



## The STARS Program

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The Science, Technology and Research Signature Program (STARS) provides a student with a course of study that emphasizes a strong background in science, mathematics, and computer technology, while encouraging the development of a well-rounded skill set. Students participate in a comprehensive, rigorous series of courses that prepares them for a career in the sciences. Students work with the program coordinator to shape their individual paths of study depending on interests, goals and future ambitions.

### Highlights of the STARS Experience:

- College and career guidance specific to science and related fields
- Lectures, events and activities
- Access to an excellent network of mentors for Science Internships

### Core requirements

Students in the STARS program have made a commitment to studying science in greater depth. Therefore, they will choose additional courses in science and math that speak to that commitment. Below are the minimum additional courses and the corresponding certificate levels available. The actual certificate awarded during STARS graduation will reflect the subject area(s) in which the student concentrated (ie: Molecular Biology, Engineering, etc.).

**Below are the minimum course requirements for certificates of achievement or excellence. Additional courses may be required for particular areas of study (for example, Engineering certificate of excellence requires AP Physics and Applied Science).**

	MD Graduation Requirement	STARS Certificate of Achievement (minimum)	STARS Certificate of Excellence
<b>Mathematics</b>	4.0 credits	2 AP or college level math classes ( <i>for Math certificate only- no additional math courses required for completion of other certificates</i> )	N.A.
<b>Science</b>	3.0 credits	1 additional science course, Honors or AP level	2 additional science courses beyond graduation requirements, Honors or AP level
<b>Research Project* (10th grade or summer)</b>	.5 credits	Required for all STARS students	
<b>Science Internship (summer, sr. year or both)</b>	1.0-3.0 credits		Required for all certificates of excellence

\*Formerly Research Design

## Scheduling

Students in the program represent a vast array of potential interests and career goals. There are many possible ways for students to define and achieve those goals. Below are two representative schedules of students who be working towards certificates of excellence. Please note that students are NOT required to take summer courses, but many in the program choose to do so.

*REMEMBER: Every student's schedule is unique and reflective of the student's future plans.*

This is a STARS **Sample** Course Selection for Student A:

Grade	Science Course(s)	Other
9 <sup>th</sup>	Honors Matter and Energy	
Summer		Foundations of Technology <b>-and-</b> Health **
10 <sup>th</sup>	STARS Honors Biology <b>-and-</b> Honors Chemistry	
Summer		Research Project (Research Design)
11 <sup>th</sup>	AP Chemistry (double period)	
Summer		Science Internship
12 <sup>th</sup>	AP Biology (double period)	

STARS **Sample** Course Selections for Student B:

Grade	Science Course(s)	Other
9 <sup>th</sup>	Honors Chemistry	
Summer		Foundations of Technology <b>-and-</b> Health **
10 <sup>th</sup>	STARS Honors Biology <b>-and-</b> Honors Physics	
Summer		Research Project (Research Design)
11 <sup>th</sup>	AP Chemistry (double period) <b>-and-</b> Molecular Biology	
Summer		Science Internship
12 <sup>th</sup>	AP Physics (double period) <b>-and-</b> Science Internship	

\*\* Online, or combination online/ in person courses.

### **Additionally, all STARS students are required to:**

- Participate in a minimum of five STARS activities yearly. These may be a combination of business, social, speaker, field studies or seminar meetings
  - Maintain an overall unweighted GPA of 3.0 and minimum of 3.0 in all science courses (each marking period)
- Information detailing the program requirements will be provided during STARS orientation.

### ***How do I become part of STARS?***

Students must apply to the program prior to their sophomore year. Students will not be admitted to the program after that time except by special circumstance (such as transferring into the school). Regardless of year of entry, all requirements will be met by all students in the program. Applications are available on the Wootton webpage under "Signature Program". Please click on the appropriate link, complete and submit.

Please see Ms. Nostrand in room 202A for more information, or email questions to [Terri\\_Nostrand@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Terri_Nostrand@mcpsmd.org)