MILESTONES
The Downcounty Consortium Choice Process and Academy Programs

• BLAIR
• EINSTEIN
• KENNEDY
• NORTHWOOD
• WHEATON

I can THRIVE at ALL 5!
# Table of Contents

- **The Downcounty Consortium (DCC)** ................................................................. 1
  - *Choice* Process Description ........................................................................ 1
  - Downcounty Consortium Base High Schools ............................................... 2
- **Choice Process Timeline** .................................................................................. 3
- **Montgomery Blair High School Academies** .................................................. 5
  - Entrepreneurship & Business Management (ENT) ........................................ 5
  - Human Services Professions (HSP) ............................................................... 5
  - International Studies & Law (ISL) ................................................................. 6
  - Media, Music & The Arts (MMA) ................................................................. 6
  - Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) ....................................... 7
- **Albert Einstein High School Academies** ......................................................... 8
  - Finance, Business Management & Marketing ................................................. 8
  - International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme ..................................... 8
  - Renaissance ...................................................................................................... 9
  - Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA) ................................................................. 9
- **John F. Kennedy High School Academies** ...................................................... 10
  - Broadcast Journalism & Communications ..................................................... 10
  - Business Administration & Management ..................................................... 10
  - Health Professions ......................................................................................... 11
  - International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme ..................................... 11
  - Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) ............................... 12
- **Northwood High School Academies** ............................................................... 13
  - Finance, Accounting, Marketing & Education (FAME) .................................... 13
  - Humanities, Art & Media (HAM) ................................................................... 13
  - Music, Theatre & Dance (AMTAD) ............................................................... 14
  - Politics, Advocacy & Law (PAL) ................................................................... 14
  - Technological, Environmental & Systems Sciences (TESS) ......................... 15
  - Montgomery College Middle College at Northwood ..................................... 15
- **Wheaton High School Academies** .................................................................. 16
  - Bioscience ....................................................................................................... 16
  - Engineering (AOE) ......................................................................................... 16
  - Information Technology (AOIT) ...................................................................... 17
  - Institute for Global & Cultural Studies (IGCS) .............................................. 17
- **Application-Only Programs within the DCC and countywide** .................... 18
- **Frequently Asked Questions** ......................................................................... 19

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**Note:** Information contained in this publication is subject to change.

Questions? Visit the websites and/or contact the schools.
WHERE ARE RECENT CONSORTIA GRADUATES NOW?*

Adelphi University
Albright College
Allegany College of Maryland
Allégny College
Amherst College
American Academy of Dramatic Arts
American University
Andover Community College
Antioch College
Arizona State University
Art Institute of Washington
Auburn University
Barnard College
Barry University
Bates College
Bellevue University
Beloit College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowie State University
Brandeis University
Brandeis College
Bucknell University
Butler University
BYU Idaho
California Institute of Technology
California Polytechnic State University
California State University, San Luis Obispo
Calvin College
Campbell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Capitol Technology University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Central State University
Chapman University
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Chowan University
City College of New York
Claremont University of Pennsylvania
Clark University
Clark Atlanta University
Clayton College & State University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of William and Mary
College of Wooster
Colby College
Colorado State University
Colorado College—University of Colorado
Columbia University
Community College of Baltimore County
Concordia University Montreal
Consortium
Coppin State University
Cornell University
Cookson State University
Culinary Institute of America
Dalhousie College
Dartmouth College
Delaware State University
Delgado Community College
Denson University
DefPau University
DefPau University
Delaware State University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne College of Technology
Duquesne University
Earlham College
East Carolina University
Eastern University
Ekern College
Elizabethtown College
Elon College
Emory & Henry College
Empire Beach Academy
Empire State College
Fairfield University
Flagler College
Florida AM University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Frederick Community College
Frostburg State University
Gardner College
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgian Court University
Goucher College
Gambit State University
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Hampton University
Harvard University
Hartford University
Hawaii Pacific University
High Point University
Hillsborough Community College
Hofstra University
Hollins University
Hood College
Howard Community College
Howard University
Hudson Valley Community College
Indiana University, Bloomington
Indiana University, Pennsylvania
Iona College
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte
Johnson & Wales University, Miami
Johnson & Wales University, Providence
Johnson C. Smith University
Juniata College
Kent State University
Keystone College
La Salle University
Lafayette College
Laboratory Institute of Merchandising
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Liberty University
Lincoln Technical Institute, Maryland
Lincoln University
Long Island University, Brooklyn
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Lynn University
Macalester College
Make Up For Ever Academy, New York
Manchester College
Marshall University
Mary Baldwin College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marymount University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McDaniel College
McGill University
Medbich Institute
Messiah College
Methodist University
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Middle Georgia State College
Middlebury College
Midwestern State University of Art and Design
Mississippi State University
Montgomery College, Germantown
Montgomery College, Rockville
Montgomery College, Takoma Park
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Saint Mary’s University
Mount St. Mary’s University
Muhlenberg University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University
North Carolina A & T State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University, Raleigh
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria
Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale
Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun
Northern Virginia Community College, Prince William
Northerncarolina State University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Ohio Dominican College
Ohio Valley University
Ohio University
Pacific Union College
Pacific University
Palm Beach State College
Penn State Abington
Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Pepperdine University
Petit Community College
Point Park University
Potomac State College of West Virginia University
Prince George’s Community College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Radford University
Randolph-Macon College
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island
Rider University
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph’s University
Salisbury University
San Diego State University
Santa Barbara City College
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Scripps College
Snellgrove University
Tennessee Technological University
Texas Tech University
The University of the South
Temple University
Tennessee Technological University
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Baltimore
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of Hartford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
University of Maryland, University College
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
University of Rensselaer
University of Richmond
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida, Tampa
University of Southern California
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas, Austin
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
University of The University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Univeris College
University of Wyoming
Universidad de Aeronautica y
Universidad y Technology
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Union University
Virginia University of Lynchburg
Wagner College
Wagner University
Washington Adventist University
Washington and Lee University
Washington College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
West Chester University
West Liberty University
West Virginia University
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Western Washington University
Whitman College
Winston-Salem State University
Wright State University
Yale University
York College of Pennsylvania
Youngstown University

* This list is reflective of many of the postsecondary destinations of recent Consortia graduates.
Welcome to the Downcounty Consortium (DCC)! The DCC is made up of five high schools and their feeder middle and elementary schools. All five high schools—Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton—offer students a comprehensive education, including Honors and Advanced Placement courses, a variety of activities, athletics and clubs, and outstanding academy programs. Academy programs are small learning communities that include sequences of courses designed around central themes of interest to students. These programs help students make meaningful connections between their academics and their interests, plans for college, and future careers.

All five high schools offer exciting opportunities. This booklet contains an overview of the DCC academy programs. Students—explore your options at all five schools!

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 Downcounty Consortium attendance area or attend a DCC middle school. Students and their parents participate by completing a Choice form and ranking the five DCC 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—Rounds 1 and 2
There are two rounds in the Choice process.

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

Round 2 takes place in February. It is for Grade 8 students on transfer into a DCC middle school, those who did not get their first choice in Round 1, and for new DCC 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 submitting a written request to the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) to resubmit their child’s original choices. Written requests must be received in the DCCAPS office by the February due date. (For the DCCAPS address or fax number, see the bottom of page 3).

Preparing for the Choice Process
In the fall, Downcounty Consortium parents and students will receive information announcing dates for DCC evening information meetings and high school open houses. DCC Grade 8 students will also have the opportunity to hear information about the Choice process and the five high schools from a school counselor.

The Choice Form

- Round 1
In mid-October, a preprinted Choice form/instructions will be mailed to the homes of MCPS Grade 8 students who live in the Downcounty Consortium.
  - Completed Choice forms are due by the November due date.

- Round 2
In early February, Choice form information will be made available to Grade 8 students on transfer or new DCC residents.
  - Completed Choice forms are due 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 the general education program in Grade 9, 10, or 11 at a DCC school by completing the sibling link section on the Choice form. Failure to complete this section may result in sibling assignment to different schools. 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.
**Downcounty 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. Assignment to the base school is only guaranteed in these conditions during the Choice process. Assignment to the base school is not guaranteed in the appeal process.

To identify a student’s base high school, visit the website [http://gis.mcpsmd.org/SchoolAssignmentTool2/Index.xhtml](http://gis.mcpsmd.org/SchoolAssignmentTool2/Index.xhtml)

**Montgomery Blair High School Base Area Elementary Schools**
- East Silver Spring
- Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest
- New Hampshire Estates/Oak View
- Rolling Terrace
- Sligo Creek (eastern portion of service area)
- Takoma Park/Piney Branch

**Albert Einstein High School Base Area Elementary Schools**
- Highland
- Oakland Terrace
- Rock View
- Woodlin

**John F. Kennedy High School Base Area Elementary Schools**
- Bel Pre/Strathmore
- Georgian Forest
- Glenallan
- Harmony Hills

**Northwood High School Base Area Elementary Schools**
- Arcola
- Forest Knolls
- Glen Haven
- Highland View
- Kemp Mill
- Sligo Creek (western portion of service area)

**Wheaton High School Base Area Elementary Schools**
- Brookhaven
- Sargent Shriver
- Viers Mill
- Weller Road
- Wheaton Woods

**Downcounty Consortium Middle Schools**

Argyle .................. 301-460-2400
Eastern .................. 301-650-6650
Col. E. Brooke Lee ........ 301-649-8100
A. Mario Loiederman ........ 301-929-2282
Newport Mill ............ 301-929-2244
Parkland ................ 301-438-5700
Silver Spring International 301-650-6544
Sligo .................... 301-287-8890
Takoma Park ............ 301-650-6444

**Transportation**

Transportation is provided for students who live within the DCC attendance area and beyond walking distance of their assigned DCC high school. Walking distance is determined by MCPS, and is approximately two miles for high school students.
**Choice Process Appeals**
All DCC students are subject to the school assignment lottery process except in some cases of students in special education or ESOL 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.

**Choice Process Timeline**

| September/October | • Downcounty Consortium high school evening information mailers sent to DCC Grade 8 students in MCPS.  
• High school Options evening information meetings held at two high schools. For details, visit the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/. |
| October/November | • Evening Open Houses held at Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood and Wheaton high schools.  
• Choice forms are made available to parents of MCPS Grade 8 students who live within the consortium.  
• Evening student enrollment held for parents of current private school and home-schooled students who live in the DCC. Call 240-740-2540 for further information. |
| November | • Choice forms deadline for Grade 8 students who live within the DCC attendance area. |
| February | • DCC high school assignment letters mailed to homes of Round 1 participants. |
| February | • Choice forms due:  
➤ from Grade 8 students who attend DCC middle schools on transfer and choose to participate in the DCC Choice process, and  
➤ from Grade 8 residents who enroll in the DCC after Round 1.  
• Written requests due to the DCCAPS office from parents of students who did not receive their first choice school in Round 1 and want to participate in Round 2. (Round 1 school choices will be resubmitted in Round 2).  
• Change of Choice request forms due from parents/students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 requesting a different DCC high school for the next school year. Forms available in early February from DCC high school counseling offices and the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/, or by calling 240-740-2540. |
| March | • Notification letters mailed to homes of Round 2 and Change of Choice participants in late March. |
| April | • Letters of appeal due to DCCAPS office from parents of students appealing the school assignment decision. |

**Change of Choice**

In February, a student in Grade 9, 10, or 11 who wants to request a different DCC 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 five DCC high school counseling offices and on the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/. 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 above. 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 are guaranteed assignment.

**Note:** For further information about the Downcounty Consortium, visit the website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty, contact your MCPS school counselor, or call the DCCAPS office at 240-740-2540. The DCCAPS office is located at 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902. The fax number is 301-649-8155.
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ACADEMY (ENT)**

Are you interested in—

- understanding how to become a financially healthy adult?
- gaining real life skills such as how to negotiate, how to present an idea to investors, how to use credit, and how to take appropriate risks?
- learning how to analyze business opportunities?
- exploring how to become an entrepreneur and run your own business, and how to become a successful investor?

Students in this academy can…

- participate in world-class internships in law, accounting, finance, and/or marketing
- run a school store
- earn college credit while in high school
- engage in opportunities outside the classroom, such as business plan competitions, investment plan contests…

“With the help of my business classes and my teacher, I was accepted to the University of South Carolina business school. I will use my knowledge to pursue a career in sports management or accounting.”

—Academy Student

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**HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONS (HSP) ACADEMY**

Do you enjoy—

- working with young children?
- playing sports and interacting with athletes?
- listening to and advising others?
- helping people in your community?
- teaching other people?

In our HSP Academy, you will be able to…

- select from a large group of elective classes that highlight child development, health, and psychology
- enjoy opportunities to learn and practice skills in our community with professionals who work in a variety of HSP fields
- obtain valuable life experiences to promote relevant and diverse services for our society
- engage in opportunities to identify, analyze, and propose solutions for a variety of service professions, including those dealing with child welfare, education, and health and fitness
- provide essential human services, especially to those who are least able to help themselves.

“The academy programs at Blair are helping me prepare for college by allowing me to focus on courses that are centered around my career goals.”—HSP Student
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES & LAW (ISL) ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

■ learning about other countries and cultures?
■ discussing and debating controversial legal and political issues of the day?
■ examining what drives so much of the conflict and turmoil that we see in the news each day?
■ studying global economics and issues such as child labor, human trafficking, and immigration?
■ exploring the future of our planet, trends, and what the world will look like in your lifetime?

If you join the ISL Academy, you will be able to…

■ take specialty elective classes such as International Human Rights, Global Issues in the 21st Century, Peace Studies, and Justice, Law and Society, AP Comparative Government, Comparative Religions, and many more
■ interact with students and adult professionals from around the world
■ participate in our Mock Trial Club, Academic WorldQuest Team, Model United Nations Club, and a variety of other student organizations focused on international studies and law
■ visit embassies, hear from guest speakers on topics such as child labor, nuclear weapons, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the U.S. State Department, and many others

“I plan on pursuing a career as a Foreign Service Officer in our nation’s diplomatic corps. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that my experiences in high school would lead me to the Edmund B. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where I will be studying…!”—ISL Academy Student

MEDIA, MUSIC & THE ARTS (MMA) ACADEMY

FOR YOUR FUTURE, DO YOU ASPIRE TO—

■ write a book, play, or script?
■ become a musician, actor, photographer, or artist?
■ produce a movie or television show?
■ study and work as a newspaper editor or journalist?
■ work with web page design, digital art, or graphic design tools?

As a member of the MMA Academy, you will have the opportunity to…

■ create authentic pieces of art in a variety of mediums
■ attend events to learn from professionals in the MMA fields and receive their advice and guidance
■ showcase your work through exhibits, performances, publications, and other available outlets
■ choose from among unique classes in instrumental music, world drumming, ceramics, digital photography, drama, and many others

“What I love most about the MMA Academy at Blair are the opportunities…Because of the academy, I submitted some of my films to the Madeira Film Festival and the Gandhi Youth Media Festival. I wouldn’t have heard about those opportunities if not for the academy…The academy allows students to get involved and pursue their artistic interests.”—MMA Academy Student
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM) ACADEMY

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF—
- working in a lab as a research scientist, experimenting and solving problems?
- working with a team to build skyscrapers, motorcycles, highways, or rockets?
- writing computer games, building robots, or designing computer networks?
- practicing medicine as a doctor, physical therapist, nurse, or veterinarian?
- working in the field as an environmental scientist or a marine biologist?
- writing a book about the mysteries of the universe?

As a member of the STEM Academy, you will be able to…
- access our vast Advanced Placement (AP) and magnet program course offerings
- participate in internships and other experiences with local hospitals and organizations
- volunteer and secure internship opportunities in a variety of STEM fields
- interact with expert guest speakers and participate in high-quality field trip excursions to laboratories, medical facilities, and research organizations

“The STEM program at Blair has given me the opportunity to explore a variety of classes, prepare for college, challenge myself, meet new people, and become an expert in the field I love. I definitely feel prepared as I look forward to attending Harvard…and majoring in pre-med.”—STEM Academy Student

For more information about Blair academies, visit http://academies.mbhs.edu
FINANCE, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MARKETING ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- becoming fiscally responsible?
- learning real-life monetary skills?
- entering the business world after college?
- understanding how the financial world works?
- exploring how money can work for you?
- researching the stock market?

In the Academy of Finance (AOF), Business Management & Marketing, you can count on…
- participating in business and entrepreneurial skills workshops
- interacting with professionals in related fields
- attending the MCPS Young Professionals Conference
- pursuing an internship (often for credit and/or pay)!
- being recognized in a countywide AOF graduation

“I think every student should have to take Personal Finance. It’s something all kids should know.” —AOF Student

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- challenging classes with high academic standards?
- knowing how to communicate your ideas in speaking and writing?
- learning to think critically?
- earning a diploma and college credits that are recognized worldwide?

Then the IB Program at Einstein is for YOU!

The IB program is a rigorous liberal arts curriculum for highly motivated students. It seeks to educate the whole individual, giving an “education for life.” The curriculum is the same the world over, and encourages students to expand their knowledge with a global perspective.

“All the different requirements of IB—the classes, TOK, CAS, and the Extended Essay—have made me a more well-rounded person.”—IB Academy Student
■ RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- developing your critical reading skills?
- designing your own program of study?
- exploring the arts and sciences?
- earning college credits while in high school?
- taking interesting and challenging courses?

Renaissance Academy students can count on…
- enrollment in at least two Advanced Placement (AP) classes
- a widespread view of academics and the connections between disciplines
- the opportunity to explore a variety of academic areas

“The Renaissance Academy pathway let me experience classes I might not otherwise have taken.”
—Renaissance Academy Student

■ VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (VAPA) ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- developing an artistic and intellectual philosophy about your craft?
- performing and creating?
- learning in an environment that recognizes and develops your talents?
- compiling a comprehensive portfolio of your artistic endeavors?
- engaging in an environment that fosters aesthetic education and encourages an emphasis on musical, spatial, bodily kinesthetic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal intelligences?

VAPA students will have the opportunity to…
- follow a discipline, specific pathway, or explore many different courses (ceramics, dance, instrumental music, music technology, photography, studio art, vocal music and theatre)
- perform and display works in a multitude of venues both in school and within the community setting
- complete a senior capstone project to showcase the skills and experiences they have gained during their VAPA classes

“Working with the VAPA faculty and my fellow students has taught me discipline and techniques and given me the confidence needed to be successful in college.”
—VAPA Academy Student
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—
- lead a business or a corporation?
- market your products and ideas?
- manage a team of employees?
- understand how the economy works?
- play the stock market?
- learn how to turn an interest into a business?

Join the Business Administration & Management Academy!

This academy prepares students for careers as leaders in domestic and international commerce. Learn how to manage workers and lead companies in a global society. Gain valuable skills in finance, entrepreneurship, visioning, problem solving, and productivity.

“The academy has challenged me to connect my interests to a future career. I have learned to work as a leader and as a team player.” —Academy Student

BROADCAST JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—
- design and produce your own videos?
- report on current events?
- create a newspaper?
- utilize your curiosity and ask who, what, why, where, and how?

Join the Broadcast Journalism & Communications Academy!

This academy provides students opportunities to apply technical knowledge and skills to the production of television and other media programs. Learn about media production and related operations, including sound, video, film, and digital media transmission. Develop essential skills in self-expression, inquiry, and critical thinking. Prepare for careers in television, radio, podcasting, and other Internet-based media. Get hands-on experience running WJFK, Kennedy's award-winning television station. Work with career journalists, write news stories, produce shows, and intern with local and national media outlets.
HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- becoming a doctor, nurse, or physical therapist?
- learning about wellness and physical rehabilitation?
- studying how the human body works?
- taking challenging science and research courses?

Then join the Health Professions Academy!

Two rigorous pathway programs are offered: 

Medical Careers: Explore careers in the health care industry and learn skills related to patient care practiced in hospitals and long-term care facilities. Participants will have the opportunities to complete CPR training and earn certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) with the Maryland Board of Nursing.

Physical Therapy: Prepare for careers in physical rehabilitation and wellness. Intern in medical offices, hospitals, and health care centers. Students take challenging science, medicine, and research courses to prepare for careers in this field.

“I love the Health Professions Academy! This academy has an environment in which you are repeatedly encouraged to do your best. They teach you about sports medicine and management and medical careers while having fun through projects and field trips.”—Academy Student

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- pursuing rigorous academic standards in all subjects?
- earning a diploma that is recognized worldwide?

If so, the IB Program at Kennedy is for YOU!

Kennedy is an International Baccalaureate (IB) world school, which means all students have access to IB classes in Grades 11 and 12. Students have the option to pursue the IB Diploma by completing the full program, or they can pursue an IB certificate by taking 4 IB credits.

The IB curriculum features a global perspective, which aims to encourage the skills of independent research and investigation, the use of initiative and creativity, and the application of skills and knowledge.

Those who complete the IB Diploma Programme are uniquely prepared for university study and may earn college credits for their work in the program.
NVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (NJROTC)

DO YOU WANT TO—
- develop your leadership ability?
- demonstrate a high degree of self-reliance and discipline?
- see the latest technology available for the defense of our nation?
- serve your community?
- participate in a wide range of physical and academic activities?

DID YOU KNOW—
- Kennedy NJROTC graduates have been awarded college scholarships.
- Participation in this Academy can lead to a full college scholarship at the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, or U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as high military ranking for cadets entering the military upon high school graduation.

Become part of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps—NJROTC!

The NJROTC program helps develop informed and responsible citizens, strengthen character, form habits of self-discipline, and understand the need for constituted authority in a democratic society.

As a cadet, you will plan, organize and participate in activities under the guidance of the Naval Science instructors. Cadets takes trips to various military bases and compete on the drill, color guard, air rifle, academics, and athletic teams.

“Navy JROTC is a leadership program that has helped me develop self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills to help me successfully meet life’s challenges.”
—NJROTC Academy Student

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE SIGNATURE PROGRAM (BY APPLICATION ONLY)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- exploring various leadership styles?
- being actively involved in your community?
- team building with peers (e.g. dress days, leadership conferences, annual retreat)?
- participating in rigorous coursework and maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA?

The Leadership Training Institute (LTI) is a four-year Signature program that empowers students to become civic-minded, self-reliant, service-driven adults. The LTI student is a curious thinker who is excited by opportunities to learn, explore, and consistently meet challenges.

Students in this program take one leadership course each year and IB/AP classes throughout their high school career with the option to earn an IB Diploma.
**Academy of Finance, Accounting, Marketing and Education (FAME)**

**Humanities, Art & Media (HAM) Academy**

**Are you interested in—**
- early childhood education?
- sports marketing?
- accounting
- finance?
- business management?

Come join the newest academy at Northwood High School and get started today!

Explore the functional operations of any business, such as accounting, organizational development, personnel management, marketing, and social responsibility. Work hands-on with 4–5 year old children while running and organizing a Preschool Lab. Join the Millionaires Club or take MSDE certified courses and earn college credit. Participate in a Site Based job experience or internship in the career field of your choice.

“My experience with the Business and Finance Pathway courses at Northwood gave me the confidence I needed to pursue Accounting as a career option. I am excited that other students will get to explore their passion within the new FAME Academy.”

**Do you want to win a Peabody Award or be honored for—**
- journalism or short story writing?
- video production or broadcasting?
- research in the social sciences?
- unique and innovative artwork?
- creating change in our society through your creativity?

You will be on your way towards that goal in the HAM Academy!

Work as a member of the camera crew for the morning show. Create short films or publish literary magazines. Look at the impact of film and other media on our society. Work on commissions for art installations. Design product logos and marketing tools. Create new styles in fashion. Who knows? You could win a HAM Academy Award!

The senior capstone project highlights this enriching academy experience and will benefit your endeavors in its college preparatory work.

“The HAM Academy inspires students to adapt to every level of creativity and innovation by challenging us to reach new artistic goals and skills.”—Veska, HAM Academy Student
POLITICS, ADVOCACY & LAW (PAL) ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—

- argue a case in front of the Supreme Court?
- fight for your rights?
- learn about cyber security?
- review intelligence information?
- run a political campaign?
- investigate crimes, like on CSI?

If so, the PAL Academy is for you!

Examine our government. Be articulate in the areas of policy, citizenship, and advocacy. Look at law, politics, law enforcement, and public safety. Make a difference in your own life and the lives of others.

Debate your way through trials or be the judge and make the ruling. Learn about Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness as it relates to local, federal and international law enforcement. Take fingerprints and hair samples to help solve crimes. Campaign for a seat on student government and/or get involved in your community. The real-life politics of Northwood High School are yours to explore.

“I got a job at a law firm this summer. They asked me to write a brief. I knew how to do it. They had never seen a high school student or even a college student who actually knew how to write one and write it well. I was so proud.”—PAL Academy Student

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE (AMTAD)

The lights! The sound! The stage! The applause! It’s Showtime!

The performing arts come to Northwood in the form of the Academy of Music, Theatre & Dance!

DO YOU WANT TO—

- dance?
- design sets and stages?
- sing?
- arrange music?
- act?
- direct performances?
- play an instrument?

Come be a part of the performing arts experience at Northwood!

Experience technical production, vocal and instrumental music, dance, and dramatics. Northwood High School provides opportunities for you to work on various dramatic and musical projects while preparing you for college and a career focused on the performing arts.

“The Academy of Musical Theatre taught me that a life on stage is what I love the most and it’s a lot less stressful being in school when you do something you love. It also taught me to go after what you have a passion for.”—AMTAD Academy Student

AMTAD Academy Student
TECHNOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & SYSTEMS SCIENCES (TESS) ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—
- coding?
- engineering?
- robotics?
- wildlife preservation?
- green engineering?
- alternative energy?
- landscape design?

Prepare for your green future at Northwood!

Explore all these opportunities in the TESS Academy, where the great outdoors and your imagination are a part of your classroom. Be actively engaged in computer applications, technology engineering, and exploring environmental conditions. Their implications for our community and world will shape our collective future. Work with Green Schools, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the University of Maryland—College Park, and many other organizations. Here is a sample of courses you will encounter in the TESS Academy: Biology, Computer Science, Microcomputer Operating Systems, Engineering Science, and Designing Technology.

“This is where I’m learning about sustainability. That’s where we can produce the things we need without destroying the environment and using up all the resources. We use it, then replace it!”
—TESS Academy Student

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE MIDDLE COLLEGE AT NORTHWOOD

DO YOU WANT TO—
- prepare for and take college classes while still in high school?
- get a head start on completing college?
- have the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree by the time you graduate from high school?
- have the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree as quickly as two years after you graduate from high school?

Students in the Montgomery College Middle College Program at Northwood can count on…

- a rigorous preparation for high school and college
- a dedicated support system to help you meet the criteria to take college classes while still in high school
- the opportunity to earn college credits from Montgomery College that transfer into degree programs in the University System of Maryland

The Montgomery College Middle College program prepares Northwood students to earn a Maryland high school diploma, as well as obtain college credits towards an associate of arts (AA) degree from Montgomery College, one of the nation’s premiere community colleges. Highly motivated students have the potential to earn an AA degree from Montgomery College by the time they graduate from high school.

The program consists of a mixture of high school courses, Advanced Placement courses and corresponding test scores, CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) exams, Montgomery College courses taught at the high school, and Montgomery College courses taught on the college campus to meet the degree goal. It is designed to be easily transferred to other degree programs within the University System of Maryland. An AA degree could enable students to complete a four-year bachelor’s degree in only two years after high school graduation.
**BIOSCIENCE ACADEMY**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—**
- understanding diseases such as diabetes, sickle cell anemia, and hypercholesterolemia?
- diagnosing and treating cancer?
- exploring how the human body functions at an optimal level?
- investigating the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease?
- using data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary actions, and respiratory and cardiovascular operation?
- applying the latest in DNA technology to identify a body?

**ALL students who are part of the Bioscience Academy will have an opportunity to…**
- learn about diseases that impact people in our community
- support your learning in both biology and chemistry
- access and learn from bioscience professionals in our community during monthly Lunch and Learns
- design relevant projects that can make a difference in people’s lives
- dissect a kidney, eyeball, heart, elbow, and fetal pig, while learning about systems and life processes
- engage in opportunities for leadership in the school community and create a capstone project

“The hands-on experiences in this academy are amazing! They have given me an advantage over other students entering the medical field.” —Bioscience Student

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**ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING (AOE)**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—**
- understanding how things work?
- becoming a key player in helping to shape a better world?
- exploring the vast opportunities that lie in the broad area of engineering?
- designing and constructing robots, highways, circuits, and planes?
- earning college credit while still in high school?
- using computer-aided drawing and design tools?

**ALL students who are part of the Academy of Engineering can count on…**
- problem-based learning activities focused on the design process, collaboration, and communication
- hands-on authentic applications of math, science, and technology
- access to and training on industry-standard equipment and software
- opportunities to learn from and work with practicing engineers
- participation in related competitions on the regional, state, and national levels

“I learned to never give up even if the class seemed challenging. In the end, the hard work will pay off. I know that I will be successful in a career that I love.” —AOE Student
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- earning college credit while in high school?
- prestigious and exciting careers that pay well?
- on-the-job training from local IT professionals?
- leadership positions through high school?
- earning scholarships for college?

ALL Wheaton AOIT students can count on…

- a comprehensive program where students learn about the current IT industry
- internships for qualified rising seniors
- opportunities to be involved in an IT club
- building relationships with professionals who hold jobs in information technology

“IT was my first job experience…The most interesting aspect of the experience was the contrast between the world of high school and that of work; it was much different than I expected, in a very positive way.”
—AOIT Student

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- performing, playing music, dance and creating art?
- investigating global issues, learning world languages while improving your ability to research and write?
- becoming a studio musician and composing music and beats?
- creating your own artistic creations on state-of-the-art computers?
- becoming a lawyer, professor, journalist, community leader, or world traveler?
- learning about people, places, and human interactions all around the world?
- enrolling in up to four college courses with reduced tuition while still in high school?

ALL IGCS students can count on…

- choosing the academy pathway that most interests you: Art or Global Studies
- working with state-of-the-art technology to create original art or music or connect with students and cultures around the world
- meeting and learning from working professionals in music, the arts, and humanities
- accessing support in transitioning to high school and progressing through increasingly challenging coursework
- pursuing enrollment in multiple Advanced Placement courses and in up to four college courses while still in high school
The following application programs are available to DCC students enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools. For program and application information, visit the websites below or contact each program office.

**Biomedical Program**
Wheaton High School  
Phone: 301-321-3315  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/academies/magnet.aspx

**Communication Arts Program (CAP)**
Montgomery Blair High School  
Coordinator Phone: 301-649-2854  
cap.mbhs.edu

**Engineering Program**
Wheaton High School  
Phone: 301-321-3315  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme**
Richard Montgomery High School  
Coordinator Phone: 301-610-8100  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rmhs

**Leadership Training Institute (LTI)**
John F. Kennedy High School  
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-0113  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/programs/lti/index.aspx

**Poolesville High School—A Whole School Magnet**
Poolesville High School  
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-2419  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillehs

- Global Ecology House  
- Humanities House*  
- Science, Mathematics, Computer Science House*

*Geographic restrictions apply.

**Science, Mathematics, Computer Science Magnet Program**
Montgomery Blair High School  
Coordinator Phone: 301-649-8240  
www.mbhs.edu/departments/magnet

**Thomas Edison High School of Technology Career and Technology Education Programs**
Thomas Edison High School of Technology  
School Counseling Office  
Phone: 240-740-2007  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/edison

**Visual Art Center (VAC)**
Albert Einstein High School  
VAC Phone: 301-962-1027  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/vac

*Geographic restrictions may apply.

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

Will all students be assigned to their first choice Downcounty 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 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 five DCC high schools?
Transportation is provided for students who live within the Downcounty Consortium attendance area and beyond walking distance of their assigned DCC high school. Walking distance is determined by Montgomery County Public Schools and is approximately two miles for high school students.

Who is eligible to participate in academy programs?
All students who participate in the Choice process may participate in academy programs.

What do the five DCC high schools have in common?
All five 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 ESOL students.

Will DCC 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. Bus transportation is provided. For further information, contact TEHST at 240-740-2007.

How can parents and students learn more about the DCC high schools?
Parents and students are encouraged to attend one of the evening information meetings and all five DCC high school open houses in the fall. For questions about academy programs and course offerings, visit the website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/ and/or contact the academy coordinator at each high school.