

Harmony Middle School

2020-2021

HARMONY MS

A solid red horizontal bar at the bottom of the page.

Key Staff Tonight

Eric Stewart (Principal)

Patrick White (AP)

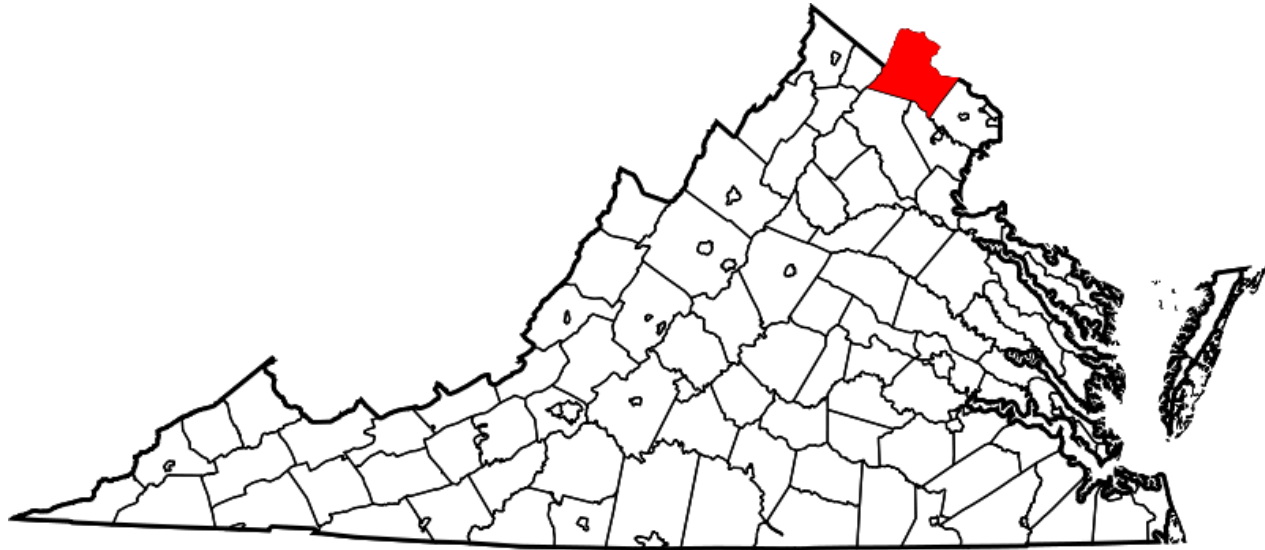
Kristen Hepner (Dean)

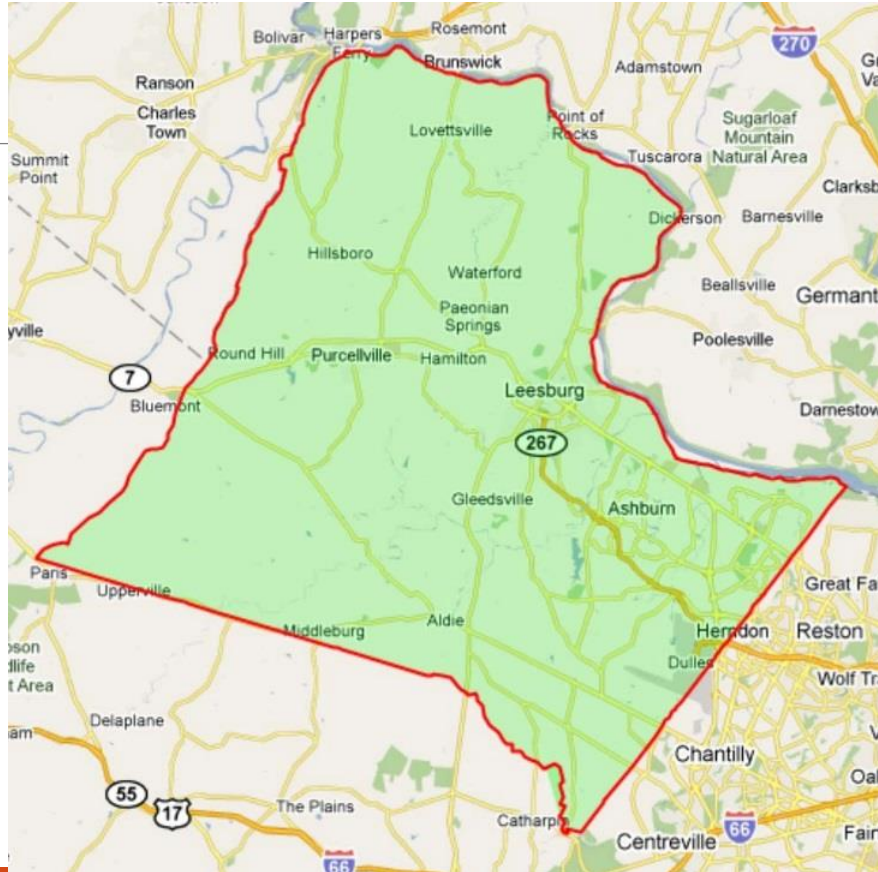
Jamie Sharp (Counselor)

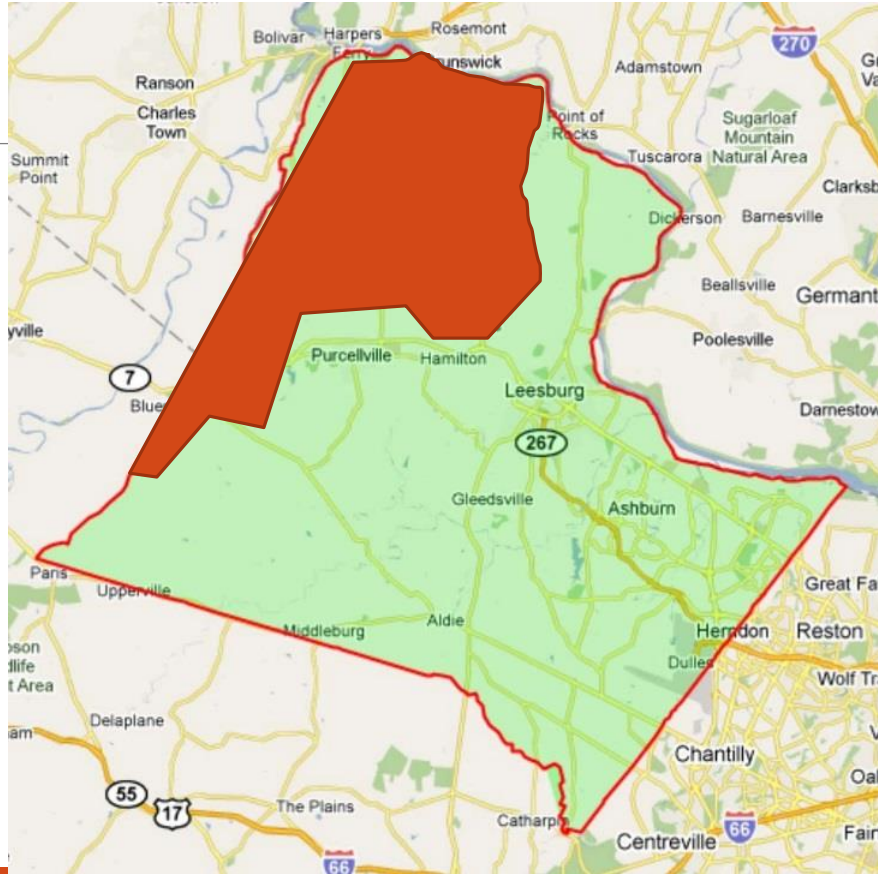
Betty Webber (Parent Liaison)



What Geographic Areas do our Kids Come From?

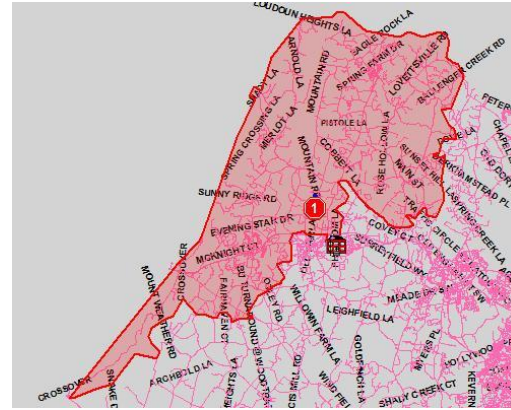






Six Schools make our Attendance Area

Culbert ES (1/3)
Hillsboro Charter (all)
Lovettsville ES (all)
Mt View ES (1/2)
Round Hill ES (all)
Waterford ES (all)

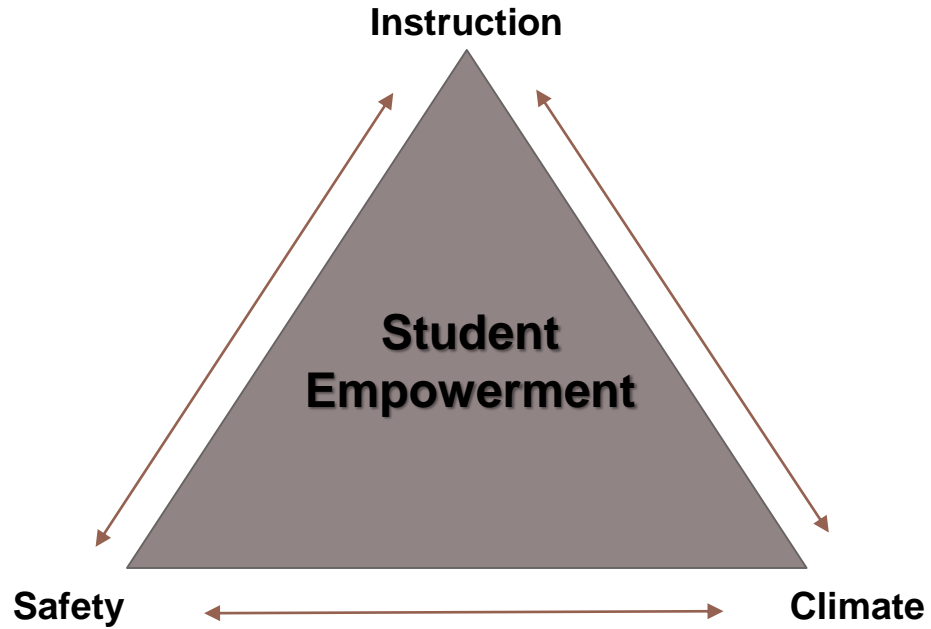


Harmony Mission

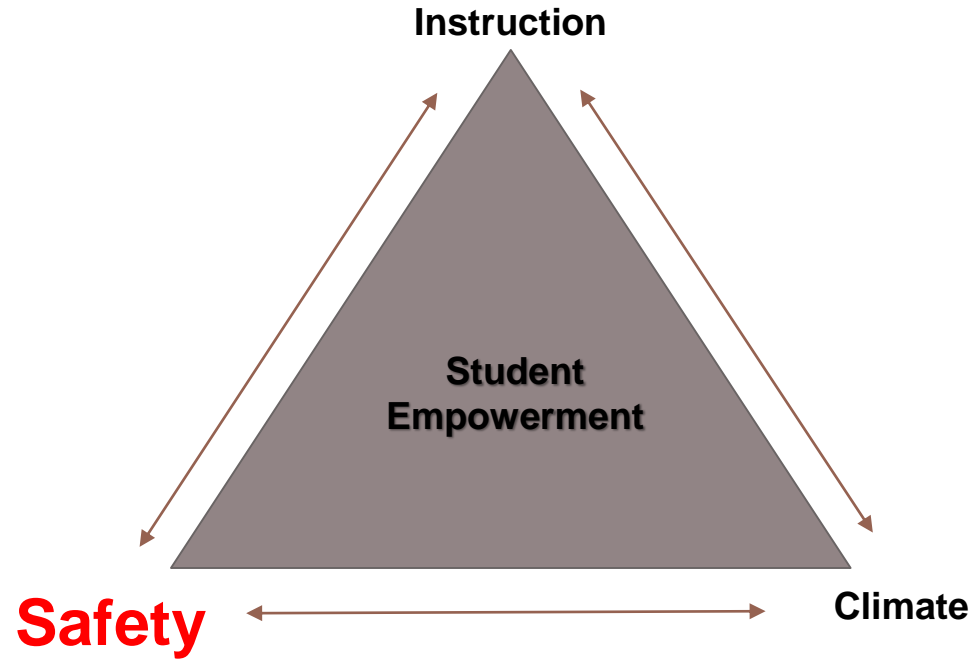
(To create and maintain a positive and safe school learning environment where all students are empowered to make meaningful contributions to the world)

School Commitments to Move Towards Deeper Learning	
People	<u>Collaborate</u> consistently with colleagues, <u>communicate</u> effectively with parents, and embrace the middle school child.
Safety & Wellness	Maintain physical and mental healthy heart practices and be pro-active to all issues related to personal and school safety.
Student Engagement	<u>Create</u> authentic, challenging lessons with high level Bloom's / purposeful questioning techniques to maintain daily excitement.
Self-Improvement	Whatever your strengths and weaknesses, improve them and help others who ask to do the same.
Creators and Innovators	...Be innovative by problem solving, taking risks, exploring, and using <u>critical thinking</u> .

Harmony Focus



Harmony Focus



SAFETY FOCUS

Key things we ask of staff to know...

- NO propped doors
- ALWAYS wear badge
- Doors must be locked and magnetized
- Develop a pro-active mindset
- Stay up to date on your Run, Hide, Fight training
- Know and memorize the safety and scenario information
- Daily presence of our School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Parking lot dismissal procedures (pictures to be sent home via Connect Ed)
- Almost 70 security cameras throughout the building
- “Raptor” visitor check in system

Safety Expectations

Questions you should be asking:

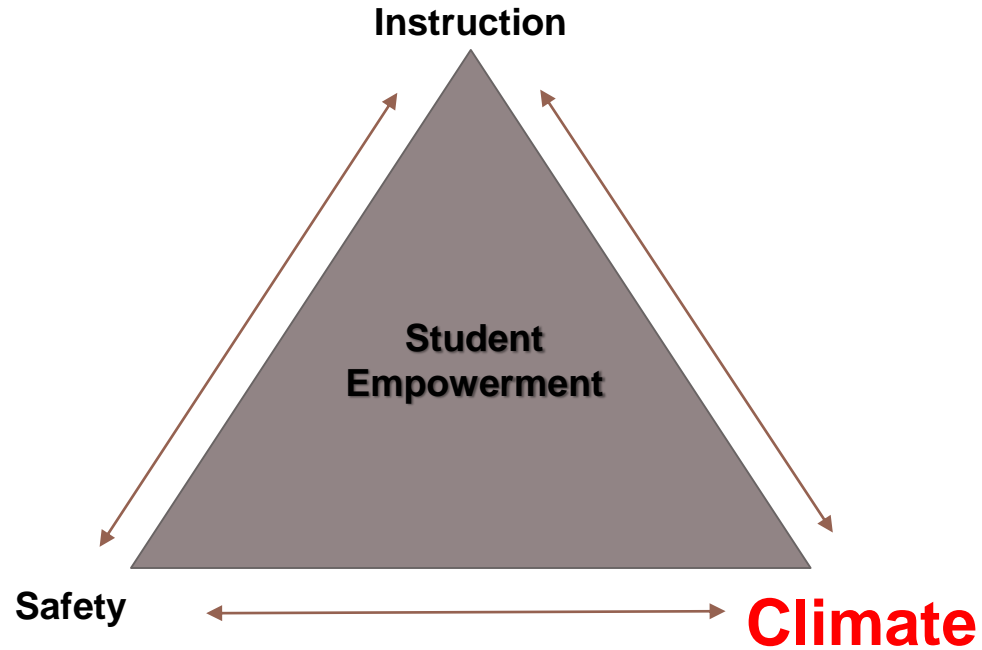
How is the school helping my child be prepared for an emergency?

What is the school doing to be pro-active on issues of safety and security?

What are the key things to remember?

- Drills (11 fire drills, 4 lock down drills, 1 tornado drill , 1 earthquake drill , and 1 emergency drill)
- Six “scenario” practices with kids
- Mental Health Awareness: Day (Nov) / Week (April)
- Parent Workshops, Kindness Challenge, You Matter Club
- Anti-Bullying procedures for all staff, students, and parents
- Staff Supervision and Visibility expectation
- Staff trained on Run, Hide, Fight
- Daily presence of our School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Almost 70 security cameras throughout the building
- “Raptor” visitor check in

Harmony Focus



How Do We Build Climate?

(We know all 1,116 kids)

In 2013-14, the administrative staff, secretaries, and counselors attempted to name all of the school's 1,114 students. They only missed 1 in 7th grade

In 2014-2015 – we missed ZERO

In 2015-2016 – we missed ZERO

In 2016-2017 – we missed ZERO

In 2017-2018 – we missed ZERO

In 2018-2019 – we missed ZERO

In 2019-2020 – we missed ZERO

Communication is Key

Harmony website

Connect Ed emails (usually weekly)

“Naviance” counselor updates

Teacher sites and periodic emails

Past Clubs / Activities

Outdoor Club

Ping Pong

Reading Clubs

Running Club

Sports (Misc)

Student Council (SCA)

Yearbook

Baking

Young Entrepreneurs

Sewing

Chess

FCA

German Club

Harmony Hikes

Mad Science Club

Musical (Guys and Dolls)

Musical (Music Man)

Odyssey of the Mind (OM)

Sign Language

Debate

Fishing

Harmony Staff Information

~121 total staff members

60 Licensed / 16 Instructional Specialists

18 Teaching Assistants (14 SPED, 1 technology, 3 resource, 1 library)

5 Secretaries (3 house / 2 main office)

5 Admin (1 principal, 2 AP's, 3 deans)

4 School Counselors, 1 SRO, 1 RN

Climate Expectations

Some Questions:

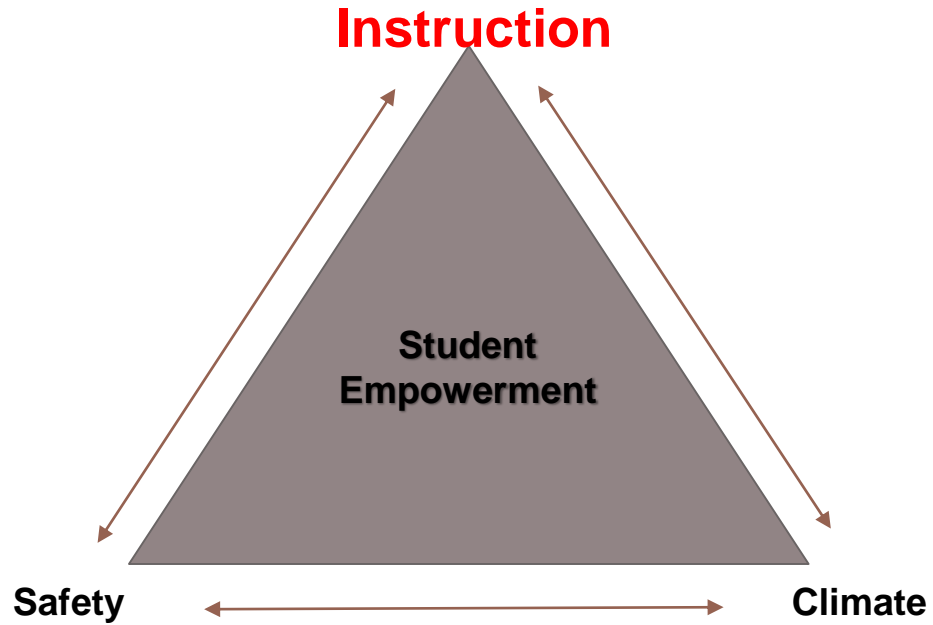
How is my child being treated
by staff and students?

What activities does the
school have for my child to
make positive connections
with others?

What are the key things to remember?

- Variety of staff and student activities
- We work closely with the PTA
- We believe that problems are temporary
- We try to be positive and NOT negative
- We are open to feedback
- We encourage health and wellness initiatives (Boot Camp, yoga, walking, healthy food, daily activity, Fit Five, etc.)
- We memorize all student's names
- Communication is two way
- We focus on KIDS

Harmony Focus



Instructional Expectations

What are the KEY pieces?

- We focus lesson plans on 8 Design Elements as part of Project Based Learning (PBL)
- Challenging Problem or Question, Sustained Inquiry, Authenticity, Voice and Choice, Reflection, Critique and Revision, Public Product, and Key Knowledge, Understanding, and Success Skills
- Purposeful, high level Bloom's questions imbedded into daily lessons
- Quarterly data and assessment discussions to target instruction
- Staff and student reflections are an integral part of learning
- Implementation and use of the Chromebooks (Technology)

Instructional Expectations

Upper Level Bloom's Questions:

What questions are being asked to get my child to evaluate, create, and analyze?

What is the school doing to help my child move towards Deeper Learning?

What are the key things to remember?



Instructional Expectations

Eight Design Elements:

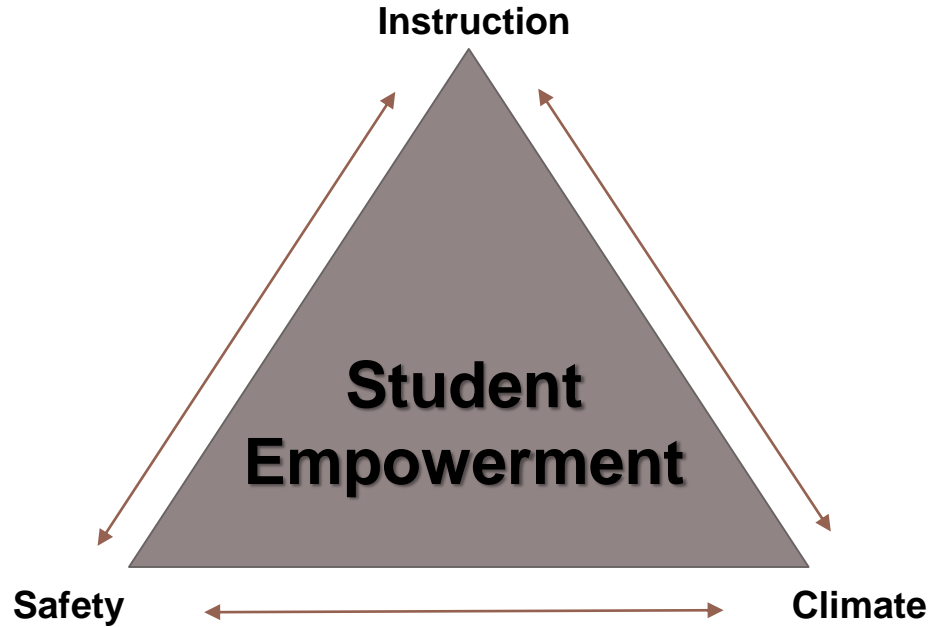
How is my child being motivated for sustained inquiry into learning?

What is the school doing to help my child share what he or she is doing outside the classroom?

What are the key things to remember?

- What are the kids doing to reflect and critique on their learning?
- What did the teacher do to allow for student voice and choice?
- What actions are going on in the room that demonstrate lesson and activity authenticity?
- Describe the level of effectiveness of teacher feedback to students.
- How are technology tools being used to support higher order thinking skills?
- How is the teacher promoting enthusiasm for learning in the lesson?
- What is the school doing to promote health and wellness?
- What does the school do to recognize students?
- What class structures are built into the lesson to facilitate student collaboration?

Harmony Focus



Middle School Structure

Grades are called “Houses”

Dean / School Counselor / Secretary

- Academic Support
- Behavior Support
- Communication
- Grade Level Management
- Leadership
- Supervision

“Houses” Help Kids

- Administrative Team (Dean, Secretary, School Counselor)
- Basically a school within a school
- Leadership and Management on a smaller more manageable scale (400 instead of 1,200)
- Provides support in all academic and behavior areas
- Safety and Student Connections are Priority

Teacher Collaboration

- Teachers collaborate in two main groups: CLTs and STs
- CLTs are Content Level Teams
- STs are Sister Teams
- Advisory (Hive Time). We place each student on a team by alphabet (A-G, H-O, P-Z)
- Coordinate and communicate expectations and procedures

Sample Student Schedule

Block	A Day (~90 min each)	B Day (~90 min each)
1	Language Arts	Language Arts
2	Keyboarding or Art (semester)	Math (2 choices)
3	US History (to 1877)	Science (Earth Science)
4	Health and PE	Resource (or Spectrum) and Music (45 each)

6th Grade Schedule Choices

Music (Band Instrument or Strings or Chorus or Music Lab)

Math (Math 6 or Foundations of Algebra)

Honors or Academic classes (Language Arts, Social Studies, Science)

Art (semester), and Keyboarding (semester)

Math Progression

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Math 6	Foundations of Algebra	Pre-Algebra Or Algebra I	Algebra I Or Geometry
Foundation of Algebra	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I Or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra II

In mathematics, the skills required to be successful are more sequential and developmental than in other courses.

Honors versus Academic

Academic – integrated program of reading and writing skills, activities, and applications designed to develop clear and effective written and oral communication...

Honors – an extension of the academic program emphasizing the appreciation and analysis of challenging literature, astute communications, and activities requiring high levels of critical and creative thinking.

In order to select courses that reflect the goal of a balanced academic and extracurricular work load, students and parents should consider the following:

What are **my grades** in the subject over the past few years?

What information do my **standardized test scores** provide for me about my special skills and interests?

How much of a **time commitment** will each course require?

What are the **recommendations** of my parents, teachers, and counselors who know me?

Am I involved in numerous outside activities that will limit the amount of time I have for school work?

Do I like the subject?

Glamorous?

Things We Need Help with

Be involved – PTA or volunteer helper or Board members

Lunch the first day (and Acct Info)

Locker Helpers needed (first two mornings)

School Supplies (list to be posted in May)

Preserve “Instructional Time” - limiting early dismissals, late arrivals, and deliveries

Timeline

Jan (All elementary students visited Harmony)

Jan or Feb (Attended a Music Night if choosing a band or strings instrument)

Feb 18 / 19 (Parent Orientations)

March to April (Principal, Counselor, and Dean will visit every elementary school)

May / June (All course changes must be made through the counselor). By then we will have allocated our staff positions and because of that, after this date NO course changes may take place.

July (Schools Tours – TBD)

August 24 – Schedule Give Away

Harmony Mission

(To create and maintain a positive and safe school learning environment where all students are empowered to make meaningful contributions to the world)

School Commitments to Move Towards Deeper Learning	
People	<u>Collaborate</u> consistently with colleagues, <u>communicate</u> effectively with parents, and embrace the middle school child.
Safety & Wellness	Maintain physical and mental healthy heart practices and be pro-active to all issues related to personal and school safety.
Student Engagement	<u>Create</u> authentic, challenging lessons with high level Bloom's / purposeful questioning techniques to maintain daily excitement.
Self-Improvement	Whatever your strengths and weaknesses, improve them and help others who ask to do the same.
Creators and Innovators	...Be innovative by problem solving, taking risks, exploring, and using <u>critical thinking</u> .

THANKS FOR COMING

Have a safe trip home

Stay in touch

If you have any questions, please come on down and speak to one of us