



# George Washington Middle School

1005 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA 22301

Tel: (703) 706-4500

Fax: (703) 706-4507

<https://www.acps.k12.va.us>

Dr. Greg Hutchings  
Superintendent

Mr. Jesse Mazur  
Principal

**Every Student Succeeds!**

## 2018–2019 School Profile

### Our Community

George Washington Middle School is a well-respected school located in the heart of Del Ray, a 100+ year old community within the City of Alexandria. Located on Mount Vernon Avenue that runs north-south and is the center of much of our community's activities and functions through the year, George Washington Middle School has a current enrollment of 1,530 students in grades 6-8. Our school, which is named after our nation's first president, has a long history having served many educational roles in the City of Alexandria. It opened in 1935 as George Washington High School. Although T.C. Williams opened in 1965, G.W. remained a four-year high school until 1971. At that time both G.W. and Hammond were designated to serve ninth and tenth graders, with eleventh and twelfth grades at T.C. Williams High School. In 1979, the secondary schools were again reorganized and G.W. became a junior high serving seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. George Washington became a middle school in 1993.

Alexandria City Public Schools serves students who hail from 118 countries and speak more than 120 languages. George Washington Middle School is unique in that it draws from a population that is economically, racially, and ethnically diverse. As a cross-representation of American society, our diversity blends into a rich, heterogeneous student body. The student body is 34% Hispanic/Latino, 17% Black/African American, 42% White, 2% Asian, and 5% Multiracial, American Indian/Alaskan Native, or Unclassified.

G.W. uses the team approach, which offers smaller, more connected learning communities, where students and staff get to know each other quicker, build stronger relationships and are better equipped to ensure student success. Each grade level has its own academic principal, dean of students, two school counselors and an administrative assistant who remain with students all three years of their middle school experience. There are four teams in each grade level with an average of about 130 students per team. Each team has four teachers — one for each of the core subject areas: English, math, social studies and science. School starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. Students have seven classes a day, each 47 minutes and an advisory that meets for 15 minutes.

### Course Offerings— Core Content Courses

Language Arts 6	Honors Language Arts 6
Language Arts 7	Honors Language Arts 7
Language Arts 8	Honors Language Arts 8
Math 6	Honors Math 6
Math 7*	Honors Math 7*
Math 8*	Algebra I*
Geometry*	Algebra II*
General Science 6	Honors General Science 6
Life Science 7	Honors Life Science 7
Physical Science 8	Honors Physical Science 8
US History Part I 6	Honors US History I 6
US History Part II 7	Honors US History II 7
Civics and Economics 8	Honors Civics and Economics 8
Health PE 6-8	<i>*Prerequisite to enroll</i>

### Course Offerings— Elective Courses

Spanish (IA, IB, II)	French (IA, IB, II)
German (IA, IB, II)	Latin (IA, IB, II)
Chinese (IA, IB, II)	Beginning Band 6-7
Concert Band 6-8	Symphonic Band 6-8
Beginning Orchestra 6	Concert Orchestra 6-8
Symphonic Orchestra 6-8	Beginning Chorus 6
Intermediate Chorus 7	Advanced Chorus 8
AVID 6-8	Art 6-8
Make It Your Business 6	Computer Solutions 7
Digital Input Technologies 8	Family & Consumer Science 6-8
Intro to Technology 6	Inventions and Innovations 7
Technology Systems 8	Speech & Drama 6-8

### Grading System

All Honors courses receive additional weighted credit. No weighted credit is given for a grade below a C.

Grade Letter	Numerical Grade	Honors	Standard
A	93-100	4.5	4.0
A-	90-92	4.2	3.7
B+	87-89	3.8	3.3
B	83-86	3.5	3.0
B-	80-82	3.2	2.7
C+	77-79	2.8	2.3
C	73-76	2.5	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3	1.3
D	60-66	1.0	1.0
F	59 & below	0.0	0.0

### Our Staff

Department	Number of Staff
Administrative Staff	6
Support Staff	21
Security Officers and Custodians	15
Cafeteria Aids	7
Student Support Team	10
Core-Content Teachers	48
Special Education Teachers and Staff	21
English Language (EL) Teachers	12
Elective Teachers	14
World Language Teachers	11
Health/PE Teachers	9
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>174</b>

## Student Activities

- The Intramural Sports Program consists of rugby, softball and soccer in the Fall, basketball and floor hockey in the Winter, and flag football, volleyball and track and field in the Spring. It is free after school (3:20-4:15 p.m.) and is offered to all students. Activity buses are available at 4:15 p.m. to take students home. Please contact the Health/P.E. department for more information.
- G.W. offers dozens of faculty-sponsored student extracurricular activities. Such activities include: Board Game Club, Dance Club, Garden Club, Hammerheads (Woodworking Club), Gay/Straight Alliance, History Club, Knits and Knosh (Knitting Club), National Junior Honor Society, and Student Council Association.

## Fine Arts

- The G.W. Band and Orchestra performing ensembles include-Symphonic, Jazz Ensemble, Concert, Intermediate, and Beginning. The groups perform in school, district and city events. The ensembles have won numerous awards at competitions and festivals.
- The G.W. Chorus is a 6-8th grade mixed choral ensemble that performs four times a year. Additionally, they participate in a Pyramid Choral concert and a choral competition at King's Dominion via Music in the Parks. The chorus is planning on competing for seven of the judging categories this school year.
- The G.W. Drama department reaches 350 students through in-class instruction and another 65 students through our school productions. Students attend three to four field trips a semester to many of the regions most celebrated theatres including The Shakespeare Theatre, Ford's Theatre, The Signature Theatre, and The Virginia Opera Company. School productions have included Once on this Island, Into the Woods, Hairspray, Romeo and Juliet and world premieres of the The Walking Boys (Winner of Best Production at the Mississippi Theatre Conference and subsequently performed in schools around the country) and Ghost Light.

## Student Support Team (SST)

The Student Support Team (SST) is a collaborative, school-based, problem-solving team that is organized to address academic, medical, behavioral/emotional and/or other problems which may interfere with a student's ability to obtain an appropriate education. At George Washington Middle School, the SST includes school counselors, social workers, the school psychologist and the school nurse.

## SST Staff Directory

Ms. Danielle Desasso, School Counselor	6th Grade Students with Last Names A-L	703-706-4515
Ms. Stacey Thomas School Counselor	6th Grade Students with Last Names M-Z	703-706-4515
Mr. Kevin Malone School Counselor	7th Grade Students with Last Names A-L	703-706-4534
Ms. Varita Bendinelli School Counselor	7th Grade Students with Last Names M-Z	703-706-4534
Mr. Ben DeRigge School Counselor	8th Grade Students with Last Names A-L	703-706-4518
Ms. Verline Jackson School Counselor	8th Grade Students with Last Names M-Z	703-706-4518
Dr. Kathy Philyaw School Psychologist	All Students in Grades 6-8	703-706-4500
Ms. Ratna Hilscher Social Worker	6th-8th Grade Students with Last Names A-L	703-706-4500
Ms. Tania Ferran Social Worker	6th-8th Grade Students with Last Names M-Z	703-706-4500
Ms. Shannon Mertsoc School Nurse	All Students in Grades 6-8	703-706-4516

## Digital Technology & Student Issued Chromebooks

All students receive a chromebook to use at home and at school for their academic work. Students have Google accounts that give them access to Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Calendar. Students also have access to Power School (online gradebook), Canvas (online classroom), video creation tools, online textbooks, databases, tutoring and resources.

George Washington Middle School is a Common Sense Media Certified School and uses lessons from Common Sense Media and other organizations to promote digital citizenship. Every year, George Washington Middle School participates in Hour of Code and Digital Learning Day to promote innovation, problem-solving and creativity with digital tools.

G.W. has two Technology Integration Specialists (TIS) to support teachers with planning for meaningful experiences with technology that support blended learning. Students that do not have Internet access at home can check out a personal Mifi device (Kajeet) from our student helpdesk to access the Internet for schoolwork.

Visit <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/technology> for more details.

## Academic Supports

G.W. offers a wide variety of academic supports to students. Such supports include:

- After school tutoring with content teachers and study hall in the library from 3:20-4:15 p.m.
- Saturday School Academy where students have an opportunity to receive acceleration, remediation, and intervention on curricular standards in the areas of language arts, math, for 6th grade 7th grade. 8th grade students will receive support in reading, writing, math, civics, and science. Saturday School starts in January and is from 9:00-12:00 p.m.
- Math and Reading Enrichment Classes
- Online tutoring with Tutoring.com. The tutoring service is available through Canvas by clicking on the student's account picture, selecting profile, then selecting online tutoring.
- ICAPs (Individualized Career & Academic Plan) where counselors assist students with understanding their school data and to develop academic, behavioral and personal goals for the school year.

For more information about academic supports, please contact your child's school counselor.

## Talented and Gifted

Talented and Gifted (TAG) services are provided in the core content areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies. Students with a TAG identification in a core content area are clustered within that open enrollment honors class.

Differentiated Education Plans (DEP's) are provided to the TAG identified students quarterly, and teachers and students are supported by the middle school Talented and Gifted Resource Teacher.

## Administrative Staff

Mr. Jesse Mazur	Principal	703-706-4500
Mr. Lance Harrell	6th Grade Academic Principal	706-706-4500
Ms. Jeanette Jackson	7th Grade Academic Principal	706-706-4500
Ms. Carmen Sanders	8th Grade Academic Principal	703-706-4534
Mr. Chris Speich	6th-7th Grade Dean of Students	706-706-4500
Mr. Duncan Alexander	8th-7th Grade Dean of Students	706-706-4500
Mr. Greg Forbes	Director of School Counseling	703-706-4500