

- **BLAKE**
- **PAINT BRANCH**
- **SPRINGBROOK**

3 Great Schools! 3 Great Choices!



For Current 8th
Grade Students in
School Year 2025-2026



NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM HIGH SCHOOLS SIGNATURES

Information about the Northeast Consortium (NEC) Choice Process and Signature Programs

*I see ME
in ALL 3!*



**HEADS UP!
7th Grade
Families!**

LEARN MORE about proposed
changes to the high school
assignment process by clicking
HERE.

WHERE ARE RECENT CONSORTIUM GRADUATES NOW? *

Adelphi University	Duke University	Lynchburg College	Ringling College of Art and Design	University of Maine
Albright College	Dunwoody College of Technology	Lynn University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Allegheny College of Maryland	Duquesne University	Macalester College	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	University of Maryland, College Park
Allegheny College	Earlham College	Make Up Forever Academy, New York	Saint Anselm College	University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
AMDA—The American Musical and Dramatic Academy	East Carolina University	Manhattanville College	Saint Joseph's University	University of Maryland University College
American Academy of Dramatic Arts	Eastern University	Marshall University	Salisbury University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
American University	Eckerd College	Mary Baldwin College	San Diego State University	University of Miami
Anne Arundel Community College	Elizabeth City State University	Maryland Institute College of Art	Santa Barbara City College	University of Michigan
Antioch College	Elizabethtown College	Marymount University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Arizona State University	Elon University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Mississippi
Art Institute of Washington	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach	McDaniel College	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of New Hampshire
Auburn University	Emory University	McGill University	Scripps College	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Barnard College	Empire Beauty School	Medtech Institute	Seoul National University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Barry University	Fairfield University	Messiah College	Seton Hill University	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Bates College	Flagler College	Methodist University	Sewanee: The University of the South	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Bellevue University	Florida A&M University	Miami University, Oxford	Shenandoah University	University of Pennsylvania
Beloit College	Florida Atlantic University	Michigan State University	Shepherd University	University of Pittsburgh
Binghamton University	Florida International University	Middle Georgia State College	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
Boston College	Florida State University	Middlebury College	Simmons College	University of Redlands
Boston University	Fordham University	Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design	Smith College	University of Richmond
Bowie State University	Frederick Community College	Mississippi State University	South Carolina State University	University of Rhode Island
Brandeis University	Frostburg State University	Montgomery College, Germantown	Southern Virginia University	University of Rochester
Bridgewater College	Garrett College	Montgomery College, Rockville	Spelman College	University of San Diego
Brigham Young University, Idaho	George Mason University	Montgomery College, Takoma Park	St. Bonaventure University	University of San Francisco
Brock University	George Washington University	Morehouse College	St. Francis College	University of Scranton
Brown University	Georgetown University	Morgan State University	St. John's University, Queens Campus	University of South Carolina
Bryn Mawr College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Mount Holyoke College	St. Mary's College of Maryland	University of South Florida, Tampa
Bucknell University	Georgian Court University	Mount Saint Mary's University	Stanford University	University of Southern California
Butler University	Goucher College	Muhlenberg College	Stern College for Women	University of Tampa
California Institute of Technology	Grambling State University	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Stetson University	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Grinnell College	New York University	Stevenson University	University of Texas, Austin
Calvin College	Guilford College	North Carolina A & T State University	Stony Brook University	University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Campbell University	Hagerstown Community College	North Carolina Central University	Susquehanna University	University of Toronto
Capitol Technology University	Hamline University	North Carolina State University	Swarthmore College	University of Vermont
Carnegie Mellon University	Hampshire College	North Carolina State University, Raleigh	Syracuse University	University of Virginia
Case Western Reserve University	Hampton University	Northeastern University	Temple University	University of Washington
Catholic University of America	Harvard University	Northern Arizona University	TESST College of Technology, Beltsville	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Central State University	Harvey Mudd College	Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria	The New School	Ursinus College
Chapman University	Hawaii Pacific University	Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale	THE TEMPLE:	Utah Valley University
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	High Point University	Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun	A Paul Mitchell Partner School	Vanderbilt University
Chowan University	Hillsborough Community College	Northwestern University	Thiel College	Vassar College
City College of New York	Hofstra University	Notre Dame of Maryland University	Toccoa Falls College	Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Clarion University of Pennsylvania	Hollins University	Oberlin College	Towson University	Villanova University
Clark University	Hood College	Occidental College	Trevecca Nazarene University	Virginia Commonwealth University
Clayton College & State University	Howard Community College	Ohio State University	Trinity College	Virginia State University
Clemson University	Howard University	Ohio Wesleyan University	Trinity University, Washington, DC	Virginia Tech
Coastal Carolina University	Hudson Valley Community College	Old Dominion University	Tufts University	Virginia Union University
Colby College	Indiana University at Bloomington	Oral Roberts University	Tulane University	Virginia University of Lynchburg
Colgate University	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Pace University, New York City	Tuskegee University	Wagner College
College of Charleston	Iona College	Pacific Union College	United States Air Force Academy	Wake Forest University
College of the Holy Cross	Ithaca College	Palm Beach State College	United States Marines	Washington Adventist University
College of William and Mary	Jacksonville University	Penn State Abington	United States Military Academy-Army	Washington and Lee University
College of Wooster	James Madison University	Penn State Harrisburg	United States Navy	Washington College
Collin College	Johns Hopkins University	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	University of Akron	Washington University in St. Louis
Colorado State University	Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte	Pepperdine University	University of Alabama	Waynesburg University
Columbia College Chicago	Johnson & Wales University, Miami	Pitt Community College	University of Arizona	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Columbia University	Johnson & Wales University, Providence	Point Park University	University of Baltimore	Wesley College
Community College of Baltimore County	Johnson C. Smith University	Potomac State College of West Virginia University	University of British Columbia	Wesleyan University
Concordia University - Montreal	Juniata College	Prince George's Community College	University of California, Berkeley	West Chester University
Coppin State University	Kent State University	Princeton University	University of California, Davis	West Liberty University
Cornell University	Kenyon College	Purdue University	University of California, Irvine	West Virginia University
Culinary Institute of America	La Salle University	Radford University	University of California, Los Angeles	West Virginia Wesleyan College
Dartmouth College	Lafayette College	Randolph-Macon College	University of California, San Diego	Western University
Delaware State University	Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	Reed College	University of California, Santa Cruz	Whitman College
Delgado Community College	Lehigh University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Central Florida	Winston-Salem State University
Denison University	Lewis & Clark College	Rice University	University of Chicago	Winthrop University
DePaul University	Liberty University	Rider University	University of Colorado at Boulder	Yale University
DePauw University	Lincoln Technical Institute, Maryland		University of Connecticut	York College of Pennsylvania
DeVry University	Lincoln University		University of Delaware	Youngstown University
Dickinson College	Long Island University, Brooklyn		University of Georgia	
Drexel University	Loyola University Chicago		University of Hartford	
	Loyola University Maryland		University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	
			University of Kentucky	

*This list is reflective of many of the postsecondary destinations of recent Consortia graduates.

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Note: Information contained in this publication is subject to change.
Questions? Visit the websites and/or contact the schools.

Keys to Success at the 3 NEC High Schools:

"One thing that makes Blake amazing is the diversity and cultures that are represented throughout our school. Students are constantly engaging with their teachers to gain a deeper understanding of the lesson. Blake teachers are passionate about the subjects that they teach and actively engage with their students."

STUDENT, BLAKE HS

"The key to success at Blake is to focus on your school work and manage your time to help avoid stress. Be true to yourself and put in the time and effort and only good things can come of your hard work!"

STUDENT, BLAKE HS

"The most important piece of advice I can give is to never be afraid to ask for help and truly invest on building relationships with your teachers and the staff at Blake. Everyone is here to help you succeed and learn how to be your best possible self."

STUDENT, BLAKE HS

"Being at Blake has reinforced to me that we all need to work together as a team and as a family to help develop the skills that will enable us to be successful throughout our lives. Great communication, respect, and finding the fun in everything will help us grow to achieve all of our academic and life goals."

STUDENT, BLAKE HS

"At Paint Branch, you are introduced to so many different courses which excite you and help you choose a major for college. Teachers are very open to helping you, and they give you the tools for success."

STUDENT, PAINT BRANCH HS

"Challenge yourself! Take Honors and AP classes, get involved in activities, and don't procrastinate. Go for help when you need it."

STUDENT, PAINT BRANCH HS

"Challenge yourself, but know your limits. Join a lot of groups, because when senior year comes around, you'll be happy you did. Make sure you study and go in for help from your teachers if you don't understand something, and never be afraid to ask questions."

STUDENT, PAINT BRANCH HS

"The key to my success at Paint Branch was the challenging Signature program and classes which prepared me well for college. The Paint Branch teachers provided clear and enjoyable instruction and good test preparation."

STUDENT, PAINT BRANCH HS

"Participate in the IB Diploma Programme. IB lets you focus on what interests you personally in each of the subjects we study, and with the help of our teachers, we learn so much more than if we were just presented the information."

STUDENT, SPRINGBROOK HS

"With access to all of the invaluable resources Springbrook has to offer, from caring teachers to hard working peers, it is almost impossible to NOT succeed at this school."

STUDENT, SPRINGBROOK HS

"Come in and make connections with teachers and students and get involved with after school activities and be nice to everyone you meet so that you can create lasting relationships."

STUDENT, SPRINGBROOK HS

"Freshman year is so important because it sets the tone for your high school career. Come in and try your best."

STUDENT, SPRINGBROOK HS

THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM (NEC) is made up of three high schools and their feeder middle and elementary schools. The three high schools—James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch, and Springbrook—provide students with a comprehensive and well-rounded high school education. All three schools have *Signature* programs that focus on a thematic approach to teaching and learning and are engaging and challenging. The *Signatures* and other innovative programs, plus a variety of activities, clubs, and athletics, provide students with a wide range of exciting academic and extracurricular opportunities.

HAVE YOU HEARD? ALL THREE NEC HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE—



- Students from more than five middle schools
- Clubs and activities
- Sports teams
- Pep rallies
- Homecoming events
- Spirit week
- Proms
- Plays
- Rigorous academic programs
- Technology
- Art and Digital Art classes
- Special Education programs
- English Language Development (ELD) classes
- Music programs
- School newspaper
- Yearbook
- Honors and Advanced Placement courses
- TV production
- Career pathway programs
- A college/career center
- Student service learning opportunities
- Internships

Plus a whole lot more!

ALL THREE NEC High Schools OFFER—

Signature programs that are designed around central themes of interest to help students make strong connections between their academics and their personal interests, plans for college, and future careers.

Choice Process Description

The *Choice* process is a high school lottery assignment process for Grade 8 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) who live in the Northeast Consortium attendance area or attend an NEC middle school. Students and their parents participate by completing a *Choice* form and ranking the three NEC high schools in order of preference. Factors in the lottery assignment process may include the total number of available seats, choice ranking, sibling link, socioeconomic status, and gender. While every effort is made to assign students to their first choice, some students may be assigned to a school other than their first choice.

Choice Process

There are two rounds in the *Choice* process.

■ Round 1

- Round 1 takes place in November. It is for Grade 8 NEC residents only (including private and home-schooled students).
- Students who participate in Round 1 will receive a high school assignment letter in late January.

■ Round 2

- Round 2 takes place in February. It is for Grade 8 students on transfer into an NEC middle school, those who did not get their first choice school in Round 1, and for new NEC residents.
- Students who participate in Round 2 will receive a high school assignment letter in late March.

Parents of students who do not receive their first choice school in Round 1 may participate in Round 2 by completing an online resubmit form requesting that the child's original choices be resubmitted. Round 2 resubmit forms must be received by the February due date.

Please note that the Round 1 choices being resubmitted into the lottery for Round 2 consideration may not be changed.

Preparing for the Choice Process

In the fall, Northeast Consortium parents and students will receive information announcing dates of virtual NEC evening information meetings and high school open houses. Grade 8 students who attend an NEC middle school will also have the opportunity to hear information about the *Choice* process and the three high schools from a school counselor.

Northeast Consortium

NEC High School Lottery Choices			
	Blake HS	Paint Branch HS	Springbrook HS
1st Choice	☐	☐	☐
2nd Choice	☐	☐	☐
3rd Choice	☐	☐	☐

The Choice Form

■ Round 1

- In mid-October, *Choice* form instructions will be mailed to the homes of MCPS Grade 8 students who live in the Northeast Consortium.
- NEC middle school students will access the choice form online at bit.ly/choiceNEC
- *Choice* forms must be submitted online by the November due date.

■ Round 2

- In early February, *Choice* form instructions will be mailed to the homes of Grade 8 students who attend an NEC middle school on transfer or are new NEC residents.
- *Choice* forms must be submitted online by the February due date.

Sibling Link

Parents may request that their Grade 8 child be assigned to the same high school as a sibling who is currently in Grade 9, 10, or 11 at an NEC high school. Sibling link will be indicated on the choice form instruction letter mailed in October. Simply place the sibling's assigned high school as first choice on the *Choice* form. Sibling link is exercised during the lottery process when most seats are available. Parents should note that after Round 1 and Round 2 of the lottery are completed, requesting sibling link during the appeal process is not always guaranteed because all students have been assigned and high school seats are limited.

Choice Process Appeals

All NEC students participate in the school assignment lottery process except in some cases of students in special education or METS programs. A written request may be submitted to change high schools because of a unique hardship or unforeseen circumstance that may warrant overriding the general applicable assignment factors. Although important factors for families to consider, program preference, proximity to school, and/or access to athletic programs are not unique hardships. The first level of appeal is administered by the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services. The second level of appeal is administered by the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools. Decisions on appeals will occur within 30 days of receipt by the appropriate office.

Change of Choice

In February, a student in Grade 9, 10, or 11 who wants to request a different NEC high school for the following school year may submit a *Change of Choice* request form. *Change of Choice* request forms will be available in early February at all three NEC high school counseling offices and on the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec/. The *Change of Choice* process considers a variety of factors when reassigning students to schools. These factors include the number of available seats, socioeconomic status, and gender. If a *Change of Choice* request is denied, the parent may appeal the decision in writing as described in the aforementioned appeals paragraph. During the *Change of Choice* process, students who are requesting their base consortium high school or requesting a consortium high school to join an older or same age sibling in the comprehensive program are guaranteed assignment.

Choice Process Timeline

September/ October	- Northeast Consortium high school evening meetings information mailed to NEC Grade 8 students in MCPS. - NEC Information Session on <i>choice</i> process and Signature programs. For details, visit the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec/.
October/ November	- Evening <i>Open Houses</i> held at James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch, and Springbrook high schools. <i>Choice</i> forms submission instructions are mailed to parents of MCPS Grade 8 students who live within the consortium. - Student enrollment appointments held for parents of current private school and home-schooled students who live in the NEC. Call 240-740-7800 or email DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org further information.
■ Round 1	
November	<i>Choice</i> form deadline for Grade 8 students who live within the NEC attendance area.
January	NEC high school assignment letters mailed to homes of Round 1 participants.
■ Round 2 and Change of Choice	
February	<i>Choice</i> forms due: - from Grade 8 students who attend NEC middle schools on transfer and choose to participate in the NEC <i>Choice</i> process, and - from Grade 8 residents who enroll in the NEC after Round 1. - Resubmit forms due from parents of students who did not receive their first choice school in Round 1 and want to participate in Round 2. (Original Round 1 school choices will be resubmitted in Round 2). <i>Change of Choice</i> request forms due from parents/students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 requesting a different NEC high school for the next school year. Forms available in early February from NEC high school counseling offices and on the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec/, or by calling 240-740-7800.
March	Notification letters mailed to homes of Round 2 and <i>Change of Choice</i> participants in late March.
■ Appeals	
April	Letters of appeal due to DCCAPS office from parents of students appealing the school assignment decision. Appeal letters must include student name, ID number, parent signature and supporting documents. Appeals can be submitted online by emailing DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org from the parent email address or by mail. Note address below.

Note: For further information about the Northeast Consortium, visit the website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nec/, contact your MCPS school counselor, or call the DCCAPS office at 240-740-7800. The DCCAPS office is located at 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902. The fax number is 301-649-8155.

NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM BASE HIGH SCHOOLS

All students have a base high school that is determined by their home address. Assignment to a student's base high school is guaranteed if (1) it is indicated as first choice on the *Choice* form or (2) it is indicated as second choice and the first choice school is not available. To identify a student's base high school, visit the website <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/SchoolAssignmentTool2/>



- **BURNT MILLS ES**
(except for addresses within walking distance of Springbrook)*
- **CLOVERLY ES**
(Ashton area only)
- **FAIRLAND ES**
(except for addresses within walking distance of Paint Branch)*
- **JACKSON ROAD ES**
(east of Route 29)
- **SHERWOOD ES**
(Hallowell, south of Route 108, and area south of Route 182)
- **STONEGATE ES**
- **WILLIAM T. PAGE ES**



- **BURTONSVILLE ES**
- **CLOVERLY ES**
(except for Ashton area)
- **FAIRLAND ES**
(addresses within walking distance of Paint Branch)*
- **GALWAY ES**
- **GREENCASTLE ES**



- **JOANN LELECK ES AT BROAD ACRES**
- **BURNT MILLS ES**
(addresses within walking distance of Springbrook)*
- **CANNON ROAD ES**
- **CRESTHAVEN ES**
- **DR. CHARLES R. DREW ES**
- **JACKSON ROAD ES**
(west of Route 29)
- **DR. ROSCOE NIX ES**
- **WESTOVER ES**

*Walking distance is determined by MCPS and is approximately two miles for high school students.

Northeast Consortium Middle Schools

■ Benjamin Banneker Middle School

14800 Perrywood Drive
Burtonsville, MD 20866
Phone: 240-740-6250
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerm

■ Briggs Chaney Middle School

1901 Rainbow Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905
Phone: 301-288-8300
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/briggschaneyms

■ William H. Farquhar Middle School

17017 Batchellors Forest Road
Olney, MD 20832
Phone: 240-740-1200
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/farquharm

■ Francis Scott Key Middle School

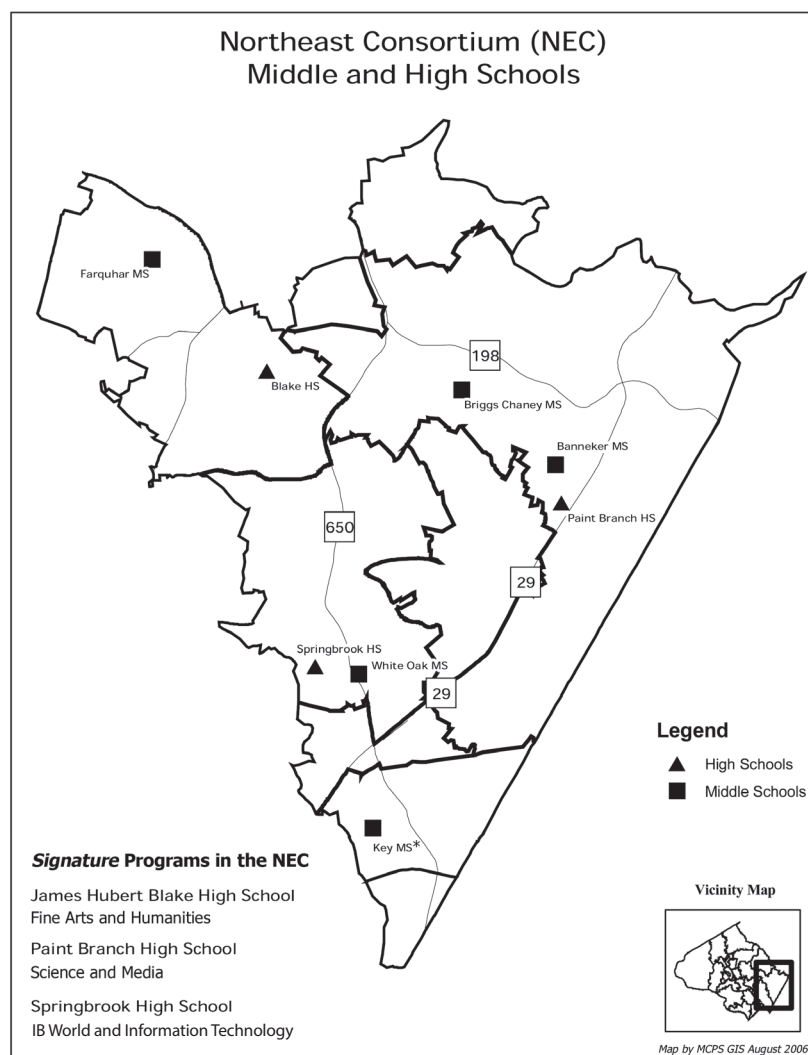
910 Schindler Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20903
Phone: 301-422-5700
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/fskms

■ White Oak Middle School

12201 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Phone: 301-288-8200
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whiteoakms

Transportation

Transportation is provided for students who live in the NEC attendance area and beyond walking distance of their assigned NEC high school. Walking distance is determined by MCPS and is approximately two miles for high school students. For additional information visit <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/>.





JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20905 • 240-740-1400
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs



■ Fine Arts and Humanities *Signature* **THE ARTS**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO...

- Pursue a future in the creative world of the arts
- Design your own digital games, animated programs, or web pages
- Explore hot careers in media arts, journalism, film, or creative writing
- Be a dancer or a choreographer
- Study music to enter a career as a professional musician (vocal and/or instrumental)
- Design sound, lighting, costumes, or scenic elements
- Develop your talents to create art and culture
- Test your creative fashion skills as a fashion illustrator, designer, or producer

Then be a part of the nationally recognized Blake Signature program in the Arts and the Humanities!

THE ARTS SIGNATURE at BLAKE prepares students for an enjoyment of, and entry into, careers in the creative, performing, and visual and media arts through a terrific interdisciplinary approach to learning. If you are interested in the arts, then Blake HS is the place for pursuing your future in this amazing field of study and work.

■ Blake Signature Initiatives

- Artists-in-Residence program, with workshops by artists and professionals such as: Arturo Sandoval, Shakespeare Theatre, The Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre, The National Players, Dr. Ken Elpus, Joe Cerutti, Dr. Joe Miller and the Westminster Choir, Harry Winter, Andrew Morstein, Johnny Weissgerber, Sean McComas, Marcus Fearson, Army Band, Navy Band, Midnight Ramblers and Imagination Stage
- Partnerships with the Washington Chorus, National Institute of Health (NIH), Olney Big Band, American Film Institute, MedStar Health, Northrup Grumman Corporation, WJLA TV-7, Olney Theatre, Young Artists of America
- Fashion X-pressions, Speech and Debate, Marching Band, Stage Company, Mock Trial, It's Academic, and 60 additional activities
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- One of the largest dance programs in the state, including ballet, tap, jazz, and modern
- Cross curricular lesson writing which highlights the connectivity of courses across various curriculums
- Cutting edge technology and instruction in Game Development
- Extensive list of Arts and Humanities course offerings
- Annual Arts and Humanities Festival highlighting student exhibitions and performances
- Certification for study in specific arts and humanities pathways

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Anime Club
- Blake Dance Company
- Blake Stage Company
- Children's Theatre
- Costume Design / Fashion Club
- Eubie TV (TV / Media Production)
- Fashion X (fashion designers & models)
- Game Development
- Hip Hop Club
- Jazz Combo
- National Art Honor Society
- Photography
- STEP Club
- Tap Club
- Tri-M Music Honor Society



■ Fine Arts and Humanities Signature THE HUMANITIES

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

- Studying world culture through the lens of advanced technology
- Exploring a career in journalism
- Expressing yourself through creative writing or reading great literature
- Examining a career in law, public security, or law enforcement
- Studying about international events and cultures
- Pursuing a career in government, private industry, or politics

Then the Blake Signature's Humanities pathways are for you!

THE HUMANITIES SIGNATURE PATHWAYS allow students to investigate the broad areas that “make us human”—history, the law, politics and government, writing and journalism, culture and international relations. Use interdisciplinary learning techniques and critical thought as you problem solve the challenging issues presented to you in your coursework. The program prepares students

for lifelong enjoyment of, and entry into, careers in the humanities and many related fields.

Enjoy the challenge of international studies and prepare yourself to become an international business person or sample the wide range of what world culture has to offer each person in a global society.

■ Blake Signature Initiatives

- Numerous Advanced Placement (AP) courses in the humanities
- Global view of art, culture and society
- Partnerships with the Sandy Spring Museum and the Menare Foundation to study the local history of the Blake community
- Artists-in-Residence, including elected officials, a soldier in the Israeli Army, professional writers, holocaust survivors, law enforcement officers, attorneys, Montgomery County canine officers, and many other experts in their fields
- Field trips exploring civil rights and the history and culture of those around us
- International studies

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Allies for Equality
- American Sign Language Club
- Asian Culture Club
- Best Buddies
- Black Student Union
- Creative Writing Club
- Debate Team
- Economics
- French Club
- Future Educators Association
- Hispanic Leadership Club
- International Club
- It's Academic
- Jewish Club
- Law Club
- History Club
- Model U.N.
- National Honor Societies in: ASL, English, French, Spanish, and overall National Honor Society
- Newspaper: The Blake Beat

JAMES HUBERT BLAKE

JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL



■ THE ACADEMY/ CAPSTONE PROGRAMS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE IN...

- Postsecondary education
- Science, technology, engineering, or math
- Public service, government, law enforcement or legal services
- Finance and business management
- Education or child development
- Government, private industry, or politics
- Fashion design and management
- Media, visual and/or performing arts

Then the Blake High School Academy & Capstone programs are for everyone with a passion!

THE ACADEMY AND CAPSTONE PROGRAMS at Blake prepare students for rigorous postsecondary education and related careers. Blake High School has four Capstone Programs. There are a total of twenty career pathway programs with more focused areas of study within each pathway.

- Arts and Communications—Media Arts, Performing Arts (Dance, Choral, Instrumental, Theatre), Visual Arts (Ceramics, Digital Art, Drawing/Painting, Fashion, Photography)
- Humanities and Public Services—Education, English, World Languages, Social Studies

- Business and Interactive Media—Interactive Media, Business Management & Finance
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)—Environmental Science, Medical Science, Mathematics, Computer Science

A Capstone pathway program certification can be accomplished through completion of multiple courses in one career pathway combined with a related capstone experience and/or internship. A Capstone experience is a career-focused culminating activity aligned with a student's pathway of studies that gives students an opportunity to apply their classroom learning to real-world projects and network with business, education and community partners.



■ Blake Academy/ Capstone Initiatives

- Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.)
- Arts and Communications Academy
- Academy of Business and Consumer Services
- Academy of Humanities and Public Service
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses, AP Capstone Program, and cross-curricular capstone projects
- Articulation programs with the University of Maryland and Montgomery College
- Partnerships with organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Holy Cross Hospital, MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Genomics Lab, National Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Shady Grove Universities, who assist in the development and continued success of Blake academies and capstone programs

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- The Bengal Café
- Blake Reads Book Club
- Business & Entrepreneurship Club
- Chemathon
- Cryptography Club
- Drone Club
- Environmental Club
- Eubie TV (TV / Media Production)
- Future Educators Association
- Girls Who Code
- Greenhouse Club
- Internships
- It's Academic
- National Honor Society
- National Science Honor Society
- Robotics
- Science Club
- Sci-Fi Club
- Web Page Design Team



PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL

14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866 • 240-740-9900
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/paintbranchhs



■ The Academy of Science and Media Signature SCIENCE

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE FIELD(S) OF...

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| ■ Medicine | ■ Nursing |
| ■ Engineering | ■ Bioengineering |
| ■ Biotechnology | ■ Stem Cell Research |
| ■ Sports Medicine | |

Then make your goals and dreams become a reality at Paint Branch High School!

PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL offers the most comprehensive science program in the Northeast Consortium, offering numerous Advanced Placement science courses, plus a Medical Careers and Certified Clinical Medical Assistant program.

Paint Branch students have the opportunity to explore science firsthand and apply what is learned in the classroom with real life experiences through authentic, creative programs developed by area scientists and educators. Internships reinforce classroom learning and prepare students for college so they may pursue the interests they have developed or discovered while studying in the Academy of Science.

■ Paint Branch Signature Initiatives

- Medical Careers program
- Medical Terminology course offered in partnership with Montgomery College for college credit
- Computer Science and Web Development courses offered in partnership with Montgomery College for credit
- Medical Careers internships
- Field trips exploring STEM and associated careers
- Professional Restaurant Management & Culinary Arts program certified by the American Culinary Federation Foundation
- National Academy of Finance program with paid internships and student run bank
- Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program
- Academy of Engineering program partnered with Project Lead The Way (PLTW)
- AVID (Advancement Individual Determination) college preparatory program
- Child Development & Education Academy

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Computer Science Club
- Debate Club
- Engineering Club
- Environmental Science Club
- Girls Who Code
- Math Team
- Mainstream Newspaper Club
- Medical Science Club
- MESA
- National Technical Honor Society
- Panther Trust sponsored by Sandy Spring
- Science National Honors Society
- STEM Club
- WiStem Club



■ The Academy of Science and Media Signature THE MEDIA ARTS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

- Broadcast Journalism
- Animation
- Law
- United States History
- Government
- Digital Art and Design
- Television Broadcasting
- Radio
- Drama and Theater
- Public Service
- Higher Education

Then make your goals and dreams become a reality at Paint Branch High School!



THE MEDIA ARTS *Signature* at Paint Branch High School develops the intellectual, creative, and communication skills of students in a uniquely interdisciplinary, highly product-oriented program that involves students in an interactive exploration of humanities and the media.

Students produce award winning daily television broadcasts, documentaries, and radio broadcasts. Through print publications, they use online publishing and photography, which prepares them for success in college and careers and for lifelong learning in the media areas.

■ Paint Branch *Signature* Initiatives

- Animation Artist-in-Residence workshops
- Science and Media Expo
- Professionals-in-Residence programs
- C-Span Student and Leaders Program
- Career-based experiences
- Summer Institute for Academy of Science and Media and Advanced Science
- Field trips exploring media and its impact on society

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Anime Club
- Debate Club
- It's Academic Club
- Jazz Singers Club
- Journalism Club
- Latin Dance Club
- Marching Band
- Model UN
- National Art Honor Society
- Paint Branch Forensics
- Paint Branch Perspectives
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Yearbook

PAINT BRANCH



■ THE ACADEMY PROGRAMS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

- Finance and Banking
- Money Management and the Stock Market
- Engineering
- A Career as a Chef
- Restaurant Management
- Leadership Opportunities
- Military Service
- A Career as an Educator

Then the Academies at Paint Branch will help make your goals and dreams become a reality!

PAINT BRANCH ACADEMIES provide students unique learning opportunities in finance, engineering, culinary arts, the military, and education, and include national programs which are college preparatory. Explore your academy options at Paint Branch!

■ Paint Branch Academy Initiatives

- Academy of Finance (AOF)
- Academy of Engineering Technology (Project Lead The Way—PLTW)
- Restaurant Management Program
- Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)
- Child Development and Education Academy

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Academy of Finance
- Anime/Japan Club
- Best Buddies
- Black Student Union
- Chess Club
- Crochet & Knitting Club
- Ethiopian Eritrean Student Union
- French Club
- Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
- K-Pop Club
- Latinx Student Union
- Muslim Student Association
- Psychology Club
- S.N.E.A.K.E.R.S. Club
- Social Studies Honor Society
- Spanish Conversational Club
- World Language Honor Society



SPRINGBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

201 Valley Brook Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 • 240-740-3800
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/springbrookhs



■ **International Studies Signature: International Baccalaureate (IB) World School Programmes (Middle Years & Diploma) and World Languages**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

- International Studies Signature:
- International Baccalaureate (IB) World School Programmes (Middle Years & Diploma) and Advanced World Languages
- International Studies and Affairs
- A Well-Rounded, International Education
- Advanced World Languages
- Then get the best preparation for college and your career and pursue your goals and dreams in the IB program at Springbrook High School!
- Students are also able to study other signatures and programs of study through the international lens as a part of the IB Programmes

Then get the best preparation for college and your career and pursue your goals and dreams in the IB program at Springbrook High School!



AS AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL we offer two IB programmes. Explore the IB Middle Years Programme in Grades 9 and 10 and then continue on to the IB Diploma Programme in Grades 11 and 12. Teachers plan and deliver instruction using a global perspective in all subject areas. Students also study a world language including German, Italian, French, and Spanish at advanced levels to get a truly international perspective on their education! IB's approach fosters critical thinking and builds problem-solving skills, allowing students the opportunity to make connections to the world around them.

The IB Diploma and Middle Years Programmes at Springbrook High School offer high level, inquiry-based learning experiences found in only eight high schools in MCPS.

■ **Signature Initiatives**

- IB Diploma Programme
- IB Middle Years Programme
- Field trips to local embassies and cultural centers
- Student internships
- International service trips (Costa Rica–2013 & 2018, Thailand–2014, Dominican Republic–2015 & 2017)

■ **Related Extracurricular Activities**

- African Immigrant & Refugee Foundation @ SHS
- Amnesty International
- Arabic Club
- CreativityActionService Club (CAS)
- Debate Club
- German Club
- IB Study Group
- It's Academic
- Italian Club
- Minority Scholars Program (MSR)
- Model United Nations
- Muslim Student Association (MSA)
- National French Honor Society
- National Spanish Honor Society
- Peace Club
- International Thespian Society (ITS)



■ The Computer Science & Engineering Signature: Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) & Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

- Mechanical, Civil or Environmental Engineering
 - 3D Printing
 - State of the art computers & software
- Computer Programming
 - Video Game Design
 - Application Development
- Digital Media:
 - Web Design
 - Video Production & Photography
- Network Operations:
 - Server Architecture
 - Networking & Data Management

Then pursue exciting and challenging technology pathways at Springbrook!

SPRINGBROOK'S COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING SIGNATURE program offers students an opportunity to achieve national recognition through AOIT's special graduation from the National Academy Foundation and PLTW's program completion award.

Our AOIT program offers three pathways: Computer Programming, Network Operations and Digital Media: Web Design. The Computer Programming pathway offers a dual enrollment option and you can leave HS with computer science college credits. The Network Operations pathway offers the opportunity to leave HS with CISCO A+ and the Digital Media: Web Design Pathway offers the opportunity to leave HS with creator credit on our school's website which boasts 16,000 hits a month. Our AOIT program has placed students in ultra-competitive and prestigious internships at the NSA, Verizon and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics lab. Our students have won National Academy Foundation Scholarships every year.

Our PLTW program will offer you the opportunity to learn engineering through hands on projects with state of the art equipment. PLTW is nationally recognized and allows students to develop strong engineering skills before reaching college.

■ Springbrook Signature Initiatives

- Women in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (WISTEM) Initiative: This provides a network for all our activities that support young women in STEM.
- Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (JSHS) Program: We have a dedicated program to help students prepare for the prestigious JSHS science/humanities fair at St. Mary's college.
- Dual Enrollment with Montgomery College: Students have an opportunity to take college level computer science courses and earn college credits.
- Competitions: The Computer Science and Engineering Signature is committed to giving students the opportunity to test their skills at local and regional competitions like the Cyber Challenge Hackathon.
- Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program: This includes robotics.
- Computer Science & Engineering Makerspace: we have a makerspace devoted to robotics and microcontrollers like Arduinos & Spheros.

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Computer Science & Engineering Makerspace
- Robotics Club
- Coding Club
- Red Coders (MS/HS coding club)
- Web Design & Digital Media Club
- SWIT: Springbrook Women in Technology
- Girls Who Code
- Mathletes Club



■ The Academic Programs of Study

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

- Focusing on politics and law
- Pursuing a career in education or child psychology
- Managing a daycare center
- Studying music theory
- Performing in a band or orchestra
- Being a writer or researcher
- Becoming a designer or photographer
- Participating in leadership opportunities

Then explore one of the following programs at Springbrook High School!

The JUSTICE, LAW AND SOCIETY pathway allows students to critically examine issues surrounding the administration of justice and the study of law and the legal system.

The CHILD DEVELOPMENT pathway provides students training and/or college opportunities at local universities and internships at area elementary schools and early childcare facilities.

Our HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT pathway follows an industry-based curriculum from the National Restaurant Association (ProStart). A ProStart graduate makes a solid candidate for success in the hospitality industry.

The ARTS INTENSIVE! PROGRAM enables students to engage in a four course sequence in either the visual or performing arts for those students wanting a rigorous and fun art program that will bring students to AP and IB levels.

SPRINGBROOK'S THEATER and MUSIC PROGRAM have been recognized in numerous county and national festivals, and graduates have gone on to study at top music programs such as Eastman School of Music and Berklee College of Music as well as theater programs like Wagner College.

■ Springbrook Initiatives

- Springbrook Law Conference
- Award winning publications: Blueprint Newspaper and Trident Yearbook
- Partnership with The Washington Post
- Justice, Law and Society partnerships with Discovery Channel's legal department, the Maryland Attorney General's office and the Montgomery County Public Defender's Office
- Field trips to Congress and the Supreme Court

■ Related Extracurricular Activities

- Drum Line
- Drill Competition
- Forensics Team
- Jazz Band Combo
- Journalism Staff
- Marching Band
- Mock Trial
- Musings Literary Magazine
- String Orchestra
- Symphonic Band
- Theater
- TV Studio and Video Production



Grammy Award School

APPLICATION-ONLY PROGRAMS

In addition to the NEC lottery choice process, students may choose to apply to a specialized application-only program. This is an entirely separate process from the NEC lottery choice process and does require an additional application.

The following application programs are available to NEC students enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools. For program and application information, visit the websites below or contact each program office. Additional information can also be found on the special programs website <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/>.

■ International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme—Regional

Springbrook High School • Phone: 240-740-3800
<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/springbrook-ib/home>

■ International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme—Countywide

Richard Montgomery High School • Phone: 240-740-6165
<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/nhsdualenrollment/middle-college-mc2>

■ Montgomery College Middle College Program

Northwood High School • Phone: 240-740-6950
<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs/departments/middlecollege/>

■ International Baccalaureate Career-related programs (IBCP)—Regional

Rockville High School • Phone: 240-740-6600
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rockvillehs

■ Aviation Program

Magruder High School • Phone: 240-740-5550
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/magruderhs/

■ Poolesville High School: A Whole School Magnet

• Global Ecology House • Humanities House[‡] • Science, Mathematics, Computer Science House[‡]
 Phone: 240-740-2419
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillehs

■ Science, Mathematics, Computer Science Magnet Program[†]

Montgomery Blair High School • Phone: 240-740-7218
www.mbhs.edu/departments/magnet

■ Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Career and Technology Education Programs

Thomas Edison High School of Technology (for rising grades 10-12)
 Phone: 240-740-2000
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/edison

■ Regional College and Career Programs at Wheaton/Edison HS (grade 9)

Phone: 301-321-3315
<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/wheaton-edison-partnership/>

■ Visual Art Center (VAC) Albert Einstein High School

Phone: 240-740-2700
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/vac

■ The Leadership Academy for Social Justice (LASJ)

Walt Witman High School
 Coordinator Phone: 240-740-4800
<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/wwhs-special-program-lasj/home>

[†] Application program available to students who live within the high school clusters of Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Churchill, the Downcounty Consortium (Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton), Rockville, Richard Montgomery, the Northeast Consortium (Blake, Paint Branch, and Springbrook), Sherwood, Whitman, Walter Johnson and Wootton.

[‡] Application program available to students who live within the high school clusters of Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill.

Note: Grade 8 students who live in the NEC may apply to application-only programs, but MUST also participate in the NEC *Choice* process in Round 1.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will all students be assigned to their first choice Northeast Consortium high school?

Every effort is made to assign students to their first choice school. However, some students may be assigned to a school other than their first choice.

Are students guaranteed an assignment to their base high school?

Students are guaranteed assignment to their base school if (1) it is selected as first choice on the *Choice* form or (2) it is selected as second choice AND the first choice school is not available. Students are not guaranteed their base high school in the appeals process because all students have been assigned in Rounds 1 and 2 and seats may not be available.

Will bus transportation be provided to all three NEC high schools?

Transportation will be provided for students who live within the Northeast Consortium attendance area and beyond walking distance of their assigned NEC high school. Walking distance is determined by MCPS, and is approximately two miles for high school students.

Who is eligible to participate in *Signature* programs?

Students who participate in the *Choice* process may participate in *Signature* programs.

What do the three NEC high schools have in common?

All three schools offer a variety of engaging and challenging core academic and elective courses, innovative programs, activities, clubs, and athletics. They also offer numerous Honors and Advanced Placement courses and programs for special education and ELD students.

Will NEC students be able to participate in the half-day career and technology education programs at Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST)?

Once enrolled in their assigned MCPS high school, students are eligible to apply to TEHST for one of its half-day career and technology education programs, or consider a 4 year career related program and submit an interest form for Wheaton/Edison. Bus transportation is provided. For further information, contact TEHST at 240-740-2000.

How can parents and students learn more about the NEC high schools?

Parents and students are encouraged to attend the virtual information meeting and all three NEC high school open houses in the fall. For questions about the *Signature* programs and specific course offerings, visit the website at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/school-info/nec/> and/or contact the *Signature* coordinator at each high school.

Will my student be able to continue with their program if we have already started a centrally managed or consortia program?

Yes. Students entering grade 8 in 2025–2026, who have been accepted into a centrally managed application program or assigned to a consortium, may remain in their current program/school.



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