthy food, please!

### **Miscellaneous**

1. NRA Eddie Eagle Firearms Safety Program.
2. how to bring Edgewood MS up to standards for MSDE testing
3. More emphasis on Writing Oral Presentation Skills
4. magnet programs for the middle school level
5. First. LEarn and master the English Language. SEcond. Instill the rules of the sandbox. Third. Be sure all students can apply arithmetic without the calculator or cellphone in their hand. Fourth. Take time for courses such as Phys Ed, Band, FACS, Latin. These are the important things in life.
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. cursive writing (penmanship)
8. Balancing of funding between schools to copensate for disparity in PTA funds between high and low income ares.
9. Maintaining equal facilities in all schools
10. Interdisciplinary Curriculum development
11. How is socialization taught (either formally or informally) What time periods are allocated for this?
12. Homework standards (amount per class and per week)
13. the entire program seem senseless. The major portion of the grade is on classwork and homework. Student don't have the opportunity to learn and tested appropriately. The teachers should teach and administer qizzes and tests but and homework should be a minor part of the grade and not to mention classwork is classwork - teaching instructions. I MUST state not all teacheds dump down the class.
14. RC time- Students are having difficulty passing the quizzes especially for longer, more difficult books therefore the children are reading books below their level just to pass the quizzes. I agree children should read but the RC quizzes need to be evaluated.
15. I think they need to include a study on how moving children due to rezoning affects middle school children.
16. Intro to Business Education
17. Counseling
18. Religion psychology
19. attendance
20. Input on an ongoing basis from Middle School Principals who do not serve on the committee.
21. Community responsiblities in students success
22. Admin. who do not let the parents run the school!!!!

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23. Addressing the needs for INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS to be able to bring their grade point average higher; This is a listed topic, however needs improved upon if possible! John
24. Students should be able to participate in a more indepth drama/theater.
25. private and public schools should be open to anyone
26. Real life app. of what students are learning.
27. Community Service/Involvement
28. Summer School
29. school culture and student motivation
30. summer school
31. Interpersonal relationships with teachers, staff and students to promote respect, positive dialog between students and staff, promote self esteem, and recognize children who are at risk emotionally. In other words, to draw the child in, rather than alienate them to the school structure, rules, etc.
32. use of cell phones
33. Transient Population Issues
34. alternative education for middle school aged students
35. Difference in learning styles between young men & women based on the maturity levels.
36. How will having a magnet high school effect the local middle school offerings? 2. I feel the basic core of middle schools should be the same, however there should be flexibility in the course offerings to reflect their student body needs.
37. we should get cheaper lunches and a soda machine in each school and also should have breaks during the day and have atleast 1 1/2 hours of Gym. Also the teachers should allow gum in schools except for the students that abuse it.
38. students should be able to have thier cell phones in school
39. I think that during the school day we waste to much time doing stupid things, that we cant apply when we get older. And also I think students should be able to pick their classes
40. History of sports
41. THER SHOULD BE A MULTICULTURAL CLASS TO PROVIDE A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW
42. Love
43. Babysitting Bussineses
44. Watching fun movies and edging on to pg-13 movies depending on the grade and the matchority of the class and grade.
45. Integration of the Arts in all Subjects
46. It would be nice to know more information about what you are looking at in all the areas. This survey does not cover much of the gamet.
47. Impact of school year vacations on achievement
48. Everyone at every school cannot be on the same page on the same day. We teach people, not robots. The class pace is dependent on students' ability to learn the concepts. Also pacing is interrupted by music lessons, field trips, etc. that vary from school to school.
49. Uniform grading and class policies
50. Medical
51. before and After school supports
52. Student motivation
53. Leadership Skills
54. oppotunities for community involvement
55. They need time to do research and learn to use the coputer to do the research. The students need tolearn to think. Not just the teachers should be accountable. Parents and students need to have some accountability.

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56. All schools should focus on student achievement for all students. All students learn differently and must have their needs met. Based on the questions above, middle school needs to be flexible to meet the needs of all students.
57. Intergrated Fine Arts
58. motivating the students to want to learn
59. Require community service - volunteer at a soup kitchen, etc.
60. community service projects
61. Magnet middle/high school for Performing Arts
62. Project Planning Exercise
63. Opportunities for students to visit/buddy up with a college student to see first hand what the college experience is like, without being lead around by a parent or teacher.
64. Exposer to colleges - shadow a current student for a day to see first hand what college life is like.
65. 6th grade should be in elementary school. Jr. high should be 7th and 8th grades and a junior 9th grade for those not ready for high school.
66. free pird gum cuwer is ok school 1 hor shoter
67. emphasis on foreign language, mathematics and technology
68. Architech and Engineering
69. Because of the litigious society that we are now living in it is nearly impossible to correct a child's misbehavior. A middle school student is not held responsible for their misconduct. Administration is always looking at the door to see what lawyer is coming through their door. There is little or no responsibility put on the student's family to help in their education. The teacher cannot be held responsible if "Johnny or Mary" do not do their work at home or in class. Our society has become so faultless that it is always someone else who is at fault for a person not excelling. But to dump it all on the public school system is totally ridiculous.
70. Having mentors in a specific content area instead of mentors in a general position. These mentors would do nothing but work with teachers in their specific content area. This could be done by teachers who are already seasoned.
71. Programs that provide for transfer opportunities abroad. Even if the program could only be offered in the summer.
72. Investigate transfer programs abroad - even if only offered in the summer
73. Not so many projects...
74. Not so many projects
75. etiquit classes team building.
76. environmental variables which would include but not limited to adult involvement & supervision
77. how to be a leader and work with other people in a group
78. Concrete Excessive Absence/Tardy Policy
79. Engineering
80. Engineering
81. cosmotaligist
82. Photography
83. Video Lab
84. religion classes
85. family/pet care course
86. photograghy

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1. MSA/HSA test prep
2. actual grades versus MSA scores and the placement of the children. Do not feel the placement of the child should be solely based on the MSA scores. Especially, with the new 6th grade students who became the guinea pigs in 5th grade for the new math. Thank you.
3. Shortened day's for testing.
4. MSA's HSA's
5. Introduction to High School Assessment Testing (8th grade only)

### **Music**

1. Middle school students not being able to participate in both instrumental and chorus is a travesty that needs to be re-examined. We have good instrumental students needlessly dropping out in the 6th grade so they can pursue chorus with their friends - these students never return to the instrument once they reach high school. Why does elementary and high school get to do both but not middle? If we have enough time for students to have PE every day, then we can make enough time for music students to be able to do both. Make it an after school option if there is not enough time in the day.
2. All students should have the same amount of PE. Students who participate in performing arts should not be penalized! Make PE fair for everyone.
3. it should not be a penalty to play a musical instrument by having gym every other day. Boys want to have gym every day and will give up music to do this. The scheduling is unfair to boys in the band
4. pull out music lessons that pull a student out of an academic class in order to receive group lessons
5. Also, Band should be a regular class. PE should be everyday and student should not have to substitute class. The students sit in class everyday and the lack of physical movements is not healthy.
6. Instrumental
7. I think that band, orchestra, and choir should switch with unified arts not gym.
8. Students should not have to choose between everyday PE or alternating PE with chorus, band or orchestra. Putting everyday PE against music programs undermines the performance groups.
9. Chorus students should be able to be in chorus and gym everyday
10. Every kid should get the same amount of gym time with or without orchestra, band and chorus!!!! all kids should have gym everyday even the ones in band chorus and orchestra
11. need to have gym same amount for all students even chorus and band students should be able to have gym every day
12. PE every day and band/chorus/chorus as an extracurricular activity. Lesson interfere too much with classwork
13. every one (even in chorus, band, orch.) should have PE EVERYDAY! No Separation!
14. I believe all students, even students in performing arts classes, should have and need physical education every day. I also believe that physical education classes should be focused on activities that increase student cardio-vascular fitness. Students in performing arts (PA) should alternate their PA class with their unified arts classes. That makes more sense than alternating their PA class with PE class.
15. All middle school students should have P.E. every day and performing arts students should not be discriminated against. Performing arts students should also have class every day (both in their Performing Area and in P.E. Many male students are lost from Performing Arts classes when they see their friends going to P.E. every day. Students should not have to be faced with making a choice like this and facing the peer pressure from their non performing arts friends. Please reverse this discriminative trend. Thank you.
16. I strongly agree that all students should have PE everyday I disagree strongly that students should miss half a year of PE in order to participate in performing arts. I would like to see performing arts put in special area. With performing arts every other day these students would get 2 other special area classes every other day for a semester each Then they would not be deprived of the much needed PE

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17. I have always disliked the fact that students in band are taken out of class time to go to lessons. Lessons should NOT take precedence over academics!!!!!!
18. Most people don't wanna do chorus or band because, they want gym everyday. I think gym and chorus should be everyday so we will have a bigger chorus and everyone will have an equal amount of gym. It's not fair that chorus or band/orchestra students don't get an equal amount of gym.
19. I take chorus and don't think it is fair that I don't have PE everyday like everyone else! All my friends are in PE. Can't we do both?
20. I did not like the question about Physical Education. Why can't all students have it the same amount? I did not feel that it is fair for the kids who like music have to miss PE. My son loves to sing and has a great chorus teacher, but doesn't want to join next year because of everyday PE. Please consider making this fair!
21. I STRONGLY think that at North Harford Middle School, we should all (every student here AND Harford County Public Schools) get Gym Class EVERY OTHER DAY, not all students (excluding band, chorus, and orchestra students) getting Gym Class every day. So, the people who wouldn't normally be in band, chorus, or orchestra would get an every-other-day music enrichment class. I also strongly suggest that in the HCPS Middle School Reform, the administrators and teachers should punish students less strictly and get them through Guidance Counseling, instead of suspension and detention and what not... Thank you, and please help my fellow students and I get the education we deserve!!!
22. Performing arts' lesson schedules.
23. The Ad Hoc Committee should look over the physical education criteria (especially the swimming unit). I strongly feel that swimming should be an option. I also feel the physical education system, at my school at least, is a failure and that many students get nothing out of it.
24. Performing arts having its own period that does not coexist with gym. Performing arts groups need more consistent time for rehearsal.
25. I think we need to make a concentrated effort to implement advisory bases homerooms and having every student even (music students) take PE everyday.
26. Singing programs, to help kids express themselves
27. Singing and other performing arts things!

### **Parents**

1. Parental Involvement, Family impact on school success, parental impact on school success
2. GOOD PARENTING CLASSES FOR PARENTS
3. parental involvement and responsibility
4. Parent involvement in regard to homework
5. Parenting skills
6. Student attendance - the problem of parents pulling children out of school for vacations and the students falling behind - the teachers take the time to provide make-up work upfront, but the work is rarely completed. The problem of some students missing large amounts of time each year and the parents are not held accountable.
7. Parental responsibilities in the learning process
8. Parental involvement
9. Parent and community involvement
10. Parental involvement and support at the middle school level
11. Parent Involvement regarding children behavior and learning practices.

### **Physical Education**

1. More physical education
2. gym

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3. More Physical education time for all students.
4. Need more time for gym class because alot of kids should get fit.
5. More phisical education time for all students even if they practice a instrument.
6. We needed more time for gym because alot of kids do not play out side at home so we do need more time to have gym!!!!!!
7. Students should choose their P.E. class. For example weight training, track, physical sports (soccer, baseball/softball, flag football, ect.)and foreign games. The students would pick a unit and do that unit for a quarter. When the quarter ends the student pick a different unit and they would do that after every quarter.
8. More gym time and NO MORE WRITTEN GYM TESTS!!! they waste time for our excersising, and releasing our energy, therefore making it easier for us to learn in other classes!!!
9. no more written gym tests, more gym time, bigger lockers to put our things.
10. Not enough time to exercise.
11. SWIMMING CLASS =D
12. people are becoming unhealthy/ overweight because students dont have enough time in PE.
13. More sports need to be involved!!!
14. More sports like cheerleading.
15. more sports activities offeres
16. More sports activities, like football and baseball.
17. I think recess and dodgeball needs to be brought back to middle school.
18. not enough time for phisical activiy
19. PE locker rooms and their stress
20. Swimming
21. Dance Class would be very fun!
22. skate boarding
23. CPR Classes
24. Skateboarding
25. in gym they need to add soccer, because some of play it, not just play it but love the game.
26. dance
27. Dance
28. Dance

### Recess

1. we should have something more like recess in middle school.
2. recess
3. recess-when we were kids we had recess til 7th grade- it is excercise and down time during the day
4. Recess
5. Recess and Religion
6. recess electives
7. I think In Middle School whode have a recess!!!!
8. recess
9. Recess

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10. I think recess and dodgeball needs to be brought back to middle school.
11. i think that recess should be offered in every grade and every school weither they are in elementaryy school middle or high
12. Look into some form of recess for middle school.
13. providing recess for middle school
14. free time! :)

### **Schedules**

1. Length of classes. No block schedules. Classes should be 50 minutes long. Middle school students do not have the ability to stay concentrated for a 90 minute time period.
2. Class changes. One class is scheduled to end at the same time the next class is scheduled to start, so students are constantly late to classes.
3. Scheduling Across the County should be the same... Special Area/P.E. should have equal planning time across county wide, not due to individual school needs
4. moving away from rotating schedules
5. impact of decisions on scheduling for itinerant staff--speech therapists, ots, pt, people who travel from building to building to provide services
6. particular class should be used to address enrichment, remediation, and intervention. Students that need access to this class should be able to use the class throughout the year, not just quarterly. If the enrichment, remediation, and intervention class doesn't fit into the schedule than an additional paid position should be added for students to attend after school, especially students needing intervention for academic success.
7. including special area teachers in team planning time
8. I think that students should have one free period to finish homework, study, and ask qeasion.
9. 4/5 period day
10. How long classes should be
11. free peroid!!!
12. Additional mutual planning time during the school day should be provided for general educators and special educators who co-teach. By additional time, I do not mean teachers giving up team time or personal planning time
13. Question #6 What are "instructional teams" if this does not include all teachers I strongly disagree. We need to stop excluding special area & PE from our total education process. Most of our students will get jobs from those areas - only our elite will get jobs in math & science
14. Question #8 is fague & does not explain what is included in a "flexible schedule" Questions need to be to the exact point- like you did with the uniforms
15. Time built into the school day to mentor at risk students.
16. the issue of team planning time shoud while I agree it is valuable, it should not be provided during the 'school day' at the student's expense - either before of after school.
17. do not make each school a cookie cut of the others; allow each school to maintain its uniqueness and flexibility to meet the needs of their particular students.
18. common planning time for subject teachers (ex: math teachers get one common planning time per month
19. letting the parent/student select the students electives oppse to be selected by the school. More electives
20. Increased opportunities for intervention/remediation programs in creative means
21. Students should have more time learning about different units. Especially so they won't forget over the summer.
22. Time to work on projects.
23. I would love to have a free class to work on homework, classwork, and fished work.
24. more time to get to class
25. more sports activites

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26. Time with Friends, Free Period
27. Early Dismissal
28. no extra period
29. free period/study hall
30. Avoiding longer instructional periods
31. increasing planning-decreasing meaningless meetings
32. The amount of work on teachers to do intervention. We need 60 minute class periods, and a 6 period day.
33. The length of the class periods, especially math and ILA
34. no classes
35. shorter classes
36. we should have a free period to work on projects, and make up work so you don't have to do work during lunch
37. Free period: that will integrate make up time, Individual assistance, and time to socialize so students will have something to look forward to.
38. More time to change from class to class
39. We need a free period to work on classwork, homework, and to have time to let out our energy since we have been sitting and learning all day long.
40. School day scheduling (starting later in the morning for growing adolescents who need more sleep) and the school year calendar. Spring break should be one week without including staff development days.
41. like a planting class or something a military class a resting period for 15 minutes study hall time, (in place of reading or any other class) electronics class hunting class driving class leather working class a confession class (where you explain your troubles)
42. free time to do whatever is school related, or a different activity that teaches or students would like to do, something different that everyone would like.
43. To have a free period to help students with homework and ask questions that students could not answer during that particular period.
44. free time so you can do anything of your choosing
45. To improve more lunch time and more gym time. And we need to have a free period to relax our brains and have some talk time to each other.
46. I think that a period called intergration should be added to the schedule of the middle school students intergration is a period that gives kids a chance to catch up on their work or to read or just do what ever you want for a period this could help students that missed days of school or even weeks its i sbetter because less students have to stress over missed days of school
47. The need for a schedule that students benefit from, right now the teachers benefit from the middle school schedule. Students are expected to perform at their best for 7 classes in a row. They are expected to be at school by 7am, which is too early of a schedule for middle schoolers. The state only require a 6 hour day yet we are having our students extend the needed hours. Many of our middle schools are not meeting state requirement tests could it be that they are mentally exhausted with the schedule. I feel that we have created a teacher friendly schedule and not a student friendly schedule. I have observed the time that is wasted with the team planning, which is really a complaint session. Teachers do not need two planning periods causing classes to be large and a long day for students.
48. 8th grade students should be given more individuality to help them prepare for high school. they could possibly choose one of their classes the way high schools do
49. I think we need break time so people can study for test and take a little time to get their minds off school and relax
50. free time, fun time, happy time,
51. I don't think that we need another topic but we do need a free period to get some class work together, so you can study, or do some classwork that was over due, or something like that
52. more classes that kids are going to want to do more
53. electives

## Appendix B: Middle School Survey Results, February 2008

### **Social Promotions**

1. Student who socially promoted
2. non-academic promotion
3. Doing away with social promotions-actually holding students accountable for the grades they earn
4. The retention policy. Many students fail most of their subjects and are simply placed each year. There has to be some consequence or they learn that they can do nothing and be promoted anyway. In order to be placed, attending summer school should be mandatory.
5. Criteria for Retention

### **Special Education**

1. Self-Contained Classrooms for resource students who need a small setting to experience more academic success. The "inclusion" model does not seem to be working for some of those students and many of the general ed./regular ed students.
2. Inclusion
3. needs of handicapped students
4. I'm afraid I don't see reading skills for students with learning disabilities unless it's included in one of the groups above.
5. Teaching emotionally disturbed children and children with Autism and Asperger's syndrome.
6. More specifics about special ed. Harford County has an excellent reputation and more parents are relocating here to get the quality education for their special needs children. More consistency is needed among all of the middle schools about how to implement accommodations.
7. Teachers in the middle schools appear to be very grouchy, insensitive and rigid in their expectations of middle school children. From my experience as both a parent of a typical child as well as a student with mild special needs (an IEP) and an educator in the HCPS system, I find that the teachers expect everyone to fit in to the same "cookie cutter" mold. If you are the least bit different, they are unable to provide accommodations within the general education setting. They do not accept, recognize or attempt to help high achieving students with special needs. It has been my experience as well as others in the Bel Air community that these teachers are uneducated in the areas of adhd, autism spectrum disorders, anxiety issues and graphomotor disabilities. These teachers are providing a huge disservice to our children. They refuse to do what is in their best interest and think of themselves first. The county and the state need to set aside funding to deal with these issues before it is too late. These children are not going away. In fact in the elementary school we are identifying more and more children with special needs. We accept these children and provide them with the services they need. However, when they reach middle school they are "thrown to the wolves" and must survive on their own. Children in middle school are children. They are not high school age. Yet the minute they walk in the door they are treated that way. They are going through an awkward period in their lives and need supportive, caring and understanding teachers who provide them with quality, hands on experiences as they go through the middle school. So in my opinion the Ad Hoc Committee needs to research adhd, autism, anxiety, graphomotor disabilities, understanding the medicated child and how to support these students as well as high achieving students with special needs that are in the general ed setting without IA's or IH's. No child should ever be left behind in the middle schools
8. Children with diabetes and autistic issues cannot handle these changes and it is unfair to their education
9. standardizing criteria for low level class push in and pull out of special educators.
10. NEED TO HELP THOSE STUDENTS WITH ADHD ... AND OTHER LEARNING PROBLEMS..
11. Children with special needs.

### **Study Skills**

1. Study Skills How to be a better student
2. study skills

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3. A study skills class should be offered. There never seems to be "teaching" of such skills, and it is most definitely something not every child just picks up on there own.
4. Study Skills, Time Mgmt.
5. (Guidance should) do some mini lessons on time management/organization
6. Study Hall
7. Direct instruction in study skills, test-taking skills, and time management for long term projects
8. Study Hall
9. Maybe it is included in the transition from elementary to middle, but I'd like to see focus on organization & study skills. We strongly considered private school for our son, who has ADHD, and almost all of the private schools require a course in 6th grade regarding these subjects. It is a big change and these "executive functions" can be difficult for younger students, especially those with learning "differences".
10. study hall
11. study hall
12. Study Hall
13. Study Hall
14. Study Hall
15. study hall

### **Teachers**

1. teacher quality!!
2. hiring teachers who actually like Middle schoolers
3. real-time teacher classroom accountability
4. Staffing Ratios (Particularaly for Student Support Services EG. Guidance, School Psychologists, etc...)
5. Recruitment of High Quality/Certified teaching faculty and retaining these employees
6. how teachers treat kids
7. Teacher expectation & student achievement: teachers should not be able to yell at children or humiliate them.
8. evaluate teacher qualifications
9. How about allowing the students to complete a survey at the end of every year to critique their teachers and allow them to have an opinion of their personal experience in the classroom. I believe that if children were polled, many of them would have the same feelings toward certain teachers. I also believe that many teachers are there to collect a paycheck/benefits, and are not necessarily there for the best interest of the children. These ill feelings are definitely not conducive to a positive learning evironment and are many times overlooked. Why are certain teachers allowed to act the way they do and nothing is ever done about it? Many act like they don't even want to be there and even worse, act like they don't even like kids. Why even be a teacher if that is how you are portrayed?
10. Teachers upholding high acheivement standards for students
11. preparing teachers to be ready to teach new cirriculum BEFORE the school year begins. [ Everyday Math] A plan to help students " catch up" when being taught a new cirriculum that most are not acheiving .
12. equal treatment to all educators (this would make all teachers feel valued and willing to strive to go above and beyond.
13. All teachers teaching same amount of minutes and having same amount of planning each day.

### **Technology**

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1. In regards to technology education, if the technology literacy skills are to be infused into the mainstream curriculums in place of standard computer classes, there needs to be a technology specialist who, as a full-time teaching assignment, is dedicated to the ensuring that the classroom technology is correctly and effectively integrated into instruction. The current structure assumes that by the time students reach the middle school, they are well versed in the skills outlined in the MD Tech Literacy standards. The truth is that they simply are not. A Tech Specialist is essential to ensuring that these skills are augmented to the level dictated by the standards indicators.
2. The fact that middle school students need computer literacy training in all their classes AS WELL AS classes devoted to computer literacy needs to be addressed. The core teachers do not have the time, and in some cases the knowledge, to instruct students in computer literacy. Computer literacy training needs to stay part of the unified arts rotation unless some other way is devised to have expert computer teachers available to the students.
3. There should be more computer classrooms available to teachers so students can perform daily lessons electronically.
4. students understanding of legal rights and laws (consequences) using My Space, email, IM,-----cyberbullying
5. Ongoing technology training for teachers
6. More indept study of computer literacy.
7. More about computers
8. Video Camera learning
9. Laptops for all students
10. computer skills
11. more time needs to be addressed to computer skills
12. More time needs to be addressed to computer skills
13. More time needs to be addressed to computer skills
14. technology/literacy on computers to be expected for all teachers also to provide better communication to parents - there should be more they should be posting on edline- on a weekly basis
15. Not enough time is devoted to developing computer skills.
16. Lack of time to deveelop computer skills
17. i think that we should not be taught by people in computer who know less about computer then we do
18. Not enough time is given for students to learn computers
19. more computer time for all students
20. i think there is enough but we should have more computer time
21. Internet Safety
22. Keyboarding (typing). The kids all use computers and some take computer classes, but typing correctly is not introduced until well into high school. It is too difficult for anyone to "unlearn" what they have been doing wrong for years. Learning how to type is essential to working on any computer keyboard. Doing this task incorrectly not only impairs the student's ability to complete projects, but could have lasting physical affects (corpal tunnel, etc.). This could also be beneficial to be required in 4th or 5th grade instead of middle school, but it needs to be done!! Kids are taught how to hold a pencil, print, write cursive, but not how to type. I would guess 95% of all occupations now require keyboard typing. An auto mechanic has to enter information for a work order/ticket. A carpenter may be hired for projects through e-mail requests. Typing skills will help all students: with school work at every grade level, those continuing to college, and those graduating and entering a vocational field.
23. technology education
24. learn more about technology
25. computer
26. research technology, medical science, robotics
27. typing class

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28. technology should be worked with more because in the future that will be a big part of it.

### Transitions

1. transition from state to state, specifically the child of a military member. Making that transition smoother. Trying to bridge the gap in curriculum from state to state. Not easy I know.
2. not just transition for high school, but preparedness as well
3. Included in transitioning from elementary to middle school...study skills, organizational skills, time management, and even the difference in elementary school grading vs. middle school grading.
4. Transitions into schools over the summer or mid-year
5. Putting extra emphasis on the transition from middle school to high school. There seems to be a significant change in what is expected from 9th graders as opposed to what is required of 8th graders in terms of study habits, expectations, etc. The "transition from middle school to high school" area should include communication between groups of teachers from the middle school and the high school to help bridge the gap between academic areas.
6. a better transition from middle to high school for the students and parents alike. Picking courses and career goals were not explained clearly to the parent.
7. Have in place a program to help students who are part of re-districting to adjust to their new school.
8. Communication between high school and middle school. I am a high school student and lack of communication between the two schools is unbelievable. Most everything we learned in English is not accepted at the high school. And, the summer projects to be able to get into honors English were all incorrect. I think the two schools should communicate on choosing classes, what the students should learn, and expectations.

### Tutoring/Mentoring

1. tutoring available in every subject
2. tutoring
3. MENTORING OF STUDENTS
4. mentoring, if it was not covered under advisories
5. mentoring
6. managing time, homework tutoring, planning time for kids, how to manage your grades, test prep, MAS tutoring, HSA tutoring

### Underachieving Students

1. Classes for students who are not special ed, but they are very low ability. These students are the students who slip through the cracks as there is no special program for them even though they greatly need extra interventions beyond the regular classroom. In addition, I have watched students who have a teacher read to them for READING MSA, but their IEP's have no one reading the Math MSA questions to them. There is still reading in math if they struggle and can't read the reading part, I watch them struggle and give up because no one will read them the math part because they have no IEP for math. This does not make sense. If a child struggles to read, they struggle in every area that involves reading on the MSA. Just my observations over the years.
2. Support techniques and policies integrated into the typical day that support the learning and motivational needs of unsuccessful learners such as CLS, project learning, competitive programs, etc., to address specific downward trends in the achievement of boys and support the philosophy that all students can learn and succeed. Moving to address so many who we house while looking proactively for intervention and alternatives that could re-engage those who have lost or not yet achieved a zest for learning.
3. Facilitating academic excellence among marginalized groups

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4. MORE SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS WHETHER THEY HAVE AN IEP OR NOT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
5. Research-based Interventions
6. remediation

### Unified Arts

1. Students' social, emotional, and cognitive needs, there should be a drama class for the future actors/actress.
2. WHY DOESN'T BAMS offer Family and consumer sciences this year!!!!!! Oh Wait I know. The principal said she didn't have enough teachers because of PMMHS!!!!!!
3. we need a class that teaches us more about building and mechanics and a prime subject
4. The lack of the teachings of some classes such as Family and consumer science and Computer science.
5. drawing
6. We should have more time for U.A. classes
7. they should have higher and lower levels of art and things like that. they should also have a design program because a lot of middle schoolers enjoy that field of work.
8. more facts time because some students when they make stuff (food) and it may take more time than the period.
9. photography videoography
10. It goes along with music I think we should learn more on different types of dances because it will be fun for the students and also at the same time we can get education out of it instead of just singing and playing instruments because not everybody has the time to play instruments or sing so I think we should add more to the Music/performing arts group
11. Drama Class for unified arts.
12. Students should get to have a drama class and. We don't get to have enough time for anything in school.
13. Art and Drama need to be important in middle school
14. More time during the school year for tech. ed and other u.a.s
15. tech ed
16. cooking
17. Special areas on a quarter based rotation for all grade levels
18. Home economics, a class on how to properly conduct oneself in manners and jobs.
19. cooking
20. woodshop
21. Why do our art students have to buy so many art supplies when they rarely use them? Year after year it is the same thing. My kids come home with about six pictures that they had drawn. They spend too much time decorating their portfolios and not enough time learning how to draw and shade and all those other things artists do. There is just too much waste when it comes to this class.
22. Culinary Arts
23. Industrial Arts
24. I think students should be given the option to elect which specials they wish to take. I think media time to freely explore the media resources should be included as one of those options. Other club-like opportunities (book club, school spirit club, etc. could be included in the rotation). With so many working parents, the opportunity to participate in after school clubs is unavailable to many students. I also think a student should be allowed to take a special for two quarters (eg. computer lab) and skip another (such as art). I think this would make the classes more meaningful for both the student and the instructor.
25. Home economics - not offered at all middle schools

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26. Baby Sitting courses should be available
27. The cooking classes that the high schoolers have and we don't, some kids are into soccer now, and they want to play but can't. Maybe the limitations could stop at 8th grade, because the older, 6th and 7th still are too young and too fragile for hardcore activities like that.
28. shop, it's a very fun class!!!
29. fashion designing
30. teck ed
31. wood shop
32. i think they should add ... a cooking class to the schools .
33. Interior design
34. Illustrations
35. industrial arts

### **Uniforms/Dress Code**

1. Uniforms
2. Uniforms for students and possibly at least uniform shirts for faculty
3. School uniform use
4. School uniforms
5. school uniforms
6. Should middle schools wear uniforms?
7. Should middle schools wear uniforms?
8. school uniforms should be considered in this survey!
9. Should middle schools wear uniforms?
10. Should middle schools wear uniforms?
11. Should all public middle schools wear uniforms?
12. School uniforms should be worn by public school students
13. dress code for students
14. Mandatory Uniforms in Harford County Schools
15. School uniforms
16. Dress code
17. Uniforms
18. school uniforms
19. school uniforms
20. uniforms

### **World Languages**

1. i think that they should provide like an Italian language class
2. foreign language
3. more foreign languages
4. We should not do Foreign language
5. Students should be able to learn a new language by class
6. foreign language should be addressed as well

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7. beginning foreign language where effective programs begin: elementary
8. foreign language should start sooner! No later than 6th grade.
9. foreign language
10. Cultures
11. the choice of learning russian, japanese, and chinese languages
12. forenlanguage ( chinese, japense, latin )
13. we should learn a foreign language
14. Foreign languages
15. other lenguge
16. ESOL opportunities
17. gremany