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January 4, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Washington County Public Schools offers a continuum of advanced programs to challenge students who have **demonstrated** strong academic potential, creativity, leadership responsibility, motivation to learn, and strong work ethic. Middle school Accelerated and Enriched (A&E)/Merit classes in English/language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science offer students a curriculum that prepares them for advanced coursework in high school and beyond.

Selection for student participation in middle school advanced-level coursework is based upon a comprehensive and systematic review of multiple sources of information for each fifth-grade student. These sources include: academic performance, test scores, and teacher observation. Every child is different, so some students may have a mix of both grade-level and advanced-level courses. Parents/Guardians and teachers have the opportunity to nominate students for placement in advanced-level coursework at the middle school. **Nomination does not guarantee placement in advanced-level classes.** Course assignment is based on each student's strengths.

Please note that the following components will be part of the process for placement in 2019-2020 middle school advanced classes.

**Ability/Aptitude:**

- Advanced-level students typically score above average on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).
- The age percentile scores on CogAT are typically above the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile and/or at a stanine of 7 and above.

**Performance:**

- Performance is consistently above grade level on county and state assessments.

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**Potential:**

Please consider the following when discussing with your fifth-grade student what it means to take advanced classes:

- Is your child ready to learn at an accelerated or faster pace?
- Is your child willing to be held to higher expectations regarding tests, assignments, and the quality of his/her work?
- Is your child willing to take on additional responsibilities, such as special projects, independent research, and challenging homework that will be required in advanced classes?
- What are your child's strengths and interests, and how will participating in advanced classes help him/her develop these?

**All parent nominations must be completed online, using either Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox, by Friday, February 1, 2019, at the following link:**

<https://bit.ly/2rLteXP>

All final sixth grade placement and scheduling decisions are made at each middle school.

May your child enjoy every success during the transition to middle school for the 2019-2020 school year!

Sincerely,



Jessica J. Reinhard, Ed.D  
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