

Harper's Choice Middle School

PROFILE

5450 Beaverkill Road • Columbia, MD 21044 • 410-313-6929 • hcms.hcpss.org/



Harper's Choice Middle School is devoted to meeting the needs of a diverse learning community. The students bring with them a rich mixture of cultures and talents that contribute to a dynamic school community.

Established in 1973, Harper's Choice Middle School has been serving the community for 50 years. The staff, students, and community are proud of the rich history of HCMS and focus on continuing to prepare the students for participation in a diverse, challenging, and increasingly competitive global society.

Harper's Choice Middle School is committed to creating a vibrant, inclusive community that meets the needs of the whole child by celebrating diversity, providing rigorous instruction to all, building positive relationships, fostering a nurturing school environment, and supporting the well-being of each child and staff member.

HCMS students have access to a rigorous academic program, including a variety of enrichment opportunities. These opportunities include a number of athletic and academic intramural programs including Art Club, Girls on the Run, Cheerleading, Cougars to Kings, MESA (Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement), RAC (Rainbow Alliance Club), Jazz Band, and Basketball, which are offered throughout the year. Students may participate in a multitude of curricular enrichment programs which include but are not limited to HCTV, Speech and Debate, Filmmaking, Leadership, and Environmental Studies. Students may also participate in the CATS (Cougar Academic Tracks for Success) after school program. In addition to the wide variety of academic activities, HCMS staff, students and community promote a safe and nurturing environment through the award-winning Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program.

Fast Facts

Facility opened: 1973

Additions/Renovations
2001 (R)

School Capacity: 506
(This does not include additional capacity provided by 5 portable classrooms.)

Total Enrollment: 469
Official count 9/30/23

Ethnicity FY24

American Indian/Alaskan	≤5.0%
Asian	7.9%
Black/African American	46.1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	≤5.0%
Hispanic/Latino	22.4%
White	16.0%
Two or more races	7.5%

Students Receiving Special Services FY23

Free/Reduced Meals	54.3%
English Learners	8.6%
Special Education	12.2%

Administrators:

Alexia Couch, Principal
Rhoda Núñez-Donnelly, Asst. Principal
Tiffanie Nunley, Assistant Principal
Christopher Lombardi, Leadership Intern

Updated December 2023

Achievement Data

HCMS Performance on State Tests*

Measure	2022 Results	2023 Results
Percent Proficient English Language Arts	38.4%	37.6%
Percent Proficient Mathematics	15.8%	15.6%
Percent Proficient Science	28.0%	19.5%

State accountability information can be accessed at <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/>

Special Programs / Partnerships

- Alternative Education Program
- BSAP Program
- Environmental Education
- Extended Day Program – Bridges Grant (21st Century Community Learning Centers) for Academic Intervention and Enrichment
- Girls on the Run
- History Day Competition
- “Our Voice” Literary Magazine
- Student Enrichment Activities: Research Design Class, Book Club, Debate Team, HCTV Television Production, Film, and Photography, African American History, Leadership and Environmental Studies

Educational Partnerships

- Blessings in a Backpack
- Columbia Association
- Harper's Choice Community Association
- Howard County Library, Central Branch
- Howard County Office on Aging and Independence, Florence Bain Senior Center
- Howard County Police Department, Harper's Choice Village Center
- LindaBen Foundation
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, Green Schools Program
- McDonald's, Harpers Farm Road
- No Kid Hungry, Share Our Strength
- Prepare for Success, Community Action Council of Howard County
- Safeway, Harpers Farm Road
- Salazar Catering Services/ Boardroom Café
- The Kindness Pantry
- Winter Growth, Ruth Keeton House

Accomplishments

- Maryland Green School, Certified
- Maryland PBIS Gold Award 2018–19, Silver Award 2019–20
- Bright Minds Foundation Grant
- Recognized a Carson Scholar 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21
- Professional Development School in partnership with Towson University to support education interns.
- State Qualifier in Lego Robotics Competition 2018–19
- First Place Core Values Lego Robotics Competition 2018–19
- Students selected for Howard County Honors Band, HC G/T Wind Ensemble, HC G/T Orchestra, HC 6th grade Honors Chorus and HC G/T Chorus 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22, 2022–23
- Student selected for Maryland All State Band 2021–22
- Robotics Global Innovators Award 2018–19
- First Place Howard County MLK Essay Contest 2018–19
- First Place Howard County Young Authors Poetry Contest 2018–19
- First Place Maryland Young Authors Poetry Contest 2018–19
- Superior Rating Chorale Adjudication 2018–19
- Students published in Rainbow Vision Magazine 2019–20
- Students published literary and photographic pieces in HCPSS magazine Our Voice 2019–20
- Honorable Mention Howard County Young Authors Contest 2019–20