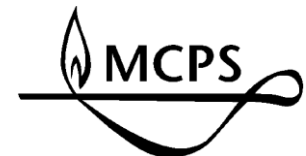


# High School Options for Students in the Downcounty Consortium (DCC)



## DCC High School Academy Programs, the *Choice* Process, and Application Programs

***Information Meeting for DCC Grade 7 Students and Parents  
Albert Einstein High School  
Monday, May 18, 2015***





# **Tonight's Outcomes:**

## **Hear an overview of the --**

- **Downcounty Consortium (DCC) and Academy Programs**
- ***Choice* Process and Timeline**
- **Brief Overview of Application & Special Programs Available to DCC Students**

**Provide feedback by completing an evaluation form**



# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 1 -

T/F. The DCC is over 10 years old.

True.

The DCC was formed in 2004.





# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 2 -

There are \_\_\_\_\_ middle schools in the DCC.

c. 9

Opportunity to form new  
friendships



# What is the Downcounty Consortium (DCC)?

- **The DCC is made up of:**  
5 high schools, 9 middle schools, and their feeder elementary schools
- **The high schools are:**
  - Montgomery Blair
  - Albert Einstein
  - John F. Kennedy
  - Northwood
  - Wheaton



# What do ALL DCC high schools offer?

- **A comprehensive high school education**
- **Athletics and extracurricular activities**
- **Lots of opportunities for you to make friends!**
- **School plays, newspaper, yearbook, music program**
- **Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses**
- **Special education and ESOL services**
- **TV studio – students produce announcements on TV**
- **Use of technology/computers throughout the school**
- **Academy programs**



# What is an academy program?

## An academy program:

- Offers a sequence of courses designed around a central theme
- Is a program of study developed to appeal to students' interests
- Is supported by an academy head and a team of teachers
- Helps students make connections between school learning and their personal interests and skills
- Enables students to explore future plans for college and/or careers



## Number of academies:

- Number at each DCC high school: 4 to 5 academy programs

# Academy Programs in the DCC

**DCC academies fall into these areas of interest:**

- **Arts and Communication**
- **Human Resources, Health, & Environment**
- **Technology & Business**
- **Interdisciplinary Programs**







# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 3 -

Which DCC HS offers the Academy of Musical Theatre and Dance?

c. Northwood





# Arts and Communication

## DCC Academies:

Academy of Humanities, Arts & Media – Northwood

Media Communications Academy: Broadcast Journalism, Public Communication, Creative Multi-Media – Kennedy

Academy of Media, Music and The Arts – Blair

Academy of Musical Theatre & Dance– Northwood

Academy of Visual & Performing Arts – Einstein

IGCS: Digital Art & Digital Music - Wheaton



# Human Resources, Health, & Environment



## DCC Academies:

**Bioscience Academy – Wheaton**

**Academy of Human Service Professions – Blair**

**Academy of Politics, Advocacy, & Law – Northwood**

**Health Careers Academy – Kennedy**

**Academy of Technology & Environmental  
Systems Sciences – Northwood**





# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 4 -

Which DCC HS offers an academy that falls under the technology and business cluster?

f. All of the DCC High Schools



# Technology and Business

## DCC Academies:

**Business Management Academy –  
Kennedy**

**Academy of Information Technology –  
Wheaton**

**Academy of Finance – Einstein**

**Academy of Entrepreneurship  
& Business Management – Blair**

**Academy of Technology &  
Environmental Systems Science–  
Northwood HS**

**Academy of Science, Technology,  
Engineering & Math – Blair**

**Academy of Engineering – Wheaton**





# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 5 -

Which DCC high schools offer the International Baccalaureate Program?

a. Kennedy & Einstein



# Interdisciplinary Programs

## DCC Academies:

**Academy of International Studies & Law – Blair**

**Institute for Global & Cultural Studies – Wheaton**

**International Baccalaureate Program – Einstein**

**International Baccalaureate Program – Kennedy**

**Renaissance Academy – Einstein**

**Montgomery College Middle College Program  
(MC<sup>2</sup>@N) - Northwood**



# What is the DCC Grade 8 timeline?

(proposed for school year 2015-2016)

## September

- *Choice* process and academy program information sent home with Grade 8 students – *Milestones* booklet

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/>

- Evening parent/student information meetings

## October

- Evening Open House at ALL 5 DCC high schools
- College and career development activities for middle school students
- *Choice* forms mailed to Grade 8 students' homes

## November

- Evening parent enrollment meeting for non-MCPS students
- Completed *Choice* forms due to DCC middle schools

## January

- High school assignments mailed to students' homes







# Choices Explorer

Sign on to this engaging, interesting and informative website designed for the middle school student!\*

When you visit, you can:

- **Take an interest quiz that matches you up with possible careers**
- **Get advice on high school courses**
- **Explore interesting careers**
- **Ask questions of experts in the field**
- **Search for college majors that meet your interests**
- **Learn about a hobbies**

Log on to [www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com)

**\*Students, see your middle school counselor for a user name and password.**

# You Choose

Hear DCC high school students talk about their interests and their exciting high school experiences!

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice/youchoose/downcounty/feven-video5.aspx>





# DCC High School *Choice* Process

## Step #1 Complete a *Choice* form.

Parents/students rank the 5 DCC high schools in order of preference, based on the academy programs at each school.



Montgomery County Public Schools DOWNCOUNTY CONSORTIUM (DCC) Choice Form for Students Entering High School in School Year 2015-2016					Round 1																														
Official address changes can only be made through your school's counseling office.					Student ID: 200757 Spring Mill 444 Grade 08																														
To the Parents/Guardians of: Bill Gates 11721 Kemp Mill Rd Apt. 4 Silver Spring, MD 20902			Base High School <b>Montgomery Blair High</b>																																
Fill bubbles like this ●																																			
<b>Step 1: Enter your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th choices by shading in one circle per box. Each school may be marked only once. All five choices must be completed.</b>																																			
<p style="font-size: x-small;">If you would like Bill to attend his base school, you must enter Montgomery Blair as 1st choice.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">If you would like Bill to attend the same school as Justin, enter Northwood as 1st choice.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">If you would like Bill to attend the same school as Wilbur, enter Blair as 1st choice.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">I also have other children who are not listed who will attend the regular program at a DCC high school next year. Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: x-small;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">1st Choice</th> <th style="width: 20%;">2nd Choice</th> <th style="width: 20%;">3rd Choice</th> <th style="width: 20%;">4th Choice</th> <th style="width: 20%;">5th Choice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Blair</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Blair</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Blair</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Blair</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Blair</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Einstein</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Einstein</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Einstein</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Einstein</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Einstein</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Kennedy</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Kennedy</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Kennedy</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Kennedy</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Kennedy</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Northwood</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Northwood</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Northwood</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Northwood</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Northwood</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Wheaton</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Wheaton</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Wheaton</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Wheaton</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Wheaton</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton
1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice																															
<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair	<input type="radio"/> Blair																															
<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein	<input type="radio"/> Einstein																															
<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy	<input type="radio"/> Kennedy																															
<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood	<input type="radio"/> Northwood																															
<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton	<input type="radio"/> Wheaton																															
<b>Step 2: Shade in your response for each statement.</b>																																			
I had enough information about all five schools to rank them in order of preference.					Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not Sure <input type="radio"/>																														
The school's academy programs and/or offerings influenced my rank order of high schools.					<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>																														
In general, I see benefits to the <i>Choice</i> process and academy programs.					<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>																														
<b>Step 3: Complete the authorization information.</b>																																			
The <i>Choice</i> process is a lottery school assignment process that considers a student's preference for a high school. Other factors considered when assigning students to schools are: seats available, sibling link, socioeconomic status, base school and gender. Once choices have been submitted to the lottery, changes may not be made. When Rounds 1 and 2 of the <i>Choice</i> process are completed, seats at schools may be further limited.																																			
I have ranked my choices and read the statement above.																																			
Parent/Guardian Signature _____			Date _____																																
Student Signature _____																																			
Print Parent/Guardian Name _____			Best Contact # _____																																
Parent/Guardian Email _____																																			
<b>Step 4: RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S MIDDLE SCHOOL BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014.</b>																																			
This school assignment may be superseded by a decision made at a school placement meeting. This applies to students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), those in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Alternative programs, and/or others for whom school placement meetings are held.																																			



# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 6 -

True or False: Students are guaranteed their 1st choice if they pick their base high school as their 1st choice.

True



# What if my child wants to attend his/her base area high school?

The base area high school is determined by a student's home address.\* Assignment to a student's base high school is guaranteed if it is:

- 1) Indicated as 1st choice on the *Choice* form  
OR
- 2) Indicated as 2nd choice on the *Choice* form  
AND 1st choice is not available.



\*To determine your base high school, visit:  
<http://gis.mcps.k12.md.us/gis/PublicLocator.asp>



## Step #2

Choice forms are run through a computerized lottery process.



### Factors which may impact the school assignment process:

- School capacity (space availability)
- Number of students who choose their base school
- Ranking of schools on *Choice* form
- Sibling link
- Socio-economic diversity
- Gender balance

## Step #3

High school assignment letters are mailed to students' homes.



## What are some frequently asked questions?

**What percentage of students received their 1<sup>st</sup> choice school this year?**

**80%**

**What percentage received their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice?**

**96%**

**Is transportation available to all DCC high schools?**

**Students will receive bus transportation if they live:**

- in the DCC attendance area **AND**
- beyond walking distance of their assigned school (about two miles, as designated by MCPS).





# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 7 -

Which percent reflects on average, how many Grade 8 students picked a non-base school in the DCC last year?

b. 42%







# Students . . .



ALL 5 DCC high schools offer exciting courses, programs, and activities that will interest you and prepare you for future success!

## **Explore the many opportunities available at each school:**

- Attend high school functions, such as school plays and athletic events
- Visit the school websites - example - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs/>
- Attend all 5 Open Houses
- Think about what activities and subjects interest you



# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 8 -

True or False. Students who live in the Downcounty Consortium participate in the Choice process unless they apply to a high school magnet program.

False



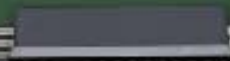


# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 9 -

True or False. Most students in grade 8 apply to one of the special programs.

False



# Magnet Programs

- **Not all students apply; highly competitive**
- **Prerequisites to be eligible to apply**
  - **Enrolled in Alg 1 or higher for all**
  - **Additional prerequisites depending on program related to theme**
- **Theme Based**
- **Accelerated and enriched curriculum in that thematic area**
- **Application process to include**
  - **Essays**
  - **Teacher Recs**
  - **Transcript Review**
  - **Testing**
- **Transportation is provided (if outside 2 mile walking distance) but typically a central stop**
- **Cohort classes for 3-4 periods of the day, 4 as part of general school community**



# Applicant Characteristics

***Parents, ask yourselves: To an exceptional degree, does my child...***

Show curiosity about ideas, events, and how things work or have a questioning attitude?

**Demonstrate initiative and intellectual curiosity?**

Have an ability to learn at a faster rate?

**Answer questions with detail and elaboration?**

Have strong critical and creative thinking abilities?

**Have an ability to critique themselves and reflect on their work?**

Have an ability to see relationships and detect patterns?

**Take academic risks?**

Understand his or her strengths AND know when and how to ask for help?

**Look at a challenge as an opportunity for growth?**

# What other high school options are available?

## Magnet programs :

- Science, Math & Computer Science Magnet Program at Blair or Poolesville HS
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet at Richard Montgomery HS
- Global Ecology House at Poolesville HS

## Other DCC Application-Only Programs:

- Communication Arts Program (CAP) at Blair HS
- Leadership Training Institute (LTI) at Kennedy HS
- Biomedical Application-Only Program at Wheaton HS
- Engineering Application-Only Program at Wheaton HS

## Other special programs:

- Visual Art Center (VAC) at Einstein HS
- Thomas Edison High School of Technology
  - ☆17 half-day professional-technical career education programs

**\*NOTE: Students who apply for application-only programs must still complete and turn in a DCC *Choice* form by the due date.**

# Science/Mathematics/Computer Science Magnet Program at Blair

- **The magnet program offers accelerated, interdisciplinary courses in science, mathematics, and computer science for highly able students particularly interested in these subjects.**
- **Applicants**
  - must be enrolled in at least Algebra I
  - have strong problem solving and critical thinking skills
  - enjoy collaborative research projects
  - must reside in one of the following MCPS clusters:
    - Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC) BCC, Winston Churchill, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Sherwood, Whitman or Wootton\*
- **Magnet students have an extra period at end of day**
  - eight period day instead of the normal seven period day
  - four courses with cohort
- **Peter Ostrander - Magnet Coordinator, 301-649-8240**



\*Students from other high school clusters can apply to the Science/Mathematics/Computer Science House at Poolesville HS

# Richard Montgomery IB Magnet Program\*

- Located in Rockville
- **The International Baccalaureate Programme is built upon an internationally recognized curriculum and governed by the IBO.**
- Program for academically capable and committed students interested in pursuing a rigorous pre-university course of studies in: English, Foreign Language, Individuals and Societies Economics, Psychology, History, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, and the Arts and Electives.
- **Grade 8 students from all high school clusters may apply if they are...**
  - enrolled in at least Level I of Spanish, French, or Chinese (or are qualified bilingual students who are fluent in those languages),
  - enrolled in at least Algebra I
  - are taking a minimum of 2 advanced courses
- **Students successfully completing the program earn an MCPS diploma, a Maryland Certificate of Merit, and the internationally recognized IB Diploma.**
- Ms. Jennifer Hoover, magnet coordinator, 301-610-8100







# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 10 -

True or False. The IB programs at the two DCC high schools have a different curriculum than the one at Richard Montgomery.

False



# Poolesville Global Ecology House

- Global Ecology House students study environmental issues through rigorous interdisciplinary science and social studies curricula
- **Focus on human impact on the natural environment**
- Develop field, lab and research skills in the sciences
- **Grade 8 students from all MCPS high school clusters may apply if...**
  - enrolled in Algebra I or higher
- **The Global Ecology program has existed for over 10 years**
- **Ms. Billie Bradshaw, Magnet Coordinator, 301-972-7976**



# Magnet/ Application-Only Timeline

## Information nights

- **October 2015**
- **Hosted by each high school magnet application program**

## Application deadline

- **November 2015**
- **Applications and information will be available in the fall at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/)**

## Testing

- **December 2015**
- **Test prep booklets available in fall in ms counseling offices**

## Notification

- **February 2016**
- **Declaration of Intent Form**



**\*Note: Students may apply to multiple programs.**

**Students who live in the DCC as well as students who attend a DCC middle school, are also eligible to apply to the following programs in Grade 8:**

### **Communication Arts Program (CAP) at Blair High School**

- **Designed for students who wish to develop their intellectual, creative, and communication skills in the fields of media and the humanities.**
- **For additional information, contact Anne Cullen, program coordinator, at (301) 649-2854 or visit <http://cap.mbhs.edu/>**

### **Leadership Training Institute (LTI) at Kennedy High School**

- **A rigorous interdisciplinary education emphasizing experiential learning, community service projects, and leadership theory and application.**
- **For additional information, contact Kofi Frempong, program coordinator, at (301) 962-5930, or visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/programs/lti/index.aspx>**



**Students who live in the DCC as well as students who attend a DCC middle school, are also eligible to apply to the following programs in Grade 8:**



### **Biomedical Application-Only Program at Wheaton High School**

- A hands- on, collaborative program for students with a strong interest in math, science and medicine
- For additional information, contact Ellisa Earley-Hidalgo, academy coordinator, at (301) 929-2068 or visit

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/biomedical.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/biomedical.aspx)



### **Engineering Application-Only Program at Wheaton High School**

- A rigorous competitive program for students with a strong interest in math, science and engineering; multiple fields of engineering explored
- For additional information, contact, Ellisa Earley-Hidalgo program director, at 301-929-2068 or visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/engineering.aspx>



# The Visual Art Center Albert Einstein High School

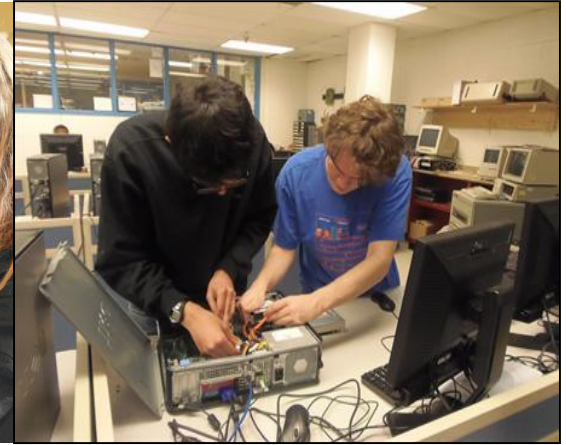


- High level half-day program offering a broad perspective of the fine arts with an emphasis on drawing, painting and art history
- **Opportunity to take AP Studio Art as juniors and seniors**
- Applicants from all cluster high schools in MCPS
- **Students can do ½ day at home high school and ½ day at Einstein OR transfer to Einstein for full day.**
- Transportation is not provided
- **Admission is selective. Applicants are evaluated on completed art courses, portfolio, personal interview, teacher recommendations, and transcript.**
- For additional information...
  - Coordinators, Jane Walsh and Mygenet Harris, 301-962-1027
  - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/vac/>



# Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST)

- 18 different career and technology classes such as interior design, medical careers, cosmetology, restaurant management, network operations, construction trades, automotive trades
- **Opportunities for professional certifications or state licensure**
- Half-day program for students in Grades 10-12.
- **Students dually enrolled in home school**
- Transportation provided
- **301-929-2097**



# SUMMARY

- 5 High Schools in the DCC
- All offer comprehensive education and have academy programs
- Research options using Choices Explorer & Milestones Publication
- Visit the DCC website: [Downcounty Consortium \(DCC\) - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD](#)
- Attend Options Fair
- Attend Open Houses/Application Program Information Meetings
- Be prepared to fill out *Choice* Form in the Fall








**THANK YOU PARENTS  
AND STUDENTS!**  
**Need more information?**

**DCCAPS staff are available to answer  
individual questions this evening.**

**Please complete your evaluation form  
and return it to the collection box.**

**Thank you!**



# Are You Smarter Than Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grader?

## Question # 11 -



Draw a line to match up the school to the special program:

- 
- Poolesville HS – **Global Ecology House**
  - Northwood HS – **Middle College Program**
  - Richard Montgomery HS - **Magnet International Baccalaureate**
  - Montgomery Blair HS - **Science, Math & Computer Science**
  - Albert Einstein HS – **Visual Art Center**
  - John F. Kennedy HS– **Leadership Training Institute**
  - Thomas Edison High School of Technology – **Cosmetology & Network Operations**
  - Wheaton HS – **Biomedical Application Only Program**