

**LIFE AFTER KEY COMMITTEE
MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION
HARDY MIDDLE SCHOOL
November 2009**

1. Answers to be drawn from the website/school materials/completed by the schools

Hardy Middle School

1. School name and location						
2. Number of grades in the school building	Grades 6, 7, 8					
3. Enrollment levels and recent trends (e.g., added a middle school lately? Moved?)	09-10 Gr. 6 169 Gr. 7 140 Gr. 8. 110 Total 419					
4. Number of classes per grade	Gr. 6 6 Gr. 7 5 Gr. 8. 5					
5. Number of students per grade and teacher/student ratio	Gr. 6 169 Gr. 7 140 Gr. 8. 110 1:20					
6. Most recent two years of DC CAS/BAS scores in English + Math—objectives for coming years	2008 Reading Prof. 70.63% Math Prof. 64.21% 2009 Reading Prof. 64.21% Math Prof. 69.21%					
7. Made AYP in NCLB?	Missed AYP by one subgroup					
8. Elementary schools that "officially" feed into each middle school (if not charters)	Key Hyde Stoddert Eaton (shared with Deal)					
9. Application deadline for consideration	Yes Rolling admission through					

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(either charter or out-of-boundary), process for admission for out of bounds students (e.g., lottery or first come, first serve), and number of spaces for out-of-boundary students)	application period, beginning February 1; Feeder school applicants are guaranteed admission					
10. Pct of student in-boundary last three years and projected and how are projections going to be realized (N/A for charters)	Between 50 – 70% out-of-boundary; At 419 students for 2010, the school is still approximately 130 students under building capacity (550)					
11. % on free lunch program, % ESL	31%					
12. Which high school(s) does the school feed in to?	Wilson SHS is the official high school for Hardy					
13. (a)What percentage of students go on to public high school? (b) What percentage go on to private high school? (c) Can you list all schools to which your graduates go, and the numbers of students (or percentages) that go to each?	Approximately 90%. Hardy students have also been accepted into all application HS, including independent schools. c)Wilson, Banneker, School Without Walls, Ellington,					
14. Admission	Yes, the arts					

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process for in-bound students?	program application					
15. What proportion of the school budget comes from: (a) DCPS, (b) PTA, (c) other sources?	Approximately 20% of the supply budget is raised by the PTA					
16. Does your school have a before-school or after-school program?	The local school budget is used to run and extended day program; there is no before school program.					
17. Is school bus transportation available?	Hardy uses the DCPS buses and contracts with outside vendors for travel.					

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2. Answers to be supplied by each school

Academic Program

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there an honors program of any kind, and if so, in what subjects? 	<p>Students have the opportunity to take the next level classes if they can prove competency. Accelerated curriculum offerings are available at every level.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which foreign languages are taught? Is there provision for advanced study in any of the languages? Are languages required, and if so, for which years? 	<p>Spanish and French is available for students beginning in grade 7. Students may take the advanced level course if they can prove competency.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a special orientation to the academic program, and if so, what is it (e.g., IB middle years, arts orientation)? What additional requirements are attached to this programmatic focus (e.g., learning an instrument)? 	<p>Hardy has the IB/Middle Years Programme application completed; it is awaiting the chancellor's signature. The arts and music focused program for the entire school includes instrument of choice instruction and visual arts classes are required for all entering 6th graders.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please describe the curriculum in each of the core subjects in each grade, including English math, science and social studies/history (and please explain what curriculum (such as New Math) is used to achieve the standards, if applicable) 	<p>The curriculum in all core subjects is guided by the DCPS content standards with all materials that is supplied by DCPS. Teachers are encouraged to use additional resources, e.g., all students use a vocabulary development workbook in all grades.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If possible, please attach some examples of periodic (whether day, week, month, or academic quarter or semester) teacher class plans for each of English, math, science and social studies/history 	<p>Teachers are available at Open Houses, or any other opportunity to provide samples of the unit lesson, individual lessons, or developmental lessons in their course of study.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please describe the homework philosophy and expected workload per evening 	<p>Homework is a contract between the teacher and child. Each class is expected to assign homework on most evenings. The workload for any given night should not exceed 90 minutes for all classes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the arts and music curriculum? What classes are required? 	<p>All entering 6th graders begin instrumental instruction on the band or string instrument of their choice. Students are expected to continue with the same instrument for the three years at Hardy. Beginning in grade 7 students may additionally choose to join one of many bands. All students must perform as a part of the course requirement. All students take a minimum of four semesters of visual art</p>

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	through the three years at Hardy, beginning with a full year in grade 6. The curriculum is built from national and DCPS standards and includes the skills and knowledge of the foundations of techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, weaving, two- and three-dimensional design, as well as the arts of ancient and contemporary cultures.
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Teachers and Principal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the average number of years of tenure of teachers at your school? 	Teachers range in tenure from 20+ years to 1 year. The majority of the Hardy teachers have been here approximately 8 years. Hardy has traditionally low teacher turnover.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of teachers turn over every year? 	Hardy has traditionally low teacher turnover; one or two teachers per year. Exit interviews are conducted with each teacher who leaves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the teacher training/professional development program – how often are teachers trained, and in what areas? 	Hardy teachers participate in a wide range of training opportunities. Most teachers continue training in their content field, while the school provides broad based training that is applicable to all content, e.g., technology instruction, differentiated teaching.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percent have been through any form of certification? 	All Hardy teachers are certified in their content field.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the policy with regard to encouraging (or not) teacher interaction with families and students, e.g., by email to ask questions, to express concerns? 	The Hardy philosophy is grounded in the belief that the middle school years are the transitional years where the onus on work shifts away from parents and more to the individual student. All teachers are available by email, and the schedule has standing appointments for teacher conferences each week.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of classes have homework or other information about the class on a website? 	Approximately half of the classes keep homework and other class information available to families on a website, or otherwise electronically available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long has the principal been leading the school? 	The principal has been at the school for 11 years.

School Environment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the security arrangement for the school? Does your school use/have metal detectors at entrances? 	The safety and security of students and faculty is the top priority for the school administration. All faculty are oriented to security procedures and protocols; all students are well informed of expectations for safety as well. The school does randomized security sweeps, including the use of magnetometers and x-ray machines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a community service requirement? If so, can you please describe it? 	Community service is not a require for students in the middle school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the best website for gathering information about 	www.hardyms.org

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the school? What is the philosophy or objective of the information on the website about the school and how often is it updated?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For charters: what is the governance of the school? Who is on the Board? 	N/a
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do students wear uniforms? What is the dress code and how is it enforced? 	Hardy students are required to wear the school uniform. The uniform policy is strictly enforced.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation to and from school? Additional cost? 	N/a

Extracurricular

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What sports programs are there within and outside the curriculum? Where do kids have PE?]Students have the opportunity to compete in all DCIAA sports teams; additionally students participate in development sports and clinics throughout the school year. PE classes are conducted in the school gym and, weather permitting, outside on the field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other major extracurricular programs does the school have and how much does it cost? Who runs these programs? 	All sports, the theater program, tutorials, and clubs are run through the Hardy Extended Day program. The Extended Day is funded through the local school budget and is free to all Hardy families. The Extended Day is administered by and run by the Hardy staff and teachers.

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3. Other Questions School May Wish to Address

- Academic program/curriculum -- is the No Child Left Behind a minimum threshold and, if so, what else does the school aspire to and how are teachers encouraged to go beyond NCLB -- and do they?
- How much attention is there to identify individual student's continued academic success/progress/special needs?
A great deal of attention is paid to individual student academic needs. The grade level teams and departments meet weekly to discuss student progress and develop plans to address all students in need.
- How often do teachers report on class activities to parents and do they hold private conferences beyond those they are compelled to have in connection with periodic report cards?
Hardy teachers hold continuous parent conferences. Conference time is part of the weekly schedule, before the start of the academic day.
- What is the system for reviewing the effectiveness of teachers; and how are they rewarded and penalized? What is the process for hiring and firing? Is there a formal or informal process for seeking student and family input or input from other teachers?
- How often do the teachers meet with the Principal and Administration and what is a typical agenda?
The teachers meet with the administration weekly.
- What is a typical sixth grade social studies lesson on world history and particularly US government policy abroad or comparisons of different kinds of governments?
- What is an example of a writing assignment for 6th graders? 8th graders? How often do students write? What kind of feedback do they get? Do you have a special writing program in place?
- Are there any academic projects the students do in any discipline about which you are particularly proud? Can you describe 2 or 3?
While the arts/music focus does not mean arts integration, there are cross discipline projects that are of note. The 7th graders study ancient civilizations in social studies are make large scale cartouches with their names in art; 8th graders learn how to scale a drawing in math and then build a scaled model in art.
- How are unruly or disrespectful students handled to ensure they do not endanger or distract other students and classes?
The entire school participates in a Tally Plan program that is a progressive set of consequences for infractions on a set number of behaviors. Additionally, students who exhibit positive behaviors (i.e they have no "tallies") are appropriately rewarded.
- What is the policy on bullying?
Bullying and all other antisocial or disruptive behaviors are included the Tally Plan.
- What kinds of life skills etc are taught at the school pertaining to drug use, sex, social responsibility, respect, honor, kindness, etc.
All students take Health classes as part of the encore class series. Life skills are an important competent of these classes.
- Is family involvement encouraged and, if so, how? How active is the PTA? How much money does it have at its disposal and on what types of activities/things does it spend its money? Is there a newsletter?
Parents are very active in the school.

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