High School Choice

I can thrive at ALL Five!
5 Great Schools, 5 Great Choices!
What is high school Choice?

Grade 8 Students attending a Downcounty Consortium (DCC) middle school or residing in the DCC attendance area rank in order of preference the high school they would like to attend on a lottery Choice form during the fall of their Grade 8 year.
Learn…

- There are five great high schools in the DCC:
  - Montgomery Blair High School
  - Albert Einstein High School
  - John F. Kennedy High School
  - Northwood High School
  - Wheaton High School

- Do your research and explore them all
- Keep an open mind and consider your interests

I Can Thrive At ALL Five!
How do I become informed?

- Learn about the academies at all five high schools
- Talk with your family about your choices.
- Attend one of the Options Fairs in September and speak with the Academy Coordinators from each high school.
  - September 21 at Kennedy HS
  - September 28 at Paint Branch HS
- Visit the high school open houses in October.
- Consider how your interests, strengths, favorite subjects and future plans relate to careers and academies.
- Attend a game, play or school event at one of the high schools
How are the DCC schools similar?

All five DCC high schools offer:

- Academies
- Advanced classes (AP and Honors)
- College preparedness
- Music opportunities
- Varsity sports
- Clubs
- More freedom and independence
What is an Academy?

- Academies are specialty programs that you choose based on your interests.
- A sequence of courses designed around a central career theme
- A way to connect the courses you take with your interests
- Field trips, guest speakers and possible internship opportunities related to academy theme
- Every high school has something for you!
Differences

Academies

◦ Each high school has 4 to 5 different academy offerings based on career themes
◦ Think about your career interests as we explore the academies at each high school
◦ Use your Cornell notes page to write down 1 academy at each high school that you wish to learn more about
County Wide Application Programs

1. **International Baccalaureate** – Richard Montgomery HS
2. **Global Ecology** – Poolesville HS
3. **Science, Math, Computer Science** – Blair HS
4. **Thomas Edison HS of Technology** - grades 10 - 12
5. **Visual Art Center (VAC)** - Einstein HS
   - Contact Coordinator for a portfolio review

- Available to all MCPS students - competitive
- Applications available on-line and in counseling office
- Applications due on November 6 (except VAC and Edison)
- Testing - December 6 (except VAC & Edison)
- Teacher recommendations needed - see applications for details
Do your research…

- Visit high school websites to research academies. Start by navigating to the DCC website – http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/
- Attend all high school open houses in October to experience the school in person.
- Open House Schedule:
  - October 1 - Kennedy HS
  - October 5 - Blair HS
  - October 14 – Northwood HS
  - October 19 – Einstein HS
  - October 26 – Wheaton HS
Every 8th grade student that lives in the DCC must complete and return a signed choice form. You will receive your choice form in the mail - check your mailbox!

Choice Forms are due in the counseling office on or before November 6.

Your base school is guaranteed if it is indicated as your first choice on your Choice form.

Choices may not be changed once they are submitted into the Round 1 lottery.
Questions?