

# County-wide High School Application Programs

Montgomery Blair High School

Richard Montgomery High School

Poolesville High School

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# What is a county-wide application program?

All MCPS high schools offer comprehensive programs that meet the graduation requirements for a high school diploma from the state of Maryland.

**Three high schools offer exceptionally rigorous, specialized programs to residents county-wide. Students participate in a competitive process in which they submit an application, take special testing, and are screened for selection to those programs.**

Many MCPS high school programs offer specialized programs for local students, such as academies and signature programs. Any student who lives within that high school's boundaries may participate in the program. Some of those high schools, such as Blair and Kennedy, also offer application programs; however, those are only open to Downcounty Consortium residents.

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# Applicant Characteristics

- Students who answer questions with **detail and elaboration**
- Students who construct **abstractions** and **draw inferences**
- Students who **initiate projects** and **create new designs**
- Students who **critique themselves**
- Students for whom Advanced Placement courses may not offer enough **acceleration**

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## Program at-a-glance:

# Blair Math , Science, Computer Science Magnet Program

- In 1985, Montgomery County Public Schools opened its Science, Mathematics, Computer Science Magnet Program within Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland.
- The Magnet Program is designed to offer accelerated, interdisciplinary courses in science, mathematics, and computer science for highly able students particularly interested in these subjects.
- Ninth and tenth grade Magnet students take four courses each semester within the Magnet curriculum (science, mathematics, research, and computer science), and four courses each semester in other disciplines (English, fine arts, foreign language, physical education, social studies, etc.) with the rest of the Blair student body.
- Magnet students have an eight-period day, instead of the normal seven-period days of most county high school students.
- Magnet students can (and do!) take full advantage of Blair's other extracurriculars such as athletics, student clubs, the school's bands and plays, and other activities.

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# Eligibility for the Blair Program

- Students in Grade 8 with a strong interest in science, mathematics, and computer science who are enrolled in at least Algebra I may apply to the Blair Magnet Program for entrance the following school year.
- Applicants must be residents of one of the following high school clusters: the Downcounty Consortium (DCC), the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Rockville, Wootton, Walter Johnson, Whitman, Churchill, B-CC, Sherwood, or Richard Montgomery.
- Because the Magnet Program's curriculum is interrelated between grades and sequentially different from other high schools, only students entering Grade 9 are accepted.
- No mid-high school transfer of students is permitted. Juniors and seniors enrolled in other Montgomery County high schools who meet the prerequisites and can provide their own transportation are eligible for magnet electives that are not offered at their home school.

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## Program at-a-glance:

# Richard Montgomery IB Magnet Program

- The IB Program at RMHS was established in 1987 as a countywide program for academically capable and committed students interested in pursuing a rigorous pre-university course of studies.
- Students are selected for grade 9 through an application and screening process. Students successfully completing the program earn an MCPS diploma, a Maryland Certificate of Merit, and the internationally recognized IB Diploma.
- Colleges and universities throughout the world recognize the IB Program. The more prestigious colleges and universities have traditionally given preference and credit to successful IB students.
- In past years, students from RMHS have received as much as 60 credit hours and/or advanced standing.
- In addition, the breadth and intensity of the IB Program have prepared students well for pursuits in college, internships, and life-long careers.

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# Eligibility for the RM-IB Program

- **For the International Baccalaureate Program, Grade 8 students must be enrolled in at least Level I of Spanish, French, or Chinese, and Algebra I.**
- **Grade 8 students may also apply for IB if they are qualified bilingual students who are already fluent in Spanish, French, or Chinese. These students do not need to be currently enrolled in Spanish, French, or Chinese, but they must be enrolled in at least Algebra I.**
- **Students from any MCPS high school cluster are eligible to apply.**

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## Program at-a-glance:

# Poolesville High School Whole School Magnet

- Poolesville High School began its program with Grade 9 students in Fall 2006.
- The high school features a whole-school magnet program in which students select a specific area of concentration from three “houses,” all of which provide options for rigorous and advanced academic coursework.
- Science/Mathematics/Computer Science House students have the opportunity to specialize in rigorous mathematics and science curricula focused on problem-solving skills and research.
- Humanities House students specialize in the humanities and media productions as they pursue rigorous curricula with an interdisciplinary connection among English, social studies, communication, and fine arts.
- Global Ecology House students have the opportunity to specialize in environmental science and social studies as they pursue rigorous interdisciplinary science and social studies curricula focused on human impact on the natural environment.



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# Eligibility for Poolesville High School Whole School Magnet Program

- Grade 8 students from any MCPS high school cluster who are in Algebra I or higher may apply to the Global Ecology House. *Bus Transportation is NOT provided from all high school clusters.*
- Grade 8 students who live in one of the following high school clusters who are in Algebra I or higher may also apply to the Science/Mathematics/ Computer Science House and/or to the Humanities House:

Clarksburg, Seneca Valley, Damascus, Magruder, Quince Orchard, Gaithersburg, Northwest, Poolesville, or Watkins Mill.

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# Application Materials

- **Applicant information (including documentation for 504 Plans or IEP's)**
- **Student self-advocacy**
- **Background Activities**
- **Teacher Recommendations**
- **Scores from magnet tests administered in December**

# The Selection Process

- Blair and Richard Montgomery each have 100 seats in their programs.
- Poolesville has 50 seats in each house for students outside of the Poolesville High School boundaries.
- Each selection committee consists of
  - the program coordinator
  - classroom teachers
  - specialists in special education, gifted education, curriculum, and ESOL
- The committee members consider
  - Teacher recommendations
  - Student and adult advocacy statements
  - Grades
  - Test scores
- No single piece of information or data is used to exclude an applicant. Each applicant is looked at individually.

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# Some logistical FAQ's...

**How will my child get to the program?**

**Who is main contact at the school?**

**How will I be contacted if there are problems, academic or social?**

**Can my child still participate in things like band or after-school sports?**

# Important Dates

- **Application Deadline: Friday, November 3**
- **Testing: Saturday, December 2**, testing at Blair, Richard Montgomery, and Poolesville (see applications for details); *December 3 for students with testing accommodations (contact coordinator directly)*
- **Poolesville Information Night:**  
**October 2**, 2 sessions, attend by last name:  
5:00 p.m. (A-M) and 7:00 p.m. (N-Z)
- **Richard Montgomery Information Night:**  
**October 24**, 7:00 pm
- **Montgomery Blair Information Night:**  
**October 9**, 7:00 pm

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# Contact Information

- Applications will be available by late September at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms>
- For more information about the application process, please contact

The Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program  
Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540.