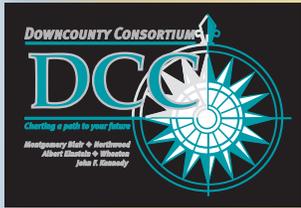




For Current
8th Grade Students in
School Year 2025-2026

 **Montgomery County Public Schools**
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL



MILESTONES

The Downcounty Consortium Choice Process and Academy Programs

- **BLAIR**
- **EINSTEIN**
- **KENNEDY**
- **NORTHWOOD**
- **WHEATON**



*I can THRIVE
at ALL 5!*

**HEADS UP!
7th Grade
Families!**

LEARN MORE about proposed
changes to the high school
assignment process by clicking
HERE.

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Albert Einstein High School



John F. Kennedy High School



Northwood High School



Wheaton High School

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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	Dickinson College	Loyola University Chicago	Rice University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Albright College	Drexel University	Loyola University Maryland	Rider University	University of Kentucky
Allegheny College of Maryland	Duke University	Lynchburg College	Ringling College of Art and Design	University of Maine
Allegheny College	Dunwoody College of Technology	Lynn University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
AMDA—The American Musical and Dramatic Academy	Duquesne University	Macalester College	Rutgers University, New Brunswick	University of Maryland, College Park
American Academy of Dramatic Arts	Earlham College	Make Up Forever Academy, New York	Saint Anselm College	University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
American University	East Carolina University	Manhattanville College	Saint Joseph's University	University of Maryland University College
Anne Arundel Community College	Eastern University	Marshall University	Salisbury University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Antioch College	Eckerd College	Mary Baldwin College	San Diego State University	University of Miami
Arizona State University	Elizabeth City State University	Maryland Institute College of Art	Santa Barbara City College	University of Michigan
Art Institute of Washington	Elizabethtown College	Marymount University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Auburn University	Elon University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Mississippi
Barnard College	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach	McDaniel College	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of New Hampshire
Barry University	Emory University	McGill University	Scripps College	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bates College	Empire Beauty School	Medtech Institute	Seoul National University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Bellevue University	Empire State College	Messiah College	Seton Hill University	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Beloit College	Fairfield University	Methodist University	Sewanee: The University of the South	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Binghamton University	Flagler College	Miami University, Oxford	Shenandoah University	University of Pennsylvania
Boston College	Florida A&M University	Michigan State University	Shepherd University	University of Pittsburgh
Boston University	Florida Atlantic University	Middle Georgia State College	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
Bowie State University	Florida International University	Middlebury College	Simmons College	University of Redlands
Brandeis University	Florida State University	Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design	Smith College	University of Richmond
Bridgewater College	Fordham University	Mississippi State University	South Carolina State University	University of Rhode Island
Brigham Young University, Idaho	Frederick Community College	Montgomery College, Germantown	Southern Virginia University	University of Rochester
Brock University	Frostburg State University	Montgomery College, Rockville	Spelman College	University of San Diego
Brown University	Garrett College	Montgomery College, Takoma Park	St. Bonaventure University	University of San Francisco
Bryn Mawr College	George Mason University	Morehouse College	St. Francis College	University of Scranton
Bucknell University	George Washington University	Morgan State University	St. John's University, Queens Campus	University of South Carolina
Butler University	Georgetown University	Mount Holyoke College	St. Mary's College of Maryland	University of South Florida, Tampa
BYU Idaho	Georgia Institute of Technology	Mount Saint Mary's University	Stanford University	University of Southern California
California Institute of Technology	Georgian Court University	Mount St. Mary's University	Stern College for Women	University of Tampa
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Goucher College	Muhlenberg College	Stetson University	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Calvin College	Grambling State University	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Stevenson University	University of Texas, Austin
Campbell University	Grinnell College	New York University	Stony Brook University	University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Capitol Technology University	Guilford College	North Carolina A & T State University	Susquehanna University	University of Toronto
Carnegie Mellon University	Hagerstown Community College	North Carolina Central University	Swarthmore College	University of Vermont
Case Western Reserve University	Hamline University	North Carolina State University, Raleigh	Syracuse University	University of Virginia
Catholic University of America	Hampshire College	Northeastern University	Temple University	University of Washington
Central State University	Hampton University	Northern Arizona University	TESST College of Technology, Beltsville	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Chapman University	Harvard University	Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria	The New School	Ursinus College
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	Harvey Mudd College	Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale	THE TEMPLE: A Paul Mitchell Partner School	Utah Valley University
Chowan University	Hawaii Pacific University	Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun	Thiel College	Vanderbilt University
City College of New York	High Point University	Northwestern University	Toccoa Falls College	Vassar College
Clarion University of Pennsylvania	Hillsborough Community College	Notre Dame of Maryland University	Towson University	Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Clark University	Hofstra University	Oberlin College	Trevecca Nazarene University	Villanova University
Clark Atlanta University	Hollins University	Occidental College	Trinity College	Virginia Commonwealth University
Clayton College & State University	Hood College	Ohio State University	Trinity University, Washington, DC	Virginia State University
Clemson University	Howard Community College	Ohio Wesleyan University	Tufts University	Virginia Tech
Coastal Carolina University	Howard University	Old Dominion University	Tulane University	Virginia Union University
Colby College	Hudson Valley Community College	Oral Roberts University	Tuskegee University	Virginia University of Lynchburg
Colgate University	Indiana University at Bloomington	Pace University, New York City	United States Air Force Academy	Wagner College
College of Charleston	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Pacific Union College	United States Marines	Wake Forest University
College of the Holy Cross	Iona College	Palm Beach State College	United States Military Academy-Army	Washington Adventist University
College of William and Mary	Ithaca College	Penn State Abington	United States Navy	Washington and Lee University
College of Wooster	Jacksonville University	Penn State Harrisburg	University of Akron	Washington College
Collin College	James Madison University	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	University of Alabama	Washington University in St. Louis
Colorado State University	Johns Hopkins University	Pepperdine University	University of Arizona	Waynesburg University
Columbia College Chicago	Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte	Pitt Community College	University of Baltimore	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Columbia University	Johnson & Wales University, Miami	Point Park University	University of British Columbia	Wesley College
Community College of Baltimore County	Johnson C. Smith University	Potomac State College of West Virginia University	University of California, Berkeley	Wesleyan University
Concordia University - Montreal	Juniata College	Prince George's Community College	University of California, Davis	West Chester University
Coppin State University	Kent State University	Princeton University	University of California, Irvine	West Liberty University
Cornell University	Kenyon College	Purdue University	University of California, Los Angeles	West Virginia University
Culinary Institute of America	La Salle University	Radford University	University of California, San Diego	West Virginia Wesleyan College
Dartmouth College	Lafayette College	Randolph-Macon College	University of California, Santa Cruz	Western University
Delaware State University	Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	Reed College	University of Central Florida	Whitman College
Delgado Community College	Lehigh University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Chicago	Winston-Salem State University
Denison University	Lewis & Clark College		University of Colorado at Boulder	Winthrop University
DePaul University	Liberty University		University of Connecticut	Yale University
DePauw University	Lincoln Technical Institute, Maryland		University of Delaware	York College of Pennsylvania
DeVry University	Lincoln University		University of Georgia	Youngstown University
	Long Island University, Brooklyn		University of Hartford	

*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 participate in Round 1 will receive a high school assignment letter in January.

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 completing an online resubmit form requesting that the child's original choices be resubmitted. Round 2 Resubmit Forms must be submitted by the February due date. Students participating in the Round 2 resubmit process may not change their choices. Only original Round 1 choices will be submitted.

Preparing for the Choice Process

In the fall, Downcounty Consortium parents and students will receive information announcing dates for a virtual DCC evening information meeting and high school open houses. Grade 8 students who attend DCC middle schools 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, Choice form instructions will be mailed to the homes of MCPS Grade 8 students who live in the Downcounty Consortium.
- DCC middle school students will access the choice form online at bit.ly/choiceDCC
- *Choice* forms must be submitted online by the November due date.

Round 2

- In early February, Choice form information will be made available to Grade 8 students on transfer or who are new DCC residents.
- *Choice* forms must be submitted online 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 comprehensive program in Grade 9, 10, or 11 at a DCC high school. Sibling link will be indicated on the *Choice* form instruction letter mailed in October. Simply place the siblings assigned high school as first choice on the *Choice* form. 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>

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
- Flora Singer
- 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

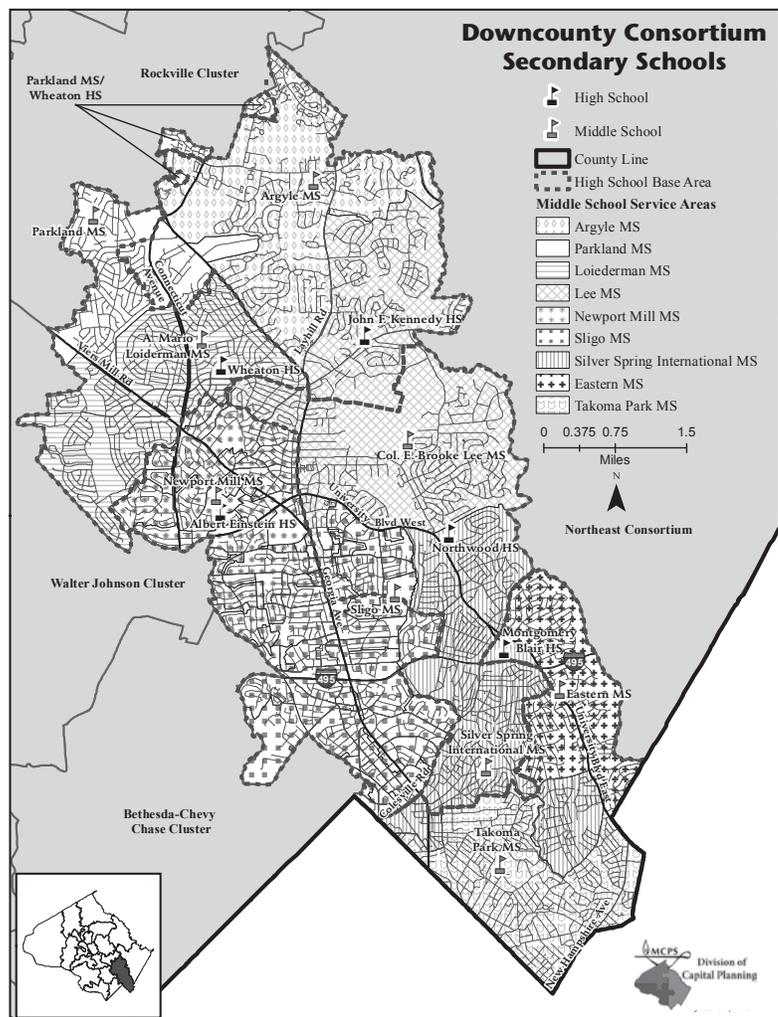
- Brookhaven
- Sargent Shriver
- Viers Mill
- Weller Road
- Wheaton Woods

Downcounty Consortium Middle Schools

Argyle	240-740-6370
Eastern	240-740-6280
A. Mario Loiederman	240-740-5830
Newport Mill	240-740-7160
Odessa Shannon	240-740-4150
Parkland	240-740-6800
Silver Spring International	240-740-2750
Sligo	301-287-8890
Takoma Park	240-740-5220

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. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/>



Choice Process Timeline

September/ October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about Downcounty Consortium high school evening meetings mailed to DCC Grade 8 students in MCPS. Virtual Information Session on the choice process and academies offered in the DCC. For details, visit the website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/.
October/ November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evening <i>Open Houses</i> held at Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood and Wheaton high schools. <i>Choice</i> forms submission instructions are mailed to parents of MCPS Grade 8 students who live within the consortium. Virtual student enrollment appointments held for parents of current private school and home-schooled students who live in the DCC. Call 240-740-7800 , or email DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org for further information.
■ Round 1	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Choice</i> form deadline for Grade 8 students who live within the DCC attendance area.
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC high school assignment letters mailed to homes of Round 1 participants.
■ Round 2 and Change of Choice	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice forms due: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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. Resubmit Forms due from parents of students who did not receive their first choice school in Round 1 and want to participate in Round 2. (Original round 1 school choices will be resubmitted in Round 2). <i>Change of Choice</i> 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 240-740-7800.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification letters mailed to homes of Round 2 and <i>Change of Choice</i> participants in late March.
■ Appeals	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters of appeal due to DCCAPS office from parents of students appealing the school assignment decision. Appeal letters must include student name, ID number, parent signature and supporting documents. Appeals can be submitted online by emailing DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org from the parent email address or by mail. Note address below.

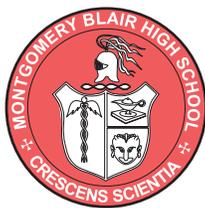
Note: For further information about the Downcounty Consortium, visit the website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/, contact your MCPS school counselor, or call the DCCAPS office at 240-740-7800. The DCCAPS office is located at 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902. The fax number is 301-649-8155.

Choice Process Appeals

All DCC students participate in the school assignment lottery process except in some cases of students in special education programs or placed by another school assignment process. 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.

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 www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/school-info/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. 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. If a *Change of Choice* request is denied, the parent may appeal the decision in writing as described in the appeals paragraph.



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

51 University Boulevard, East, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 • 240-740-7200
<https://sites.google.com/a/mcpsmd.net/mbhs-academies>



■ 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



■ 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 <https://sites.google.com/a/mcpsmd.net/mbhs-academies>



ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL

11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, Maryland 20895 • 240-740-2700
<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/einsteinhs/academies/>



■ ACADEMY OF FINANCE, CAREERS & TECHNOLOGY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- Cultivating Leadership Skills
- Building Business Relationships
- Travel & Tourism
- Cooking & Hospitality Management
- Paid Internships
- Scholarships

In the Academy of Finance, Careers & Technology you can count on...

- participating in business and entrepreneurial skills workshops
- interacting with professionals in related fields
- pursuing an internship (for credit and/or pay)
- being a part of a nationally recognized network
- Pathways include:
 - National Academy of Finance
 - Computer Science
 - College & Career Readiness
 - Hospitality & Tourism Management

"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. The IB Program at AEHS is open access, meaning ALL students can take IB Courses. Students can choose to pursue the full IB Diploma or to complete individual IB Courses.

"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 FOR COLLEGE READINESS

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 a variety of interesting and challenging courses?
- pursuing language and language acquisition?

Renaissance Academy students can count on...

- a widespread view of academics and the connections between disciplines
- the opportunity to enroll in AP courses and pursue the AP Scholar designation
- Study multiple languages and earn the MD Seal of Biliteracy
- Elective explorer and student service pathways
- Jump Start to College (in partnership with Montgomery College)**

*AEHS and MCPS partners with Montgomery College to offer over 400 courses for students to earn both HS and college credit. Through the Jumpstart to college pathway, students can earn up to one year of college credit. Jumpstart requires dual enrollment with MC.

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



■ TEACHER ACADEMY OF MARYLAND

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- Entering the field of education as a teacher or professor?
- Working with toddlers, children or adolescents?
- Becoming a counselor, media specialist or school psychologist?
- Receiving college credit and scholarships to many Maryland colleges and universities?

The Teacher Academy students can count on...

The Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) is a MSDE-approved CTE program. The TAM’s purpose is to prepare high school students for postsecondary education and careers in the field of education. The program consists of 4 high school credits that focus on teaching as a profession, human growth and development, curriculum and instruction, and an educational internship. This program is designed for students to continue studying in a Maryland postsecondary teacher education program, with the potential for scholarship money. Upon completion of the TAM program and passing the ParaPro assessment, high school graduates are ready for employment in the teaching profession or for postsecondary education. TAM exposes students to rigorous course work and college-level texts and offers students interested in the education profession a program in the Education and Training Services Pathway of the Human Resources Services Cluster.



■ 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 & culture, dance, digital art, 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





JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902 • 240-740-0100
<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/programs/>



■ BROADCAST JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—

- Take your ideas and turn them into videos?
- Learn how to create a broadcast journalism story with filming, writing and editing?
- Report on issues important to you and people your age?
- 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 learned in class to the production of news stories and 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 while creating professional level work. Prepare for careers in television, radio, podcasting, and other internet-based media. Get hands-on experience while running KCTV, Kennedy's award-winning television station and The Sword, our monthly news magazine show. Also learn from industry professionals. We are the only high school PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Lab in MCPS. You'll have opportunities to work with career journalists, write news stories, produce shows and intern with local and national media outlets.



■ BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—

- lead a business or a corporation?
- market your products and ideas?
- manage a team of employees?
- play the stock market?
- learn how to turn an interest into a business?

Join the Business Administration & Management Academy!

This academy is a dynamic, comprehensive program which will introduce students to the exciting professional world of business. Students will explore several diverse career areas including Entrepreneurship, Marketing, eCommerce, International Business, Management, Financial Literacy, Project Management, Globalization and Business Law, Finance, Operations, and Management. Course content will include creating a viable business plan, personal financial literacy, marketing, ethics, finance, social responsibility, developing business relationships, leadership, customer relations, and professional development.

"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



■ HEALTHCARE 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 Healthcare Professions Academy!

Three rigorous pathway programs are offered:

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA): Students gain a specialized skill-set related to facilitating the high demands of a healthcare facility. Students develop an understanding of patient needs and the healthcare setting. Students have the opportunity to earn and receive state certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant, approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing. Students complete clinical hours within the double period course.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA): Students gain a specialized skill-set related to facilitating the high demands of a healthcare facility. Students learn to administer medications, assist with minor procedures, obtain laboratory specimens, perform electrocardiograms, provide patient education, and much more. Students have the opportunity to earn and receive national certification as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, as well as two college credits, through assessments provided by the National HealthCareer Association.

Physical Rehabilitation Sciences: This course introduces students to the world of rehabilitation and therapeutic services. The majority of this course is spent in a lab-based classroom setting for hands-on, relevant training. The curriculum includes new content to provide students the opportunity to earn and receive certification as a Physical Trainer. During senior year, students in the Physical Rehabilitation Science pathway complete an internship or complete a course at Montgomery College.

"The lessons in the Academy of Health Professions are engaging and really help us get ready for the future!"—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.





■ NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (NJROTC)

DO YOU WANT TO—

- develop your leadership ability?
- demonstrate a high degree of self-reliance and discipline?
- serve your community?
- participate in a wide range of physical and academic activities?

DID YOU KNOW—

- Kennedy NJROTC graduates have been awarded scholarships to top colleges and universities across the country.
- 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 higher 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 take trips to various military bases and compete on the drill, color guard, air rifle, academics, and athletic teams.

"I joined the NJROTC program because I hope to pursue a career in military medicine. The NJROTC program has helped me to become a better leader, has helped me to have a voice and has helped me to become more confident." —NJROTC Academy Student



■ TEACHER ACADEMY OF MARYLAND (TAM)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- Entering the field of education?
- Working in childcare or other education-related fields?
- Receiving college credit, scholarships and/or stipends to many Maryland colleges and universities?

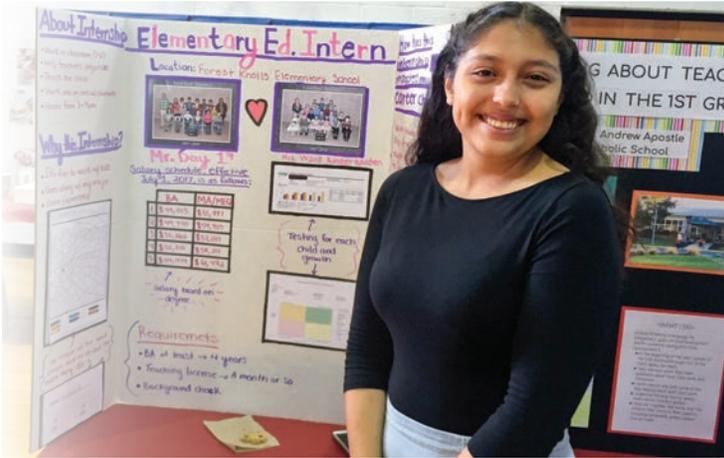
Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) is a state-approved career completer program, designed to prepare high school students for future careers in the education profession. Students who wish to explore possible careers as teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors, child psychologists, youth workers, and camp directors will develop fundamental knowledge, skills, and dispositions to prepare them for an education degree. The program has articulation agreements with many of the state's top colleges and universities which allow students to earn college credit and/or stipends upon successful completion of the program. TAM exposes students to rigorous course work and college-level texts and offers students interested in the education profession a program in the Education and Training Services Pathway of the Human Resources Services Cluster. This state approved Career and Technology Education (CTE) career pathway is built upon a program of study that is aligned with the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC). In addition, TAM's program of study is based upon outcomes of the Maryland Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.) degree which aligns with the National Council for the Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE) standards.

"I am excited about the endless opportunities this academy provides and I look forward to class each day to learn something new about myself and others."—Academy Student



NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

11211 Old Georgetown Rd, Rockville, MD 20852 (through Spring 2027) • 240-740-6950
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs



■ ACADEMY OF FINANCE, ACCOUNTING, MARKETING AND EDUCATION (FAME)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN—

- early childhood education?
- 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. 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."— Fame 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 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. 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."

—HAM 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 Music, Theatre and Dance 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



■ POLITICS, ADVOCACY & LAW (PAL) ACADEMY

DO YOU WANT TO—

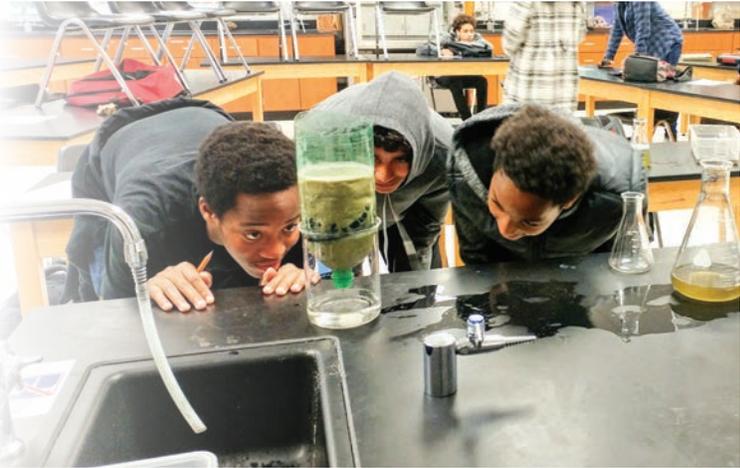
- argue a case in front of the Supreme Court?
- fight for your rights?
- review intelligence information?
- run a political campaign?
- investigate crimes, like on CSI?

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. 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—

- 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.

"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

■ ENGINEERING ACADEMY

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—

- writing programs to create apps?
- creating a website to inform an audience of a topic of your choice?
- becoming a computer programmer, website developer, or data scientist?
- understanding the relationship between hardware, software and devices?
- applying knowledge about information systems with social issues like internet security and privacy?

ALL Wheaton AOIT students can count on...

- a comprehensive program where students learn about the current IT industry
- opportunities to learn about cybersecurity
- opportunities to be involved in an IT club
- taking IT courses that focus on web design, programming or cybersecurity
- access to unique extracurricular opportunities including communications, clubs and career speakers

"During the time in the AOIT Academy, I've been able to make connections between what I've learned in the classroom and what I want to do in the future. Now, I can see my future in computer science."

—AOIT Student



■ GLOBAL STUDIES ACADEMY (GSA)

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 GSA students can count on...

- 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

APPLICATION-ONLY PROGRAMS*

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. Additional information can also be found on the special programs website: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/>.

Aviation Program

Magruder High School
Phone: 240-740-5550, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/magruderhs/

Biomedical Program

Wheaton High School
Phone: 301-321-3315
www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/academies/Applicationprograms/#Biomicalapp

Communication Arts Program (CAP)

Montgomery Blair High School
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-7254
cap.mbhs.edu

Engineering Program

Wheaton High School
Phone: 301-321-3315
www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/academies/Applicationprograms/#Engineeringapp

International Baccalaureate Career-related programs (IBCP)*—Regional

Rockville High School
Phone: 240-740-6600
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rockvillehs

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme—Countywide

Richard Montgomery High School
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-6165
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rmhs

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme*—Regional

John F. Kennedy High School
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-0130
<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/programs/ib/>

The Leadership Academy for Social Justice (LASJ)

Walt Witman High School
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-4800

Leadership Training Institute (LTI)

John F. Kennedy High School
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-0113
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/programs/lti/index.aspx

Montgomery College Middle College Program*

Northwood High School
Coordinator Phone: 240-740-6950
<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/nhsdualenrollment/middle-college-mc2>

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: 240-740-7218
www.mbhs.edu/departments/magnet

Thomas Edison High School of Technology Career and Technical Education Programs

Thomas Edison High School of Technology (for rising grades 10-12)
School Counseling Office
Phone: 240-740-2039
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/edison

Regional College and Career Programs at Wheaton/Edison High School (grade 9)

Coordinator Phone: 301-321-3315
www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/wheaton-edison-partnership/

Visual Art Center (VAC)

Albert Einstein High School
VAC Phone: 240-740-2700
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 ELD students.

Will DCC students be able to participate in the half-day career and technical 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 Technical education programs, or consider applying for a four year college related program while attending Wheaton HS and Edison. Bus transportation is provided. For further information, contact TEHST at 240-740-2000.

How can parents and students learn more about the DCC high schools?

Parents and students are encouraged to attend one of the virtual 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.

Will my student be able to continue with their program if we have already started a centrally managed or consortia program?

Yes. Students entering grade 8 in 2025–2026, who have been accepted into a centrally managed application program or assigned to a consortium, may remain in their current program/school.



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