School Years 2015-2017

MCPS MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILESTONES
The Downcounty Consortium Choice Process and Academy Programs

• BLAIR
• EINSTEIN
• KENNEDY
• NORTHWOOD
• WHEATON

I can THRIVE at ALL 5!
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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?*

This list is reflective of many of the postsecondary destinations of recent Consortia graduates.
**THE DOWNCOUNTY CONSORTIUM**

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 attend middle school outside the Consortium should return their form to the DCCAPS office.
- Completed Choice forms are due by the November due date.

**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 attend middle school outside the Consortium should return their form to the DCCAPS office.
- Completed Choice forms are due by the February due date.

**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 will be mailed to the homes of MCPS Grade 8 students who live in the Downcounty Consortium.
  - Students who attend a Consortia middle school will return the signed form to their middle school.
  - Students who attend middle school outside the Consortium should return their form to the DCCAPS office.
  - Completed Choice forms are due by the November due date.

- **Round 2**
  - In early February, a preprinted Choice form will be mailed to the homes of Grade 8 students who attend a DCC middle school on transfer or are new DCC residents.
  - Students who attend a Consortia middle school will return the signed form to their middle school.
  - Completed Choice forms are due by the February due date.
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.
To identify a student’s base high school, visit the website http://gis.mcpsmd.org/gis/PublicLocator.asp

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
- 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 ............................. 301-649-8121
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.
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.

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. Therefore, to be fair, a written request may be submitted to change high schools because of a hardship or unforeseen circumstance that may warrant overriding the general applicable assignment factors. 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 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.

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 mailed to the homes of MCPS Grade 8 students who live within the DCC boundaries.  
|                   | • Evening student enrollment held for parents of current private school and home-schooled students who live in the DCC. Call 301-592-2040 for further information. |

- Round 1

| November         | • Choice forms due from Grade 8 students who live within the DCC attendance area. |
| February         | • DCC high school assignment letters mailed to homes of Round 1 participants. |

- Round 2 and Change of Choice

| 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 301-592-2040. |
| March            | • Notification letters mailed to homes of Round 2 and Change of Choice participants in late March. |

- Appeals

| April            | • Letters of appeal due to DCCAPS office from parents of students appealing the school assignment decision. |

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 301-592-2040. 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

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

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

Human Services Professions Academy
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. Providing essential human services, especially to those who are least able to help themselves, is the mission of all human services professionals. Join our team!

“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

MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Downcounty Consortium Milestones: BLAIR • EINSTEIN • KENNEDY • NORTHWOOD • WHEATON
**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

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/einsteinhs
**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 MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—
- lead a small 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 Management & Administration 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—
- design and produce your own videos and photos?
- like debating, public speaking, and performing?
- create art or write music?
- design websites, objects, and computer programs?
- utilize your curiosity and ask who, what, why, where, and how?

Join the Broadcast Journalism & Communications Academy!

This program provides students the opportunity 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. Three rigorous career pathway programs are available.

Broadcast Journalism: 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 CAREERS ACADEMIES

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

Then join the Health Careers Academies!

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. Successful students will receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and certification as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) with the Maryland Board of Nursing.

Health Careers: 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 Careers 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 some IB courses.

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.
NAVY 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—
- NJROTC at Kennedy has 100+ members in Grades 9-12?
- Cadets can earn a varsity athletic letter for participating on one of these teams—Drill Team, Color Guard Team, or Rifle Team?
- Kennedy NJROTC graduates have been awarded college scholarships?

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 direct your activities under the guidance of the Naval Science instructors. Participate in field trips to the Naval Academy, the Pentagon, and various area military bases such as the Norfolk Virginia Naval Complex. Earn awards as part of the Company Drill Team, Color Guard, Air Rifle Team or Athletic Team. Take advantage of opportunities to attend youth leadership seminars in Annapolis and Valley Forge, and a week-long summer leadership camp. Your accomplishments as an NJROTC cadet will be impressive on your résumé and enhance your college applications.

“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
HUMANITIES, ART & MEDIA (HAM) 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 toward 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!

A partnership with the American Film Institute highlights this enriching academy experience and will benefit your endeavors in its college preparatory work.

“As part of WNHS (Northwood High School’s television and radio station), I get to report on news around the school. I even got to interview Philippe Cousteau, Jacques Cousteau’s grandson!”—HAM Academy Student

ACADEMY OF MUSICAL THEATRE & DANCE (AMTAD)

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

The performing arts come to Northwood in the form of the Academy of Musical 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 musical theatre 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.”—Musical Theatre Academy Student
POLITICS, ADVOCACY & LAW (PAL) ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—

- argue a case in front of the Supreme Court?
- sit on the Supreme Court as a judge?
- fight for your rights?
- run for public office, maybe even for president?
- 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. Experience the life of a police officer through the Police Explorers or 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

TECHNOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & SYSTEMS SCIENCES (TESS) ACADEMY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- global warming?
- green architecture?
- energy conservation?
- 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: Environmental Science, 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 at Northwood program prepares Northwood students to earn a Maryland high school diploma, as well as obtain college credits towards an associate of arts (AA) or science (AS) degree from Montgomery College, one of the nation’s premiere community colleges. Highly motivated students have the potential to earn an AA or AS 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 or AS 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
**Academy of Information Technology (AOIT)**

**Are you interested in—**
- computer animation and/or programming?
- website mastery and/or database administration?
- earning college credit while in high school?
- prestigious and exciting careers that pay well?
- on-the-job training from local IT professionals?
- leadership positions throughout 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 such as CyberPatriots
- 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

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**Institute for Global & Cultural Studies (IGCS)**

**Are you interested in—**
- enrolling in up to four college courses with reduced tuition while still in high school?
- performing, playing music, 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 for famous artists?
- 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?

**ALL IGCS students can count on…**
- choosing the academy pathway that most interests you: Digital Music, Digital 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
MILESTONES

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: 301-929-2068
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs

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

Engineering Program
Wheaton High School
Phone: 301-929-2068
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: 301-962-5930
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/programs/lti/index.aspx

Poolesville High School—
A Whole School Magnet
Poolesville High School
Coordinator Phone: 301-972-7976
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: 301-929-2181
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.

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 301-929-2181.

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.