



tunbridge

Teaching Baltimore's Children to Live Healthy, Balanced Lives
INTELLECTUALLY • SOCIALLY/EMOTIONALLY • PHYSICALLY

MIDDLE SCHOOL

In the Tunbridge middle school, we take our mission — to teach our children to live healthy, balanced lives — and tailor it to the needs of our oldest Owls. As our school was designed as a K-8 program, this comes very naturally for our adolescent learners who have been with us through elementary school. **We know your child and your child knows the expectations and opportunities of Tunbridge life.** Our middle school is just different enough from our elementary school to give children the sense of independence they so crave at this age, and just the same enough for them to feel safe and transition smoothly.

Middle school is a time of great change in the lives of young people. Our **small school** and **small class size** allow for personal attention and meaningful relationships that foster a safe, caring community of learners. We engage and celebrate our adolescent learners with regular opportunities to think critically, be physically active, and interact constructively with peers. As our 5th graders graduate and pass through the breezeway into our middle school building, they continue to hone their healthy habits of mind and body as they work, learn, play, and eat together as 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

The Tunbridge community is diverse. **Tunbridge kids are kind.** Our middle school students verbalize and demonstrate our mission regularly, inside and outside of school.

5504 York Road | Baltimore, MD 21212 | Phone 410.323.8690 | Fax 410.323.8693 | www.tunbridgepcs.org  facebook.com/tunbridgepcs

ABI SCHOOLS

Afya | Tunbridge | Brehms Lane | www.afyabaltimore.org

 facebook.com/afyabaltimore

 twitter.com/abi_schools

 linkedin.com/company/afya-baltimore-inc



tunbridge

Intellectual Health : Academic Excellence

Our instructional programming supports students as they develop more sophisticated ways of thinking and reasoning. The middle school staff members are experts in their content areas and experienced with middle grades learners. As always at Tunbridge, the setting is warm and inviting and our middle school teachers open their doors to parent visits.

Our **language arts** curriculum, featuring modules developed by Expeditionary Learning, allows students to dig into and grapple with compelling topics. They notice and analyze author's craft, do research for a real purpose, and build knowledge through content-rich nonfiction, information text and novels. Our students write extensively, acquiring the tools of academic writing they will need in high school while also developing their own voice as a writer. They learn to ask good questions, listen thoughtfully and critically, and ground their arguments in evidence and reasoning.

Mathematics instruction aligns with the deeper conceptual understandings identified in Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. Our curriculum, Eureka Math, is also used in our elementary grades and strengthens students' ability to reason and problem-solve. Our math block includes opportunities to work independently and in small groups on targeted instruction to ensure students have mastered essential skills and concepts as well as have the chance to apply

their learning to complex problems. For those students who are ready, we offer honors courses in sixth and seventh grade math, as well as Algebra I in eighth grade.

Our **science** program is designed so our students gain both an in-depth understanding of science content knowledge and the important skills of inquiry, communication and problem solving they will use in the future. Our curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, which seek to teach science in a way that reflects how scientists think and learn about the discipline. There is a strong effort to embed engineering/design challenges into each unit. Our middle school course sequence is Earth Science in 6th grade, Life Science/Biology in 7th grade, and Physics/Chemistry in 8th.

In **social studies**, our students learn to reason and research like historians. They explore topics deeply, analyze sources, and apply the lessons of the past to today's world. Units of study often extend from learning in our language arts classes. 6th grade focuses on the civilizations in the ancient world, 7th grade digs into issues such as migration, labor laws and voting rights 8th grade turns to American history.

Additionally, our middle school students take **Spanish**, they attend **library** where they can browse and borrow books, and they participate in a **technology** course where they learn keyboarding, digital citizenship and other valuable skills in preparation for high school.

5504 York Road | Baltimore, MD 21212 | Phone 410.323.8690 | Fax 410.323.8693 | www.tunbridgepcs.org  facebook.com/tunbridgepcs

ABI SCHOOLS

Afya | Tunbridge | Brehms Lane | www.afyabaltimore.org

 facebook.com/afyabaltimore

 twitter.com/abi_schools

 linkedin.com/company/afya-baltimore-inc



tunbridge

Social/Emotional Health : Strong Climate & Culture Physical Health : Fitness & Nutrition

An exciting addition to a student's day in middle school is the introduction of **Advisory**, the Tunbridge version of a homeroom. Advisory continues the Morning Meeting tradition of the elementary grades with its emphasis on connectedness to school, social skills and goal setting, and takes it a step further, incorporating conflict resolution, time management, and organizational skills. Well aware of the challenges middle school age children encounter, we believe the social/emotional portion of our school's mission becomes even more critical. Each Advisory is paired with a team of two teachers and meets every morning to make sure they are prepared for their day, and again each afternoon for circle, where students wrap up their learning day in a positive way, ready to head home with completed planners and everything they need for success at home. Advisory meets for an extended period on Wednesday mornings for one hour, allowing groups the time to get more fully into community building, self-expression, and methods to take care of themselves, others and their spaces. Beyond Advisory, we have structures in place for our students that need extra guidance, including support services from social workers, counselors, and school psychologists.

The **Paths-to-PAX** behavioral system that our kids are so in-tune with from their elementary years is adapted for our middle school students, another familiarity for them as they tackle the many changes of adolescence. Maintaining another dimension of our elementary grades, the tradition of "tootles" and Friday Socials, our Advisories **celebrate** during lunch every Friday to recognize the accomplishments of the week.

Our middle school students are active every day. They have weekly **physical education** class as well as a separate **health** class. The Tunbridge program reflects our school's commitment to healthy living as well as the Maryland Health Education State Curriculum. Our teachers work with students to assess fitness levels, set goals, and track progress throughout the year. Students learn not only the skills and rules of traditional sports but also how staying active and fit can be a part of their everyday life as they grow older. They learn about healthy, positive relationships, how to make smart decisions about drugs and alcohol, and the physical changes that are a part of adolescence. In recognition of early adolescents' needs to be active, opportunities to move are built into our learning day. A combination of organized play and outdoor, **daily recess**— something that is generally rare in a middle school setting, is a regular part of each day in the Tunbridge middle school. The fitness-oriented Tunbridge uniform matures with our adolescents, using fabrics to wick away sweat and the circular tumbling "t" logo. We continue to encourage good nutrition, and teachers continue to join students for lunch.

Our middle schoolers continue to participate in our springtime culminating event, **Family Olympics**, as well as the annual **Tunbridge Mile**: a one-mile fun run through the Homeland neighborhood inspired by Afya PCS.

5504 York Road | Baltimore, MD 21212 | Phone 410.323.8690 | Fax 410.323.8693 | www.tunbridgepcs.org  facebook.com/tunbridgepcs

ABI SCHOOLS

Afya | Tunbridge | Brehms Lane | www.afyabaltimore.org

 facebook.com/afyabaltimore

 twitter.com/abi_schools

 linkedin.com/company/afya-baltimore-inc



tunbridge

Middle School Life : Service Learning, Resource Choice, Extracurriculars, High School

Our **Service Learning Program**, a Maryland State requirement, is built into our Advisory program. Service learning combines service to the community with academic learning, and shows students how what they're learning in school connects to and is valued in the real world. Through grade level projects that link back to the elementary school and to the community, students can earn 15 service learning hours per year. Our 6th grade project is a food drive, our 7th grade project is a walk-a-thon fundraiser, and our 8th grade project is advocating for a cause through participation in an existing event.

Our middle school program continues the Tunbridge commitment to the arts with our **Resource Choice** program through which students have the opportunity to choose an area to focus on for extended study and exploration each quarter: art, music, dance, step, drama, computers, and the school musical. Physical education is also offered as a Choice class, but in addition to the weekly required PE that all middle school students participate in. Performances and exhibits highlighting the extended study take place throughout the school year.

Tunbridge middle school students have lots of opportunities after school to keep busy and engaged, from the **National Academic League team (NAL) to coed flag football, cheerleading, coed cross country, basketball, volleyball and Girl Scouts**. Participation in the **Science Fair** gives students the chance to hear from working scientists as they judge their research. Through the ABI Out-of-School Time program, they can join the **robotics team, take dance classes, zumba, karate, Stocks in the Future, coding, and chess** throughout the year.

Our middle school has a tradition of producing a spectacular springtime **dramatic musical** with two professional evening performances. All middle school students are welcome and encouraged to audition for

roles and participate in costume design, set design, behind-the-scenes tech, advertising, fundraising and more. *The Lion King* is our 2019 show.

The Tunbridge middle school program offers a rigorous curriculum that prepares our students for the high school of their choice. During Advisory, as well as at parent informational meetings each year, the Tunbridge middle school and leadership team will educate students and parents alike on the Baltimore City **high school choice** process. Everything from composite scores, entrance criteria schools, auditions and lotteries, to filling out and meeting application deadlines will be covered. Our staff has participated in the school choice process training with City Schools, and they bring a wealth of experience to our future Tunbridge graduates as they make this important decision.

We know our students well, and we prepare them well with a solid foundation for high school. 46 of our 66 8th graders from our class of 2018 met the minimum requirement composite score for the top entrance criteria public high schools in Baltimore (**City, Poly, Western, Dunbar**).

Tunbridge middle school students have made us proud over the years with their accomplishments in the championship tournaments of the **National Academic League**, and as winners of the **Capstone Challenge STEM project presented by The Ingenuity Project**. We've had writers as state-level finalists in the Letters About Literacy essay contest sponsored by the **Maryland Humanities Council** and **The Library of Congress**, winners in the **College Bound Foundation's** "What College Means To Me" poetry contest, and students published in **Charm**, the Baltimore City literacy magazine. New this year is the **Tunbridge Writing Center**, a student-led after school opportunity for kids 4th grade and up to get help with essays and assignments. Many of our students attend a college preparatory summer sleep-away camp at Bowdoin College called **Bowdoin Bound**, and we have other **summer enrichment** opportunities available each year.

5504 York Road | Baltimore, MD 21212 | Phone 410.323.8690 | Fax 410.323.8693 | www.tunbridgepcs.org  facebook.com/tunbridgepcs

ABI SCHOOLS

Afya | Tunbridge | Brehms Lane | www.afyabaltimore.org

 facebook.com/afyabaltimore

 twitter.com/abi_schools

 linkedin.com/company/afya-baltimore-inc