

Poolesville High School

A Whole School Magnet

For Grades 9 through 12



17501 West Willard Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-972-7900

Applications available at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms



Rockville, Maryland

WELCOME TO POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

INTRODUCING THE WHOLE SCHOOL MAGNET

Montgomery County Public Schools has a twenty-five year track record of developing nationally recognized, rigorous instructional programs for highly motivated and capable students. Poolesville High School was recognized in Newsweek magazine as the #1 high school in the State of Maryland in their 6/27/11 issue. The programs at Poolesville High school are available for up-county students who test into the program as well as for students who reside in the Poolesville attendance area. The whole school magnet opens to all the promise of rigorous, engaging courses taught by inspired teachers. A whole school magnet is organized around instructional “houses” made up of small teams of teachers from multiple disciplines focused on a proven magnet course of studies. The whole school model engages and challenges students selected through an application process, as well as local school students interested in the magnet focus areas.

Magnet focus areas

- Global House (GH)
- Humanities House (HH)
- Independent Studies Program (ISP)
- Science, Math, Computer Science House (SMCSH)

FOUR HOUSES OF INSTRUCTION— YOU DECIDE

Students who are going through the application/screening process may only apply to the Global House, Humanities House and the Science, Math, Computer Science House. They may be invited to all three houses or any combination. These students must choose only one instructional house. Students who successfully complete the house courses designated with an asterisk (*) will earn a House Certificate of Achievement.

All other students benefit from an Independent Studies Program. During the 9th and 10th grade year students fulfill many graduation requirements much in the same way as college freshman and sophomores complete basic graduation requirements. When choosing courses for the junior year, students select a house focus to earn an ISP Certificate of Achievement based on the courses they select as juniors and seniors.



For more information please visit the MCPS special programs website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms

Or visit the Poolesville High School website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillehs/magnet/

GLOBAL ECOLOGY HOUSE

Science/Social Studies/Research/Field Studies

Global Ecology students have the opportunity to specialize in rigorous science and social studies curricula. Every student has the opportunity to—

- Study environmental issues through rigorous interdisciplinary science and social studies curriculum,
- Develop field, laboratory, and research skills in the sciences, and social sciences
- Cultivate an awareness of environmental citizenship.
- Complete an environmental senior project.

HUMANITIES HOUSE

English/Social Studies/Research

Humanities students specialize in visual and performing arts, cultural and political studies, and media productions. Every Humanities student has the opportunity to—

- Pursue rigorous humanities curricula with an interdisciplinary connection among English, social studies, communication and criticism courses,
- Develop and deepen skills in performance and written communication, and
- Work with peers to develop top quality multimedia products.
- Complete a senior project.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES PROGRAM

Biological and Physical Science/Cultural and Political Studies/Music, Arts, Media Studies/Technology and Math Studies/Original Studies

Independent Studies Program students have the opportunity to specialize in their own focused plan of studies with a required field studies component and senior project presentation. Every Independent Studies Program student has the opportunity to—

- Pursue rigorous curricula with a career/college focus,
- Work with peers to solve investigations requiring research and problem-solving skills, and
- Explore a profession which intrigues and captivates.

SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE HOUSE

Advanced Science, Math, Computer Science/Research

Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science students have the opportunity to specialize in rigorous mathematics and science curricula focused on problem-solving skills and research. Every Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science student has the opportunity to—

- Pursue rigorous science, mathematics, and computer science curricula focused on the problem-solving requirements of engineering,
- Develop and deepen skills in problem-solving, analysis, and laboratory investigations,
- Work with peers to solve mathematical, science, and engineering problems, and
- Complete an independent science research project linked to the student's interest.

**All MCPS course descriptions can be found in the
MCPS High School Course Bulletin or online at mcpscourses.org.**

GLOBAL ECOLOGY HOUSE

Students choose from a range of courses in the Global Ecology House (GH).

Courses noted with an asterisk (*) must be successfully completed to earn the GH Certificate of Achievement.

	9	10	11	12
ENGLISH	English 9 (H)	English 10 (H)	English 11 (H) • AP English Language and Composition	English 12 (H) • AP English Literature
SOCIAL STUDIES	GH US History (H)*	GH AP National State and Local Government*	GH AP World History*	Advanced Placement electives
SCIENCE	GH Environmental Science—Biology (H)*	GH Environmental Science—Chemistry (H)*	• GH Env. Science—Physics (H)* or AP Physics B • Advanced Placement electives	• GH AP Environmental Science* • Advanced Placement electives
HOUSE FOCUS	GH Foundations of Technology A/B*		Students must complete a total of 6 semesters of Global electives** during their junior and senior years	
MATHEMATICS	• Geometry (H) or Geometry Algebra 2 (H) or Algebra 2	• Precalculus (H) or Precalculus • Algebra 2 (H) or Algebra 2	• AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics • Calculus with Applications • Precalculus (H) or Precalculus	• AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB • AP Statistics • Multivariable Calculus • Calculus with Applications
ELECTIVES	• Introduction to Engineering Design A/B (Project Lead The Way) • Fundamentals of Computer Science • Software Applications by Design • Physical Education • Foreign Language—Spanish, French • Fine Arts	• Principles of Engineering (Project Lead The Way) • Physical Education • Health (.5) • Foreign Language—Spanish, French • Fine Arts	• Civil Engineering & Architecture (Project Lead The Way) • Physical Education • Foreign Language—Spanish, French • Fine Arts	• Engineering Design & Development (Project Lead The Way) • Physical Education • Foreign Language—Spanish, French • Fine Arts

• Courses may be linked and scheduled sequentially.

• Course is required for the GH Certificate of Achievement

** Any AP class in addition to the Global required AP coursework, Marine Biology, Cellular Physiology, Optics, Thermodynamics, Quantum Physics, Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Intro. to Physical Chemistry, Intro to Genetic Analysis, PLTW courses, Research Design, Internship (max. 2 semester credits), Materials Science, Robotics, Linear Algebra, Discrete Math

HUMANITIES HOUSE

Students can choose from a range of courses in the Humanities House (HH). Courses noted with an asterisk (*) must be successfully completed to earn the Humanities Certificate of Achievement.

	9	10	11	12
ENGLISH	Humanities English 9 (H)*	Humanities English 10 (H)*	AP English Language and Composition*	AP English Literature*
SOCIAL STUDIES	Humanities US History (H)*	Humanities NSL Government AP*	Humanities AP World History*	AP Human Geography*
HOUSE FOCUS	Criticism in the Humanities A/B*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy* (.5) Media Literacy* (.5) 	AP Art History*	
SCIENCE	Matter & Energy (H) or Biology (H)	Biology (H) or Chemistry (H)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry (H) Science elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics (H) Science elective
MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry (H) or Geometry Algebra 2 (H) or Algebra 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precalculus (H) or Precalculus Algebra 2 (H) or Algebra 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB AP Statistics Calculus with Applications Precalculus (H) or Precalculus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multivariable Calculus AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB AP Statistics Calculus with Applications
ELECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software Applications by Design Introduction to Engineering Design Physical Education Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law TV Production A (.5) Physical Education Health (.5) Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts Internship Law Comparative Religion (.5) Sociology (.5)

▲ Courses may be linked and scheduled sequentially.

* Course is required for the Humanities Certificate of Achievement

INDEPENDENT STUDIES PROGRAM CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Freshmen and sophomores will be encouraged to take honors or AP classes, if appropriate. They will have opportunities to explore college and career pathways and to seek learning experiences outside of the classroom by participating in educational field trips. By the end of sophomore year, when they meet with their counselors, students should decide on a focused plan of study in one of the ISP *areas of focus*, to be completed in the junior and senior years.

Requirement*—4.0 credits from the following courses**	
Area of Focus	
Biological and Physical Science (BAPS)	Chemistry†, AP Chemistry†, Physics†, AP Physics†, Environmental Science†, AP Environmental Science†, AP Biology†, Anatomy and Physiology†, Earth Science, Forensic Science, Environmental Guided Research†, Cellular Physiology†, Genetics†, Marine Biology†, Analytical Chemistry†, Internship, other advance level science courses as offered
Cultural and Political Studies (CAPS)	Modern World History, AP World History†, AP Human Geography†, AP Economics, AP Literature†, AP Language & Composition†, AP NSL Government, AP Comparative Government, Russian History, Comparative Religion, AP Art History, AP Psychology, Psychology, Ancient and Medieval History, Sociology, Philosophy, Law, Debate, Peace Studies, Foreign Language (level 3 or above), Internship
Music/Arts/Media Studies (IMAMS)	Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Guitar, Jazz Ensemble, Journalism, Theater, TV Production, Photography, Ceramics, Painting, AP Art History, Studio Art†, AP Studio Art†, Creative Writing, Yearbook, Media Literacy, Debate, Literature as Film, Web Design, Internship
Project Lead The Way (PLTW)	Introduction to Engineering (IED), Principles of Engineering (POE), Digital Electronics† (DE), Civil Engineering and Architecture† (CEA), Engineering Design and Development† (EDD) *
Technology and Math Studies (TAMS)	Computer Programming†, Discovering Programming†, Web Design†, Computer Graphics†, AP Computer Science†, Analysis of Algorithms†, Materials Science†, Statistics†, AP Statistics†, AP Calculus AB & BC†, Multivariable Calculus†, Internship, Materials Science, Robotics
Original Studies	Discuss with counselor or magnet coordinator your career of choice to develop the 4.0 credits required ††

* Not all courses will be offered every year. New courses may be added as well.





** Courses must be completed during their junior and senior year.


† Prerequisite required.

†† Includes programs offered at PHS and through MCPS, such as: Thomas Edison High School of Technology, Fire/EMT Academy, AP/Honors Course, Internships, or College/Career Research and Development

SCIENCE, MATH, COMPUTER SCIENCE HOUSE-EXTENDED DAY

SMCSH has two different program certificates. The most sought after certificate is the "Certificate of Achievement with Research." The second option is a "Certificate of Achievement" which does not have a research component. Math is required for all four years. Students must successfully complete at least BC Calculus to obtain either of the SMCSH certificates.

	9	10	11	12
ENGLISH	English 9 (H)	English 10 (H)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Language and Composition English 11 (H) 	AP English Literature
SOCIAL STUDIES	US History (H)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP National State & Local Government (H) National State & Local Government (H) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP World History Modern World History (H) 	Advanced Placement electives
 SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Science 1—Physics* Advanced Science 2—Chemistry* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Science 3—Earth Science* Advanced Science 4—Biology* 	Students must complete a total of 5 semesters of SMCS electives** during their junior and senior years.	Students must complete a total of 5 semesters of SMCS electives** during their junior and senior years.
 RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Experimentation for Problem Solving 1 A/B (.25)* 	SMCS's Principles of Engineering*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Design (.5)* and Research Project A* 	Research Project B (.5)
 COMPUTER SCIENCE	Fundamentals of Computer Science A/B*	Algorithms and Data Structures A/B*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Algorithms Computer Graphics Networking Software Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Artificial Intelligence with LISP Computer Modeling & Simulation Networking Software Design
 MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnet Geometry* Magnet Precalculus A/B* or Magnet Functions A/B* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnet Precalculus A/B Magnet Precalculus C/Magnet Functions B Analysis 1 A/B AP Calculus BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnet Precalculus C/Magnet Functions B Analysis 1 A/B AP Calculus BC Analysis 2 A/B Multivariable Calculus AP Statistics (1.0) or Applied Statistics* (.5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis 1 A/B or Analysis 2 A/B Multivariable Calculus AP Calculus BC Linear Algebra (.5) Discrete Math (.5)
ELECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education Health (.5) Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education/Health Foreign Language—Spanish, French Fine Arts Internship

 Courses may be linked and scheduled sequentially.

* Course is required for the SMCS Certificate of Achievement

** Research Project B, Cellular Physiology, Optics, Thermodynamics, Quantum Physics, Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Intro. to Physical Chemistry, Intro. to Genetic Analysis, Marine Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Biology, AP Physics B or C, Analysis of Algorithms, Computer Graphics, Software Design, Modeling & Simulation, Robotics, Material Science, Networking, Materials Science, Robotics, Linear Algebra, Discrete Math

This document is available in an alternate format, upon request, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the Public Information Office, at 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 112, Rockville, MD 20850, or by phone at 301-279-3391 or via the Maryland Relay at 1-800-735-2258.

Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration in communicating with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) may contact Interpreting Services in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at 301-517-5539.

MCPS prohibits illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, socio-economic status, age, disability, physical characteristics, or sexual orientation. Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination or Title IX issues such as gender equity and sexual harassment should be directed to the Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Schools at 301-279-3126, via the Maryland Relay at 1-800-735-2258, or addressed to that office at 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 129, Rockville, MD 20850.



Rockville, Maryland