

# Harper's Choice Middle School

## PROFILE

2011-12

5450 Beaverkill Road • Columbia, MD 21044 • 410.313.6929 • <http://hcms.hcps.org>



Harper's Choice Middle School is a partnership of students, staff and parents – all committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for our children. At Harper's Choice Middle, we offer a rigorous and highly challenging academic program, while providing enrichment opportunities to ensure the success of all students. Our staff members actively cultivate a climate where respect, responsibility and relationships are modeled and valued. Our school community shares the vision of learning for a lifetime and believes that excellence includes high quality teaching, active parent involvement and successful student performance with academic and behavioral expectations. Our staff members strive to ensure an exceptional middle school experience by providing a challenging, rigorous and well-balanced academic, fine arts, and enrichment program that fosters a sense of self-discipline and compassion.

Harper's Choice Middle School supports an outstanding instrumental and vocal music program that effectively prepares students for the internationally recognized Fine Arts program at the high school level. Nearly 50 percent of HCMS students participate in band, orchestra and chorus. Our school remains committed to supporting a comprehensive music program that enriches the lives of participating students and brings enjoyment to the community.

Harper's Choice Middle School staff members recognize their responsibility to develop students who are competent with essential skills, able to use information to solve real-world problems, and capable of working collaboratively in a rapidly changing and diverse world.

Restia Whitaker, Principal  
Tiffany Carmean, Assistant Principal

### Fast Facts

**Facility opened** - 1973

#### Additions/Renovations

1999 (R), 2000

**School Capacity:** 506

*(This does not include additional capacity provided by 5 portable classrooms.)*

**Total Enrollment:** 510

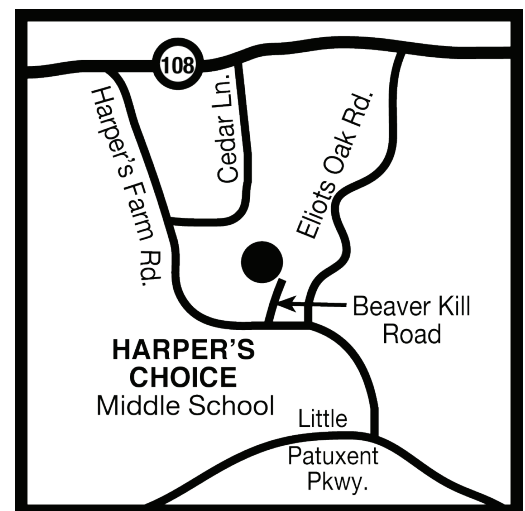
#### Ethnicity

White	24.1%
Asian	7.6%
Hispanic	12.9%
American Indian/Alaskan	0%
African American	46.5%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.4%
Two or more races	8.4%

#### Students Receiving Special Services 2010-11

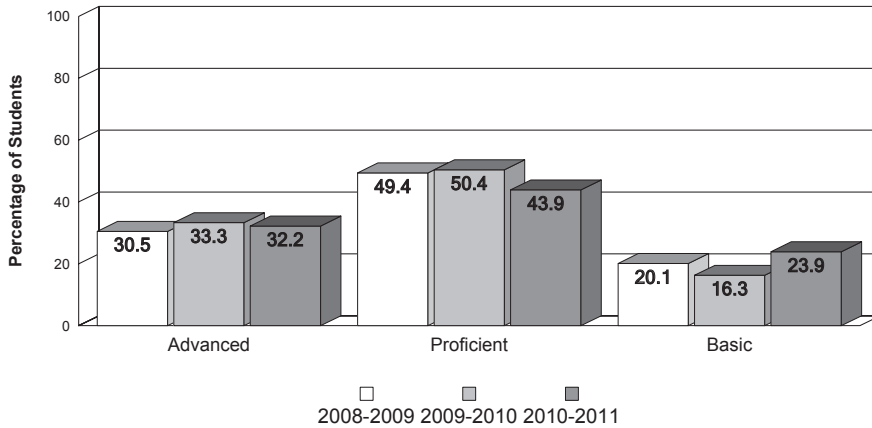
Ltd. English Proficient	1.6%
Free/Reduced Lunch	31.2%
Special Education	11.2%

**PTA members:** 480

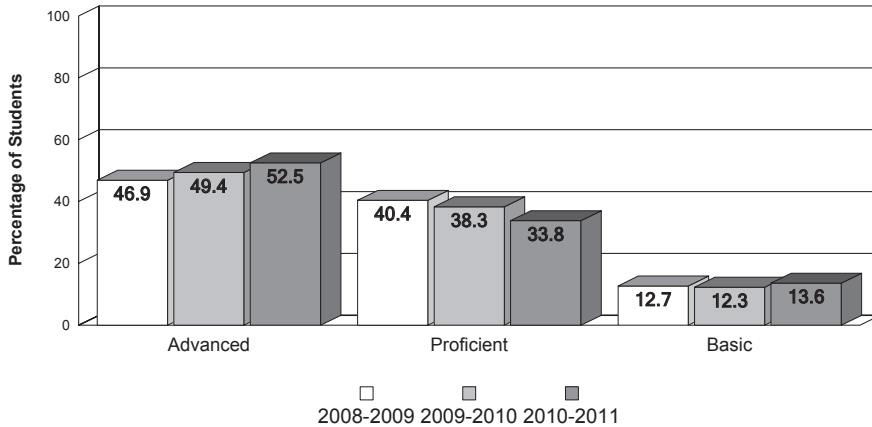


## Achievement Data

### Harper's Choice Middle School MSA - Mathematics



### MSA - Reading



### MSA Standards - Percent Advanced/Proficient

School Year	MSDE AYP Standards		Howard Cty Standard	Harper's Choice MS	
	Reading	Mathematics		Reading	Mathematics
2008-2009	75.9	64.3	AYP% or 70%	87.30	79.90
2009-2010	80.8	71.5	AYP% or 70%	87.70	83.70
2010-2011	85.6	78.6	AYP% or 70%	86.40	76.10

## Accomplishments

- Cited by the *Washington Post* among the "Best 30 Middle Schools in the Washington, DC Area."
- 2010 Maryland PBIS Silver Award.
- National PTA School of Excellence.
- 2011 Healthy Howard Award through the Howard County Health Department.
- 2011 Maryland Fine Arts Grant providing a Shakespeare Residency Program.
- French students received 1st place honors for HCPSS competition *It's Linguistic*, 2010.
- Received 1st place honors at HCPSS debate championships.
- All music departments received recognition of excellence at the Music Showcase Festival at Hershey Park.
- Professional Development School in partnership with Towson University to support education interns.

## Special Programs

- Extended Day / Year Programs
  - Bridges Grant for Academic Intervention
  - Cougar Time Extended Day Program
  - Summer School Program for Academic Enrichment
- Regional Academic Life Skills Program
- Environmental Education Week at NorthBay Camp
- Alternative Education Program
- Spell Read P.A.T. (Phonological Auditory Training) Program
- Gifted and Talented student enrichment activities: Research Design Class, Book Club, Debate Team, HCTV Television Production
- Pacesetters / Student Leadership
- Partnership with Howard County Office on Aging, providing senior citizen mentors who work with students on reading skills
- Comprehensive Intramural Program
- Black Saga Competition Team
- History Day Competition
- Drama Program
- Jazz Band
- Participation in the Music Showcase Festival at Hershey Park
- Sweet Serenades (a performing arts evening sponsored by Music Boosters)
- Tri-M Music Honor Society