

Takoma Park Middle School

***Mathematics, Science,
Computer Science
Magnet Program***

for Grades 6 through 8



**Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910**



Rockville, Maryland



Program

The Takoma Park Middle School magnet program offers rigorous academic study in mathematics, science, and computer science to highly gifted students.

The magnet program features an interdisciplinary, problem-solving approach in three subject areas:

- **Mathematics**

Students will study accelerated and enriched units in mathematics. The mathematics curriculum courses will include pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry topics. The primary focus will be on problem solving and using mathematics as a tool for communication.

- **Science**

The science curriculum focuses on various aspects of life science, earth science, and physical science over the course of three years. Specific topics are selected to reinforce mathematics concepts. Interdisciplinary mini-units and culminating activities accentuate the interlocking nature of the mathematics and science disciplines. Students learn various techniques for gathering, processing, analyzing, and graphing data. Students are offered the use of library materials and equipment.

- **Computer Science**

The computer science curriculum focuses on the use of the computer as a tool for problem solving in other subjects. Students learn to collect, manipulate, graph, and analyze data using the computer. They develop algorithms, write programs in various structured programming languages, and use commercial software to solve problems. Only in the Takoma Park Middle School magnet program can sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students get three full years of daily computer science instruction.

Academic Opportunities

- Partnerships with the government agencies, environmental, and research institutions enable students to consult and interact with scientists from many different fields of science.
- Academic competitions, including Mathcounts, Continental Math League—Math and Computer Divisions, Sigma Math League, Maryland Math League, County Math League, Montgomery County Area Science Fair, Toshiba, and American Computer Science League.
- Field work at area creeks using the Chesapeake Bay Foundation curriculum.
- Dramatic/Communication Arts Festival competitions.
- Desktop publishing experience in creating a mathematics/science/computer science journal.
- Field work at regional science facilities.

Transportation

School bus transportation to and from Takoma Park Middle School is provided from central locations. Students currently are transported from selected schools. Activity buses depart approximately an hour later than the earlier afternoon buses on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Students

The Takoma Park Middle School magnet program is designed for creative students who want to be challenged academically and who are ready to be actively involved in their own learning with a group of their intellectual peers. It is recommended that applicants successfully complete Math 6 by the end of Grade 5. The selection committee will look for students who have—

- high interest and involvement in mathematics and science,
- high mathematics, reading, and reasoning scores on entrance exams, and
- intellectual curiosity, analytical thinking, and imagination.

Staff

Mathematics, science, and computer science courses are taught by outstanding teachers recruited for the magnet program.

Directions to Takoma Park Middle School

Route 495 to University Boulevard (Langley Park), straight on University Boulevard to right onto Piney Branch Road, to the school on the left.

- Call or write to:
Scott DeGasperis, Magnet Coordinator or
Margaret Wolfe, Admissions Secretary
Takoma Park Middle School Magnet Program
7611 Piney Branch Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-562-5220

Admissions Process

For information about the meetings, admission and testing, please visit our websites:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkms/

Admission to the Science, Mathematics, Computer Science Program is competitive. Criteria used to evaluate candidates may include written statements from candidates, previous grades, coursework, and test scores. Students will complete a series of tests in November. Students from the following high school clusters will be screened for the Takoma Park Program: Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Churchill, the Downcounty Consortium, the Northeast Consortium, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Sherwood, Whitman or Wootton.

Timeline

Information Meeting

October Central meeting location

Testing

November Parents of Grade 5 students will receive information about testing for the program in October. Testing will take place at the local elementary school in early November.

Notification

January Families are notified of selection decisions by mail.



Rockville, Maryland

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