



Potomac Shores Middle School 2024-2025

Rising 6th Grade Information Night

2/29/24

Admin Team



PRINCIPAL

Ms. Kanika Dorsey

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mr. Tim Miller

8th Grade & 7th Grade (A-J)

Ms. Kassandra DiPlacido

6th Grade & 7th Grade (K-Z)

FRONT OFFICE

Lindsay Holmes, Administrative Assistant I

703-291-8486

Chineata Edwards, Office Assistant

703-291-8484

PARENT LIASON

Ms. Ingrid Calcagno

Director of Counseling

Ms. Jessica Elliot

Special Education Department Chair

Ms. Brianna Hines

Instructional Technology Coach

Ms. Tara Berry

Athletic Director

Mr. Brent Anderson

Safety and Security

Mr. Steve Madison

6th Grade Counselor – John Lang (Q-Z)

—”

QUOTE

*“The future belongs to
those who believe in the
beauty of their dreams.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt

—”



6th Grade Counselor – Michelle Wiredu (A-P)

Every child deserves a
champion
-- an adult who will
never give up
on them,
who understands the
power of
connection
and insists that they
become
the best that they can
possibly
be.
-- Rita F. Pierson



PSMS Academic Advising



Pattie Elementary School - March 4, 2-3 p.m.

Montclair Elementary School - March 11, 2-3 p.m.

Ashland Elementary School – March 14, 9 a.m.

Sawn's Creek Elementary School - March 20, 2 p.m.

Covington Harper Elementary School - March 21, 9:45 a.m.

River Oaks Elementary School(TBD)

Mary Williams Elementary School (TBD)

6th Grade Courses



7 Period Day

- Math 6 or Extended Math 6 or Pre- Algebra
- Language Arts 6 or Extended Language Arts 6
- Science 6
- Social Studies 6
- HPE 6
- Performing Arts - Band, Orchestra, Chorus, or Drama
- Choice of 8 quarter Encore Classes (Rank from 1-11):
 - FACS Personal Development Part 1
 - FACS Personal Development Part 2
 - Tech Ed Part 1
 - Tech Ed Part 2
 - Painting and Drawing 6
 - Ceramics and Sculpture 6
 - Art 6
 - Computer Science Discoveries
 - STEM Solutions
 - Music Appreciation
 - Creative Writing

*quarter class selection is based on seat availability

**2 quarters of Gifted 6 for Gifted qualified students

6th Grade Sample Schedule

Period	Course Name	Duration
	1 Math 6	Year
	2 Language Arts 6	Year
	3 Social Studies 6	Year
	4 Science 6	Year
	5A PE 6	Year
	5B Orchestra	Year
	6 Music Appreciation 6	Quarter 1
	6 FACS Part 1 6	Quarter 2
	6 Ceramics and Sculpture 6	Quarter 3
	6 FACS 7 - Part II	Quarter 4
	7 Tech Ed Part 1 -6	Quarter 1
	7 Computer Science Discoveries	Quarter 2
	7 STEM Solutions	Quarter 3
	7 Tech Ed Part 2 6	Quarter 4

Language Arts Accelerated Sequence Considerations



What questions should I ask when considering an accelerated sequence?

1. How organized is your child?
2. Does your child display interest, curiosity, and inventiveness in reading?
3. Is your child intrinsically motivated to succeed in Language Arts ?
4. Does your child ask for extra reading opportunities in class or at home?
5. Does your child find Language Arts homework easy, or does he/she struggle and need extra help?
6. What is your child's frustration level when trying to solve difficult problems?
7. What does your child's teacher say about your child's understanding of Language Arts?
8. How has your child performed on Language Arts Standards of Learning tests?
9. What other responsibilities does your child have outside of school that require time?

Extended Language Arts and Math



6th Grade Extended Language Arts Placement

Includes but is not limited to:

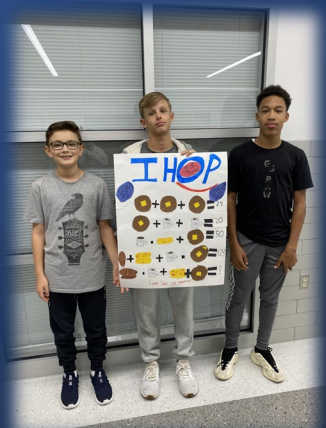
- “B” average in current Language Arts class
- Student is motivated to: work at an accelerated pace, work independently, accept challenges, enthusiastically participate in class, use of critical thinking skills, meets deadlines, and positively collaborate with peers.
- No U’s in effort

Extended Math 6 Placement

The PWCS Central Math office uses 12 data points to determine placement. Recommendations come out in late June.

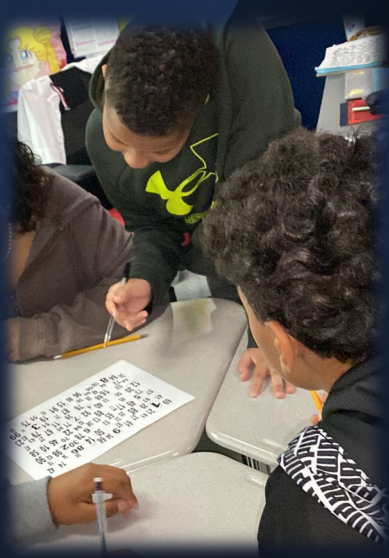
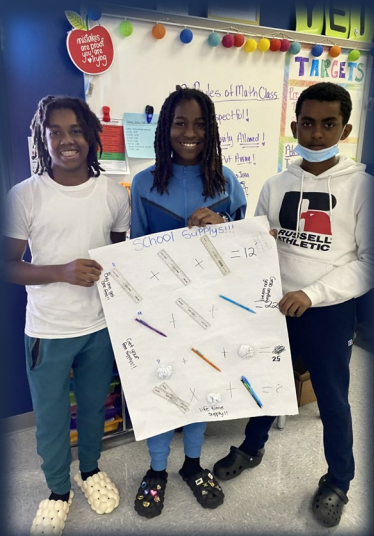
Math Sequence

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Math 6	Math 7	Pre-Algebra
Math 6 Extended	Math 7 Extended	Adv Algebra 1
Math 7 Extended (Pre-Algebra)	Adv Algebra 1	Adv Geometry



Mathematics

Rabah Issa



IMPROVING MATHEMATICAL FLUENCY BY:

Encouraging
positive, safe,
diverse, and challen
ging learning
experiences

Hands-On Projects
and Project Based
Learning

Encouraging studen
ts to ask
questions and make
mistakes

Creating a growth
mindset

Implementing
engaging
math activities

Promoting
success of ALL
learners

Problem solving

Communication

Collaboration

Critical thinking

Encore Class: Math
Support (grades 6-
8 Semester)





Language Arts

Rebecca Repass



SEAHAWKS IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH:

Voice

... experiencing varied genres of literature that highlight author's style and voice

... invitations to write in formal and informal styles with an audience and purpose in mind through daybook and other written products

Choice

...mastery of the reading, writing, and grammar skills as outlined in learning targets through a variety of mediums and experiences

(choice boards, collaborative vs independent practice, leveled texts, different prompts,)

Volume

... increased volume of daily independent reading, research, creation, and discussion of various texts, writing styles, projects, and of elements of media.

Extracurricular Opportunities:

- Book Fair 2x year
- Monthly class lessons with the Librarians

Encore Classes:

- Reading Support (grades 6-8)
- Creative Writing (grades 6 and 7)





Potomac Shores Social Studies

Mr. Joseph Edwards
Department Chair



REMEMBERING THE PAST AND SHAPING THE FUTURE

The mission of social studies education at Potomac Shores Middle School is to develop responsible and productive citizens who will:

Strive for understanding of political, social and economic issues.

Make informed and reasoned decisions for the good of society.

Participate as member of a culturally diverse society in an interdependent world.

As a result of participating in the Potomac Shores Social Studies Programs, students will be able to independently ...

participate actively and effectively as an informed citizen of a democracy;

critically appraise historical and contemporary claims/decisions/issues;

respect diverse cultures and honor equality and human dignity;

apply lessons of the past in order to, anticipate and prepare for the future;

analyze the complex interactions between humans and the environment;

apply economic principals to solve complex problems.



Potomac Shores
Science Dept

Lakisha Johnson
Department Chair



6th Grade

**Sixth Grade
Science**



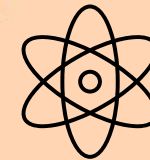
7th Grade

Life Science

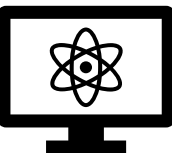


8th Grade

**Physical
Science**



**All students are eligible to participate
in the PSMS Science Fair (optional)**



Athletic Director



The Athletic Department would like to welcome you to Potomac Shores! For anyone curious about participating in Middle School athletics, there are a few things you'll need to know.

- You must have a current sports physical on file with me (Mr. Anderson). The physical must be dated after May 1, 2024. No physical, no tryouts, no exceptions.
- You must also complete the annual PWC concussion training course found at www.pwcs.edu.
- Yes, 6th graders can try out for middle school sports! For more information, please go to the school's website, click student activities, and then athletics.

Welcome to Potomac Shores and go Seahawks!

Health and Physical Education



Physical Education Standards of Learning

▶ **Motor Development**

- demonstrate competence in skillful movement in modified, dynamic game/sport situations and in a variety of rhythmic and recreational activities

▶ **Anatomical Basis of Movement**

- apply movement principles and concepts to specific sport, dance, and recreational skill performance

▶ **Fitness Planning**

- self-assess level of physical activity and personal fitness, create goals, create an action plan, document progress, reassess and modify plan

▶ **Energy Balance**

- demonstrate a physically active lifestyle, including activity within and outside of the physical education setting

▶ **Social Development**

- work independently and with others to demonstrate essential life skills in cooperative and competitive physical activity settings



The Performing Arts



Drama



- Taught by Ms. Lincoln
- Offered as a full year class
- Students will study acting, stage design, movement, basic theatre vocabulary, parts of the stage, and collaboration through various projects
- Students will gain exposure to theatrical material from all over the world and through different time periods
- Class Goal: To grow through performance and design as a collaborative member of our classroom ensemble
- Students can participate in after school theatre opportunities which is also available through Theatre Club

Orchestra

- Taught by Mrs. Ruhlman
- Offered as a full year class
- Students can take either Beginning Orchestra or continuing Orchestra
- Students perform three concerts in 6th Grade
- Students learn violin, viola, cello, or bass
- Students have the opportunity to rent an instrument through school if financially necessary

Band



- Mr. Matalavage and Mr. Burr
- Offered as a full year class
- Students can pick an instrument and learn to play lots of songs they know...and lots they don't!
- Students in 6th grade play the flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and xylophone
- Students in 7th and 8th grade play the saxophone, french horn, bass clarinet, oboe, and bassoon
- Students perform two concerts in 6th Grade that take place in winter and spring

Chorus

- Mr. Kerper and Ms. Davies
- Offered as a full year class
- Students perform two concerts in 6th grade in the winter and spring
- Students sing in many different languages: English, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, and more!
- Students have opportunities to sing at community events
- Our goal in chorus is to grow our students' confidence in using their voices and working TOGETHER
- Class Motto: "This is not a me class, this a WE class!"



Encore



Encore



- Gifted Resource
- Art
- Tech Ed
- Creative Writing
- Music Appreciation
- Family and Consumer Science
- Business and Information Technology

Sixth grade encore classes run on a quarterly rotation. This give students the opportunity to explore many different topics and identify courses they may be interested in moving forward.

Gifted Resource

Catherine Williams



- Half the year
 - 6th Graders will have Gifted Resource
 - Quarters 1 and 3 OR
 - Quarters 2 and 4
- Project-based learning unit each quarter
- Independent Centers each quarter
- Creative Problem Solving
- STEAM Challenges
- Students will find new interests and learn how to navigate through challenges to build emotional resilience
- NNAT Test is administered to all 6th grade students in October

Military and Family Life Counselor – Jillian Marshall



Potomac Shores Middle School
Dumfries, VA
(571) 414-8313
Jmarshall@pwcs.edu

The background of this section is a composite image. It features a large, circular seal of the Department of the Army, United States of America, with the year 1775. The seal is overlaid on a scene of soldiers in camouflage uniforms and helmets, some of whom are looking towards the camera. In the background, a helicopter is visible, and there is a large plume of smoke or dust. The text "OUR MISSION" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below this, a paragraph of text is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

OUR MISSION

To provide non- medical, solution focused, problem-solving counseling support, coaching, and education to Service Members, their families, teachers and caregivers who work in the various Child and Youth Programs on the installation and in the schools.

PSMS Clubs	PSMS Sports		PSMS Sports
Seahawk Ambassadors	Fall:		Spring
Student Council	Football		Baseball
National Junior Honor Society	Cheer		Softball
History	Dance		Girls Soccer
Robotics	Boys Soccer		Boys Track
Yearbook	Girls Track		
No Place for Hate	Volleyball		
Battle of the Books			
Otaku	Winter:		
Drama	Cheer		
Dungeons/Dragons	Dance		
Science Fair	Girls Basketball		
All About Girls Mentoring	Boys Basketball		
Cooking	Wrestling		
Omega U – Boy's Mentoring			



The Front Office, School Front, and Foyer



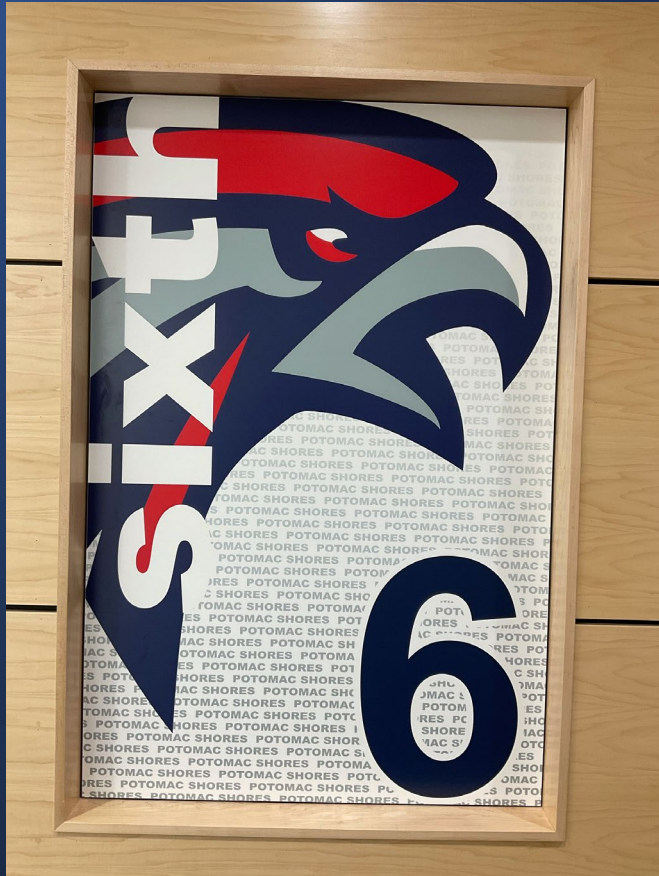
The Library





The Cafeteria

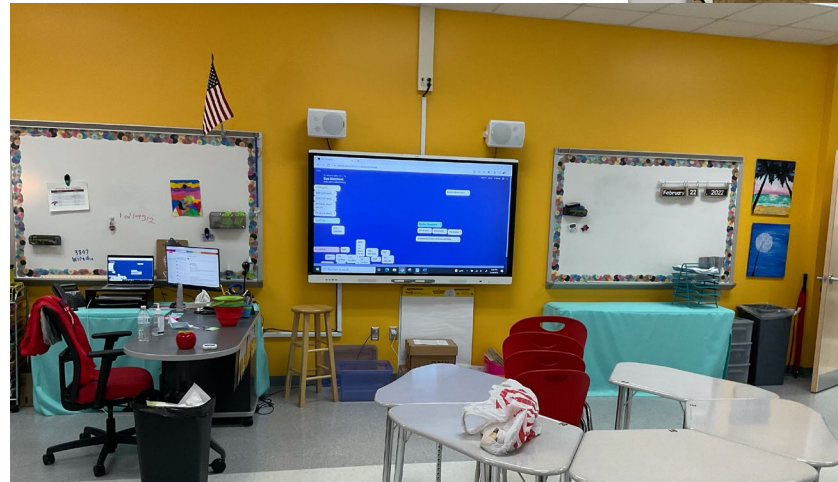
6th Grade Floor



6th Grade Classrooms



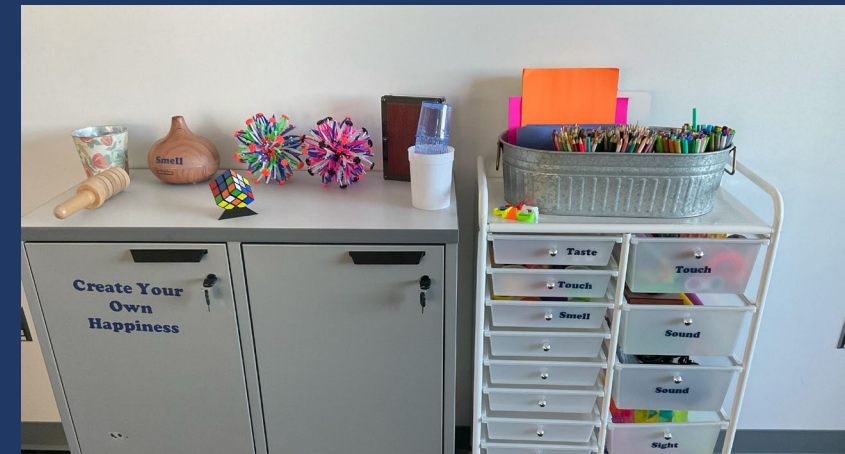
Be the **REASON**
someone
SMILES today





The Wellness Room

A Place to Reset and Practice
a Coping Strategy



Contact Information

Potomac Shores Middle School

17851 Woods View Drive
Dumfries, VA 22026

Kanika Dorsey

Principal
Potomac Shores Middle School
Dorseyk@pwcs.edu

Jessica Elliot

Director of Counseling
Potomac Shores Middle School
Elliotja@pwcs.edu

Tim Miller

Assistant Principal
Potomac Shores Middle School
MillerTC@pwcs.edu

Kassandra DiPlacido

Assistant Principal
Potomac Shores Middle School
DiplacK@pwcs.edu

Brianna Hines

Special Education Department Chair
Potomac Shores Middle School
[*hinesbm@pwcs.edu*](mailto:hinesbm@pwcs.edu)

