

# Wootton STARS

## Overview

Thank you for your interest in the Thomas S. Wootton Science, Technology and Research Signature Program (STARS). Becoming a part of STARS is an important step towards realizing your future as a scientist, physician, engineer or one of many thousands of other science and research related professions. Throughout your four years in the program you will be exposed to a breadth of science courses and opportunities. You will be encouraged to develop leadership skills through club involvement and internships. The goals are to help each student work on his or her path towards success, and to embrace a common requirement of all scientists: a life-long love of learning.

Consideration for the program will be based primarily on your teacher recommendation and your potential for performing advanced level coursework. Students who are selected for the program must exhibit capability and readiness for the following requirements:

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade honors-level science (Honors Matter and Energy or Honors Chemistry)
- Maintain a minimum overall 3.0 GPA (unweighted)
- No science course final semester grades below a B
- Active enrollment in a science or math related club for each year in the program (time varies by club)
- Participation in STARS events, after-school lectures and meetings (approximately 10-15 hours/ year)

## Application Process

This year represents a change in our application procedure. All applications must be completed online by following this [link](#). The application may also be found on the Wootton website in the left-hand column of Signature Programs -> STARS. **No paper applications will be considered for any applicants beginning January 1, 2011.** The application should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. You will be notified that your application has been successfully received when you click submit.

Incoming freshmen and new transfers must submit their applications by April 15th. All others applicants are considered on a rolling, case-by-case basis prior to the end of the second semester of sophomore year. Upper-classman transfer students must meet with Program Coordinator Terri Nostrand prior to completing this application to discuss eligibility for the program.

### Additional application requirements:

Incoming freshmen applications require a teacher recommendation from the current science teacher (see below).

All students transferring from outside of MCPS will be required to submit a science teacher recommendation and a copy of the most recent report card (official transcripts are not required). Parents may mail a copy of the report card to: STARS Program, attn: Terri Nostrand, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD 20850.

### Teacher recommendation process:

A recommendation is required for all rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders and all transfer students (any grade). This recommendation must come from the student's current science teacher. It is intended to gain the instructor's perspective regarding a student's aptitudes, work ethic and potential to succeed in the STARS program. The teacher recommendation will be completed and submitted entirely online. No paper letters of recommendation will be accepted. The responses will be confidential and students/ parents waive the right to see the contents. Upon receipt of your application a request for the recommendation will be sent to the teacher using the email you provide. Please encourage your child to ask his/her teacher ahead of time, and allow enough time for the recommendation to be completed before the due date.