**General Description of the MSSP at Marsteller Middle School**

The Marsteller Middle School Math/Science Specialty Program is interest-based and is designed for students who have enthusiasm and preference for math and science in middle school. MSSP participants are grouped together with other program students for daily math and science classes where they benefit from studying with like-minded students. Their other classes are scheduled within the general student population. Program instruction covers the same objectives as other classes but does so in greater depth with selected activities and goals that may require more work, time-management and organizational skills. Signet is a separate pull-out gifted program available to both MSSP and non-MSSP participants. Both extended and regular math classes are available within the program.

The MSSP program is interest-based, however all students enrolled in the program are required to meet these basic expectations:

\* Maintain minimum of **C** **in both mathematics and science**

\* Complete all daily assignments and projects (Maintain **S** in **Work Habits**-minimum 80% completion rate)

\* Participate in classes in an active, positive manner (Maintain an **S** in **Conduct**)

\* Pass Math and Science SOLs

**Acceptance is contingent on passing the spring SOL Tests in math every year**. Students who do not pass will not be enrolled in the program that fall. Transfer participants who fail the SOL **must return to their base school** for the upcoming year.

There have been some recent changes to the application process. Paper applications are no longer accepted. Instead, all applications must be completed online. The county-provided link to this online application will become available on the PWC website ([www.pwcs.edu](http://www.pwcs.edu)) and our website (<http://marstellerms.schools.pwcs.edu>) at the start of November. Applicants must also print a paper copy of the Teacher Recommendation Form either from the application web link or from the file on our web page. It is the responsibility of the applicant family to submit this to a current elementary teacher and have the teacher return the form to Marsteller via courier, mail or email. Elementary school guidance counselors may also assist with this**. As in the past, the absolute deadline for submitting applications and Teacher Recommendations is February 1, 2015**. After applications are received, current grades are also reviewed. All acceptance letters are provisional until spring SOL scores are reviewed.

**Please note that the Teacher Recommendation is not part of the online application but must be submitted to Marsteller Middle School by the February 1, 2015 deadline**.

In addition to the two fall county Middle School Specialty Program Information Nights previously conducted at KLC in October, Marsteller also hosts an **on-site information night on Tuesday, January 6, 2015** (snow date January 12, 2015). Parents may take a look at the school and there will be a short power point presentation followed by a time for general questions. **The same slide presentation will also be available to view online at the Marsteller website.**