



What does Special Education  
look like in Middle School?

# Welcome to LBMS Special Education

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about how special education services work in the middle school setting.

Lake Braddock has two Department Chairpeople that support special education.

Caitlin Zayas - General Curriculum (students that are accessing the SOLs)

Hedieh Khorsand- Adapted Curriculum (students that are accessing the VESOLs/VAAP)

# Special Education Team at LBMS

Caitlin Zayas - General Curriculum (students that are accessing the SOLs)

Hedieh Khorsand- Adapted Curriculum (students that are accessing the VESOLs/VAAP)

Jessica Boger - Procedural Support Liaison

Sally Stickels - Assistant Principal for Special Education

Alison Reeves- Assistant Principal for Special Education CAT B

Tara Fleck - Scheduling Coordinator

# LBMS Schedule

## Daily Bell Schedule – 2023–24

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

	PURPLE DAY	GOLD DAY
8:00 – 9:28	Period 1	Period 2* Advisory: 8:00 – 8:30 WIN: 8:35 – 9:28
9:35 – 11:45	Period 3 9:35 – 10:25 Class 10:25 – 10:40 Break 10:40 – 11:10 A lunch 11:10 – 11:42 Class  9:35 – 10:57 Class 10:57 – 11:12 Break 11:12 – 11:42 B lunch	Period 4 9:35 – 10:25 Class 10:25 – 10:40 Break 10:40 – 11:10 A lunch 11:10 – 11:42 Class  9:35 – 10:57 Class 10:57 – 11:12 Break 11:12 – 11:42 B lunch
11:49 – 1:12	Period 5	Period 6
1:19 – 2:45	Period 7	Period 8

# Role of the Department Chair

- ❖ Collaborates with teachers on educational programming
- ❖ Researches, recommends and orders special education curricula as appropriate for student needs
- ❖ Assists case managers with monitoring students' needs and progress
- ❖ Provides in-services for special education teachers related to special education procedures
- ❖ Serves as Principal's Designee in IEP meetings
- ❖ Coordinates scheduling of IEPs, Local Screening, IA schedules, etc.
- ❖ Local Screening Committee Chair

# Communication

- ❖ Email/phone communication is encouraged between parents and case managers or student's teachers
- ❖ Case manager will be the point of contact for all Sped related concerns.
- ❖ Include the classroom teacher and case manager when you have a class specific concern
- ❖ Talking Points will be used to communicate via text/email

# 7th Grade Expectations

- ❖ Rigor
- ❖ Higher expectations with work load & homework
- ❖ Self advocacy
- ❖ Taking responsibility
- ❖ Becoming more involved in the IEP process
- ❖ All middle school students are expected to participate in their meeting

## Course Selection: A Collaborative Process

**December** - Lake Braddock requests course recommendations to help plan for needs of the following year.

6th grade case manager share course projections for the next year with the middle school. **Case managers will finalize services with families during the annual IEP meeting.**

**January** - Case manager course recommendations will be loaded into SIS and will be visible to students and parents when registration begins.

These courses can be changed at any time based upon the needs of the student and decisions of the IEP team.



## Course Selection: A Collaborative Process

**January-June** - Caitlin Zayas and Hedieh Khorsand attend the elementary school IEP transition meetings to help the team make the best decisions for the student in middle school.

After the meetings are held the courses for 7th grade classes are updated based on the IEP team decision and parent consent.

# LBMS Continuum of Services

All students are required to take 4 Core Classes & PE:

- English
- US History
- Science
- Math

IEP services hours:

- Services in the special education setting (small group)
- Services in the general education setting (team-taught, special education support staff)

## Small Group Classes - General Curriculum

- ❖ Core Content reflects the 7th Grade Standards and Curriculum.
- ❖ Students take the SOL exam that corresponds to the course.
- ❖ Class size is reduced to 10-15 students to allow for more individualized support.
- ❖ Only students with an IEP can access small group classes.
- ❖ Highest level of support.

## Small Group Classes- Adapted Curriculum

- ❖ Core Content reflects the ***Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning***.
- ❖ Students take the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) that corresponds to the course.
- ❖ Class size is reduced to allow for more individualized support.
- ❖ Only students with an IEP can access small group adapted curriculum classes.

# Team-Taught Classes

general education setting with special education support

- ❖ Core Content reflects the 7th Grade Standards and Curriculum.
- ❖ Students take the SOL exam that corresponds to the course.
- ❖ Class size has a maximum of 32 students.
- ❖ Two Instructors support the class - one content area teacher and one special education support personnel
- ❖ Students in team-taught sections are a combination of general education and special education students.
- ❖ Teamed Instructors work together to deliver content and support individual needs.

# Special Education Support Classes

- ❖ Literacy 7 - reading support class that is designed to meet the needs of students with:
  - A need for specialized instruction in the areas of decoding, fluency, and comprehension.
  - One of the following goals on their IEP
    - A decoding IEP goal
    - A fluency IEP goal
    - A reading comprehension IEP goal comprehending three grade levels below.

*\*decoding and fluency are not taught in the English 7 curriculum.*

## Special Education Support Classes-*cont.*

- ❖ Strategies for Success Organization - class designed to develop executive functioning skills.
- ❖ Personal Development (available for adapted as well) - class designed to support the development of executive functioning and social emotional skills.
- ❖ APE - Adaptive Physical Education (Small Group)
- ❖ Life Skills-emphasizes developing interpersonal skills, following directions, working independently, completing a task, and developing self-advocacy and other community living skills.

# General Education Classes

general education setting without special education support\*

- ❖ Core Content reflects the 7th Grade Standards and Curriculum.
- ❖ Students take the SOL exam that corresponds to the course.
- ❖ Class size has a maximum of 32 students.
- ❖ One teacher supports the class
- ❖ Teacher provides accommodations per the IEP
- ❖ Honors (self-selected)
- ❖ AAP (Level 4 eligible)

\*(Support based on IEP decision)



## Transition to LBMS Special Education

Elementary school case managers have worked with our Special Education Chairpeople, Caitlin Zayas and Hedieh Khorsand, to make initial recommendations to support your rising 7th grade student based upon their current IEP. These courses will be preloaded into SIS.

**All course selections will be finalized at the student's transition IEP meeting based upon the IEP team's decisions.**

## Middle School Transition

Transition IEPs are developed to support student needs in middle school through a combination of accommodations and supports. How support is provided in middle school looks different from elementary school and is tailored to the structure of the middle school environment and needs of a middle school student.

You will continue to work with a case manager in 7th grade to ensure your child's success at Lake Braddock.

# Understanding SIS Course Requests

- ❖ Team Taught Class course codes end in “71”
- ❖ Small Group Class course codes end in “81, 88”
- ❖ All team taught, small group and special education support classes fall under the Special Education Department.
- ❖ The “Special Education Department” label is not visible to students or parents on Course Requests Tab in SIS.

# Course Requests in SIS

Home

Messages

Calendar

Attendance

Class Schedule

Course History

**Course Request**

Grade Book

Health

Report Card

Student Info

FCPS Links

Test History

Documents

## COURSE REQUEST

Welcome to the District's online course request selection website!

**Lake Braddock Middle School (703-426-1000)**  
**2021-2022 School Year, Grade: 08**

Selection  
Counselor

Course requests are locked in

Selected Course Requests			
Ln	Course ID	Course Title	Elective
▶ 1	110870	Literacy 8	Yes
▶ 2	112081	English 8	
▶ 3	235781	Civics 8	
▶ 4	311281	Pre Algebra	
▶ 5	412571	Invest Matter/Ener	
▶ 6	720033	Health & PE 8	
▶ 7	720034	Health & PE 8	
▶ 8	781981	Strats for Success	Yes
▶ 9	993800	Team Desig 8th Gr	

Special education classes are “regular” classes that have either one additional team teacher (71) or a smaller group class size (81).

# Notes about Transitions

- ❖ Caitlin or Hedieh should be invited to IEP meetings and added to IEP teams to assist with the transition process.
- ❖ Current reading levels and the month the data was collected should be included in the present levels. This information is critical as we place students in Reading supports and determine which programs will best meet their needs.
- ❖ We are happy to provide tours to help families make informed decisions about the transition to middle school. Please reach out to Caitlin or Hedieh to schedule a tour. Tours should not take place during the SOL window or in June as that is not a clear picture of what middle school looks like.

## Contact Information

### **Caitlin Zayas**

LBMS Special Education  
Department Chairperson,  
General Curriculum

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### **Hedieh Khorsand**

LBMS Special Education  
Department Chairperson,  
Adapted Curriculum

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Phone: 703-426-6318

Please feel free to reach out to Caitlin or Hedieh with any questions! They can help talk through different class options and provide suggestions.

Welcome to Bruin Nation!

# Talking about Special Education

As your student enters middle school years, the need for greater independence and self-advocacy will emerge. Having conversations with your student about how they learn best is an important part of that process. Here are some resources that might support that conversation:

- [Explaining Learning Disabilities to Your Child](#)



# Questions?





<https://lakebraddockss.fcps.edu>

[www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)