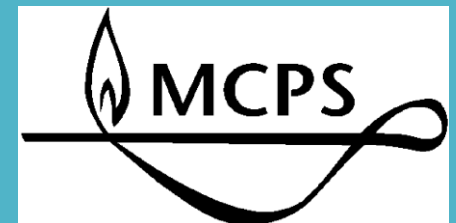


# County-wide High School Application Programs

Montgomery Blair High School

Richard Montgomery High School

Poolesville High School



# 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.

## 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.

# 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.
- Typically around 520 students apply for 100 seats.

# 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.

Typically 900 students apply for 100 seats.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.





# Application Materials

Please go to :

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

# 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.

# Some logistical FAQ's...

## **Is transportation available?**

For the Application Programs, transportation is provided from a neighborhood site. However, the site is not necessarily walking distance from your house. You are responsible for getting your child to and from the drop-off point.

## **How will I know my child is selected?**

You will receive notification from each program that you applied to before mid-February.

## **Can my child apply to the application programs and also participate in the Choice lottery?**

YES! Students can apply to any of the programs to which they're eligible. Families will be notified around the same time for all these programs by mid-February.

# Important Dates, Deadlines and Application Form:

Please go to :

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

Or call:

The Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program  
Services (DCCAPS) at (301) 592-2040