



# Lexington Middle School

## *An International Baccalaureate World School*

### *Inspire Prepare Empower*

Hello Rising 7th and 8th graders and parents!

Can you believe it is already time to start planning for next year? Based on your feedback, we are beginning the course selection process early and giving parents and students the opportunity to have valuable discussions about class choices prior to the official request dates. Students do not need to return the course request forms as they will be requesting their courses using their iPads. This will take place the week of March 6 during their ATL Mission Lesson.

This year Lexington Middle became authorized as an IB Middle Years Program World School and we joined a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who will be ready to negotiate their futures successfully. As such, we guarantee all students will receive high quality instruction in eight inter-related subject areas. In addition to the traditional core classes, we emphasize the development of the whole child through second-language learning, the visual and performing arts, health and physical education, and creative design. In their time at LMS, our students will develop clearly defined skills that align with the content in these eight areas, as well as specific “approaches to learning,” or habits that help them achieve their goals. Everything we do is guided by our school mission: To inspire, prepare, and empower our students to make their world a better place. This mission comes alive in our students’ day-to-day experiences in classes and through extracurricular activities.

To navigate this three-year journey, we have developed specific pathways, each providing a balance of exploration and student interests, outside of the traditional core subject areas. Within each path there are specific course offerings – some required, and some that students choose. These pathways ensure that all students at LMS develop all eight subject areas in balance with each other, while still allowing for some personal preference. This balanced approach helps build a foundation for high school and beyond.

We have provided you with a course selection sheet including two path options (Performing Arts Path or Renaissance Path) and course descriptions. On our school website, <http://lms.lexington1.net/> under the *About LMS* tab, you will find the Rising 7th & 8th Grade Information link. There you be able to access videos students have created that show each exploratory class in action. We hope these help you better understand the aims and objectives of our PE, arts, and design courses.

Again, we are so excited to have you and your children continue as part of our Wildcat family in 2017-18. If we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at 821-3700. We are ready to inspire, prepare, and empower!

Sincerely,

Gloria Nester  
Principal