

Welcome to Diamond Middle School!





Diamond PTA

Presidents:

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Vanessa Keeney



Welcome to *Middle School!*

Developmental Milestones & Challenges

- More communication with nonverbal skills - expressions and posture
- Major physical growth - often tired and more hungry
- Question things - like to debate and argue
- Sensitive to others' opinions and reactions
- Begin to learn what to say in different situations
- May misread facial expressions or be misunderstood by others
- May find it hard to get up in the morning or complete homework at night
- May debate and argue everything!
- Begin to face peer pressure
- May often say the wrong thing while learning

Core Beliefs

We believe...

- in providing students with **what they need** when they need it
- in fostering the development of the **whole child**
- that middle school is a time to focus on social/emotional **development** and academic achievement
- in a **growth mindset**, and recognize that mistakes are necessary for learning

Core Beliefs

We believe...

- that the middle school environment should support safe **risk-taking** so that students and staff can explore new and innovative ideas without the fear of failure
- that **collaboration** is key to Diamond's success. The collective wisdom of various stakeholders, supported by individual and specific contributions, is critical in moving the work forward.
- in approaching every conversation with an open mind and always assuming **positive intent**



Our Team Approach

Team Pegasus



Team Apollo



Team Artemis



Team Athena



Counselor - Ms. May





Logistics

Need-to-Knows

- Daily schedule:
 - 7:40-7:50 - Students arrive
 - 8:00 - Homeroom starts
 - 2:50 - School ends
- Lunch:
 - 3 lunches/ 25 minutes each
 - Students can bring or buy
 - Same PIN
 - All three grades are mixed
 - No assigned seating
- Attendance:
 - E-mail: diamondabsence@lexingtonma.org
 - Call the Main Office

Need-to-Knows

Drop Off & Pick Up:

- Front (Hancock St.) and back (Sedge Rd.) of building
- Yield to buses - Do not ever pass
- Hancock St. side is busses only until after 3:00pm
- Always use the pick up/drop off loop in front

After School:

- Students must be with an adult
- No after school care

Sample Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Math	Science	WIN	Social Studies
World Language	Social Studies	PE	English	World Language
Social Studies	English	Social Studies	Science	English
Science	Elective	Math	World Language	Math
PE	Science	World Language	Social Studies	Elective
Math	World Language	Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	WIN	English	Math	Science

Supports for Learning

- Child Study Process
- Guided Learning
- Math Intervention (“Mega Math”)
- Special Education Services
- Counseling & Social Work Services

Pro-Social & Leadership Skills

- DRUM Initiative
 - Diverse
 - Responsible
 - United
 - Mindful
- Student Council
- Assemblies
- Health curriculum
- Individual leadership opportunities
- Classroom counseling lessons



General Communication

- Principal's Newsletter - DRUMBeat
- Website: announcements and calendar
- Twitter: @DiamondMSPrin
- PTA Coffees, Meetings & Events
- Group Emails, Calls, & Mailings
- Progress Reports & Report Cards
- Back to School Night
- Parent-Teacher Conferences

Specific Communication

- Academic Teacher
- Special Education Liaison
- Team Leader
- School Counselor - *Ms. May*
- School Nurses - *Ms. Spencer and Ms. Manning*
- Main Office Staff - *Ms. Hogan, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Farrell*
- Assistant Principals - *Mr. Klimasmith & Ms. Sharp*
- Principal - *Ms. Turner*



Activities

Sports & Intramurals

- Soccer, Field Hockey, X-C, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Track, Lacrosse
- Basketball, Badminton, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, Fitness Center



Clubs



Math Team, Chess, Yearbook, Homework Club,
Anime, Community Service, GSA, Science
Olympiad, Magic the Gathering, Improv,
Diamond Dispatch, Model UN, Mural Club, etc.

After School Drama for 6th Grade Students!

The Fall Play



Auditions are held in mid-September
Performances are in early November

IMPROV



2 Troupes!
Varsity and JV

Auditions in
November

The Musical



Auditions are held in December
Performances are in March

Drama Classes

If the student is not in a performance
ensemble they take drama!

One Semester 2x Week

Intro to theatre!

Rehearsal process,
performance skills, and
technical theatre are taught.

Drama Workshops!

OPEN to ALL STUDENTS!

Workshops are held 1x Month

Costume Design

Audition Skills

Shakespeare

Melodrama

Dance

Etc.

Field Trips

Regular Field Trips: ~\$10 - \$55

Overnight Trips

- Washington DC - 8th Grade
- Ski Trip - 7th & 8th Grade

World Language Trips

- Quebec, Costa Rica, Spain, China, Taiwan - 8th Grade

Additional Optional Trips

- D-Minors to Florida



Next Steps: Course Selection

Next Steps...

March 28 - 5th grade students bring home.....

- Student Information Form
- Permission Slip to visit Diamond
- Course Selection Directions
 - Select Foreign Language
 - Select Performing Arts choice

April 5 - Online course selection completed

April 26 - Student Information Form and
Permission Slip returned to elementary teacher

May 1 : Visit Diamond!

SUMMER: team placement, schedules, etc.

You will receive

SAMPLE: Your child will get a personalized copy on May 20, 20

6th Grade Course Selection Directions

NAME: SCHOOL: 5th TEAC

Dear Parents,

It is time to sign up your child for his or her 6th grade courses at Diamond Middle School. Please complete the following process by **Wednesday, May 27, 2015**. Most of your child's courses have already been selected. All 6th graders take English, Science in heterogeneous groups. They are also required to take Physical Education. In students will take the following exploratory courses: Reading, Art, Engineering, and Technology Applications.

Today, we are asking you to help your child make two choices:

- ☐ **Choice 1 -- Foreign Language:** French 6, Mandarin 6, or Spanish 6.
- ☐ **Choice 2 -- Performing Arts:** Performing Arts courses are full year and meet 2 times a week. Students choose a combination of Chorus & Band OR Chorus & Orchestra your child will attend and Band/Orchestra once a week all year. Students who do not choose Chorus, Band, or Orchestra will take one semester of Music and one semester of Drama (each twice a week).

- Open the Diamond Middle School home page and click on the "Aspen" link in the hand corner. <http://ps.lexingtonma.org/diamondms>
- Enter your child's username & password
USERNAME: your child will get his/her user name on May 20
PASSWORD: your child will get his/her password on May 20
- Click on "My Info" top-tab
- Click on "Requests" side-tab
- Follow directions listed on the screen to select classes from **columns B and C**
- Click on "Post" at the bottom to save your selections. Requests will not be processed until the "Post" button has been clicked.

A: Required Courses	B: World Language	C: Performing Arts
NO ACTION REQUIRED	Select ONE language	Pick ONE
English 6 Ancient Civilizations 6 Science 6 6th Math Physical Education 6 Reading 6 Engineering 6 Art 6 Technology Applications 6	Pick One French 6 Spanish 6 Mandarin 6	Pick one of: Chorus 6 Band 6 Orchestra 6 OR two of: Chorus 6 Orchestra 6 Band 6 OR two of: Music 6 Drama 6

* Please note, if you require support services or are enrolled in an intervention program (Math, Reading, Learning Center, ELL, or Guided Study), electives and related offerings will be determined by the school.

Need Help?

- For more information about the course selection process, please see the "Course Selection" under the "Parents" menu of the Diamond Middle School home page.
- If you need technical assistance, e-mail studentportal@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us

Middle School Student Information Form

Lexington Public Schools

Dear Parents: The information you offer on this form will be an important part of our decision in forming teams and providing supports. Please do NOT make requests for specific teams or teachers. Also note that we typically do NOT honor friend requests. Our counselors and administrators will be meeting with your student's teachers to gather additional information.

Please NOTE: course selection will be taking place exclusively online this year through the student portal. For more information visit our web site.

Grade Level (circle one): Current 7th grade Current 6th grade Current 5th grade

Student's Name:

Current School:

What are your child's greatest academic, social and emotional strengths?

Is there anything you would like us to know about your child and/or family?

The school works with numerous pieces of data to ensure that well-balanced learning environments are created for all students. We are confident that, with your input and the use of a variety of other data, our decision for team placement will be in the best interests of your child. In all placement situations, the school Administration will be the final arbiter of team composition and student placement.

1. Open the Diamond Middle School home page and click on the **"Aspen"** icon in the upper right hand corner. <http://lps.lexingtonma.org/diamondms>
2. Enter your child's username & password
USERNAME:
PASSWORD:
3. Click on **"My Info"** top-tab
4. Click on **"Requests"** side-tab
5. Follow directions listed on the screen to select classes from **columns B** and **C** below.
6. Click on **"Post"** at the bottom to save your selections. Requests will not be saved until the "Post" button has been clicked.

A: Required Courses	B: World Language	C: Performing Arts
NO ACTION REQUIRED English 6 Social Studies 6 Science 6 Mathematics 6 Physical Education 6 Reading 6 Engineering 6 Art 6 Technology Applications 6	Select ONE language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French 6 • Spanish 6 • Mandarin 6 • ELL 6 	Pick ONE of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorus 6 • Band 6 • Orchestra 6 • Chorus 6 <u>and</u> Band 6 (one day of each) • Chrous 6 <u>and</u> Orchestra 6 (one day of each) • Music 6 <u>and</u> Drama 6

* Please note, if you require support services or are enrolled in an intervention programs (Math Intervention or Guided Learning), electives and related offerings will be reduced accordingly.

Website & Course Selection



The screenshot shows the top portion of the William Diamond Middle School website. The header is dark blue with the school's name in white serif font, a tagline in italics, and icons for a help desk and Aspen. Below the header is a white navigation bar with blue links. The main content area has a blue sidebar on the left for upcoming events and a large photo on the right showing students and a teacher. At the bottom, there are white boxes for quick links and announcements.

WILLIAM DIAMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL
The Historic Past Meets the Progressive Future

Help Desk | Aspen

Home | About Our School | Faculty & Staff | Academics | Student Activities | Parents | Community | Calendar

Upcoming Events

Today
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM 5th Grade Parent Night

Friday
NO SCHOOL: Good Friday

Tuesday
MCAS testing: ELA

April 5, 2018
MCAS Testing: ELA

April 16, 2018

Quick Links

Welcome | Clubs & Activities | Announcements
Grade 8-to-1 HS Transition Information



Course Selection: Student Portal

Pages

My Info

OptionsReportsHelp

Requests

My Details

Current Schedule

Contacts

Attendance

Requests Details

<< Exit entry mode

2015-2016 - Requests: 3 primary, 0 alternate - Scheduled: 20% - Credits: 1.0

Instructions

Welcome to the online course selection process for the 2015-2016 school year!

Required Courses: NO ACTION REQUIRED. All 6th grade students are automatically registered for the following courses: English 6, Ancient Civilizations, Science 6, 6th Math, PE 6, Engineering 6, Reading 6, Art 6, and Technology Applications 6.

Foreign Language: **ACTION REQUIRED.** Click on the "select" button below next to "Foreign Language." You may elect to take Spanish 6, French 6, or Mandarin 6. If you know that you will have special education services that prevent you from taking a foreign language, select "No Language."

Performing Arts Courses: **ACTION REQUIRED.**

- Click on the "select" button next to **Performing Arts**
- Select either **Band**, **Orchestra** and/or **Chorus**. You may elect to take both Band & Chorus or Orchestra & Chorus.
- If you choose not to join band, orchestra and/or chorus, please select both **Music 6** and **Drama 6**.

Notes for Counselor: OPTIONAL. Please use the space below to write important notes to your guidance counselor regarding your schedule for next year.

REQUIRED FINAL STEP: Click on the "**Post**" button at the bottom of this page to save your selections.

Primary requests

	Subject area	SchoolCourse > CrsNo	SchoolCourse > Description	Alternate?	Credit
Select...	Foreign Language	462.DIA	Mandarin 6	N	0.0
Select...	Performing Arts	860.DIA	Music 6	N	0.0
		866	Drama 6	N	1.0

Notes for counselor



QUESTIONS?