

## **G/T SCIENCE II – GRADE 7 CLASS DESCRIPTION**

The Maryland State Department of Education's Standards Committee defines science as a "a body of knowledge developed through the process of investigating that is combined with thoughtful reflections guided by critical thinking skills. This body of knowledge is dynamic and has a dramatic impact on every aspect of social life." The Howard County Public School System science program is grounded in this vision of science. Throughout the middle school science program, the concepts of science are taught in conjunction with science skills and process in order to develop in students a deeper and richer understanding of scientific facts and principles.

### **Grade 7 Science II G/T**

Seventh grade students continue to develop skills and processes learned in sixth grade, including identifying and implementing elements of well-designed investigations. The expectation is that students will continue to apply the concepts of independent and dependent variables, controlled variables, and hypotheses. Students will have many opportunities to collect, organize, analyze, and present data. Because the focus in seventh grade is on living organisms, the data they will collect will be related to the biological world. The Essential Curriculum for Grade Seven Science includes eight units. They are as follows:

- It's Alive! How Scientists Investigate Living Organisms
- The Cell
- Structure and Function of Living Organisms
- Diseases
- Genetics
- Evidence of Change
- Ecology
- Grade 7 G/T Science Research

Emphasis is placed on the G/T science research unit and the differentiated G/T objectives. The result is an increase in the depth and complexity of the topics being studied, commensurate with the learning needs of highly able or high achieving science students.