



Executive Summary

Middle School Program Guide recommended changes and updates for 2009 - 10

A review of the Middle School Program Guide was completed in February 2009. The guide is organized around five beliefs reflecting the mission of the middle school program in relation to the division's vision, mission and goals. The Albemarle County Public Schools Middle School Program Guide presents a general overview of the county's middle school program. Specific information about individual schools and their policies is contained in each school's Parent/Student Handbook.

The goal of the Albemarle County Middle Schools is to help the early adolescents who move through our schools enter high school with a strong academic background, a high degree of personal self-confidence, and the ability to make well-informed, meaningful choices from among the many options available to them at the high school level and beyond. It is critical for students to have a solid foundation in essential skills, which enables them to make informed choices when planning for high school. In order to reach this goal, Albemarle County has articulated five basic, interrelated beliefs about effective middle school education and has developed an integrated program that reflects these beliefs.

Five Beliefs

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| 1. Belief One | Characteristics of the Middle School Child |
| 2. Belief Two | Transitions |
| 3. Belief Three | Program |
| 4. Belief Four | Special Needs |
| 5. Belief Five | Community |

Summary of Changes / Updates:

- Superintendent's Message

Updated

- ***Belief One*** ***Characteristics of the Middle School Child***

No changes – minor editing

- ***Belief Two*** ***Transitions***

No changes – minor editing

- ***Belief Three*** ***Program***

1. Curriculum, page 9 – The exploratory description describes the possibility of intervention courses in lieu of one or more electives for students with additional academic needs.
2. What We Teach in Sixth Grade – Exploratories – Music, page 15 – chorus added to the sixth grade offerings to reflect current practice.

3. What We Teach in Seventh Grade – Exploratories – Music, page 21 – strings added to the last sentence about opportunities for advanced students to participate in local and district honors events to reflect current practice.

- ***Belief Four Special Needs***

1. Alternative Learning Opportunities, pages 34-35 – updated to include a description of the Community Public Charter School for middle school students as an additional opportunity.
2. Gifted Education Services, page 35 – the language of supported by a part-time Gifted Resource Teacher updated to supported by a full – time Gifted Resource Teacher to reflect current practice.

- ***Belief Five Community***

No changes – minor editing

Middle School Exploratory Offerings – complete list

Attachment 3 contains the complete listing of Middle School Exploratory Offerings for 2009 – 2010 by school. This list will be posted on the web along with the Middle School Program guide once approved.

Changes include:

1. AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination is being added to Jouett Middle School for seventh grade students.
2. Introduction to World Cultures – 7th Grade, dropped from the offerings now that the sixth grade Spanish exploratory is fully in place. There is no longer a need to offer this course to complete the middle school requirement that all students will take at least one elective from the three strands, one of which is World Languages.
3. Personal Life Skills for the 21st Century – 6th Grade, dropped from the offerings at Sutherland Middle school due to enrollment, staffing and the structure of the sixth grade exploratory rotation. All students are still required to take one elective from the Career and Technical Education field during their middle school years and Personal Life Skills continues to be offered in the 7th and 8th grades at Sutherland.