

DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

2009-10 Course Bulletin

SCHOOL VISION AND CORE VALUES

School Vision:

The mission of Damascus High School, with its comprehensive and challenging programs, is to ensure that all students learn the skills necessary to compete in an intellectually advanced society and to become informed and productive citizens.

School Core Values:

1. Damascus High School is committed to providing a safe and inviting environment to all students;
2. Every person is valued and respected;
3. Success is everyone's responsibility; and
4. Everyone can and should strive for improvement.

The staff at Damascus High School is fully committed to the school vision and core values and will do everything possible to assist in the education of our students.

Dear Damascus High School Student and Parent,

It is registration time. This is a time when students, parents, teachers, and counselors work together to assist in the process of selecting the proper courses for each student. Students should take time to make sure that their selections are correct and appropriate. Counselors will assist students during the registration process to insure that graduation requirements are completed and to answer any questions or address any concerns during the process. **It is vital that students take the registration process seriously. Our master schedule is built based on student selections during this time period. Any adjustment to a student's course selections is very limited. Adjustments are made due to meeting course prerequisites. Adjustments can not be made due to a change in the student's desire to take the selected course.**

The registration process contains several parts:

1. During February, registration materials are distributed to students. Each student will receive a Damascus High School course bulletin, a registration card with course level recommendations from teachers, and instructions for completing the registration card. These materials will be distributed from the student's counselor through the student's English class. A county course bulletin will also be provided in the classroom.
2. Students are to register for the required courses as explained by their counselor. Students are encouraged to register for the level recommended by their teacher. If a student or parent has a question concerning the level recommendation, please contact the student's first semester teacher as that is the person who completed the recommendation. Students wanting to register for a higher or lower level than recommended by their teacher should discuss this with their counselor during the registration period. Parents can request a level change in the Parent/Student Comment section on the registration card. Once registered, the ability to make changes is very limited.
3. Students will have a week to review the registration materials with their parents/guardians, make their selections, have the registration card signed by their parents/guardians, and return the card back to their English class. Students will be instructed the due date for returning the card. Students need to return their cards on time to insure they get registered for the courses they need and want. Students not returning their cards will be scheduled into courses without student input.
4. The county High School Course Bulletin is an important part of the registration process. The beginning of the booklet explains many of the procedures in high schools, such as how grade point average is calculated, academic eligibility rules, criteria for enrollment in advanced level courses, the new Maryland High School Assessment, and Maryland High School diploma requirements. Additionally, a complete description of all courses is in the booklet. The introduction of the county course bulletin is included in this course bulletin. Please note that the county booklet contains descriptions for all high school courses. Not all of those courses are offered at Damascus. Further information regarding courses can be found at www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/coursebulletin/

Damascus High School Counseling Department

General Information

This bulletin has been prepared to assist students in making the best selection of academic and elective courses and in knowing what options are available to students at Damascus High School. It is essential that these selections be done in a serious manner. The time for investigation, discussion, and decision-making should occur before registration. **SOME COURSES HAVE FEES. A FEE SHEET WILL BE SUPPLIED TO ALL STUDENTS. PLEASE SEE YOUR COUNSELOR FOR AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE WAIVER OF FEES.**

The master schedule is constructed on the basis of the registration count. **Students are expected to take the classes they select during registration.** Counselors will be available to offer assistance if it is necessary to change registration selections due to cancellation of any course.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Number of Credits Required
English	4
Social Studies	3 US History, NSL Government, and Modern World History – REQUIRED
Science	3 Physical Science and Biological Science – REQUIRED
Math	4 Algebra and Geometry – REQUIRED
Physical Education	1
Health	.5
Fine Arts	1
Technology Education	1
**Foreign Language OR	2
**Advanced Technology Education OR	2
**Career Development Program	4
Student Service Learning	60 75 for Class of 2011 and above
<p>22 Credits Needed to Graduate</p> <p>**Students must complete one ** area to meet graduation requirements</p> <p>Students must take and pass all High School Assessments (HSA) in Algebra 1, English 10, Biology, and NSL</p>	

COURSE LEVELS

At Damascus High School, many of our courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, and computer science are offered at several levels. Those levels are Advanced Placement (AP), honors, and on-level. Students are encouraged to take the most rigorous level offered in a course.

Advanced Placement:

The Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses provide the opportunity to receive college credit. These courses give students an opportunity to work closely with a teacher in a smaller, familiar setting as opposed to most colleges. Courses are designed to prepare students for college by exposing them to higher level thinking and test questions. There is an expectation for independent learning and ownership of learning. **Advanced Placement exams are administered at the end of the course and the expectation is that all students in an Advanced Placement course take the exam.** There is a fee for the A.P. exam. The exam result will determine if a student can receive college credit for the course. All colleges have different requirements regarding awarding college credit for A.P. exams. **Students in an Advanced Placement course who take the Advanced Placement exam are exempt from taking the course final examination in the second semester.**

Honors:

Honors level courses are intended to allow the student to go further in understanding and demonstrating knowledge in a particular course. Students are expected to grasp the reading assignments and be prepared to discuss in class. Additionally, more extended assignments are an integral part of the course. Enrollment in an honors level course is determined by many factors as listed on page 20. No single criteria will be used to exclude a student from participating in honors level courses.

On-Level:

On –level courses are our regular courses that help prepare students for the required parts of a course’s curriculum. On level courses are intended to prepare students for college. Students who consistently attain high grades in an on-level course should consider changing to the honors level for their next course.

Included with on-level courses are on-level S courses. This level is intended for those students who are below grade level for that course. On-level S courses are usually smaller which allows teachers to interact with the students at a greater frequency level. While the curriculum demands are the same, teachers employ additional strategies to assist students in this level of courses.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Students who are coded for special education receive services per their IEP. Damascus High School offers resource classes for special education students. Additionally, special education educators participate with regular education educators in delivering instruction in both supported on-level courses and on-level S courses. Speech and language services are also available for identified students. Specific special education programs at Damascus High School are the following:

Learning and Academic Disabilities:

The Learning and Academic Disabilities (LAD) program serves students receiving a diploma and having a learning disability that significantly impacts academic achievement. The goals of the program are to ensure access to the MCPS General Education Program of Studies and to provide opportunities for students to participate in the general education environment. Student support consists of courses identified as S+ (an on-level course taught by a special educator and supported with a special education paraeducator), On-Level with Support (a course taught by a general educator and supported by a special education paraeducator) and consult (consultative support with general education teachers).

Learning for Independence:

The Learning for Independence (LFI) program serves special education students receiving a Certificate of Attendance upon graduation, as identified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. The goals of the program are to provide functional life skills and basic academics using the MCPS Fundamental Life Skills curriculum. The LFI program provides students with opportunities for interaction with non-disabled peers and mainstreaming in general education with support. Students are prepared for adult life by teaching them skills that will enhance their opportunities in work, recreational, and home settings, and to make a meaningful contribution to their communities.

School-Community Based Program:

The School-Community Based Program (SCBP) serves special education students receiving a Certificate of Attendance upon graduation, as identified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. The goals of the program are to provide individualized instruction in functional life skills such as personal management, functional academics, community training, communication and vocational training. Students are provided with opportunities for interaction with non-disabled peers and mainstreaming in general education with support.

COURSE SELECTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The placement of students in English classes is determined by past performance in English classes, teacher recommendation, and student interest.

Code	Course Title	Grade
131304	Honors English 9A	09
131404	Honors English 9B	09
131100	English 9A	09
131200	English 9B	09
131103	English 9A S	09
131203	English 9B S	09
132304	Honors English 10A	10
132404	Honors English 10B	10
132100	English 10A	10
132200	English 10B	10
132103	English 10A S	10
132203	English 10B S	10
101500	English 11: AP Lang & Comp A	11
101600	English 11: AP Lang & Comp B	11
133304	Honors English 11A	11
133404	Honors English 11B	11
133100	English 11A	11
133200	English 11B	11
133103	English 11A S	11
133203	English 11B S	11
101700	English 12: AP Lit & Comp A	12
101800	English 12: AP Lit & Comp B	12
134304	Honors English 12A	12
134404	Honors English 12B	12
134100	English 12A	12
134200	English 12B	12
134103	English 12A S	12
134203	English 12B S	12

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

(These courses cannot be taken for English graduation requirement)

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
115000	Journalism A: Editing, Gathering & Reporting News	10, 11, 12	
115100	Journalism B: Advanced News writing	10, 11, 12	Journalism A
115200	Newspaper A: Techniques of Advanced Journalism	11, 12	Journalism A & B
115301	Newspaper B: Publications Editing and Layout	11, 12	Newspaper A
115302	Yearbook A: Publications Editing and Layout	10, 11, 12	Journalism A & B
115303	Yearbook B: Publications Editing and Layout	10, 11, 12	Yearbook A
113000	Advanced Composition A (Creative Writing)	11, 12	
113500	Advanced Composition B (Creative Writing)	11, 12	
146100	Informative and Argumentative Speaking (Sem. 1)	11, 12	
146200	Oral Interpretation and Media Study (Sem. 2)	11, 12	
690600	Literature as Film (a one semester course)	11, 12	

COLLEGE ENTRANCE AND PLACEMENT TEST PREPARATION

All students are recommended to take the SAT Prep course to prepare them for the SAT, ACT, and the Accuplacer placement test at Montgomery College.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
114201	SAT Preparation (Semester 1)	11, 12	Geometry
114202	SAT Preparation (Semester 2)	11	Co-Requisite: Geometry B or higher
114202	SAT Preparation (Semester 2)	10	Co-Requisite: Algebra 2 or higher

THEATER

The Theater courses offer students the opportunity to acquire basic skills in a semi-technical format. **Theater courses satisfy the Fine Arts graduation requirement.**

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
692600	Theater 1A	9, 10, 11, 12	
692700	Theater 1B	9, 10, 11, 12	
692800	Theatre 2A	10, 11, 12	Theater 1B
692900	Theatre 2B	10, 11, 12	

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Foreign language is a subject often required for entrance into colleges and universities. THE MARYLAND STATE SYSTEM OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES PRESENTLY REQUIRES TWO YEARS OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR ENTRANCE. The MCPS foreign language program of studies consists of core content areas that are introduced at Level 1 and are reinforced and expanded in Levels 2 and 3. Some content areas are: body and health, community, family, numbers, shopping, school, and travel. In Levels 4 through 6, greater emphasis is placed on linguistic competence while integrating culture and language.

The prerequisite for each course is the preceding course in the sequence.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
FRENCH		
161100	French 1A	9, 10, 11, 12
162100	French 1B	9, 10, 11, 12
161200	French 2A	9, 10, 11, 12
162200	French 2B	9, 10, 11, 12
161300	French 3A	9, 10, 11, 12
162300	French 3B	9, 10, 11, 12
163304	Honors French 3A	9, 10, 11, 12
164304	Honors French 3B	9, 10, 11, 12
163404	Honors French 4A	10, 11, 12
164404	Honors French 4B	10, 11, 12
SPANISH		
171100	Spanish 1A	9, 10, 11, 12
172100	Spanish 1B	9, 10, 11, 12
171200	Spanish 2A	9, 10, 11, 12
172200	Spanish 2B	9, 10, 11, 12
171300	Spanish 3A	9, 10, 11, 12
172300	Spanish 3B	9, 10, 11, 12
173304	Honors Spanish 3A	9, 10, 11, 12
174304	Honors Spanish 3B	9, 10, 11, 12
171400	Spanish 4A	10, 11, 12
172400	Spanish 4B	10, 11, 12
173404	Honors Spanish 4A	10, 11, 12
174404	Honors Spanish 4B	10, 11, 12
171504	Honors Spanish 5A	11, 12
172504	Honors Spanish 5B	11, 12
171604	Honors Spanish 6A	11, 12
172604	Honors Spanish 6B	11, 12
175900	AP Spanish A	11, 12
176000	AP Spanish B	11, 12
RUSSIAN		
185100	Russian 1A	9, 10, 11, 12
185200	Russian 1B	9, 10, 11, 12
185300	Russian 2A	10, 11, 12
185400	Russian 2B	10, 11, 12
185500	Russian 3A	11, 12
185600	Russian 3B	11, 12

Note: The Russian courses will only be scheduled if a required number of students enroll. Students selecting Russian should also select an alternative foreign language course.

MATHEMATICS

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
	2ND YEAR OF 2-YEAR ALGEBRA 1		
323250	Related Math B (2 nd year of 2 year Algebra)	10	Teacher Recommendation
311250	Algebra 1B	10	
	SINGLE PERIOD ALGEBRA 1		
311100	Algebra 1A (Single Period)	9, 10	
311200	Algebra 1B (Single Period)	9, 10	Algebra 1A
	DOUBLE PERIOD ALGEBRA 1		
311101	Algebra 1A (Double Period)	9, 10, 11, 12	
311201	Algebra 1B (Double Period)	9, 10, 11, 12	Algebra 1A
323101	Related Math A (With Algebra 1A)	9, 10, 11, 12	
323201	Related Math B (with Algebra 1B)	9, 10, 11, 12	Algebra 1A
	GEOMETRY COURSES		
320304	Honors Geometry A	9	Algebra 1B
320404	Honors Geometry B	9	
320100	Geometry A (Single Period)	9, 10, 11, 12	Algebra 1B
320200	Geometry B (Single Period)	9, 10, 11, 12	
	DOUBLE PERIOD GEOMETRY		
320101	Geometry A (DP with support class)	10, 11, 12	Recommendation by Math Teacher
320201	Geometry B (DP with support class)	10, 11, 12	
305101	Geometry Support A	10, 11, 12	Note: Support class counts as an elective credit, NOT a math credit
305201	Geometry Support B	10, 11, 12	
	DOUBLE PERIOD GEOMETRY S		
320103	Geometry A S (DP with support class)	10, 11, 12	Recommendation by Math Teacher
320203	Geometry B S (DP with support class)	10, 11, 12	
305103	Geometry Support A	10, 11, 12	Note: Support class counts as an elective credit, NOT a math credit
305203	Geometry Support B	10, 11, 12	
	PREPARATION FOR ALGEBRA 2		
305300	Bridge to Algebra 2 A	10, 11, 12	Geometry B and Teacher recommendation
305400	Bridge to Algebra 2 B	10, 11, 12	
	ALGEBRA 2 COURSES		
331004	Honors Algebra 2A	10	Geometry B
331104	Honors Algebra 2B	10	Honors Algebra 2A
330100	Algebra 2A	10, 11, 12	Geometry B
330200	Algebra 2B	10, 11, 12	Algebra 2A
	PREPARATION FOR CALCULUS		
335004	Honors Precalculus A	11, 12	Algebra 2B
335104	Honors Precalculus B	11, 12	Honors Precalculus A
348900	Precalculus A	11, 12	Algebra 2B
349000	Precalculus B	11, 12	Precalculus A
	CALCULUS COURSES		
335604	Applications of Calculus A	12	Precalculus B
335704	Applications of Calculus B	12	Applications of Calculus A
345200	AP Calculus AB, A	12	Precalculus B
345300	AP Calculus AB, B	12	AP Calculus AB, A
349100	AP Calculus BC, A	12	Precalculus B
349200	AP Calculus BC, B	12	AP Calculus BC, A
	ADDITIONAL MATH COURSES		
332000	AP Statistics A	11, 12	Algebra 2B
332100	AP Statistics B	11, 12	AP Statistics A
332200	Statistics and Mathematical Modeling A	11, 12	Satisfactory completion of Algebra 2
332300	Statistics and Mathematical Modeling B	11, 12	Satisfactory completion of Geo. B
312100	Quantitative Literacy A	12	
312200	Quantitative Literacy B	12	

SCIENCE

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
382114	Honors Physics A	9	Must be in Algebra 2 or higher
382214	Honors Physics B	9	
376404	Honors Matter & Energy A	9	Must have completed Algebra 1
376504	Honors Matter & Energy B	9	
374900	Matter & Energy A	9	
375000	Matter & Energy B	9	
374903	Matter & Energy A S	9	
375003	Matter & Energy B S	9	
362104	Honors Biology A	10	
362204	Honors Biology B	10	
363100	Biology A	10	
363200	Biology B	10	
363103	Biology A S	10	
363203	Biology B S	10	
365100	AP Biology A (Double Period)	11, 12	
365200	AP Biology B (Double Period)	11, 12	
367100	Horticultural Science A	11, 12	
367200	Horticultural Science B	11, 12	
371104	Honors Chemistry A	11, 12	Successful completion of Geometry or concurrent enrollment
371204	Honors Chemistry B	11, 12	
372100	Chemistry A	11, 12	Successful completion of Geometry or concurrent enrollment
372200	Chemistry B	11, 12	
375100	AP Chemistry A (Double Period)	11, 12	Successful completion of Chemistry and Algebra 2
375200	AP Chemistry B (Double Period)	11, 12	
376104	Anatomy & Physiology A (Ad. Level)	11, 12	Successful completion of Biology & Chemistry or taking Chem. concurrently
376204	Anatomy & Physiology B (Ad. Level)	11, 12	
381504	Honors Earth/Space Systems A	11, 12	
381604	Honors Earth/Space Systems B	11, 12	
381100	Earth/Space Systems A	11, 12	
381200	Earth/Space Systems B	11, 12	
383100	Physics A	11, 12	Successful completion of Geometry or concurrent enrollment
383200	Physics B	11, 12	
382104	Honors Physics A	11, 12	Successful completion of Geometry or concurrent enrollment
382204	Honors Physics B	11, 12	
384100	AP Physics A	11, 12	Successful completion of Physics A & B and Precalculus A & B
384200	AP Physics B	11, 12	
386400	Forensic Science A (Ad. Level)	11, 12	Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry or taking Chem. concurrently
386500	Forensic Science B (Ad. Level)	11, 12	
365900	AP Environmental Science A	11, 12	Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry or taking Chem. concurrently
366000	AP Environmental Science B	11, 12	

SOCIAL STUDIES

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
211104	Honors United States History A	9	
211304	Honors United States History B	9	
211000	United States History A	9	
211200	United States History B	9	
211003	United States History A S	9	
211203	United States History B S	9	
210400	A.P. NSL A	10	
210500	A.P. NSL B	10	
118800	Support for A.P. NSL A (College Literacy) 1 st Sem.	10	Teacher Recommendation
212704	Honors National, State & Local Government A	10	
212804	Honors National, State & Local Government B	10	
210700	National, State & Local Government A	10	
210800	National, State & Local Government B	10	
210703	National, State & Local Government A S	10	
210803	National, State & Local Government B S	10	
224000	A.P. World History A	11, 12	
224100	A.P. World History B	11, 12	
119000	Support for A.P. World A (College Literacy)	11, 12	Teacher Recommendation
119100	Support for A.P. World B (College Literacy)	11, 12	Teacher Recommendation
222304	Honors Modern World History A	11, 12	
222404	Honors Modern World History B	11, 12	
222100	Modern World History A	11, 12	
222200	Modern World History B	11, 12	
222103	Modern World History A S	11, 12	
222203	Modern World History B S	11, 12	
ADVANCED PLACEMENT ELECTIVES			
211400	A.P. United States History A	11, 12	
212400	A.P. United States History B	11, 12	A.P. United States History A
221600	A.P. European History A	11, 12	
221700	A.P. European History B	11, 12	A.P. European History A
233000	A.P. Psychology A	11, 12	
233100	A.P. Psychology B	11, 12	A.P. Psychology A
ONE SEMESTER ELECTIVES			
220800	Ancient Mediterranean Civilization and History	11, 12	
220900	Medieval European History	11, 12	
230300	Economics	11, 12	
230900	Cultural Anthropology	11, 12	
230400	Psychology A (1 st semester)	11, 12	
231300	Psychology B (2 nd semester)	11, 12	Psychology A
230500	Sociology	11, 12	
231200	Law	11, 12	
231800	Humanities	11, 12	
232000	Comparative Religions	11, 12	
231100	Philosophy	11, 12	
233900	Student Leadership A	11, 12	
234000	Student Leadership B	11, 12	

FINE ARTS

ART, MUSIC, AND THEATER **(1 credit minimum required for graduation)**

ART

The following art courses offer students at DHS the opportunity to choose from a range of art experiences:

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
605500	Foundations of Art A	9, 10, 11, 12	
605600	Foundations of Art B	9, 10, 11, 12	
638100	Ceramics 1A	9, 10, 11, 12	
639100	Ceramics 1B	9, 10, 11, 12	Ceramics 1A
638300	Ceramics 2A	10, 11, 12	Ceramics 1A & 1B
639300	Ceramics 2B	10, 11, 12	Ceramics 2A
638500	Ceramics 3A	11, 12	
638600	Ceramics 3B	11, 12	
634300	Digital Photography A	10, 11, 12	
634400	Digital Photography B	10, 11, 12	Digital Photography A
634500	Photography A	10, 11, 12	
634600	Photography B	10, 11, 12	Photography A
610500	Studio Art 1A	10, 11, 12	Fundamentals of Art A & B
610600	Studio Art 1B	10, 11, 12	Studio Art 1A
620500	Studio Art 2A	11, 12	Studio Art 1B
620600	Studio Art 2B	11, 12	Studio Art 2A
630500	Studio Art 3A	12	Studio Art 2B
630600	Studio Art 3B	12	Studio Art 3A

Note: Students interested in taking Advanced Placement Studio Art should sign up for Studio Art 3. Once the semester begins, students who want to pursue the A.P. course will be recoded for it.

MUSIC

GENERAL MUSIC COURSES

Student Service Learning Hours (SSL) **MAY** be earned in the Music courses per teacher discretion.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
658500	Guitar A	9, 10, 11, 12	
658600	Guitar B	9, 10, 11, 12	
659100	Guitar 2A	10, 11, 12	Guitar B
659200	Guitar 2B	10, 11, 12	
654500	Music Theory & Composition A	9, 10, 11, 12	
654600	Music Theory & Composition B	9, 10, 11, 12	

VOCAL MUSIC COURSES

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
671100	Chorus 1A	9, 10, 11, 12
671200	Chorus 1B	9, 10, 11, 12
672100	Chorus 2A •	10, 11, 12
672200	Chorus 2B •	10, 11, 12
674100	Chamber Singers A *•	10, 11, 12
674200	Chamber Singers B *•	10, 11, 12

*Audition/Interview with the choral director required. Audition includes solo singing, sight singing, and rhythm reading. Students will also be evaluated on diction, tone, quality, volume, expression and breath control.

●**Full year enrollment required. Several evening performances are required.**

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COURSES *

●**Full year enrollment required for all instrumental music courses.**

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
683100	Advanced Band A (Percussion) ++ •	9, 10, 11, 12
683200	Advanced Band B (Percussion) ++ •	9, 10, 11, 12
682100	Concert Band A ++ •	9, 10, 11, 12
682200	Concert Band B ++ •	9, 10, 11, 12
682600	Symphonic Band A ++ •	9, 10, 11, 12
682700	Symphonic Band B ++ •	9, 10, 11, 12
687100	Jazz Ensemble A •	9, 10, 11, 12
687200	Jazz Ensemble B •	9, 10, 11, 12
686600	Symphonic Orchestra A •	9, 10, 11, 12
686700	Symphonic Orchestra B •	9, 10, 11, 12

* Instrumental music experience at the 7th and 8th grade levels. Placement will be determined by the instrumental director. Auditions include solo playing, scales and sight-reading. Students will also be evaluated on tone quality, intonation, and expression. Several evening performances are required.

++ **Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Advanced Band make up the Marching Band during the football season. ALL MEMBERS OF THESE BANDS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ALL MARCHING BAND ACTIVITIES.**

THEATER

The Theater courses offer students the opportunity to acquire basic skills in a semi-technical format. **Theater courses satisfy the Fine Arts graduation requirement.**

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
692600	Theater 1A	9, 10, 11, 12	
692700	Theater 1B	9, 10, 11, 12	
692800	Theater 2A	10, 11, 12	
692900	Theater 2B	10, 11, 12	

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
(1 credit minimum required for graduation)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Opportunities for a selection of individual, dual, team, dance, and personal development are offered. Activities vary in length from three to six weeks. **Students may register for a maximum of one physical education course per semester for grades 9-10. Maximum for grade 11 and 12 is two physical education courses per semester with approval of counselor.**

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
772000	General Physical Education A	9
772100	General Physical Education B	9
772200	Concentrated Physical Education A	10, 11, 12
772210	Concentrated Physical Education B	10, 11, 12

SPECIALTY COURSES IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
772301	Weight Training A (1 st semester)	10, 11, 12	
772321	Weight Training B (2 nd semester)	10, 11, 12	
772302	Basketball A (1 st semester)	10, 11, 12	
772322	Basketball B (2 nd semester)	10, 11, 12	
772303	Physical Training and Fitness A (1 st sem)	10, 11, 12	
772304	Football/Floor Hockey A (1 st semester)	10, 11, 12	
772324	Football/Floor Hockey B (2 nd semester)	10, 11, 12	
772305	Badminton/Volleyball A (1 st semester)	10, 11, 12	
772306	Advanced Weight Training A (1 st sem)	10, 11, 12	Weight Training
772326	Advanced Weight Training B (2 nd sem)	10, 11, 12	Weight Training

HEALTH

(.5 credit minimum required for graduation)

Required Course

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

This one semester course meets the state .5 health education graduation requirement for students. Students will address topics that include tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, disease prevention and control, family life and human sexuality, mental health, nutrition and fitness, personal and consumer health, and injury prevention. Although this course is required for graduation, it contains two units – family life, human sexuality and AIDS prevention education that require parental permission.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
783500	Comprehensive Health Education	10

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION COURSES

(1 regular Technology Education credit is required for graduation)

indicates a regular Technology Education credit for the Class of 2010 and 2011.

* indicates a regular Technology Education credit for the Class of 2012 and later.

¶ indicates an Advanced Technology credit.

FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

Emphasis is placed on application of knowledge, tools, and skills to solve practical problems. Students focus on the integration of technology, science principles, and mathematics. Students form teams and use the design process of engineering to solve technological problems. This course satisfies the Maryland State Department of Education requirements for Technology Education credit.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
516100	Foundations of Technology A # *	9, 10, 11, 12
516200	Foundations of Technology B # *	9, 10, 11, 12

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN

This is an introductory course that develops students' problem-solving skills with an emphasis on developing visualization and communication skills using a computer and 3-D solid modeling software.

This course is open to Grade 9-11 students who have successfully completed Algebra 1

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
515200	Introduction to Engineering Design A # *	9, 10, 11
515300	Introduction to Engineering Design B # *	9, 10, 11

PRE-ENGINEERING

Students explore product designs to learn "How the work," construct prototypes and models, and explore testing methods using **CAD-CAM systems, robotics, computer modeling, and simulations**. Students solve problems, which require creativity and put their ideas into production

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
421000	Pre-Engineering A ¶ or #	10, 11, 12
421100	Pre-Engineering B ¶ or #	10, 11, 12

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

This course is for students interested in exploring physical, informational, and bio-related technologies.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
421200	Technological Innovations A ¶ or #	10, 11, 12
421300	Technological Innovations B ¶ or #	10, 11, 12

FOOD TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGY

NOTE: Students must complete Food Trends and Technology A before taking B.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
484300	Food Trends and Technology A ¶ or #	9, 10, 11, 12
484400	Food Trends and Technology B ¶ or #	9, 10, 11, 12

Computer Science

(1 regular Technology Education credit is required for graduation)

indicates a regular Technology Education credit for the Class of 2010 and 2011.

* indicates a regular Technology Education credit for the Class of 2012 and later.

¶ indicates an Advanced Technology credit.

Computer Application Courses

Code	Course Title	Grades	Prerequisites
290300	Software Applications by Design A #	9, 10, 11, 12	
290400	Software Applications by Design B #	9, 10, 11, 12	
299100	Web Site Development A ¶	9, 10, 11, 12	
299200	Web Site Development B ¶	9, 10, 11, 12	Web Site Development A
293600	Advanced Web Tools and Digital Media A ¶	10, 11, 12	Web Site Development B
293700	Advanced Web Tools and Digital Media B ¶	10, 11, 12	Advanced Web Tools A

Computer Programming Courses

Code	Course Title	Grades	Prerequisites
298900	Computer Programming 1A # or ¶	9, 10, 11, 12	Geometry or Coreq: Honors Geometry
299000	Computer Programming 1B # or ¶	9, 10, 11, 12	Computer Programming 1A
290100	Computer Programming 2A AP ¶ (Advanced Placement Computer Science)	10, 11, 12	Computer Programming 1B
290200	Computer Programming 2B AP ¶ (Advanced Placement Computer Science – ‘A’ Exam)	10, 11, 12	Computer Programming 2A
296500	Computer Programming 3A ¶	11, 12	Computer Programming 2B
296600	Computer Programming 3B ¶	11, 12	Computer Programming 3A

Microcomputer Technologies/Network Engineering & Management

Students enrolled in Microcomputer Technologies are required to take the CompTIA A+ exam.

Code	Course Title	Grades	Prerequisites
421400	Microcomputer Technologies A # or ¶	9, 10, 11, 12	
421500	Microcomputer Technologies B # or ¶	9, 10, 11, 12	
421600	Microcomputer Technologies A # or ¶ (Double Period)	10, 11, 12	
421700	Microcomputer Technologies B # or ¶ (Double Period)	10, 11, 12	
421800	Network Engineering and Management A ¶	10, 11, 12	Microcomputer Tech.
421900	Network Engineering and Management B ¶	10, 11, 12	
423000	Advanced Network Engineering and Management A ¶	11, 12	Network Eng. & Mgmt.
423100	Advanced Network Engineering and Management B ¶	11, 12	
781301	Internship, Microcomputer Technologies and Network Engineering A	12	Teacher Recommend
781621	Internship, Microcomputer Technologies and Network Engineering B	12	

ADDITIONAL COURSES

The courses listed on the following pages count as graduation credits, but may not be specifically needed as graduation requirements. The courses should be used to complete the seven period semester schedule and to provide additional experiences in career and skill development.

***Areas indicated with an asterisk may be used to earn the Career Development Program completer needed by some students to graduate. Career Development Programs are available in: Auto Technology/Dealership, Construction and Carpentry, Child Development, On-The-Job Training, Networking/Hardware, Professional Restaurant Management, and Horticulture.**

Please note that registration for any off-site courses does not guarantee students parking at DHS. There is an application process. Parking remains a privilege, not a right.

AUTO TECHNOLOGY DEALERSHIP PROGRAM *

Students in this program refurbish and repair used cars to sell to the public. Students who complete this program have the knowledge and skills to be employed immediately after graduation or continue their education at a college or trade school. **Eligibility Requirements: In order for students to qualify to register for any Auto Tech classes, students must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average (cumulative) and an attendance record of 95% or better. Students must maintain these eligibility requirements while registered for Auto Tech classes.**

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
507200	Auto Tech/Mini Dealership 1A (Double Period)	10, 11, 12
507300	Auto Tech/Mini Dealership 1B (Double Period)	10, 11, 12
504900	Auto Tech/Mini Dealership 2A (Double Period)	11, 12
505000	Auto Tech/Mini Dealership 2B (Double Period)	11, 12
506400	Auto Tech/Mini Dealership 3A (Double Period)	12
506500	Auto Tech/Mini Dealership 3B (Double Period)	12
570301	Internship, Automotive Technology A	12
570321	Internship, Automotive Technology B	12

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

indicates a regular Technology Education credit for the Class of 2010 and 2011 only.

Code	Course Title	Grades	Prerequisites
290300	Software Applications by Design A #	9, 10, 11, 12	
290400	Software Applications by Design B #	9, 10, 11, 12	
545000	Entrepreneurship and Business Management A	10, 11, 12	
545100	Entrepreneurship and Business Management B	10, 11, 12	
415800	Personal Finance (one semester course)	10, 11, 12	

CONSTRUCTION AND CARPENTRY*

Students in the Construction Cluster participate in a nationally certified curriculum that includes the building of homes and other construction projects.

Intro to Building & Construction Technology course is the foundation class. This course is designed for students new to the construction trades. Students rotate through carpentry, electricity, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, masonry, and plumbing in one semester.

Carpentry provides students an opportunity to learn about the home building industry. Participants master a variety of construction skills. The course covers safety, construction math, hand tools, power tools, and blueprint reading. All courses are double periods.

Code	Course Title	Grades	Prerequisite(s)
1ST YEAR OF THE PROGRAM			
555900	Construction Technology A (Double period) (1 st semester)	10, 11	
557800	Carpentry 1B (Double period) (2 nd semester)	10, 11	Const. Tech. A
2ND YEAR OF THE PROGRAM			
557900	Carpentry 2A (Double period) (1 st semester)	11, 12	Carpentry 1B
558000	Carpentry 2B (Double period) (2 nd semester)	11, 12	Carpentry 2A

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT *

This instructional program prepares students for occupations in childcare and guidance, foster care, family day care, and teacher assistance. Topics include: child growth and development, nutrition, program planning and management, safety, recreational play activities, child abuse and neglect issues, parent-personal relationships, learning experiences for children, and interpersonal relationships. Laws, regulations, and policies relating to childcare services are also covered. Laws, regulations, and policies relating to childcare services are also covered. Primary occupations addressed by this program are childcare assistant in day care centers, hospitals, etc. and teacher aide positions in preprimary and primary grades.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
484700	Child & Adolescent Dev. 1A ♦(Single Period)	10, 11, 12	
484800	Child & Adolescent Dev. 1B ♦(Single Period)	10, 11, 12	Child Development 1A
485100	Child & Adolescent Dev. 1A ♦(Double Period)	10, 11, 12	
485200	Child & Adolescent Dev. 1B ♦(Double Period)	10, 11, 12	Child Development 1A
484900	Child & Adolescent Dev. 2A ♦(Single Period)	11, 12	Child Development 1B
485000	Child & Adolescent Dev. 2B ♦(Single Period)	11, 12	Child Development 2A
485300	Child & Adolescent Dev. 2A ♦(Double Period)	11, 12	Child Development 1B
485400	Child & Adolescent Dev. 2B ♦(Double Period)	11, 12	Child Development 2A
486600	Child & Adolescent Dev. 3A ♦(Single Period)	11, 12	Child Development 2B
486700	Child & Adolescent Dev. 3B ♦(Single Period)	11, 12	Child Development 3A
486001	Internship, Child Development A • (Single pd)	11, 12	Interns must be approved
486021	Internship, Child Development B • (Single pd)	11, 12	by Child Dev. Teacher

♦ Students work with young children at the DHS Day Care Center.

• Students work with young students at a local elementary/middle school.

Students interested in registering for Child Development Intern must demonstrate good attendance.

HORTICULTURE *

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
553500	Foundations of Horticulture A (Single Period)	9, 10, 11, 12	
553600	Foundations of Horticulture B (Single Period)	9, 10, 11, 12	
552700	Horticulture 2A (Single Period)	10, 11, 12	Horticulture 1
552800	Horticulture 2B (Single Period)	10, 11, 12	
552900	Horticulture 2A (Double Period)	10, 11, 12	Horticulture 1
553000	Horticulture 2B (Double Period)	10, 11, 12	
553100	Horticulture 3A (Single Period)	11, 12	Horticulture 2
553200	Horticulture 3B (Single Period)	11, 12	
553300	Horticulture 3A (Double Period)	11, 12	Horticulture 2
553400	Horticulture 3B (Double Period)	11, 12	
571001	Internship, Horticulture A	12	Horticulture 3 or Teacher Recommend
571021	Internship, Horticulture B	12	“ “ “

Please note: The above Horticulture courses do not satisfy the Science course requirements.

COLLEGE/CAREER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (CCRD) – ON THE JOB TRAINING *

The College/Career Research and Development course provides students with the ability to research current career information for successful career planning and management. Students develop self-awareness, career awareness, financial literacy, communication, and indispensable work-related knowledge and skills sets.

Concurrent enrollment in the College/Career Research and Development course is required to participate in On-the-Job Training (OJT); students must successfully complete the concurrent CCRD class to receive OJT credit.

OJT is a component of CCRD in which students are employed in the local business community in a career-related area. **A student’s OJT experience must take place during the regular school day hours.** Employment must be verified within 5 school days. A student’s work site must be approved by the OJT teacher/coordinator. Work site cannot be of seasonal nature.

Seventy-five hours of concurrent work experience are required for each one-half credit of OJT training. Students can receive up to three credits for each year of OJT. OJT credit is granted only when the student is present in school. Students in the second year of the program must enroll in the College/Career Development Seminar.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
809200	College/Career Research and Development A	11, 12
809300	College/Career Research and Development B	11, 12
543994	On-the-Job Training A (Single Period)	11, 12
544094	On-the-Job Training B (Single Period)	11, 12
544194	On-the-Job Training A (Double Period)	11, 12
544294	On-the-Job Training B (Double Period)	11, 12
544394	On-the-Job Training A (Triple Period)	11, 12
544494	On-the-Job Training B (Triple Period)	11, 12

INTRODUCTION TO RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT COURSES

(Recommended prior to Professional Restaurant Management course)

How would you like to take a culinary adventure, sampling traditional foods from countries all over the world without leaving your classroom? In this course, students receive an introduction to professional restaurant management courses. This course examines the emphasis on food as it relates to the culture of other countries or special cultural groups of our own country.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
463000	International Cultures and Cuisines A	9, 10, 11, 12
464000	International Cultures and Cuisines B (Must have completed A)	9, 10, 11, 12

PROFESSIONAL RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT *

In these courses, the student will develop skills for employment in various food service operations. Emphases include food preparation and service experiences in commercial and institutional operations related to catering, banquets, and vending. The student will learn professional food-handling techniques and quantity preparation through the use of commercial-size equipment. Sanitation, safety, and personal hygiene are emphasized throughout the program. Units of study include menu planning, food costs, cost control, nutrition, customer and employee/employer relations, and a survey of the industry for career opportunities. The student will apply what they have learned by preparing various food for catered events held on and off campus.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)
482100	Restaurant Management 1A (Single Period)	10, 11, 12	
482200	Restaurant Management 1B (Single Period)	10, 11, 12	Restaurant Management 1A
482300	Restaurant Management 1A (Double Period)	10, 11, 12	
482400	Restaurant Management 1B (Double Period)	10, 11, 12	Restaurant Management 1A
483400	Restaurant Management 1A (Triple Period)	12	
483500	Restaurant Management 1B (Triple Period)	12	Restaurant Management 1A
483100	Restaurant Management 2A (Single Period)	11, 12	Restaurant Management 1B
483200	Restaurant Management 2B (Single Period)	11, 12	Restaurant Management 2A
484100	Restaurant Management 2A (Double Period)	11, 12	Restaurant Management 1B
484200	Restaurant Management 2B (Double Period)	11, 12	Restaurant Management 2A
483700	Restaurant Management 2A (Triple Period)	12	Restaurant Management 1B
483800	Restaurant Management 2B (Triple Period)	12	Restaurant Management 2A
781302	Internship, Restaurant Management A	12	Teacher Recommendation
781622	Internship, Restaurant Management B	12	Teacher Recommendation

TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Students must complete an application for these two classes and be approved prior to registering for the classes. Applications are available from your counselor or in the counseling office.

786000	Television Production 1 (1 st Semester)	9, 10, 11, 12	Application must be
786200	Television Production 2 (2 nd Semester)	9, 10, 11, 12	completed and approved.

INTERNSHIPS

This is a 1-3 period experience that is usually done outside the school for credit. There is an application process required. Students need to secure their internship and be approved by the internship coordinator before being scheduled in the course. **Only students with a 3.0 cumulative GPA or better, excellent attendance, and transportation should inquire about this program. Internships are unpaid experiences.** See your counselor for details.

It is highly recommended that all students scheduled to intern also take the College/Career Research and Development course (described on page 19).

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
809200	College/Career Research and Development A	12
809300	College/Career Research and Development B	12
781394	Internship A (Single Period)	12
781694	Internship B (Single Period)	12
781894	Internship A (Double Period)	12
781994	Internship B (Double Period)	12
782294	Internship A (Triple Period)	12
782394	Internship B (Triple Period)	12

SPECIAL EDUCATION

RESOURCE

This program is designed for students who have specific disabilities or other identified handicapping conditions. Students may be placed in these programs by the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) committee with parental approval.

Code	Course Title	Grade(s)
793391	Resource A (Semester 1)	9, 10, 11, 12
793491	Resource B (Semester 2)	9, 10, 11, 12

LEARNING FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Learning for Independence Program is a program designed for students who have been identified as being “certificate” bound through an IEP team meeting. The goal of the program is to assist students towards independence at home, in school, on the job, and in the community. Students work on life skills in the classroom and on job sites.

Code	Course Title	Code	Course Title
796301	Life Skills Survival A	792801	Software Applications A LFI
796302	Life Skills Survival B	792802	Software Applications B LFI
796501	Basic Skills, English A	793601	US History A LFI
796502	Basic Skills, English B	793602	US History B LFI
796601	Basic Skills, Math A		
796602	Basic Skills, Math B		

DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Information Technology

The Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) at Damascus High School is sponsored by the National Academy Foundation (NAF). NAF helps young people achieve personal and professional success in high school, higher education and throughout their careers.

Mission

The AOIT introduces students to the broad career opportunities in today's digital workforce and, in the process, equips them with the personal, analytical, technical and communications skills they need to thrive. AOIT prepares students for post-secondary education and careers by providing courses that are rigorous , current and relevant.

Programs of study

The Academy of Information Technology's (AOIT) curriculum is a standards based four year academic program. Students take courses in Computer Programming, Digital Networks, Microcomputer Technologies, Networking, Web Design and Computer Applications.

Students select from three programs: Computer Programming, Information Resource Design (Web site development) and Cisco Networking. Students are required to take 4 progressive courses and one college level course within their program. Academic learning is enhanced with job shadowing, mentoring, field trips and industry guest speakers.

Benefits

After the completion of four AOIT courses, academy students work a six to eight week paid internship during the summer of their junior year in high school. Upon completion of the required courses and paid internship, students are eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Application Process

Students are given the opportunity to apply for the program offered in the Academy for Information Technology during the spring of 9th grade. Applications will be offered through the student's technology course.

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

Courses or opportunities are available to MCPS students at vocational sites, magnet schools, colleges, or through individualized programs. Refer to the MCPS Course Bulletin for detailed course descriptions. See your counselor for registration information.

College Courses:

“College ready” high school juniors or seniors may earn college credits by attending classes at Montgomery College (MC) or by attending an MC class held at Damascus High School. Students may attend their home school for part of the day and then go to MC for accelerated course offerings. After completing courses from MC while in high school, students enter college with transfer credits. The courses fully transfer to an associate degree at MC. (Students must check with the college of their choice to ensure transferability at other institutions of higher education.)

High School Courses:

*Cosmetology (Gaithersburg HS)

*Thomas Edison HS of Technology

*EMT/Ambulance (Fire Services Cadet Academy)

*Fire Services Cadet Program

*Global Ecology, Humanities House, and Science, Math, Computer Science House (Poolesville HS)

#Naval Science (Seneca Valley HS)

791194 Naval Science 1A 791294 Naval Science 1B

791494 Naval Science 2A 791594 Naval Science 2B

791794 Naval Science 3A 791894 Naval Science 3B

Students attending the Naval Science courses at Seneca Valley must provide their own transportation to Seneca Valley at the beginning of the day. MCPS bus will then return the students to Damascus High School.

*Medical Careers (Watkins Mill HS)

*Transportation provided by MCPS bus.

•Courses offered at Thomas Edison HS of Technology (MCPS bus transportation provided):

- Printing, Graphics, and Electronic Media
- Biotechnology
- Construction Electricity
- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Masonry
- Design, Illustrating, and Drafting Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Nail Technology
- Academy of Travel and Tourism
- Network Operations
- Web Tools and Digital Media
- Automotive Body Technology

GENERAL INFORMATION
(Taken from the MCPS High School Course Bulletin)

Maryland Diploma Requirements

The state of Maryland authorizes one diploma for all high school graduates, based upon successful fulfillment in four categories of requirements: enrollment, course credit, student service learning (SSL), and Maryland assessments. MCPS requirements that extend state requirements are designated below with a double asterisk (**). All requirements are summarized below.

Enrollment

Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond Grade 8. (For exceptions, see [Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment](#).)

Course Credits

A student shall be enrolled in a Montgomery County Public School and have earned a minimum of **22** credits (unless a preapproved MCPS alternative is satisfied) that include the following:

Maryland Diploma Requirements

Student Service Learning (SSL)

Service learning is a graduation requirement in Maryland. The number of service-learning hours needed for graduation, based on the date of original enrollment in MCPS, varies for individual students. Beginning with the class of 2011 MCPS students will complete a minimum of 75 service-learning hours for graduation. The graduating classes prior to 2011 must complete a minimum of 60 service-learning hours for graduation. The specific SSL hour requirement and other SSL information is shown at <http://mcpsssl.org>. MCPS students begin fulfilling this requirement the summer after Grade 5 and continue to accrue SSL hours through high school. Students who earn 260 or more SSL hours receive a Certificate of Meritorious Service at the time of graduation. Preparation, action, and reflection are the three phases of service learning that distinguish SSL from traditional volunteering and community service efforts.

Service learning hours are earned through:

School Course Work

Successful completion of specific courses identified in this Course Bulletin where an individual fully completes all three service learning phases in SSL activities that achieve curricular objectives.

Co-curricular Activities

Fully participating and completing of the three phases of service learning in activities promoted by school-sponsored clubs and organizations.

Community

Full participation in pre-approved service-learning activities with nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations listed at <http://mcpsssl.org> and in the Guide to SSL Volunteer Opportunities distributed to every student in the spring and found in SSL coordinator and counseling offices.

Community Nonprofit Organizations

Fully participating and completing all phases of service learning with nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations found on the list of pre-approved opportunities at the Web site <http://mcpsssl.org> or approved in advance with [MCPS Form 560-50, Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity](#) (PDF, 140K).

All activities for which SSL hours are desired must occur in a public place, be secular in nature, and be supervised by a representative from a nonprofit, tax exempt organization. Parents and relatives may not directly supervise a student. One SSL hour is awarded for every one hour of service outside of the instructional day with a maximum of 8 hours in a 24-hour period.

[MCPS Form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification](#) (PDF, 90K), is required to document all activities for which SSL hours are desired. For individual SSL questions, contact the SSL coordinator in any middle or high school. See Appendix A at the end of this bulletin for frequently asked questions concerning SSL.

Assessments

Maryland High School Assessments (HSA)

Maryland High School Assessments are end-of-course tests related to MCPS courses Algebra 1, Biology, English 10, and NSL Government. All middle and high school students enrolled in any of the HSA courses are required to take the HSA at the end of the course. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has designed the tests to measure student achievement and school performance, providing valuable information to students, parents, and schools.

The State Board of Education established passing scores for the four High School Assessments

(Algebra/Data Analysis, English, Government, and Biology) in June of 2004 and made passing* the High School Assessments a graduation requirement for the graduating class of 2009 and after. They have also adopted a plan to offer alternative ways to calculate a cumulative total passing score. The state is in the process of identifying alternative tests and other options that may be used to meet the HSA requirement. PASS means students must meet or exceed the passing score on all the High School Assessments. Alternatives that may allow a student to meet the graduation requirement include

achieve at least the combined total score of 1602 for all four assessments

meet the required achievement score on an external test recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education

successfully complete an approved "bridge plan" alternative to testing.

For details, visit the [HSA Information website](#); contact the office of High School Instruction and Achievement, 301-517-5007; or contact your local school.

Maryland School Assessments (MSA)

The Maryland School Assessments provide educators, parents, and the public with valuable information about students, schools, school systems, and state performance. The tests meet requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (ESEA ACT). High school students meet the reading and mathematics MSA requirements through HSA/MSA combined assessments in Algebra 1 and English, Grade 10. These assessments are administered when the student completes that course of study.

For details, visit the MSDE Web site <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org>, or contact your local school.

Maryland Certificate

Maryland High School Certificate

This certificate is awarded to students with disabilities who do not meet the requirements for a diploma but who meet one of the following criteria:

1. The student is enrolled in a special education program for at least four years beyond Grade 8, or its age equivalent. The student is determined to have developed appropriate skills for the individual to enter the world of work, act responsibly as a citizen, and enjoy a fulfilling life by an Individualized Educational Program Team (IEP Team), with agreement of the student's parents/guardians. The world of work includes but is not limited to-

- gainful employment,
- work activity centers,
- supported employment, or
- sheltered workshops.

2. After being enrolled in a special education program for four years beyond Grade 8, or its age equivalent, the student reached age 21.

Montgomery County Public Schools Certificate of Merit

In addition to the Maryland high school diploma, students who meet the following requirements may be awarded the Montgomery County Public Schools Certificate of Merit (a diploma endorsement):

a. Advanced Courses

At least 12 credits must be earned in advanced courses identified by MCPS as applicable to the Certificate of Merit.

A CM in course listings in this bulletin designates courses that satisfy these requirements.

b. Mathematics Requirement

Successfully complete, receive credit, for the MCPS Algebra 2 course.

b. Cumulative Grade Point Average

Students must obtain at least a 3.0 unweighted cumulative grade point average.

All courses counted toward the Certificate of Merit must be taken for a letter grade.

Courses and Credits

Each high school is responsible for providing a comprehensive program for every student. The Basic Core of Courses offered in every high school is composed of two categories

Category 1 courses must be offered and given in each high school regardless of course enrollment, except that they may be offered and given in alternate years or in combined classes when enrollment is less than 15.

Category 2 courses must be offered and given in a high school when the enrollment in that course is 15 or more.

All high school courses are one semester in length. All courses satisfying graduation requirements must be taken for a letter grade. The student earns credit in each course taken upon completion of each semester's work—0.5 credit for successful completion of a single-period course, 1 credit for a double-period course, and so on. Yearlong courses usually have the same name for the two semesters with the title of the first semester followed by "A" or "1" and the second by "B" or "2." Yearlong courses are usually sequenced to begin in the fall with "A" or "1."

High School Credit for Middle School Students

High school credit is awarded to students who complete yearlong high school courses while in middle school after the student has passed both semesters of the course and passes the semester B high school final examination. Credit is awarded upon entry into ninth grade in an MCPS high school.

Honors, Advanced Placement, and Advanced-level Courses

Honors, advanced-level, and Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses provide rigorous and challenging studies for highly able and potentially high-achieving students who are capable or motivated to pursue rigorous and challenging instruction. Typically, students enroll in individual Honors, advanced-level, and AP courses and not in an program as a whole. Students seeking an external curriculum diploma must meet the requirements of that program in addition to the requirements for graduation in MCPS.

Honors Courses

Honors courses include course work in art, computer science, English, foreign languages, mathematics, music, science, and social studies. The curriculum in each Honors course includes appropriate adaptations for accelerated and enriched learning for pursuing in-depth studies that require abstract and higher-order thinking skills. Honors courses provide expectations and opportunities for students to work independently at an accelerated pace, to engage in more rigorous and complex content and processes, and to develop authentic products that reflect students' understanding of key concepts. Under special circumstances in designated courses, a cluster of students may pursue honors level work in a regular level class. To get credit for Honors work, students must enroll under the special Honors code included in the course description. Students in Honors, AP, and advanced-level courses are expected to maintain at least a C average. Students who receive a grade of D or E over two consecutive marking periods should be counseled and supported.

Advanced-Level Courses

Advanced-level courses are based upon previous achievement in a sequence of study. Advanced-level courses are available in the following MCPS areas: Information Technology/Computer Science Foreign Languages; Mathematics; Science; Blair magnet courses; selected International Baccalaureate courses; selected courses in the Global Ecology, Humanities and Science/Math houses of the Poolesville Magnet. Please consult your school counselor for the courses offered at your school.

Advanced Placement Courses

MCPS has developed courses that meet College Board guidelines to accompany the Advanced Placement examinations. A qualifying score on an AP exam may give the student college credit or advanced standing in the subject in many colleges. These courses include concepts and skills that help prepare students for the AP exams. AP courses are available in the following MCPS content areas: Art; Information Technology/Computer Science; English; Foreign Languages; Mathematics; Music; Science; Social Studies. Please consult your school counselor for the titles of the courses offered at your school.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programs in MCPS

The IB Diploma program is offered at

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (for students in the B-CC area)

Einstein High School (for students in the Downcounty Consortium)

Watkins Mill High School (for students in the Watkins Mill area)

Springbrook High School (for students in the Northeast Consortium)

Rockville High School (for students in the graduating class of 2010 and beyond in the Rockville HS area).

The IB organization allows schools to develop their individual programs within their subject specifications. Each of these MCPS schools has individualized its programs by unique selections in the IB electives and languages. Local school course listings will indicate those courses unique to a given school.

The IB countywide program at Richard Montgomery High School (RMHS) is designed for highly gifted students in Montgomery County and has an application process that occurs in Grade 8. Please refer to the Countywide Programs section of this bulletin for information on this special program.

Criteria for Enrollment in Honors, Advanced Placement, and Advanced-level Courses

Principals ensure that all students who have the capability, motivation, or potential to accept the challenge of Honors, advanced-level and/or AP courses will be accorded an opportunity to do so. Each semester, principals will convene their schools' Honors/AP Review Committee to review the participation of students in Honors, AP, and advanced-level courses to ensure consistent implementation of the Gifted and Talented Education Policy and the accompanying regulation. This multi-stakeholder committee is co-chaired by the principal and a faculty member, and includes counselors, teachers, representative resource teachers/department chairs, and staff who have expertise in special needs (e.g., ESOL, special education, and GT/LD).

The Honors/AP Review Committee also ensures that each school provides responsible open enrollment in Honors, AP, and advanced-level courses for every student who is capable or motivated to pursue a rigorous program and higher-level course work. The committee documents the strengths that each student brings to Honors, AP, and advanced-level work and recommends a plan for outreach, nurturing, and support of potential candidates. A profile of student strengths can be determined by conducting a thorough review of the following multiple criteria:

- Mastery of course prerequisites (grades of A, B, or C)
- Parent/guardian recommendations
- Standardized test scores, as appropriate
- Willingness to complete challenging assignments
- Student interest or motivation
- Teacher/counselor recommendations
- Work samples and portfolios

These are the only criteria, and no single criterion is to be used to exclude a student from pursuing Honors, AP, and advanced-level course work.

Prior to the start of each semester, guidance counselors notify all candidates for Honors, AP, and advanced-level courses regarding their enrollment.

Review Process for Enrollment in Honors, Advanced Placement, and Advanced-Level Courses

Students who are not recommended for enrollment, but who still wish to be considered for Honors, AP, or advanced-level course placement should appeal in writing to the principal for a special review within 10 school days of notification.

Local Programs and Courses

Downcounty Consortium

By action of the Board of Education, the Downcounty Consortium (DCC) was established, creating a partnership among five high schools in the downcounty region of Montgomery County-Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton. Downcounty Consortium students and their parents participate in the student assignment process known as "Choice". The Choice process allows each student to rank his/her preference for a high school among the five choices. Each student considers many variables when making a choice, including the academy offerings at each high school.

Based on the emerging research on high school improvement, DCC high schools are developing small learning communities within their larger schools. Those communities include ninth grade teams and themed academies as part of a comprehensive high school curriculum. Themed academies provide students opportunities to explore areas of interest through relevant courses and capstone experiences such as internships, senior research projects and college-level coursework.

Northeast Consortium

The Northeast Consortium (NEC) began as a unique response to student assignment issues in the northeast area of Montgomery County. As a result, three high schools-James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook-were affiliated into a consortium to serve the interests of all students living in the northeast area. Students and their parents participate in the student assignment process known as "Preferred Choice," in which each student ranks his/her preference for a high school from among the three choices.

While each student has many variables to consider when making his/her choice of high school, a significant factor is the academic offerings available at each of the three schools. Each campus offers a comprehensive high school curriculum, as well as a distinctive "signature program". Signature programs focus on a field of high interest to students of diverse abilities and achievement levels and incorporate these signature themes throughout the instructional program. Extensive research in education demonstrates that student achievement and school climate improve dramatically when students are able to select programs that are related to their interest.

Signature Programs

Twenty-three high schools have developed and implemented signature programs. A signature program integrates a specific focus or distinguishing theme with the skills, concepts, and instructional strategies of some portion of a school's curriculum. The theme or focus becomes the vehicle for teaching the traditional comprehensive high school curriculum in a fresh, interesting, and more challenging way. Some high schools have implemented whole-school programs while other schools have implemented school-within-school

organizational structures. The implementation of signature programs supports the process of raising achievement by allowing individual school communities to examine the academic needs of their students, with the goal of developing programs that enhance the learning process for all. Signature schools develop strategic plans to expand the number of students reached by the programs and improve instruction, communication, and stakeholder involvement.

Related Information

Student Withdrawals from Courses

A student-initiated withdrawal may occur when the student and parents/guardians determine that withdrawal will be beneficial to the student. The student's withdrawal request must be approved by parents/guardians in writing, reviewed by the counselor, and discussed with the student to ensure that there is understanding of a possible delay in meeting graduation requirements that may result if the student withdraws from a course. The counselor's recommendation is forwarded to the principal for approval or disapproval.

If a student withdraws from a course before the end of the fifth week (25 school days), no notation is made on the student's permanent record card or report card. The request to withdraw must be made by the 25th school day.

If the student withdraws after 25 school days of the course, the date of the withdrawal and the achievement attained to the time of withdrawal will be entered on the report card and permanent record. Withdrawal grades are not used in computing GPA or WGPA. However, they are included to determine student academic eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities.

Alternative Provisions for Earning Credit

In addition to earning credits during the regular school day and year, credits may be earned through summer school, extended day learning opportunities, work experience programs, online courses, and college courses. Advance permission from the principal or designee is required in all cases involving alternative provisions for earning credit.

Specific provisions govern the use of each of these programs. It is critical that students and parents consider these programs carefully and consult school counselors in advance to obtain full information about any alternative means of earning credit and its advisability. In the case of online courses, the course must be recognized and the content of the course must meet MCPS content standards to be considered for credit.

Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment

As with alternative means of earning credit, specific provisions govern the use of alternatives to four-year enrollment. Guidance from counselors is critical and should begin far in advance. Permission of the principal in advance is required. The alternatives include early college admission programs or early admission to an approved vocational, technical, or other postsecondary school. The General Educational Development (GED) testing program is another alternative.

Attendance

A commitment to school attendance on the part of both students and parents/guardians is an essential component of a high-quality learning experience. Parents and school personnel are expected to do everything possible to ensure each student's regular attendance. Students should attend all scheduled classes and approved educational activities and are responsible for completing all assigned work on time. Students should be enrolled in a full-day program or spend a comparable period of time in an alternative program or activity approved by the student's parent/guardian and principal.

Grading and Reporting

Basis for Grading

Grades reflect student achievement based on what they know and are able to do, as defined by the MCPS curriculum. Students receiving services for limited English proficiency, special education, or 504 disabilities will be afforded all accommodations and modifications as documented by English Language Learner (ELL) plans, individualized education programs (IEPs), or Section 504 plans.

Procedures for Grading

Grading procedures will be applied consistently within and among schools. Grading practices must include clear and timely communication, alignment with curriculum, accurate reflection of student achievement, and fair representation of student performance. Grading practices must be fair and manageable, and support effective teaching and learning.

Grades on report cards reflect academic achievement in relation to course expectations, as outlined in the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum. Extra credit may not be used. Course specific procedures for grading are defined, used consistently, and explained clearly to students and parents in writing at the beginning of a semester or school year.

A final evaluation activity is required at the conclusion of all courses. Semester examinations in specified courses are computed as 25% of the final grade for the semester and reported separately on the report card.

Reporting Student Progress

Teachers will provide students and parents with information about achievement throughout the marking period. This feedback may take several forms, including the following:

Report cards

Interims/progress reports

Online grade reports

Parent conferences

Informal methods of communication

Teacher feedback

Credit/No Credit Grading Option

The Credit/No Credit grading option may be used only in courses not specifically required for graduation by the Maryland State Department of Education or MCPS. Credit/No Credit cannot be applied to a Certificate of Merit course.

Additional information about grading and reporting is available to students, parents, community members, teachers, and administrators on the MCPS Web site at

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/>.

Grade Point Average (GPA) and Weighted Grade Point Average (WGPA)

All semester grades (A-E) appear on the report card and on the permanent record and are used in determining GPA and WGPA in accordance with the procedures set forth in [MCPS Regulation IKC-RA: Grade Point Averages and Weighted Grade Point Averages](#) (PDF, 21K).

An additional quality point will be added to grades of A, B, and C in all Honors, Advanced Placement, and advanced-level courses only to determine WGPA. MCPS does not rank students.

Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Students must maintain a 2.0 marking period average, with not more than one failing grade in the previous marking period, in order to participate in extracurricular activities during the next marking period. The marking period average is not the same as GPA. ([MCPS Regulation IQD-RA: Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities](#), PDF, 17KB)

National Collegiate Athletic Association Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (NCAA-IEC)

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) established the Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (IEC) to serve as the authorizing group for the final review and approval of core courses for freshmen students who want to participate in intercollegiate athletics in NCAA Division I-A, I-AA, and II colleges and universities. The NCAA/IEC Approved Core Courses are identified in the course bulletin with the symbol NCAA. In all cases, the list of eligible courses available at the NCAA-IEC website represents the final determination on acceptable core courses.

To learn more about NCAA/IEC Approved Core Courses or about NCAA Freshmen Eligibility Standards contact the local school resource counselor and visit the NCAA-IEC website at

<http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common/index.html>

Taking Courses not Available at the Home School

Students wishing to attend a neighboring school for a course not available at the home school must apply through their home school counseling office. Courses are open to students on a space-available basis. Students/parents must provide transportation.

Career and Technology Education Programs

Career pathway programs are state-approved programs that satisfy the career development graduation requirement and are marked with CPP. Each of these programs is part of a planned sequence in a career cluster, designed to help students acquire the specialized knowledge, skills, attitudes, and work habits required for employment and/or postsecondary education. Each high school offers career development programs.

Students seeking to enroll in a career development program that includes a work-based learning component may be required by the employer or sponsoring organization to provide appropriate documentation that may include a social security number and/or proof of citizenship/green card. Please review program applications and Career and Technology Education complete program requirements carefully for specific work-based learning component guidelines.

Students participating in Career and Technology Education career pathway programs at locations other than their home schools are advised to consult with their school counselors to ensure that the proper amount of transportation time is allocated within their schedule.

Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Thomas Edison provides opportunities for students in career pathway programs that might not be available in their home school. Registration packets are available from Thomas Edison and from local school counselors. Students enroll in Thomas Edison courses through their home school and take classes at both the home school and at Thomas Edison. Bus transportation is provided.

Other Program Options

Schools not offering a particular career pathway program may request placement of a student in that program at another school. Efforts will be made to fulfill reasonable student requests for transportation. Students requesting a career development program at another school must complete MCPS form 565-6, and submit it to their home school counselor.

Technology Education Credit – Changes for the Class of 2012

In compliance with the Annotated Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) governing technology education instructional programs, students in the graduating class of 2012 will be required to take a state-approved course that meets all 20 COMAR standards for technology education and satisfies the high school graduation requirement in technology education.

The three courses meeting state approval and identified with the symbol T2 in the course bulletin will be available to all students beginning in 2008–2009. A course that meets these criteria is being identified for students in Grade 8. Online course options will be available beginning in 2008–2009.

Courses that satisfy the current technology education requirement for students graduating in the years 2009–2011 will be marked with a TE. Additional information about the technology education credit can be found in the appendix of this bulletin.

Montgomery College/MCPS Partnership Programs

Symphony Orchestra Partnership Program

The MC Orchestra Partnership gives talented MCPS high school instrumental music students the opportunity to participate in the MC Symphony Orchestra and empower them to be service leaders in their community. For additional information, contact Dr. Wen Kurkul, Director of the MC Symphony Orchestra, at 301-251-7550 / email wen.kurlul@montgomerycollege.edu or speak with your instrumental music teacher.

Gateway to College Program at Montgomery College

The Gateway to College Program at MC serves high school students, 16-20 years old, for whom high school completion is at risk. To enroll, students must be significantly behind in credit attainment and have a GPA that is less than 2.0. Students attend classes on the college campus, simultaneously earning their high school diploma and an associate's degree or certificate. For more information about the Gateway to College Program go to <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gatewaytocollege>, contact your school counselor or call/email Amy Crowley, Gateway to College at MC program director, at 301-610-4052 / e-mail amy.crowley@montgomerycollege.edu.

"Growing Teachers Program" for MCPS High School Students Interested in a Career in Teaching

Montgomery College (MC), in collaboration with MCPS, invites students who are high school seniors with a 2.75 GPA or above to apply to the innovative "Growing Teachers Program." The Teacher Education Transfer Program AAT (Associate of Arts in Teaching) at MC is a degree option for MC students who want to become certified teachers. The AAT degree curriculum provides the first two years of a bachelor's degree in teacher education and certification in partnership with MCPS, MC, Towson University, University of Maryland Baltimore County and University of Maryland—Shady Grove.

Montgomery College offers Growing Teachers Program participants financial aid sources to help pay tuition and fees. High school students may apply for a Montgomery College Maryland State Dual Enrollment Grant, which covers the cost of one 3-credit college course per semester. Once students are enrolled full time in a teacher education program, they are eligible to apply for a \$2,000 Maryland Teacher Scholarship while at MC and a \$5000-per-year scholarship for juniors and seniors at Maryland's universities and colleges.

This program is open to all MCPS students interested in a teaching career in either elementary or secondary education. Contact the local school guidance counselor for information concerning how students may become involved in this program during high school. Students in Grades 9-11 specifically interested in early childhood educational opportunities may wish to consider participating in child development classes to prepare for enrollment in the "Growing Teachers Program" as a senior.

To apply to this program contact Montgomery College at 301-738-1757. If you need financial support, call the MC Financial Aid Office at 301-279-5100.

Montgomery College Career Certification Programs for MCPS High School Students

Students graduating from high school with a career pathway program completer may earn college credit for articulated courses by enrolling at Montgomery College. Earned credits may be used toward an Associate degree at Montgomery College leading to certification and employment. For more information regarding the MC certification programs contact your school counselor.

Montgomery College offers financial aid to help pay tuition and fees. To contact the Financial Aid Office at Montgomery College, please call 301-279-5100. If you have questions call the MCPS Division of Career and

Technology Education at 301-279-3565 or call MC for information and an application packet at 301-279-5000.

Programs for "CollegeReady" MCPS High School Students

"College ready" high school juniors or seniors may earn college credits by attending classes at Montgomery College (MC). Students may attend their home high school for part of the day and then go to MC for accelerated course offerings. After completing courses at MC while in high school, students enter college with transfer credits. The courses fully transfer to an associate's degree at MC. (Students must check with the college of their choice to ensure transferability at other institutions of higher education.)

Montgomery College offers financial aid to help pay tuition and fees. Call Montgomery College for information and an application packet at 301-279-5000 and the Financial Aid Office at 301-279-5100.

Student Service Learning (SSL)

Frequently Asked Questions about SSL

Are SSL, "community service" and "volunteering" the same?

No. SSL is a Maryland State Department of Education graduation mandate that requires planning and documentation. Activities must be secular in nature, supervised by nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations and include preparation, action and reflection phases. A maximum of 8 hours may be earned in a 24-hour period and one service-learning hour is awarded for one hour of service outside of the instructional day.

How many SSL hours are required for MCPS students?

Beginning with the Class of 2011, 75 SSL hours are required for graduation.

Are there high school courses where service learning activities are infused into the curriculum?

Yes. Selected elective courses currently identified in this course bulletin achieve curricular objectives through service learning. Students who fully participate in the service-learning aspects of these courses and successfully pass the course are automatically awarded SSL hours based on the number of credits attached to the course. Additional SSL hours may be earned with appropriate documentation in these courses through service-learning activities that extend into non-instructional time.

How can MCPS students earn SSL hours?

MCPS students may earn SSL hours through:

Full participation in activities and successful completion of courses that achieve curricular objectives through service learning. Specific courses with infused service-learning activities are identified in this Course Bulletin.

Full participation in school-sponsored clubs and organizations that address recognized community needs. The teacher/advisor verifies the SSL hours.

Full participation in service-learning activities in the community with nonprofit, tax exempt organizations that are pre-approved for SSL. Activities and organizations are either listed as pre approved at the Web site at <http://www.mcpsssl.org> or students have received approval by submitting [MCPS Form 560-50, Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity](#) (PDF, 140K), prior to involvement in the activity.

How do I check that an organization or activity is pre-approved for SSL?

"Pre-Approved Service Opportunities" may be found at <http://mcpsssl.org>, and in *The Student Service Learning Guide for Volunteer Activities* distributed in the spring by the Montgomery County Volunteer Center (MCVC). Documentation of all service performed during the summer must be completed and turned into the school SSL coordinator by the last Friday in September. Documentation of service performed during the semester must be turned into the school SSL coordinator by the end of the semester.

How are student records toward the SSL diploma requirement maintained?

The SSL coordinator in every middle and high school provides information to students about the SSL requirement, activities, and forms. Applications for SSL special activities are reviewed and approved by the SSL coordinator in advance of service. Hours documented on verification forms are put into the student record. Hours required, completed and remaining are reflected on the report card every 9 weeks from grade 6 on through high school.

What are the forms used to document SSL and where can they be found?

MCPS Form 560-51; Student Service Learning Activity Verification is required to document every SSL activity. MCPS Form 560-50; Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity is required to be completed and approved by the SSL coordinator in advance of participation in any activity with a nonprofit, tax exempt organization that is not listed as pre-approved for SSL. SSL forms are available in any middle or high school and can be downloaded from the [SSL web site](#). Students should keep copies of all SSL documents.

Can SSL activities be done with nonprofit organizations that are not listed as pre-approved on the MCPS Web site www.mcpsssl.org?

Yes. Students may earn service-learning hours with nonprofit, tax exempt organizations that are not listed as pre-approved for SSL at the web site <http://www.mcpsssl.org> by contacting the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or students may complete MCPS Form 560-50, Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity for approval in advance of the activity.

Must all SSL activities be done with non-profit tax-exempt organizations?

Exceptions to the nonprofit, tax-exempt SSL rule are for-profit assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Students may earn SSL hours in these facilities with a completed MCPS Form 560-50 Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity approved in advance of the service. All SSL hours must be earned through direct service with residents.

Can religious organizations that are meeting secular needs in the greater community provide SSL hours to students?

Yes. The organization may become listed as pre-approved at the web site <http://www.mcpsssl.org> by contacting the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or students may complete MCPS Form 560-50, Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity for approval in advance of the activity.

Are there MCPS awards given to students with exceptional SSL records?

Yes. The Superintendent's Student Service Learning Awards are given to middle school students who have contributed 75 or more hours of service to their communities within a one-year period. Certificates of Meritorious Service are awarded to graduating seniors who have contributed 260 or more hours of service by the time of graduation.

Is there an appeal process for SSL disputes?

Yes. Students may appeal decisions made by the SSL coordinator and SSL advisory committee to the school principal. Extenuating circumstances substantiating the appeal may be presented via a written communication to the administrator.

Can parents or relatives of students sign SSL forms as the organization supervisor?

No.

Where else can I find information about SSL?

Information is available on the MCPS web site at this address: <http://mcpsssl.org>.

Career Technology Education

Technology Education Credit Courses

Pending approval by the MCPS Board of Education (BOE), the following courses that have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to meet the new technology education credit graduation requirements will be phased into MCPS schools beginning in the 2008–2009 school year for the graduating class of 2012.

Foundations of Technology (available at all high schools as a classroom or online course)

Introduction to Engineering Design—Project Lead The Way (PLTW) (available at Advanced Engineering—PLTW schools only)

Principles of Engineering (available at Advanced Engineering—PLTW schools only)

Pending input and approval by MSDE, the following are being considered as additional course options that may warrant the credit:

Advanced Design Applications/Probase (Plans are being made to make this course available at all high schools as a classroom or online offering.)

A 0.5 credit Technology Education course with a computer science emphasis paired with a modified Foundations of Technology (0.5 credit) course.

Honors or advanced-level course designations are being considered. Prerequisites for advanced-level courses are being determined.

Maryland State Department of Education

The state requirements for technology education are available to the public in The Annotated Code of Maryland— Maryland State Board of Education Regulation on Technology Education (COMAR)13A.04.01.01 www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/13a/13a.04.01.01.htm

All courses that meet the technology education graduation requirement for the class of 2012 and beyond (pending approval) must meet or exceed The National Standards for Technological Literacy for

The Nature of Technology

Technology and Society

Design
Abilities for a Technological World
The Designed World

Additional Learning Opportunities

Summer School

Summer School 2008

The Regional Summer School Program provides an alternative for students to receive credit for select core and non-core courses during the summer. The courses taught follow the same curriculum guidelines as those during the regular school year.

Brochures for the 2008 Regional Summer School Program will be available in all schools by the last week of April 2008. Registration forms, tuition reduction waiver vouchers, and a copy of the summer school brochure will also be available on the MCPS website.

Summer School Sites and Schedules

The planning process for the Regional Summer School Program should be complete by April 1, 2008. Summer School site locations and schedules will be advertised as soon as they are available. The sites for the Regional Summer School Program are selected based upon serving the needs of all students.

Local School Programs

All high schools can also develop their own Local School Program (LSP) to serve the needs of their specific population. The LSP operates independent of the Regional Summer School Program.

Contact Information

Questions regarding Local School Programs should be directed to individual schools. Questions regarding the Regional Summer School Program should be directed to 301-279-3202.

Regional Summer School Program
Carver Educational Services Center

Rockville, MD 20850
Fax: 301-517-5957

Student Online Learning

College Board SAT Online Prep Program

This is a non-credit preparation program made available free of charge to all MCPS students through the MCPS/College Board Partnership. The SAT Prep program is a product of the College Board maintained SAT Preparation Center™. It is designed to allow students to practice and review SAT math, critical reading, and writing practice questions including a review of the SAT essay. Students may also download, print, and take a free, official full-length SAT practice test online then review a free score and skills report, and explanations to all test answers.

Learning Opportunities

Student Online Learning, through the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), is a way for high school students to take courses outside of the traditional classroom setting. For more information or to register for an online class, please see the Student Online Learning web site at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/>

Credit Opportunities

Student Online Learning, through the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), is a way for high school students to take courses outside of the traditional classroom setting. For more information or to register for an online class, please see your school guidance counselor. We currently offer the following online courses:

Comprehensive Health Education

This 0.5 credit course is an online version of the school based course. This course is offered primarily during the summer.

Foundations of Technology

This 1.0 credit course meets the basic technology education graduation requirement. This course is primarily offered during the summer.

AP Courses Offered in Cooperation with Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities

These courses are offered to students outside of the school day for students in schools where the course is not being offered or in situations where the student cannot schedule the course during the school day. See the Student Online Learning web site for registration information and scheduling.

AP American History (1 credit)

AP Art History (1 credit)

AP Biology (1 credit)

AP Calculus AB (1 credit)
AP Calculus BC (1 credit)
AP Chemistry (1 credit)
AP Computer Science A (1 credit)
AP English Language and Composition (1 credit)
AP English Literature and Composition (1 credit)
AP Environmental Science
AP French Language (1 credit)
AP Human Geography (1 credit)
AP Macroeconomics (.5 credit)
AP Microeconomics (.5 credit)
AP Physics B (1 credit)
AP Physics C (1 credit)
AP Spanish Language (1 credit)
AP Statistics (1 credit)
AP US Government and Politics (.5 credit)

Frequently Asked Questions about Online Credit Courses

When does my class meet?

Class times are flexible, but students need to complete assignments approximately every other day. There will be some face-to-face class sessions and attendance is required.

How is an online class different from one at a traditional classroom setting?

Online courses use the same curriculum and learning outcomes as the courses taught in school. They are designed to take advantage of the online format. Most classwork may be done from home.

Will I get a grade and course credit?

The same grading and credit policies apply to an online course as to courses offered in school.

What if I need help with course content?

All classes are taught by highly qualified MCPS teachers who have been trained to teach in an online environment.

What if I need help with course content?

Instructors will have "office hours" when they can be reached by phone or online.

What is the cost for an online course?

The tuition for online courses vary but range between \$300-\$350 per half credit. This tuition fee does not include the cost of books or the AP exam (for AP courses). A sliding scale for tuition is available to students based upon financial need, following the same process as traditional summer school courses.

Regional Evening High School/Saturday High School Program

Overview

The Regional Evening High School/Saturday High School program is an extended hours learning program located at Montgomery Blair High School for current 12th grade students who want to complete course requirements for a high school diploma or who are reviewing high school subjects to meet the requirements for advanced academic study. Contact your local school counselor for information about extended learning opportunities available to you.

Purpose of the Regional High School/Saturday High School Program

To provide credit courses leading to a Maryland High School diploma for students not currently enrolled in a high school program.

To provide 12th grade students presently attending day school the opportunity to earn original course credit or recover credit they previously failed to earn.

To provide credit courses needed to meet the requirements for admission to institutions of higher learning for students who have already earned a high school diploma.

Registration

The Regional Evening High School/Saturday High School program fall brochures are available early in August in the Counseling Offices of all MCPS high schools. The spring brochures are available in early January. Registration dates, times, and locations will be printed in the brochures. Students who are planning on registering for classes should get registration forms from their counselors. Tuition reduction forms are available from the secretary in the Counseling Office of each high school. All forms must be signed by counselors and parents.

Contact Information

Regional Evening High School/Saturday High School Program
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive
Room 167
Rockville MD 20850
Phone: 301-279-3202
Fax: 301-517-5957

George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academies

Ten Montgomery County Public Schools host free Saturday morning programs, which provide enrichment, tutoring, and mentoring for students in Grades 1 - 12. The programs are called the George B. Thomas, Sr., Learning Academies and are also known as "Saturday Schools."

The George B. Thomas, Sr., Learning Academy, Inc. was established in 1986 by the Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as an outgrowth of the Saturday School Initiative of Blacks United for Excellence in Education. Saturday Schools are open to all students. Saturday School sites include Watkins Mill, Gaithersburg, Albert Einstein, Montgomery Blair, John F. Kennedy, Northwest, Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook, and Wheaton high schools.

Contact your local school for more information.

Homework Hotline Live!

The ITV flagship program offers one-on-one homework help to students who call the hotline number at 301-279-3234 (Voice/TTY). The program, which can be viewed on channel 33, is scheduled from 4:30pm-6:00pm on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from October through April. "Homework Hotline Live!" is a service of MCPS Instructional TV. During each program, three teachers are on camera, while several more answer telephone calls in the phone room at the Carver Educational Services Center studio in Rockville. Students serve as part of the technical crew and are trained by Instructional TV staff. Students and families can use this service even if they do not subscribe to cable television. By calling, a student will be connected to a teacher who can provide assistance in most academic subjects from kindergarten through 12th grade. Viewers with cable service will be able to watch the program and also work with on camera teachers to help them formulate answers. While most questions come from elementary and middle school students, "Hotline" teachers represent all levels and most subject areas. Mathematics questions are the most frequent, and there is usually a certified mathematics instructor on staff during cablecasts. In addition to direct instruction, each program includes various learning experiences such as current events summaries and video clips. The program also features fun trivia and prizes for answering challenging "brainteaser" questions from MCPS students. So join the fun, and get homework done.