MCPS High School Opportunities:

Local High Schools and the Centers of Montgomery County

September 14 and 23, 2026
7-8 PM English
8-9 PM Spanish

MCPS Future Ready

Transitioning from Middle School

What Students Look Forward To

Greater Independence & Choice

More freedom to select elective courses, explore specialized career pathways, and customize daily academic schedules.

Expanded Extracurriculars

Access to a wider variety of competitive athletics, special interest clubs, performing arts, and student leadership opportunities.

New Social Connections

Opportunities to meet peers from different middle schools, build lifelong friendships, and participate in spirited school events.

Local High School Benefits

Great Opportunities at Your Home School

Likely closer to home. Students attend automatically based on their home address with no application required.

Comprehensive Offerings

Students have full access to robust courses, athletics, clubs, activities, and community-responsive specialized academies.

Community Connection

Fosters deep relationships and academic growth within the student's immediate local neighborhood.

MCPS Local High Schools in 2027-2028

Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Blair
Clarksburg
Damascus
Einstein
Gaithersburg
James Hubert Blake
John F. Kennedy
Magruder

Northwest
Northwood
Paint Branch
Poolesville
Quince Orchard
Richard Montgomery
Rockville
Seneca Valley
Sherwood

Springbrook
Walter Johnson
Watkins Mill
Wheaton
Whitman
Winston Churchill

Woodward
Wootton

Vibrant Schools, Endless Opportunities, Right in Your Neighborhood

MCPS Local High Schools in 2027-2028

Every MCPS high school has* — **Vibrant Schools, Endless Opportunities, Right in Your Neighborhood**

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES & ELECTIVE PATHWAYS

Core Courses
English, social studies, mathematics, science, health etc.

Wide Array of Interests
World Languages, Arts, Technology, Business, and specialty course options *such as computer science, French, orchestra, and financial literacy, volleyball*

CTE Pathways
Career & Technical Education specialized programs *such as computer programming, education, and emergency medical technician***

Real-World Experiences
Internships and industry-recognized certifications *such as IT Specialist, Child Development Associate*

ADVANCED COURSES & ENRICHMENT

AP Courses (and/or IB Courses)
Rigorous college-level course options *such as AP world history, physics, calculus, research*

Dual Enrollment
Earn college credit while in high school *such as criminal justice, engineering, graphic design, network security*

Capstone Experiences
In-depth research, portfolios, projects, and college credit *such as AP Capstone Diploma*

Enrichment & Student Life
Clubs, organizations, and athletics *such as student government, dance clubs, pickleball, lacrosse, theatre productions*

**Examples, not an exhaustive list | **Local CTE Programs vary*

What are the Regional Center Programs?

Regional Center Programs

Southern Region
Bethesda-Chevy Chase • Blair • Whitman • Einstein • Northwood

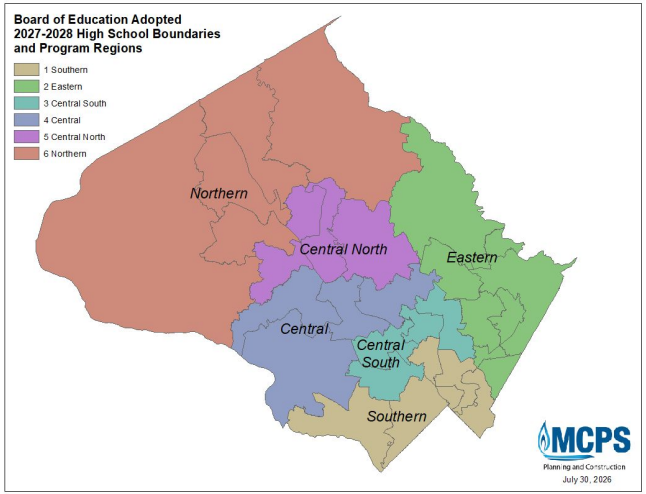
Eastern Region
Blake • Paint Branch • Springbrook • Sherwood

Central South Region
Woodward • Kennedy • Walter Johnson • Wheaton

Central Region
Richard Montgomery • Rockville • Churchill • Wootton

Central North Region
Magruder • Gaithersburg • Quince Orchard • Watkins Mill

Northern Region
Seneca Valley • Clarksburg • Damascus • Poolesville • Northwest



Center Program Themes

Medical Science and Healthcare

Center for Medical Exploration and Discovery

Leadership & Public Service

Center for Leadership, Empowerment, Action, & Development

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Visual & Performing Arts, Design, & Communication

Center for Aesthetics, Repertoire, Technique, and Self Expression

International Baccalaureate, Humanities & Languages

Center for Global Learning, Opportunity, Biliteracy & Engagement

MC²

Center for Middle College

Middle College is dependent on a partnership with Montgomery College

What is a Center Program?

A program is a **four-year high school course of study** designed to prepare students in a specific theme or field of study through integrated experiences.

Four-Year Sequence

Required program courses delivered through a planned **four-year sequence**.

Cohorted Learning

Students are enrolled with peers in the **same program** for shared learning.

Real-World Experience

Hands-on learning through projects, labs, field trips, and showcases.

Cocurriculars & Extracurriculars

Clubs, competitions, performances, and **work-based learning** opportunities.

Life after High School

Advanced courses such as AP, IB, dual enrollment, and **industry-recognized credentials**.

Culminating Senior Experience

Final **capstone projects**, portfolios, or professional internships.

MCPS Future Ready

What are the Center Programs in Your Region?

STEM CENTER

LEAD CENTER

MC² CENTER

MED CENTER

GLOBE CENTER

ARTS CENTER

Southern Region MCPS Center Programs

Information continues to be developed. Visit the website for the most accurate information.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase

GLOBE Center
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme **(c)**

STEM Center
Engineering **(i)**

Montgomery Blair

STEM Center
Science, Math, & Computer Science **(c)**

Cybersecurity **(i)**

ARTS Center
Communication Arts Program **(i,c)**

Walt Whitman

LEAD Center
Leadership for Social Justice **(i)**

GLOBE Center
Humanities **(c)**

Critical Languages, Cultures, & Global Connections (Chinese) **(i)**

Albert Einstein

ARTS Center
Visual Art **(c)**

Music **(c)**

Graphic Design **(i)**

MED Center
Medical Science **(c)**

Clinical Healthcare Medical Assistant **(i)**

Northwood

ARTS Center
Theatre **(i)**

Dance **(c)**

STEM Center
Environmental Science: Agriculture **(c, i)**

LEAD Center
Leadership, Law, & Criminal Justice **(i)**

MC2
Middle College **(i/c)**

(c) criteria-based **(i)** interest-based **(i, c)** interest & criteria-based pathways **(i/c)** interest-based + program criteria for college coursework

Eastern Region MCPS Center Programs

Information continues to be developed. Visit the website for the most accurate information.

James Hubert Blake

ARTS CENTER:
Visual Art **(c)**
Theatre **(i)**
Music **(c)**
Dance **(c)**
Animation and Game Design **(i)**

MC2:
Middle College **(i/c)** (Pathways to be determined)

Paint Branch

MED Center:
Medical Science **(c)**
Clinical Healthcare Medical Assistant **(i)**

LEAD Center:
Leadership for Social Justice **(i)**
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps **(i)**

Springbrook

GLOBE Center:
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme **(c)**

STEM Center:
Science, Math, and Computer Science **(c)**;
Cybersecurity **(i)**

Sherwood

GLOBE Center:
Humanities **(c)**
Critical Languages, Cultures, and Global Connections (Chinese) **(i)**

STEM Center:
Engineering **(i)**

(c) criteria-based **(i)** interest-based **(i, c)** interest & criteria-based pathways **(i/c)** interest-based + program criteria for college coursework

Central South Region MCPS Center Programs

Information continues to be developed. Visit the website for the most accurate information.

Charles W. Woodward

ARTS Center
Visual Art **(c)**
Theatre **(i)**
Music **(c)**
Animation and Game Design **(i)**

MC2
Middle College **(i/c)**

STEM Center
Machine Learning & Data Science **(i)**

John F. Kennedy

GLOBE Center
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme **(c)**

MED Center
Medical Sciences **(c)**
Clinical Healthcare Medical Assistant **(i)**

LEAD Center
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps **(i)**

Walter Johnson

GLOBE Center
Humanities **(c)**
Critical Languages, Cultures, and Global Connections (Mandarin) **(i)**

LEAD Center
Leadership, Law, and Criminal Justice **(i)**

Wheaton

STEM Center
Science, Math, and Computer Science **(c)**; Cybersecurity **(i)**
Engineering **(i,c)**

MED Center
Medical Science **(c)**

(Career Hub @ Thomas Edison HS of Technology)

(c) criteria-based **(i)** interest-based **(i, c)** interest & criteria-based pathways **(i/c)** interest-based + program criteria for college coursework

Central Region MCPS Center Programs

Information continues to be developed. Visit the website for the most accurate information.

Richard Montgomery

ARTS Center:
Theatre **(i)**
Music **(c)**
Dance **(c)**

GLOBE Center:
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme **(c)**

Rockville

MED Center:
Medical Science **(c)**
Clinical Healthcare Medical Assistant **(i)**

STEM Center:
Engineering **(i)**

MC2:
Middle College **(i/c)**: General Studies, PTEACH

Winston Churchill

ARTS Center:
Video & Audio Production **(i)**

GLOBE Center:
Humanities **(c)**
Critical Languages, Cultures, and Global Connections (Mandarin) **(i)**

Thomas S. Wootton

ARTS Center:
Visual Art **(c)**

STEM Center:
Science, Math, and Computer Science **(c)**
Cybersecurity **(i)**

LEAD Center:
Leadership for Social Justice **(i)**

(c) criteria-based **(i)** interest-based **(i, c)** interest & criteria-based pathways **(i/c)** interest-based + program criteria for college coursework

Central North Region MCPS Center Programs

Information continues to be developed. Visit the website for the most accurate information.

Col. Zadok Magruder

STEM Center:
Aviation **(i)**
Engineering **(i)**

LEAD Center:
Leadership for Social Justice **(i)**
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps **(i)**

GLOBE Center:
Humanities **(c)**

Gaithersburg

ARTS Center:
Dance **(c)**
Animation and Game Design **(i)**

STEM Center:
Science, Math, and Computer Science **(c)**
Cybersecurity **(i)**

Quince Orchard

ARTS Center:
Visual Art **(c)**
Theatre **(i)**
Music **(c)**

MED Center:
Medical Science **(c)**
Clinical Healthcare: Medical Assistant **(i)**

Watkins Mill

GLOBE Center:
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme **(c)**
Critical Languages, Cultures, and Global Connections (Mandarin) **(i)**

MC2:
Middle College **(i/c)**

(c) criteria-based **(i)** interest-based **(i, c)** interest & criteria-based pathways **(i/c)** interest-based + program criteria for college coursework

Northern Region MCPS Center Programs

Information continues to be developed. Visit the website for the most accurate information.

Seneca Valley

ARTS Center:
Theater **(i)**
Dance **(c)**

GLOBE Center:
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme **(c)**

STEM Center:
Cybersecurity **(i)**
(Career Hub @ Career Hub Programs)

Clarksburg

MED Center:
Medical Science **(c)**
Clinical Healthcare Pharmacy Technician **(i)**

GLOBE Center:
Critical Languages, Cultures, and Global Connections (Mandarin) **(i)**

MC2:
Middle College: P-Tech **(i/c)**

Damascus

ARTS Center:
Music **(c)**

STEM Center:
Environmental Science: Horticulture **(c,i)**

LEAD Center:
Leadership for Social Justice **(i)**

Poolesville

STEM Center:
Science, Math, and Computer Science **(c)**
Engineering **(i)**

GLOBE Center:
Humanities **(c)**

LEAD Center:
Leadership and Global Ecology **(i)**

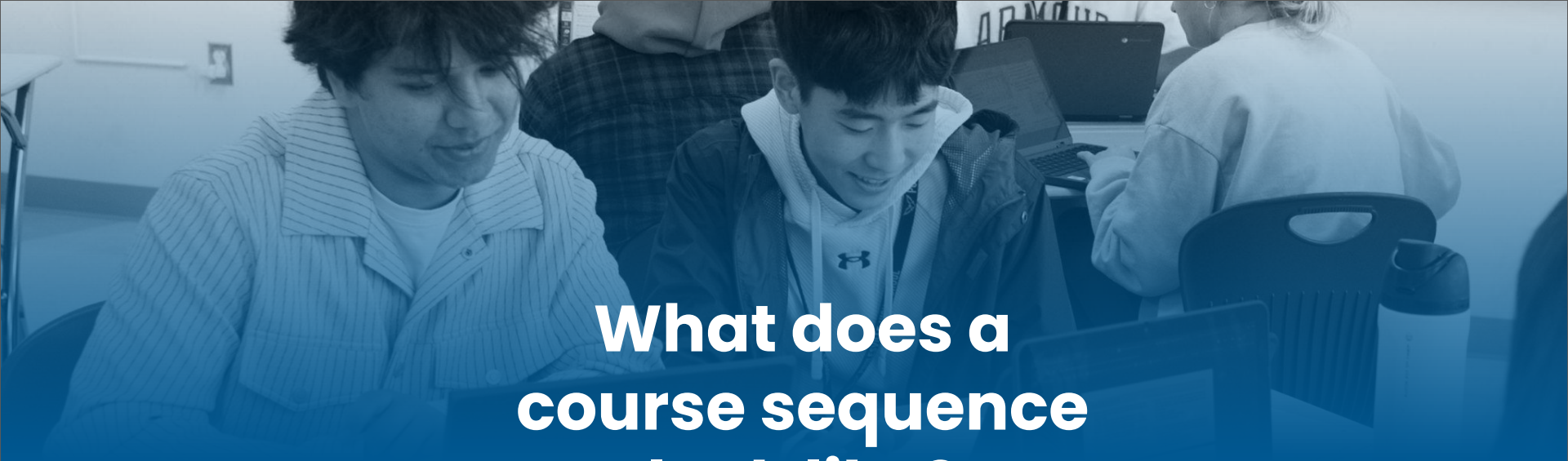
Northwest

ARTS Center:
Visual Art **(c)**
Graphic Design **(i)**

MED Center:
Medical Science **(c)**

MC2:
Middle College **(i/c)**: Business, General Studies, Engineering

(c) criteria-based **(i)** interest-based **(i, c)** interest & criteria-based pathways **(i/c)** interest-based + program criteria for college coursework



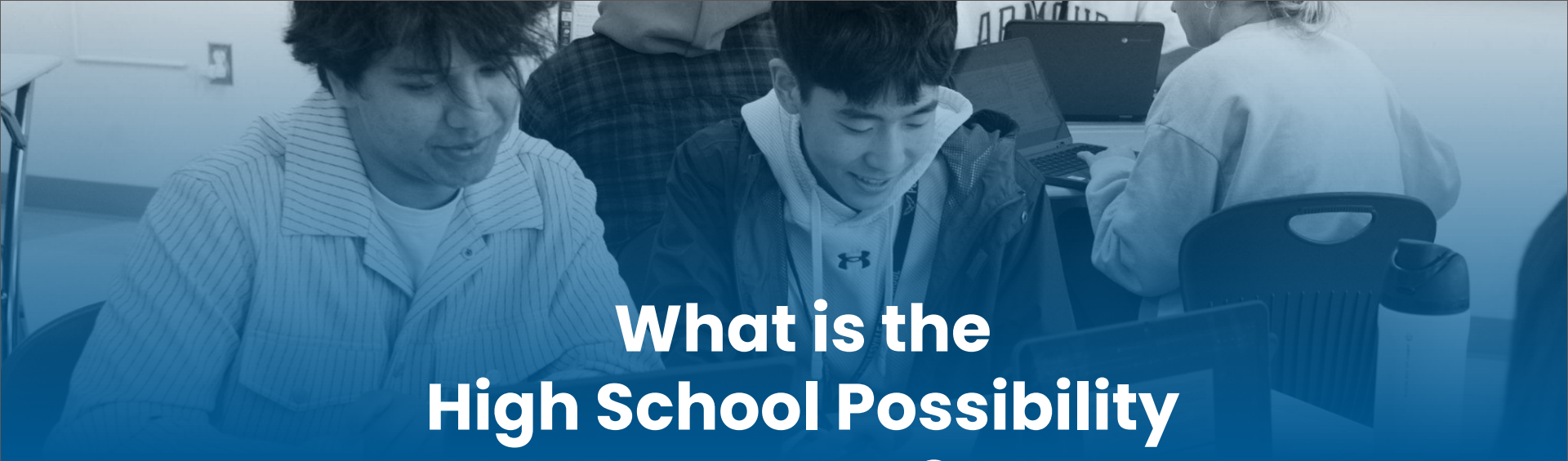
What does a course sequence look like?

Cybersecurity 4-Year Center Program

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English 9	English 10 AP Seminar (Cybersecurity Focus)	English 11 or AP Language and Composition	English 12 or AP Literature and Composition
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Upper Level Mathematics
US History	NSL Government or AP Government	Modern World or AP World History	Physical Education, Fine Arts, or Health
Science	Science	Science	Physical Education, Fine Arts, or Health
World Language	World Language	World Language or Elective	World Language or Elective
AP Computer Science Principles with Python	Cybersecurity 1	Cybersecurity 2*	Cybersecurity 3**, Work-based Learning, or Dual Enrollment
Cybersecurity Center Essentials	Physical Education, Fine Arts, or Health	AP Computer Science Java	Ethical Hacking + 0.5 Computer Science Elective

CTE Local Program of Study

Industry Recognized Credentials: *Comp TIA Network+ or Comp TIA Security+ **Comp TIA CySA+ (Cybersecurity Analyst)

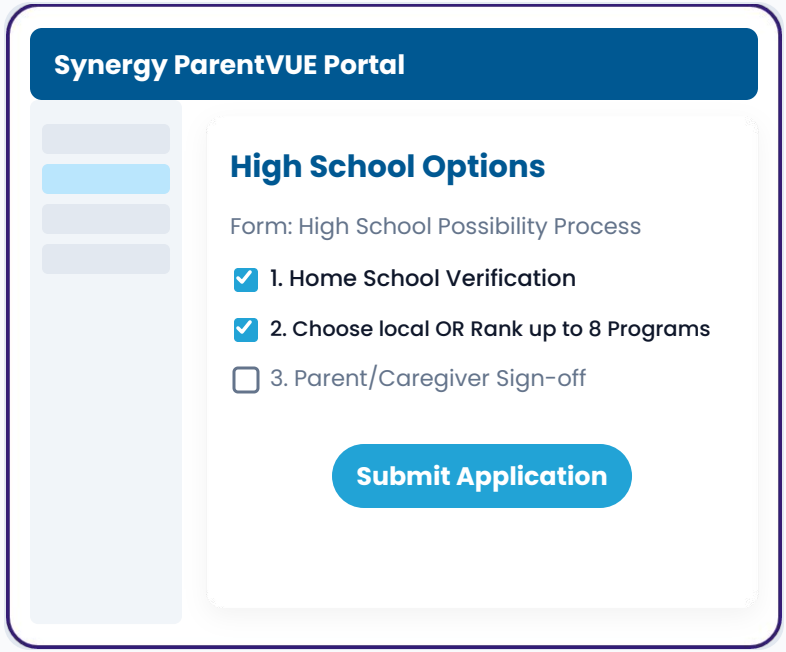


What is the High School Possibility Process?

High School Possibility Process: Unleashing Your Potential

Grade 8 students with their parent/caregiver will complete the HSP Form!
This personalized form captures your high school intentions.

- **Possibility Counselor-led Presentation, Report, Form & Center Application**
  You and your parent/caregiver will access the centralized High School Possibility form through Synergy/ParentVUE.
- **Program Ranking**
  You can rank in order of interest up to 8 programs during the fall of your Grade 8 year.
- **Admission Basis**
  Admission can be criteria-based (reviewing grades, assessments, etc.) or interest-based (lottery).



💡 **Access the HSP form via the Synergy ParentVUE Portal**

It’s All Here in ParentVUE!

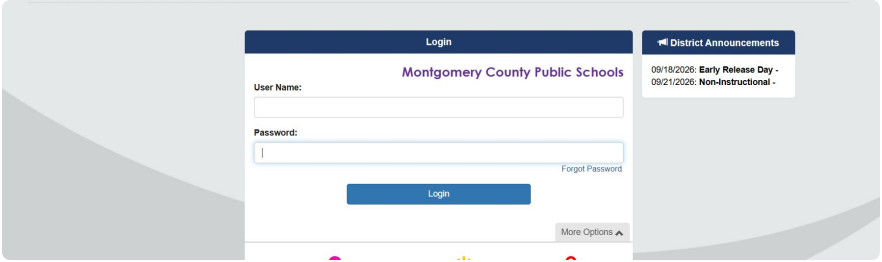
ParentVUE Portal Access

1. Report
View report.

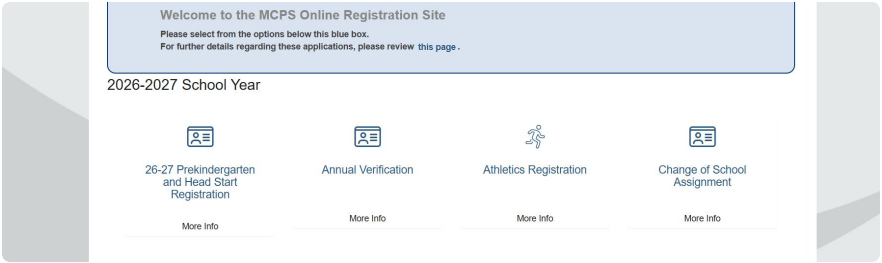
2. Form
Complete High School Possibility (HSP) forms & annual verifications.

3. Center Application
Explore Center programs and submit applications seamlessly.

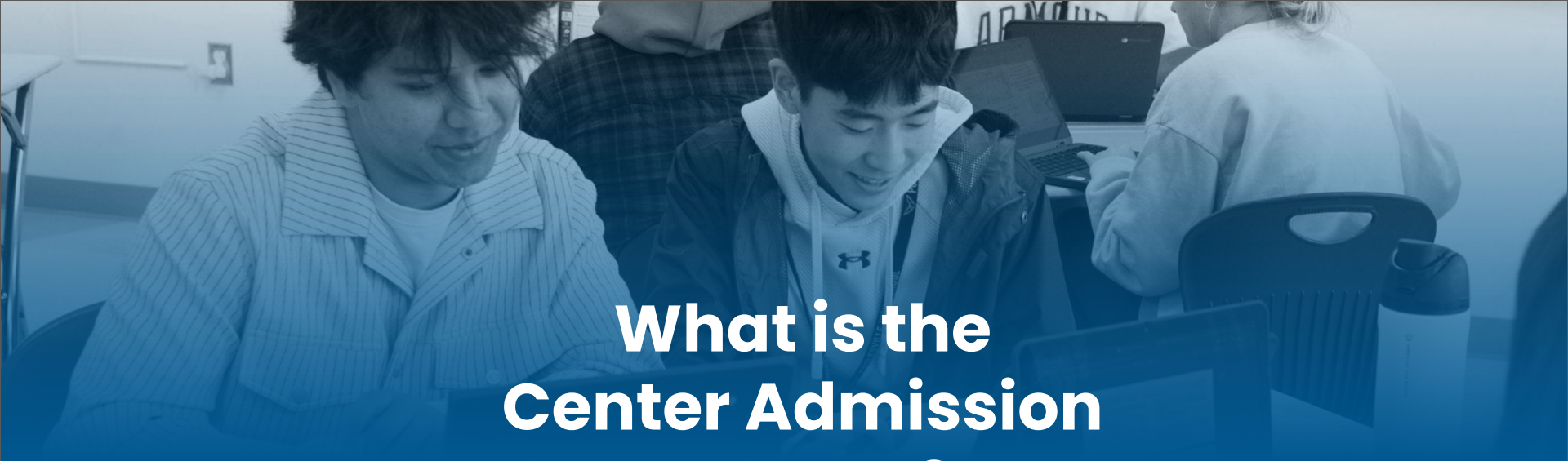
ParentVUE Account Access & Login Portal



High School Possibility Form & Center Application (optional)



💡 **Access your student’s report, forms, and center applications directly via Synergy ParentVUE**



What is the Center Admission Process?

Steps to Apply

Maximize Placement: Aim to have as many opportunities for students as possible

Steps to Apply in Round 1 (optional)

01 Families may rank order 1-8 Center programs.

02 Students will be reviewed for eligibility/qualified into criteria-based program(s). If eligible, will be placed in the lottery. (Some programs have prerequisites).

03 Students requesting interest-based programs proceed to the ranked-choice lottery.

04 Student placement into ALL programs will occur through a ranked-choice lottery.

Helpful Tips

- **Optional:** Application to Center programs is not required.
- **Apply to be Considered:** Students must apply and rank order 1-8 programs to be considered. Application is in ParentVUE.
- **Rank Strategically:** Students should only rank programs genuinely interested in.
- **No Obligation:** Receiving an invitation does not obligate students to accept it.
- **Program Placement:** Is only through the ranked-choice lottery

Admission Overview

ADMISSIONS & LOTTERY PROCESS FLOW

1. Selection & Application

Interest-Based (i): Students rank their preferred programs.

Criteria-Based (c): Students apply & undergo eligibility review.

2. Qualification & Pool Entry

Interest-Based: Direct entry into the ranked-choice lottery pool.

Criteria-Based: If qualified via review, students enter the lottery pool.

3. Ranked-Choice Lottery

The lottery per region is run for all eligible/qualified student applicants.

Students are placed into available seats based on lottery results. The lottery will consider ranking, region, and socioeconomic status of student.

After Round 1, Round 2 and Next Steps

After Round 1

- **Students placed can accept or decline:** If students received an offer, they accept or decline by deadline
- **Students not placed:** Parents/caregivers of students **must request** to go into Round 2; including newly interested, new students and Round 1 students who want a higher ranked program
- **Student was not eligible/qualified for criteria-based programs?** Families may appeal

Round 2 Process

- **Eligibility:** Open to new, unplaced Round 1, or those seeking higher-ranked choices.
- **Vacancies:** Lottery is conducted for remaining vacant seats.
- **Placement:** Round 1 students entering Round 2 can maintain/improve placement.

Waitlists & Factors

- **Waitlists:** After Round 2, students are added to waitlists and invited if seats open.
- **Considerations:** Lottery factors in student rankings, region, and socioeconomic status.

Central Review Placement: MCPS Initiated

Process Overview

01 MCPS Review: MCPS will review Grade 8 students academic profiles for both their region's International Baccalaureate (IB) and Science, Math and Computer Science programs.

02 Invitations: Students who demonstrate a distinguished need and academic match for the program may be invited to either or both of these programs.

03 No Obligation: Students are not obligated to accept a placement from this process.

Placement Guidelines

- **Automatic Review**
  MCPS reviews Grade 8 academic profiles by region for potential placement in IB or Science, Math, and Computer Science programs.
- **Invitations**
  Pre-qualified students may receive invitations to one or both programs, independent of any other applications.
- **Selection**
  Students may accept only one program if invited.
- **Ranking Not Considered**
  This process considers a student's academic profile only.

This is separate from the admissions process.
No action from the family is necessary.

Factors for Criteria-based Programs

STEM & MED Centers
Science, Math, CS; Medical Science

Admission Factors:

- Application Essays & Ranking
- School Performance (Math/Science)
- Assessment Scores (PSAT/MAP-M/MCAP^)
- Services & Demographics**

GLOBE Centers
International Baccalaureate

Admission Factors:

- Application Essays & Ranking
- School Performance (English/SS/Math/Sci)
- Assessment Scores (PSAT/MAP/MCAP/WIDA^)
- Services & Demographics**

GLOBE & ARTS Centers
Humanities; Comm. Arts

Admission Factors:

- Application Essays & Ranking
- School Performance (English/SS Grades)
- Assessment Scores (PSAT/MAP-R/MCAP/WIDA^)
- Services & Demographics**

ARTS Centers
Dance, Music & Visual Art

Admission Factors:

- Ranking
- Artist Statement
- Pre-Audition
- Live Task

- The higher scaled score between the PSAT and MAP-M or MAP-R | Using both national and local normed scores for PSAT and MAP
- ^Where applicable
- **Services: Special education, English Language Development, 504; Demographics: Free and Reduced Meal Services

WIDA (World Class Instructional Design and Assessment); MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program); PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test); MAP M or R (Measurements of Academic Progress Math or Reading)

What is the timeline, next steps and some frequently asked questions?

Timeline: For Grade 8 Students and Families

Grade 8 High School Possibility (HSP) Process 2026–2027

Sept 14 & 23, 2026

High School Preview Webinar

Hosted live on Zoom.

English: 7 PM | Español: 8 PM

Sept 29

Zoom Drop-In

6:30–7:30 PM

October 2026

Showcases & Open Portals

- Fall showcases & Zoom Drop-in.
- HSP portals open officially on ParentVUE **(Oct 9 or earlier)**.

October 6

Zoom Drop-In

6:30–7:30 PM

Nov 4, 5 & 6, 2026

Zoom Drop-Ins

6:30–7:30 PM

Nov 6, 2026

Round 1 Deadline

High School Possibility Form & Center Application must be completed.

Late January 2027

Round 1 Results

- Results sent to families & schools

Center invite meetings and course registration.

- Round 1 appeals due for criteria programs.
- **Round 2 officially opens.**

February 2027

Round 2 Deadlines

- Round 2 HSP form & Center deadline (Mid Feb).
- Accept Round 1 invitations & appeal deadline.

March 2027

Round 2 Results

- Round 2 results sent to schools & families.
- Round 2 appeals due for criteria-based programs.

⚠️ **Aiming for 100% completion of the HSP form**

Community Engagement & Support

Zoom Webinars

Come learn about High School Options for Grade 9 students in 2027-2028

September 14 and 23, 2026

English: https://mcpstv-org.zoom.us/j/86446324364
Spanish: https://mcpstv-org.zoom.us/j/84221942981

- 7pm English, ASL & Translations in Amharic, Chinese, French
- 8pm Spanish

Zoom Room Drop Ins

Drop-in to get answers to questions about the High School Possibility Process and Program Options

September 29; October 6; November 4,5 and 6

English, Spanish | Zoom is open from 6:30-7:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/82991521061?pwd=XXcc1uzz5YbacQtiyYEmKaaA8eW9mA.1
Meeting ID: 829 9152 1061 | **Passcode:** 595869

High School Fall Showcases

Live & In Person

Visit each high school in your region to learn about both the Cornerstone offerings (local) and Center programs

Dates here

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is transportation provided to the Center programs?

There is limited central stop transportation available for the Center programs. MCPS is unable to provide route information at this time as existing student enrollment information is necessary to create routes. This information will be available in the summer of 2027. MCPS is committed to ensuring students have access to limited central stop transportation to their Center program.

Q. How can we access and complete the High School Possibility Form and apply?

The form will be available in ParentVUE in early October. The deadline is November 6, 2026. Round 1 is in the fall, Round 2 is in the winter.

Q. Are teacher recommendations or awards considered for the criteria-based review?

No. These items are not necessary for this process.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How many seats are available per program?

Preliminary seats range from 15-60 per program for out of area students. There are additional seats for local students to programs at their home school.

Q. I am interested in an interest-based Center program at my school. Do I have to apply or can I just register for the Center program at my home school during registration?

Students must apply to Center programs regardless if they are at one's home school or within the region.

Q. Can students apply to Center programs in other regions?

No. Students may only apply to Center programs in their region.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My student is only interested in their local high school, what is next?

All students have a home high school based on their home address. Students who indicate they want to attend their home high school on the HSP form are guaranteed their school.

Q. My student wants to go to their home high school. Do we have to complete the High School Possibility form?

Yes. Families of Grade 8 are encouraged to submit their student's high school plan after exploring all their options.

Q. Can I update my application after I have submitted it?

Yes. You can edit your Center application until the November 6, 2026 deadline (midnight). Simply log back into your existing submission, make your changes, and click 'submit' again. Your updates will overwrite the previous version, and the review committee will see only your most recent submission.

It is recommended to save a copy of your final application from the review screen for your records.

Frequently Asked Questions

`

Q. Is it possible to be eligible for a criteria-based program and not receive a seat?

Yes. Eligibility confirms you meet the program's criteria, but placement is determined by the ranked-choice lottery. Your chances depend on the number of available seats, the number of other applicants in that region, and your specific program rankings.

`

Q. My student submitted four ranked choices in Round 1 and received their 4th. Can we go into Round 2 to try for a higher ranked choice?

Yes. Students from Round 1 may enter Round 2 for a higher ranked choice. If you get a higher ranked choice in Round 2, you forfeit your Round 1 seat.

``

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My student is enrolled in a private school. How can they apply for one of these programs?

Please contact your home middle school. They will be able to set you up with a ParentVUE account so that your student can apply to these programs.

Q. What assessments does my private school student need to submit for admissions?

PSAT, NWEA MAP, i-Ready, Performance Series, Scantron, Iowa Assessments, CTP, MCAP/PARCC or other state testing, WISC, Woodcock-Johnson, SSAT, CogAT, OLSAT or InView.

Need more information- check it out here!

Thank You!

Upcoming….

Zoom Room Drop Ins
September 29,
October 6,
November 4,5,6

High School Fall Showcases

Deadline November 6, 2026