

# *Hopewell Middle School*



*Reading / World Language &  
Connections Decision Guide*



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*Dear Students:*

*You are about to start an incredible adventure! Middle School will provide you an opportunity to explore new interests and to discover new talents.*

*Part of your journey will include taking classes such as Reading, World Language, Music, and other Connections.*

*You will have some important choices to make before coming to Hopewell, and we've put together a guide to help you.*

*Read over the information in this packet, see what students have to say about their classes, check out the available websites, and get ready to become a Hopewell Mustang! We can't wait for you to join us!*

*- Hopewell Middle School*



# Reading and World Language







A reading class provides many benefits to students. They explore new worlds through literature while learning strategies to improve a skill that will help them in life, in core subjects, and beyond.

### ***Reading Develops Important Language Skills***

*Whether through books, magazines, or e-books, reading can help cement a child's language skills. Exposure to language helps a child to further develop his/her vocabulary in a way that everyday conversation cannot.*

### ***Reading is a Vital Skill in Finding a Good Job***

*Many well-paying jobs require reading as part of job performance. There are reports and memos which must be read and written. A person is limited in what he/she can accomplish without good reading comprehension skills.*

### ***Reading is Especially Necessary with Today's Technology***

*The computer age has made reading more important than ever. Gathering information on the web or even communicating via email and social media all require reading and writing. Even texting requires reading and writing skills!*

### ***Reading Opens Up the World***

*Being able to read opens the world up to children. They can learn about diverse cultures, histories, and societies. Reading shows life in a different way, both real and imagined. It can inform about the past, present, and future. Reading can take a child to the stars and back without ever leaving home.*

### ***Reading Can Enhance Social Skills***

*A person who has just read a great book wants to share the story with someone else. How many times does one read a book and then find oneself eager to lend it to someone else? In addition, someone who is "well read" is recognized for his/her intelligence, for being cultured, and for having a more interesting background for debates and conversations.*

### ***Reading is Fun***

*Like a good movie, books are fun. One can get whisked off to a world of wizards or trek through the galaxy on a spacecraft. Regardless of a child's interests, reading can be a great pastime.*

Sources: [www.thereadingclinic.com/blog.com](http://www.thereadingclinic.com/blog.com)

<http://www.learn-to-read-prince-george.com/why-is-reading-important.html>

## *I love reading class because...*

- ...I learn new reading words and techniques every day.
- ...the teacher is fun, gives us freedom, and is funny.
- ...reading is powerful.
- ...we have an AWESOME teacher who makes everything fun.
- ...they teach you about social studies, science, and related subjects.
- ...we learn vocabulary in books, and books are always better than the movies.
- ...it takes you to another world.
- ...books are interesting if you take the time to stop and think about the conflict and the setting of the story.
- ...reading is not about who can read the fastest; it's about becoming a better reader and also becoming a better person.
- ...reading can help bring your test grades up in other subjects.
- ...I like the different genres of books.
- ...you learn some useful things, such as how to organize your writing.
- ...if there is a book I've been wanting to read, I can read it in class.
- ...we get to take tests on the computer.



## *My favorite thing about reading class is...*

- ...that I love the projects and the group work activities.
- ...the freedom our teacher gives us, yet she still has high expectations.
- ...that we always have a blast.
- ...that it's very serious but also fun.
- ...I can practice my fluency and become a better reader but also have fun while improving.
- ...we get to read cool books we have never read before.
- ...you can learn and have fun at the same time.
- ...the teacher and the mini-library in her room.
- ...“Coffee House Friday.”
- ...that my teachers are awesome and we get to partner read.
- ...when we get to “popcorn read” and announce the ticket winners.
- ...you get to learn about stories from the past or present.
- ...reading a new book every week.
- ...it gives me a picture in my head!



The comments above were submitted by HMS students.



**Learning Spanish can have both short and long term benefits through the introduction and acquisition of a new language and culture.**

### *Why Learn Spanish?*

- ◆ *Learning Spanish will provide a better understanding of English.*
- ◆ *The Spanish speaking population of the United States has grown exponentially; learning Spanish will provide a better understanding of their culture, practices and perspectives.*
- ◆ *Spanish will enhance your travel experiences.*
- ◆ *Spanish will help to improve your employment potential.*
- ◆ *Spanish is the fourth most common language among the internet community.*

### *Spanish in the United States*

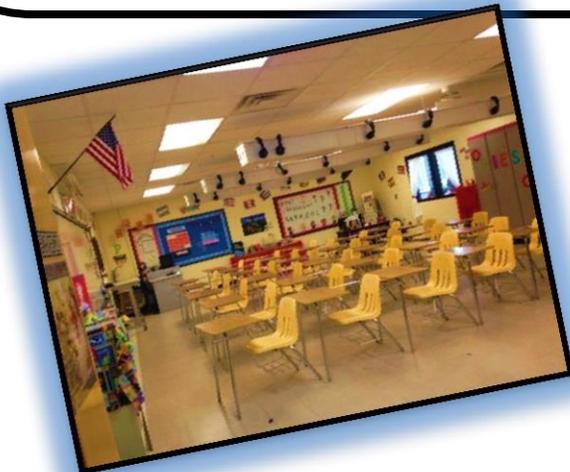
- ◆ *There are over 48.4 million Spanish speakers in the United States.*
- ◆ *40% of the U.S. population growth comes from people of Hispanic origin.*
- ◆ *Knowing Spanish has become a business necessity.*
- ◆ *In the U.S. Hispanic consumers are the fastest-growing market segment.*
- ◆ *Spanish is the most popular world language to learn in the United States.*

### *Spanish in the World*

- ◆ *Spanish has 400 million speakers.*
- ◆ *Spanish is the 4<sup>th</sup> most commonly spoken language in the world.*
- ◆ *There are more native speakers of Spanish than native speakers of English.*
- ◆ *Spanish is an official language on four continents.*
- ◆ *Spanish is the mother tongue of 21 countries.*

## *I love Spanish because...*

- ...it's a very fun learning experience.
- ... it's so interesting learning about other languages, countries, and their cultures.
- ...you get to learn something different than your core subjects.
- ...it's not just about Spain. There are Spanish-speaking countries in North, Central, and South America.
- ...it gives you a chance to communicate with others all around the world.
- ...when you meet someone who speaks Spanish, you can talk to them.
- ...it brings a fun class to my morning.
- ...it will help you later in life.
- ...you learn new things every day.
- ...it's fun being able to speak another language.
- ...of the fun Spanish games we play.
- ...my teacher chooses activities and assignments that are challenging and fun.
- ...it is different and more interesting than my other classes.
- ...knowing a foreign language is one of the most valuable skills to acquire.
- ...we get to use the language lab.
- ...my teacher is AMAZING and makes learning fun and easy.



## *My favorite thing about Spanish class is...*

- ...the projects because you can make them fun and artistic.
- ...the teachers always find a way to make it fun.
- ...learning songs in Spanish.
- ...when we have a cultural food day and we get to bring in yummy food.
- ...that my teacher is so nice and funny.
- ...learning about the culture and the root of the language.
- ...we watch fun videos about the topics we are learning.
- ...the teacher is very energetic and we do many things, including games and watching videos.
- ...you get to learn new things about the culture and explore the language.
- ...it feels amazing to learn something new every day.
- ...it isn't just about the language; it's about the culture.
- ...it's a challenge, and it makes me really think.
- ...that when I am older, it will not only be useful, but also helpful in getting into colleges or getting a job.
- ...I can have a friendship with someone who speaks Spanish.

The comments above were submitted by HMS students in grades 6-8.



**Learning French can have both short and long-term benefits through the introduction and acquisition of a new language and culture.**

### *Why Learn French?*

- ◆ *One of the best reasons to learn French is to help you understand your own language.*
- ◆ *French is the largest donor of foreign words in English.*
- ◆ *Learning French will greatly increase the number of English words you know.*
- ◆ *French is spoken as a native language in more than two dozen countries on five continents.*
- ◆ *French has approximately 72 - 79 million native speakers and 190 million secondary speakers.*
- ◆ *French is the second most commonly taught language, after English, in the world.*
- ◆ *French is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most frequently spoken non-English language in U.S. homes and the second most commonly taught language in the United States (after Spanish) .*
- ◆ *French is currently the number one most sought after language by the Department of Defense.*

### *French in Business*

- ◆ *France has the fifth largest economy in the world.*
- ◆ *In 2003, there were over 2,400 U.S. companies in France.*
- ◆ *France has over 3,000 companies in the U.S. and generates nearly 700,000 jobs.*
- ◆ *French is one of the official languages spoken by our largest trading partner (Canada).*
- ◆ *In the state of Georgia there are approximately 180 French companies. Some include: AL, Abaqus, Adisseo, Alcatel, Aventis, Bostik, Briot, Cermex, Ingenico, L'Occitane, Lacoste, Lafarge, Sephora.*

### *French in the World*

- ◆ *French is the official working language in dozens of international organizations, including the United Nations, International Olympic Committee, and International Red Cross.*
- ◆ *French is the second most frequently used language on the internet.*
- ◆ *French is ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> most influential language in the world.*
- ◆ *More tourists visit France than any other country in the world.*

## *I love French because...*

- ...it's been a dream of mine to fluently speak French and visit France, and in French class I get to learn so many cool fascinating things about France and its culture.
- ...it's a beautiful language and my teacher is AMAZING!
- ...our teacher always has something fun for us to do.
- ...for some holidays, we have food days when we can bring in food for the class.
- ...we have our own website to study on.
- ...it's the best part of the day.
- ...I love learning songs and study strategies.
- ...it helps you connect with other people.
- ...it's different than any other class you will take in a way that is interesting and cool.
- ...you always know that you will encounter something new every day.
- ...you can do projects such as making posters, singing, playing an instrument, or even baking food.
- ...it's not just about France; you will learn about many other French-speaking countries and their cultures.
- ...it's a fun class to take, and I have had a blast this year.
- ...I learn quite a bit of information not only about French, but about linguistics and humanity in general.
- ...I love expanding my horizons and finding connections between my culture and someone else's.
- ...I know I'm learning to communicate with people all over the world.
- ...it will allow me to talk to so many more people when I am older, and it will open career opportunities.



## *My favorite thing about French class is...*

- ...that it makes you think about everything differently because it's always on your mind.
- ...that we do a "lotto (raffle)" every Friday to choose from different prizes, but only if you do your homework.
- ...the classroom looks like a French café.
- ...that we do activities that involve getting out of our seats rather than listening to lectures.
- ... we do a lot of singing and fun songs.
- ...learning new words to say to my family
- ...my teacher makes learning French fun and challenging at the same time.
- ...the enthusiasm the class has when I walk in.
- ...being able to read and understand a sentence without any help.
- ...the fun lessons! My teacher always has the best and most fun lessons planned out. You learn while having fun.
- ...my teacher teaches in such a way that you really want to learn more.
- ...that learning another language can help open up doors to career opportunities in the future that you might not have had if you weren't bilingual.
- ...the fact that what I learn has a direct and immediate effect on me. I surprise myself with the amount of French I am learning.

The comments above were submitted by HMS students in grades 6-8.



# Performing Arts



# Hopewell Middle School Music Department

## Band, Chorus, & Orchestra

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Dear Parents of Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:

We are very excited to introduce to you and your student the music options available at Hopewell Middle School. We are very proud of the outstanding quality and numerous accomplishments of our music programs. Your child will have some wonderful opportunities available at HMS, one of which is to become involved with the Hopewell Music Department. More than half of all students at Hopewell Middle School participate in one of the three performing groups. There are classes in band, chorus, and orchestra available to any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, regardless of whether or not they have played an instrument or have sung in chorus before. Students with prior playing and singing experience are encouraged to continue with their instrument/chorus in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

It is important to understand that being in the music department is a yearlong commitment. These classes are the first of seven years' worth of performance-oriented music education offered in middle and high school. With hard work, students will continue to learn about and enjoy music for the rest of their lives. It is also worth noting that there is a financial commitment as well. Most students will be asked to supply their own instruments as well as other instrument related supplies, method books, and uniforms. More information about specific supplies and where to rent or purchase instruments will be distributed at a later date.

Below are brief descriptions of each class and the instruments that are offered. Each class is a performance-oriented course of study that utilizes the Georgia Performance Standards curriculum. All three performing groups participate in group instruction and perform several times each year. In addition, students will have opportunities for enrichment activities such as music festivals, field trips, honor clinics, Solo and Ensemble, and much more. Classes will require hard work, dedication, and a commitment to having fun!! Students will also have the opportunity to participate in musical events such as the "Rock-a-thon" fundraiser, HMS Talent Show, and the Spring Musical.

- Ø **Band** is comprised of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments. Woodwinds include well known favorites like the flute, clarinet, and saxophone but also include fantastic instruments like the bassoon and oboe. Brass instruments include the trumpet, trombone, and French horn but also get bigger and lower with the baritone and tuba. Percussion is more than just a drum set and includes melodic pitched instruments such as bells and marimba in addition to the better known snare and bass drums.
- Ø **Chorus** is the performing music class that sings! The human voice is the most personal, most versatile and most available musical instrument – it is always with you! Choral students learn how to sing solos, sing in harmony, and sing *a capella* (without instruments!), as they develop musicianship and music reading skills. Choral students perform in a variety of concerts with a wide range of musical styles including traditional choral, jazz, classical, musical theatre and pop. Through performance opportunities, students develop stage presence and confidence as they perform throughout the year. Singing skills developed in chorus provide a foundation for future success in many fields of study!
- Ø **Orchestra** is comprised of the string family of instruments. These include the violin- the smallest and highest pitched of the string instruments, the viola- a mellow midrange instrument slightly larger than a violin, the cello- a great lower register instrument, and the string bass - the largest and lowest of the family. Students will have an opportunity to try each string instrument before choosing their specific instrument. All string instruments come in multiple sizes for different sized players.

We are very proud of our music programs here at Hopewell Middle School! Thank you for taking the time to discuss the musical option you feel will be best for your student. In joining our music program, your child will begin a journey which will evolve into a lifetime of music appreciation and enjoyment. We look forward to having your child join our Mustang Music "Family" at HMS!!

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### **HMS Band ([www.hopewellbands.com](http://www.hopewellbands.com))**

Band students learn to play brass, woodwind, or percussion instruments, while also studying basic music theory. The sixth grade band students are placed in either the woodwind class or the brass class. Sixth graders entering the HMS band program must play **flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone** for the first semester of the school year. At the end of the first semester, students will be allowed to try out for other instruments such as oboe, bassoon, saxophone, French horn, tuba, or percussion.

HMS bands participate annually in Festivals of Music, Music in the Parks, and Trills and Thrills, and have won first place distinctions in Myrtle Beach, SC, at Carowinds amusement park in North Carolina, and at Six Flags over Georgia. Hopewell bands have also been invited to perform at the University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival, the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Savannah, and the Music for All National Concert Festival in Indianapolis, IN. Members of the Hopewell band program have consistently earned chairs in both District Honor Band and All-State Band. Students have also participated in the UGA Middle School Band Festival, as well as the Jacksonville State University Honor Band Clinic.

**Students who sign up for Band will be tested on all of the available instruments to decide which ones are the most suitable for them** (preferences will be taken into consideration!). This will take place at their respective schools. Additional information regarding the HMS Bands will be sent home at this time.

### **HMS Chorus ([www.hmschorus.wordpress.com](http://www.hmschorus.wordpress.com))**

In the HMS Chorus, students improve natural talent by learning vocal skills and techniques in daily rehearsal. Students learn to sight-read music as part of a comprehensive musicianship program along with performance concerts in the fall, winter and spring and additional performance opportunities throughout the year. The HMS Chorus also performs for many community events such as the annual Tree-Lighting and The Milton Round-up. Each grade level has two chorus classes, mixed chorus and girls chorus, and often performs across grade levels as well as combines with all classes in performances. There are over 200 singers currently participating in the HMS Chorus with an average of approximately 35-40 singers per class.

The HMS Chorus has consistently received Superior ratings for performance and sight-reading at our annual District Large Group Performance Evaluation as well as a first place ranking in Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags over Georgia. The HMS Chorus has also received invitations to perform at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida as part of the Disney Performing Arts Program in addition to performances at local events. HMS Chorus students have regularly been selected as members of the Georgia Music Educators District Honor Chorus, Georgia All State Chorus, Spivey Hall Honor Choir Workshop, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Statewide Honor Chorus, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Southern Division Honor Chorus as well as the ACDA National Honor Chorus.

### **HMS Orchestra ([www.hopewellochestra.weebly.com](http://www.hopewellochestra.weebly.com))**

The HMS Orchestra has over 200 members comprised of students on violin, viola, cello, and bass. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra focuses on developing basic technique (bowing and left hand), note reading skills, music theory, and musicianship; in addition to building a strong sense of responsibility, teamwork, and commitment. Sixth grade orchestra students participate in three concerts, with additional performance opportunities throughout the school year.

The HMS Orchestras participate annually in the Music in the Parks and Trills and Thrills Festivals at Six Flags over Georgia and Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tn. The orchestras have won first place and Best Overall Orchestra distinctions at both festivals. Hopewell Orchestras have also received invitations to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Savannah, the Governor's Mansion Holiday Open House, and the Disney Performing Arts Program at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. The HMS Orchestras have consistently received Superior ratings for performance and sight-reading at the GMEA District Five Large Group Performance Evaluation. HMS Orchestra students have regularly been selected as members of the GMEA All-State Orchestra, Fulton County Youth Orchestras, GMEA District Five Middle School Honor Orchestra, and GMEA Solo and Ensemble.



# Connections





*Connections are like elementary school specials. Students must choose a General Connections program or a Performing Arts connections program. These pages will provide you with an overview of some of the general connections offered this year. Connections may vary from year to year.*



## ***Physical Education***

Physical Education focuses mainly on physical fitness activities that help promote the overall well-being of students. Students learn about ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle and the importance of being active in and out of school. Students participate in the “mile run” and “circuit” once a week. They also participate in various activities that focus on health-related fitness components. The “Fitnessgram” is required by the state, and students are tested twice during a nine-week period. This test evaluates their cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

## ***Business and Computer Science***

In Business and Computer Science, students explore touch-typing, expanding their knowledge at each grade level. Students move from keyboarding to Microsoft Office activities, with more involvement in each area of Office per grade level. Students also learn about marketable skills for today’s job market. In compliance with Georgia Literacy Standards, students are involved in reading, writing, and hands-on activities dealing with varying technology issues.

## ***Visual Art***

Visual Art students participate in a variety of 2D and 3D assignments as they learn about the elements and principles of design. Emphasis is placed on materials and techniques, developing craftsmanship, and drawing from observation.

## ***Debate***

Students in Debate Class gain a command of the fundamental processes of argumentation and debate. They demonstrate familiarity with various materials and methods of research. They improve their ability to think clearly, critically, creatively, and analytically while demonstrating effective oral communication skills. Students design and present impromptu, extemporaneous and prepared arguments.

## ***Health***

Health is a course where students learn to take positive action regarding their own well-being. Students learn that good health habits can improve the way they look, prevent illness, and increase success in school. A healthier lifestyle also provides students with increased interaction among peers. The overall goal is to teach students about a better quality of life, which provides physical, emotional and mental wellness.

## ***Adventure Quest***

The Adventure Quest course is characterized by an atmosphere that is fun, supportive and challenging. We use non-competitive games and group problem-solving initiatives to help students learn the value of teamwork, gain decision making strategies, practice leadership skills, and appreciate individual differences. Students also increase their knowledge of outdoor skills such as knot tying, orienteering, and camping. This course challenges students to go beyond their perceived boundaries.

## ***Drama***

Drama Class is coming in the fall of 2015!

## ***Broadcast Journalism***

Broadcasting Journalism is a hands-on class in film production, film directing, film editing, Final Cut Pro editing, shooting video for TV, video production and TV news production. Students will produce videos with their peers that they will share with the class and with the school community.

## Here's what students are saying about their connections classes:

I look forward to band every day. I have met so many nice people and have fallen in love with the flute. My band teacher is so helpful and nice.

Chorus is fun because the teacher always has things to help your specific voice.

Everyone should take broadcasting journalism...if your video is amazing, it could end up on the morning announcements.

PE has helped me stay healthy and become stronger for my sport.

I loved Adventure Quest because we went outside; also, our teacher was the best!

I would strongly encourage you to do chorus. Not only will you learn to read music and sing in key, but you will have tons of fun and be proud of what you've accomplished as a student.

I am in the orchestra and I play the cello. The orchestra teacher is amazing. She has the ability to be supportive to the entire class at the same time. She never leaves a student behind. I just started playing an instrument last year and her teaching has molded me into a master of the basics of music. I am very fortunate to have her as my teacher.

Broadcasting Journalism is the best class because you get to make commercials, music videos, and it's just such a fun, new experience. Plus, the teacher is super nice and awesome!

I like Visual Art because we get to make different crafts and drawings. Our teacher is also very kind and helps us if we have trouble.

I loved learning all about how to win an argument, and our actual debate that we had was really cool!

I loved typing because it was exciting to learn a new skill that will be so useful in life. Being able to [touch] type made projects go amazingly faster.

I really enjoyed Health class because the information was useful and could be applied to everyday life. Also, the health teacher is very nice!

It was fun to learn how to debate and then actually get to debate with other people in the class.

Band is cool because I have met a lot of people who aren't in any of my other classes, and we have worked together to be an amazing, award-winning band.

I enjoy playing violin because I think that just four strings make such a unique sound! I also like that we get to go on field trips.

The art teacher shows you techniques and effects you can apply to your piece. She also assigns creative crafts that I really enjoyed.

In P.E., the games are so fun, and sometimes you really get into an exercising mood, and you want to stay in the class forever.



For more information,  
visit [www.risingmustangs.com](http://www.risingmustangs.com)  
or visit websites for  
these 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
from 2014-2015:



## *Reading:*

<http://my.homeworknow.com/teacher/herndona>



## *Spanish:*

<https://www.edmodo.com/perezv75>



## *French:*

[www.bonjourmadame.weebly.com](http://www.bonjourmadame.weebly.com)