

Middle River Middle School

IB MYP Inclusion Policy

Middle River Middle School adheres to the special education laws and policies set forth by the United States Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Education and the Baltimore County Board of Education. Our equity policy states that “every student in the school system should receive an education that maximizes his/her potential to become a globally competitive graduate.” It is our belief that working toward success for ALL students as stated in the equity policy supports the International Baccalaureate mission to “encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.” BCPS believes that “disparities on the basis of race, special education status, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, English Language Learner status, or socio-economic status are unacceptable and are directly at odds with the belief that all students can achieve.” Based on this belief, we understand that it is our responsibility to address the specific needs of all students in order to ensure that all students are successful. Therefore, all diploma bound students are enrolled in MYP courses. The only exception is for students who are enrolled in a Reading intervention course. These students would not receive a second language as they are still acquiring the school’s language, English.

Middle River Middle School is committed to following the Special Education Policies outlined by our Board of education:

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (The Board) is committed to the principles articulated in federal and state law regarding the provisions of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), the protection of the rights of eligible students with disabilities, and the principle that every child can learn and succeed. The Board is committed to providing equity and excellence in education by providing each student with an instructional environment that nurtures potential and enhances academic success. With this central mission in mind, the Board recognizes every student in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) who exhibits special needs should have access to appropriate educational services. The Board recognizes that students with disabilities should be provided with appropriate services, supports, accommodations, and modifications to address individual needs, to promote student growth, and to receive educational benefit. BCPS will provide a continuum of appropriately differentiated educational experiences, services, and placements for all students with disabilities, birth through age 21. These educational experiences, services, and placements will be research-based and aligned with school system goals.

At Middle River Middle School all teachers work to meet accommodations outlined by students’ Individual Education Plans in the least restrictive environment. Teachers are provided with student IEPs and 504 plans at the beginning of the school year. They implement all mandated accommodations, collect data/documentation, and report to case managers as requested. All students with a 504 or IEP have a case manager who is responsible for checking in with them and monitoring their progress as well as communicating with parents. Special education teachers

co-teach and co-plan with content certified teachers in order to help meet accommodations and differentiate for students. All teachers receive on-going professional development in order to remain up to date on special education best practices to ensure that we are always working toward meeting the needs of all students.

At Middle River Middle School, we are a public, neighborhood school that accepts an additional 50 students from outside of our boundary zone each year entering the sixth grade. Those 50 students are admitted via a lottery and there are no requirements for admission beyond submitting an application. All students that attend MRMS whether they are within or outside of our boundary zone are enrolled in MYP courses and are magnet students at our school. We are a wall to wall program inclusive of all diploma bound students. Students are not excluded based on special needs as is stated in the BCPS Equity Policy; therefore, all student needs are met in accordance with Federal, State, and District policies. For students matriculating from Elementary school or transferring from another school, records are transferred from the former school and IEP and 504 plans move with the student and are implemented at Middle River Middle School. IEPs are reviewed annually and 504 plans are reviewed during transition years or if there are concerns prompting an earlier review. Additionally, parents may request a review of their student's IEP or 504 plan at any time. When students move on to high school, all records are sent with them so that their plans remain in place.

At Middle River Middle School, we understand that meeting the needs of our special education students is essential to achieving our purpose to “prepare all students to graduate as 21st century learners to become competitive in tomorrow's global society.”