

# Langston Hughes Middle School Transition Guide

*We are P.O.W.E.R.ful!*



# Welcome to Langston Hughes Middle School



We are looking forward to welcoming you to Langston Hughes Middle School for the 2025-26 school year! You are probably experiencing mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness as you think about becoming a new student. Beginnings aren't easy; you are not alone! Your fellow students from the different elementary schools are sharing those same emotions. Remember, 7th graders make up HALF of our student body, and they are all new, just like you! This transition guide will explain everything you need to know to be set up for success. The last few slides contain common questions that students usually ask, but don't worry, if you still have questions, there will be plenty of staff members available to help you. We will see you soon!

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Administrative Team



Principal

Associate  
Principal

Director of  
Student  
Services

Assistant  
Principal  
Grade 8

Assistant  
Principal  
Grade 7

Dean of  
Students

Dr. Mizell

Ms.  
Duncan-Hudspeth

Ms. Brooks

Mr. Braxton

Ms. Kirk

Ms.  
Mohrbacher

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Student Services Team



<b>School Counselors</b> Each grade level has two counselors. Your counselor will be listed on your class schedule.	Karen Bach Mark Blocker Angel Evins Lea Fadden
<b>Social Worker</b>	Brianna Smalls
<b>Psychologist</b>	Melissa Norris
<b>Registrar</b>	Cristina Hannon
<b>Family Liaisons</b>	Maya Skaff Janessa Valentine
<b>Director of Student Services</b>	Marissa Brooks








# Langston Hughes Middle School

## We are P.O.W.E.R.ful!



Here at Langston Hughes, we embrace a culture of P.O.W.E.R. These are more than school rules, they are character traits that foster academic and social-emotional success, both in school and in the community. Our P.O.W.E.R. program includes a variety of incentives and recognitions. Students can earn P.O.W.E.R. Cards for exhibiting a P.O.W.E.R. trait. Cards are entered into weekly prize drawings. Teachers can also submit class P.O.W.E.R. Cards when an entire class is thriving. Class P.O.W.E.R. Card drawings are held weekly on the Hughes News. Additionally, P.O.W.E.R. Parties are held each quarter, for the whole school! That's right- once a quarter every student in the school, who exhibits P.O.W.E.R. traits, attends a party! This chart below explains what P.O.W.E.R. is all about. We believe that at Langston Hughes, all students have the P.O.W.E.R.!

<b><u>P</u>unctual</b>	<b><u>O</u>wnership</b>	<b><u>W</u>elcoming</b>	<b><u>E</u>ngaged</b>	<b><u>R</u>espect</b>
Be on time for school and classes.	Take responsibility for actions and fix mistakes.	Welcome all members of our school community.	Come to class ready to learn and choose appropriate behaviors.	Use kind words and actions when interacting with others.
				

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## What is new in middle school?

- Students make new friends from different schools.
- Students take eight classes with different teachers.
- Block schedule
  - Most classes meet every other day.
- StudentVUE and ParentVUE (SIS)
  - Check class grades and attendance.
- Grading
  - Students earn letter grades instead of number grades.
  - Students are given grades on assignments and assessments that are entered into the gradebook and used to calculate quarterly grades.



# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Middle School Class Schedule



- A middle school schedule contains **eight class periods**.
- All students take these **five** classes:
  - English
  - Social Studies
  - Science
  - Math
  - Health & Physical Education
- Students have two class periods for electives.
- Details about core classes and electives can be found on our Academic Advising website.
- Flex is automatically assigned to students. This is not part of the course selection process. This class period includes school-wide lessons (SEL, IB, AVID), independent work time, academic support, and enrichment opportunities.

Sample Schedule	
1. English	5. Health & PE
2. Social Studies	6. Elective Slot 1
3. Science	7. Elective Slot 2
4. Math	8. Flex

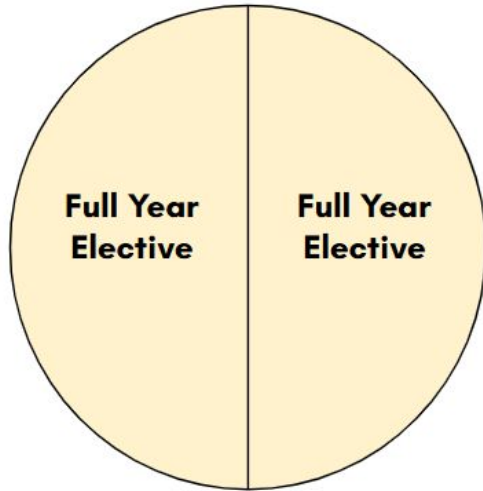
# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Elective Class Periods

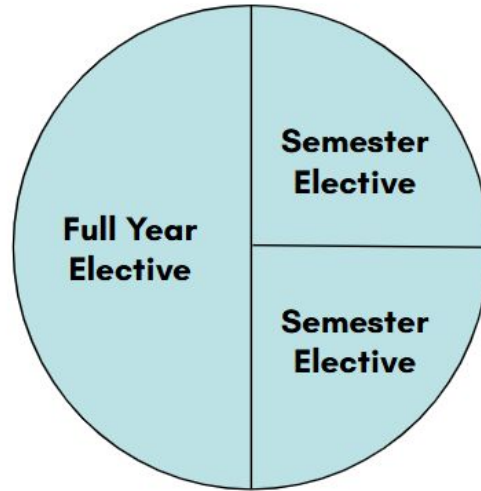


Students have two class periods for elective courses that can be taken in three different ways. Please visit our Academic Advising website ([Course Catalog](#) and [Elective Descriptions](#) link) for details about elective course offerings.

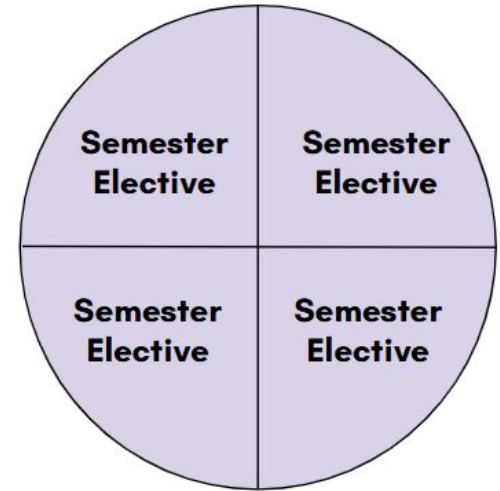
### Option A



### Option B



### Option C





# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Course Information



- [FCPS Course Catalog](#)
- [Elective Course Descriptions](#)
- Curriculum Menus

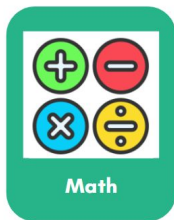
### Langston Hughes Middle School Required Classes

*All students will take one class from each of the these five categories.*

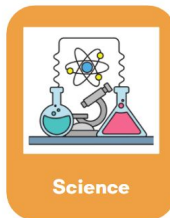
*Click each tile to learn more about the curriculum and course options.*



English



Math



Science



Social Studies



Health & PE

### Langston Hughes Middle School Electives

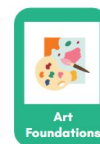
*Click each tile to learn more about the course.*



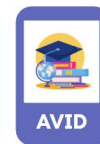
3-D Art



Art Extensions



Art Foundations



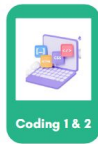
AVID



Band



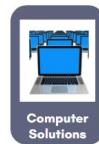
Chorus



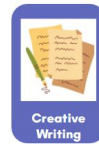
Coding 1 & 2



Computers in Art



Computer Solutions



Creative Writing



Engineering 1,2,3



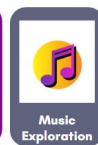
Family & Consumer Sci 1 & 2



Literacy Support



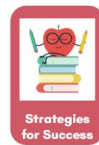
Media Communication



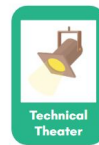
Music Exploration



Orchestra



Strategies for Success



Technical Theater



Theater Arts & Adv Theater



World Languages



Yoga

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Daily Block Schedule



### Blue Days

1<sup>st</sup> Period (90 minutes)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Period (45 minutes)**

**4<sup>th</sup> period Flex (45 minutes)**

5<sup>th</sup> Period (90 minutes)

7<sup>th</sup> Period (90 minutes)

### Gray Days

2<sup>nd</sup> Period (90 minutes)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Period (45 minutes)**

**4<sup>th</sup> period Flex (45 minutes)**

6<sup>th</sup> Period (90 minutes)

8<sup>th</sup> Period (90 minutes)

**School Hours:** 7:30am to 2:15pm

**Blue and gray days** alternate all year. The calendar is set in advance and will be posted on our website.

**Lunch:** Lunch takes place during 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period. Your teacher will tell you when you eat lunch.

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Get Connected and Stay Connected!



### Schoology



Each class will have a Schoology page where teachers post assignments, due dates, and class materials.

### ParentVUE and StudentVUE (SIS)



All parents/guardians must have an active account to monitor grades and attendance. Report card grades should never be a surprise, as progress can be monitored throughout the year.

*If you do not have an account, please contact your elementary school registrar to get one.*

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Homework



- Students will have homework in middle school.
  - Amount of homework varies for each class.
- Honors and Advanced Academics classes will have more homework.
- Students may have additional time to complete some homework during Flex.
- Students may complete homework during the After School Program.

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Honors Classes



- Enrollment in honors courses are open to all students.
- Honors courses are available in English, Math, Science, Social Studies.
- Curriculum includes increased depth and complexity in specific subject area.
- Students should consider honors courses in areas of **strength** and **interest**.
- Academic balance is key.
  - You do not have to take “all honors” or “no honors”.



# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Honors Course Expectations & Considerations

### **Course Expectations**

- Participation during class discussions.
- Work should be turned in on time.
- Ability to work independently.
- Student motivation and organization.

### **Factors to Consider**

- Are you interested in the subject?
- Have you done well in the subject?
- Would you like to challenge yourself in that subject?

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Advanced Academic Program Courses



- Students are found eligible for level IV AAP through the FCPS central screening process.
- Students must be identified as level IV AAP in order to access AAP courses in middle school.
  - AAP courses include: English, Science, and Social Studies.
  - Math is not part of AAP. Placements are determined based on readiness.
- Visit the [FCPS AAP website](#) for detailed information.

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Literacy Support Courses



Students are **placed** in literacy support courses based on need and data (test scores). Reading electives are year-long courses.

- L.A.P. (Literacy through Active Participation)
- Literacy 7
- Literacy 8

Courses are based on the 'Science of Reading' practices. Incentives and contests are embedded in classes to support motivation. Parents/Guardians will receive notification letters in the summer if their student requires a reading support elective. Please contact our Reading Specialist, [Jody Lawrence](#), for more information.



# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Multilingual Learners



- This program supports students with a home language other than English.
- Courses for beginning English learners are focused on language acquisition.
- Some core content courses are team-taught by ESOL and content area teachers.
- Students will complete a course request form. Final course schedules will be based on WIDA test scores and EL levels.
- Questions or concerns? Contact our ESOL Department Chair, Min Jung: [mkjung@fcps.edu](mailto:mkjung@fcps.edu)

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Special Education



- The Special Education program includes a continuum of support.
  - Classes vary based on student's IEP.
  - Students may be in general education, team-taught, and/or small group classes, depending on their individual areas of need.
- Support Courses (Please see [Course Catalog](#) for descriptions.)
  - Literacy
  - Strategies for Success
  - Personal Development
- All students will complete a course request form. Final course schedules will be in accordance with students' IEPs.
- Questions or concerns? Contact our Special Education Department Chair, Laura Vagts: [lmvagts@fcps.edu](mailto:lmvagts@fcps.edu)

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP)



- An inclusive program and framework for teaching and learning.
- Defining features of IB MYP schools:
  - A focus on skills for learning, inquiry, and relevance.
  - Use of IB assessment rubrics.



# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)



- **School-Wide Strategies and Initiatives**

- Fosters a culture of college and career readiness.
- Supports students taking advanced courses.

- **AVID Elective Course**

- Students may apply for the AVID elective course.
- Coursework includes: work on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading skills.

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## After School Program



- **Clubs and Sports**

- Offerings vary each year and are developed based on student interest.
- Our students participate in [county-wide track and cross country](#).
- [Click here to view our current clubs](#).

- **Academic Support**

- Teachers provide after school help during office hours.

- **Student Registration**

- Parents/Guardians should complete the 'After School Permission Form' when school begins.
- Students do not need to sign up for individual clubs in advance.
- Dates and times are communicated to all students via the Hughes News morning show and Schoology.

Late buses are available 4 days per week, which means you don't need a ride to stay after school!

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## After School Clubs - Sample List



- Beads and Bracelets
- Video Game Club
- Dance
- JROTC
- Weight Training
- Flag football
- Tennis
- Cheerleading
- Improv
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Lounge
- STEM
- Yearbook
- Student Council
- Service Learning

Clubs may be different each year based on student interests. You may request to start a new club.

After School Specialist:

Mr. Kyle

[fmkyle1@fcps.edu](mailto:fmkyle1@fcps.edu)

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **How will I know what bus to ride?**

- Your bus stop and pick-up/drop-off time will be posted in StudentVUE and ParentVUE one week before school starts. Arrive at your bus stop about 15 minutes early for the first few days of school.

### **What do I bring on the first day of school?**

- Bring a pencil or pen and a notebook so you can write down information given by your teachers. They will tell you what additional supplies you need for their class. If you need financial assistance with supplies, speak with your counselor.

### **Where do I go on the first day of school?**

- Go to your 1st period class. There are plenty of adults in the hallway to help you locate your classes.

### **What will happen if I get lost or if I am late?**

- Don't panic! Ask a staff member for help. If you are a little late to a class the first few days, your teacher will understand. Do the best you can!

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **With so many different classes, how will I stay organized?**

- Students will receive an agenda notebook to write their assignments. Using your agenda and Schoology are the best ways to stay on top of your work. Many students use a binder with dividers or folders to organize papers from different classes. Your teachers will also have suggestions.

### **Can I bring my phone to school?**

- Your phone must stay off and be in your backpack, at all times, during the school day.

### **When can I use the restroom?**

- Students use an electronic hall pass system to ask teachers during an appropriate time of class to use the restroom. Students may also use the restroom between classes and during lunch.

### **What is lunch like?**

- Lunch takes place during 5th and 6th periods. A 15-minute break is attached to the lunch period.
- We have 3 lunch periods: A, B, C. Your 5th and 6th period teachers will tell you what time you eat lunch on the first day of school.
- Teachers walk students to the cafeteria for the first few days of school.



# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **Can I use a backpack?**

- Yes, students are permitted and encouraged to keep their school work and laptop in a backpack.

### **Will I get a locker?**

- Lockers are given by request only, after the first few weeks of school.
- Many students do not use lockers, as it is helpful to have all of your items with you at all times.

### **When will I get my laptop?**

- Laptops will be distributed during the first week of school. It is essential that you bring a fully charged laptop to school each day.

### **How do I know who my counselor is?**

- Your counselor's name will be printed on your class schedule. If you would like to speak with your counselor, ask your teacher for a pass to Student Services. Counselors will also visit classes during the first few weeks of school.

# Langston Hughes Middle School Summer at Langston Hughes

## VIP Camp- July (dates TBD)

- Basketball, Soccer, STEM, Film Making and much more!
- 8:00am to 4:00pm

## Panther Preview - August (dates TBD)

- Get a sneak peek into the life of a Langston Hughes Panther!
- 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Registration information will be in your school's News You Choose.



# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Course Selection Sheet



Students will receive a course selection sheet when Langston Hughes counselors visit their 6th grade class in February. They must be returned to their elementary counselor by February 21, 2025.

### Important Notes

- All students complete course selection sheets.
- Special Education students will be placed in courses in accordance with their IEP.
- Students will be placed in ESOL support classes based on their WIDA scores.

<b>LANGSTON HUGHES MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> 7th Grade Course Selection Sheet 25-26 SY			<b>Last Name:</b> _____ <b>First Name:</b> _____ <b>Student ID:</b> _____ <b>Elementary School:</b> _____	
Visit our Academic Advising Site for detailed information about courses and deadlines. →				
<p>Parents/Guardians should discuss course requests with their students and reach out to content teachers and/or their school counselor with questions. Students who receive Special Education services will be placed in courses in accordance with their IEP. Multilingual Learners will be placed in courses based on their WIDA scores. Teacher staffing is based upon course requests. Selections should be taken seriously and may not be changed after February 28, 2025. Change requests made after this form is turned in must be submitted via the Google form posted on our LHMS Academic Advising Site, accessible through the QR code above.</p>				
Student Signature: _____		Parent Name: _____	Parent Signature: _____	
<b>STEP 1: Required courses:</b> Check one course in each category. Only students in Level IV AAP may check AA.				
<b>English</b> <input type="checkbox"/> English 7 <input type="checkbox"/> English 7 Honors <input type="checkbox"/> English 7 AA	<b>Math</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Math 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Math 7 Honors*	<b>Science</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Life Science <input type="checkbox"/> Life Science Honors <input type="checkbox"/> Life Science AA	<b>U.S. History</b> <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History Honors <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History AA	<b>Health &amp; P.E.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HPE 7
<small>*Students in Advanced Math 6 select "Math 7 Honors". Advanced Math 6 students who score 91+ on the IAAT and 500+ on the Math 7 SOL will be placed in Algebra 1 HR.</small>				
<b>STEP 2: Elective courses:</b> Students have two class periods for electives that can be taken in three ways. We make every effort to place students in their top elective requests; however, due to staffing or schedule conflicts, students may be placed in an alternate course. Students in need of reading and/or math support may be placed in an academic support elective course.				
<b>Option A:</b> Two year-long electives		<b>Option B:</b> One year-long elective and two semester electives		<b>Option C:</b> Four semester electives
<b>Year-Long Electives:</b> Check one <u>or</u> two classes. If you check two year-long courses, you will not have semester electives.				
<b>World Languages</b> <input type="checkbox"/> French 1A <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1A <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1 Immersion** <small>(Like Anne Immersion students only.)</small>	<b>Performing Arts</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Band <input type="checkbox"/> Chorus <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra <input type="checkbox"/> Theater Arts Appreciation <small>Music course auditions will be made in conjunction with elementary schools.</small>	<b>AVID:</b> Students who applied to AVID should select this class AND semester electives below: <input type="checkbox"/> AVID		
<small>** High school credit course; will appear on high school transcript.</small>				
<b>Semester Electives:</b> Semester electives are half-year courses. <b>Number</b> your course choices in order from 1 to 8, with 1 being your top choice. <b>DO NOT</b> use check marks in this section. We make every effort to place students in their top choices; however, you must rank 8 choices.				
___ Art Foundations ___ Art Extensions (Must take Art Foundations first.) ___ 3D Art Exploration ___ Computers in Art ___ Computer Solutions ___ Coding (Must take Comp Solutions first.) ___ Engineering 1 Design & Model ___ Engineering 2 Sim & Fab (Must take Engr 1 first.) ___ Strategies for Success	___ Musical Theater ___ Technical Theater ___ Theater Arts Appreciation ___ Chorus ___ Music Exploration ___ Family & Consumer Sci 1 ___ Family & Consumer Sci 2 (Must take FACS 1 first.) ___ Creative Writing ___ Media Communication			

# Langston Hughes Middle School

## Next Steps



- **January 22-23:** Elementary students visit Langston Hughes.
- **February 3-13:** Langston Hughes counselors conduct academic advising lessons in 6th grade classes. Students will learn about the course selection process, practice completing a course selection sheet, and bring a course selection sheet home for parent/guardian review.
- **February 21:** Rising 7th grade students must return completed course selection sheets to their elementary school counselor. Change requests made after the sheet has been submitted must be done via Google form on our Academic Advising website.
- **February 28:** Student course requests will be posted in ParentVUE under the 'Course Request' tab. Parents/guardians must verify their student's requests through ParentVUE.
- **August:** Students are invited to attend Panther Preview, our 7th grade orientation program. Dates will be announced through elementary school News You Choose and our LHMS homepage.

# Langston Hughes Middle School



Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Role	Name	Types of Questions	Email
Principal	Herman Mizell	General questions	hsmizell@fcps.edu
Director of Student Services	Marissa Brooks	Course offerings, student schedules, and 504s	mlbrooks@fcps.edu
Special Education Department Chair	Laura Vagts	Special Education (I.E.P.s)	lmvagts@fcps.edu
ESOL Department Chair	Min-Jung Jung	Multilingual Learners (E.S.O.L.)	mkjung@fcps.edu
After School Specialist	Franklin Kyle	After School Program	fmkyle1@fcps.edu
Registrar	Cristina Hannon	Enrollment and immunizations	cmhannon@fcps.edu
Family Liaisons	Janessa Valentine & Maya Skaff	Parent/guardian questions	jrvalentine@fcps.edu mbskaff@fcps.edu
Reading Specialist	Jody Lawrence	Literacy support questions	jslawrence@fcps.edu
IB-MYP Coordinator	Chris DelGrosso	IB-MYP Questions	cjdelgrosso@fcps.edu
AVID Coordinator	Kristina Burke	AVID Questions	ktburke@fcps.edu
Advanced Academic Resource Teacher	Ashley Martin	AAP and Honors Questions	ammartin@fcps.edu