

## Paint Branch, My Home Away From Home

Coming into high school, there were many choices as to where I should go. Since my older sister came to Paint Branch, it was only natural for me to follow her. I chose Paint Branch because of its title, *Academy of Science and Media*. Science for me was the way to go, and Paint Branch was the only school in the consortium that offers the Medical Careers program.

In the hallways everyone was friendly. I especially loved the way that students treated their peers in school. They said, “Hi” to me in the hallway even if they didn’t know my name.

I was not only interested in Medical Careers, but sports as well. At Paint Branch, I was proud to be part of numerous winning seasons in football and lacrosse. Paint Branch has always been known as a powerhouse in football in our consortium. Playing football under the Friday night lights with a stand full of fans, takes your breath away.

The Medical Careers program helped me select the college that I now attend, Mount St. Mary’s University. As I study in college, I learn that most students that want to attend medical school have not yet had any experience in the medical field. Through the Medical Careers program, I gained my certification in first aid and CPR, and earned a Certified Nursing Assistant License at Paint Branch. I worked at Holy Cross Hospital for half a year with rotations throughout the hospital. At Washington Adventist Hospital, I worked in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). There, I gained much needed clinical experience watching surgeries and the entire surgical process.

This experience and hard work landed me a job at the hospital as a Patient Care Technician, and I work there part time when I am not in school. This will help me when I apply to medical school, and the fact that I was an honor student while at Paint Branch High School. I know that I would not be where I am today if it were not for Paint Branch. I hope that you make the same choice.

### Shane Crowl

Paint Branch High School, Class of 2004  
Mount St. Mary’s University, Class of 2008

## Paint Branch Taught Me To Challenge Myself

When I walked into Paint Branch for the first time, I was just a timid freshman who knew nothing about myself except for the fact that I liked to write. When I walked across the stage at graduation, I was an emerging leader, ready to take on the world and everything that it threw at me.

Aside from the fact that I was attracted to Paint Branch’s signature Science and Media program, it was always just assumed that I would go to Paint Branch. Since then, it’s become clear how important of a decision that should have been for me, and how lucky I was to have picked Paint Branch without a second thought.

The passionate staff, altruistic student body and plethora of opportunity surround the entire community, reaching beyond Paint Branch’s walls and inspiring others. Paint Branch’s nurturing environment enables any student to cultivate new interests and thrive academically, as it did for me.

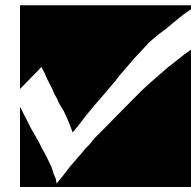
Between running for Student Member of the Board, participating in the Superintendent’s Leadership Program, becoming Editor-in-Chief of Mainstream and interning at a neuropsychology lab, I can’t even begin to list the names of teachers, peers and administrators that encouraged me to fulfill my own potential, as cheesy as it sounds. But if there’s one thing I took away from Paint Branch, it was the right attitude to turn any situation into a new challenge and a chance to learn something.

If I hadn’t challenged myself the way Paint Branch taught me to, I might still be stuck in the same position I was four years ago. And even though I still don’t know what I want to do with my life, the experience I gained and the people that inspired me will stay with me as I take on each new challenge with a sense of adventure and a positive outlook.

### Zoe Owrutsky

Paint Branch High School, Class of 2011  
University of Pittsburgh, Class of 2015

# Student to Student



## Paint Branch High School

*Academy of  
Science and Media*

*Paint Branch Graduates share their  
experiences with Choice and why  
Paint Branch High School was their  
1<sup>st</sup> Choice!*

Paint Branch High School  
14121 Old Columbia Pike  
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/paintbranchhs>

## Paint Branch - My Best Decision

When I was in eighth grade at Banneker, all I knew about high school and the Northeast Consortium was that I wanted to go to Paint Branch because it was great. I have two older sisters, who both attended Paint Branch High School, one who loved music and math and one who was a social butterfly, athlete and loved biology. Based on their interests and experiences, I knew Paint Branch could offer me everything I ever imagined in a high school. Since I didn't particularly enjoy any subject before high school besides PE, I decided that Paint Branch was a good school full of opportunity.

Like I learned with from my sisters, Paint Branch excels at more than just one field or subject. I have taken 10 Advanced Placement exams in 5 different departments – US and World History, Calculus, French, Literature and even Physics. The teaching is so great in all of the departments and AP classes that I left Paint Branch with 40 college credits and an unmatched preparedness for college.

Paint Branch is located just over a mile from my house. I would say the gas bill would be taxed if it was any farther away because, I was there all the time. My biggest reason to live there, besides school, is my love of baseball and the dedication the Paint Branch Baseball team has for its sport and school. From, summer and fall ball to winter workouts to the spring season, my baseball family was always active preparing for the season. Along with the directly related training is the support for the school and community that goes along with being on the team. The team helped run concessions at sporting events, participated in youth camps and delivered mulch in the sports boosters mulch sale. Players would play football, basketball, wrestle and perform in the band or plays, the baseball family, like other Paint Branch teams, would always be there to support their fellow members because we all knew that if we supported others they would support us. We were a true loving community.

If sports isn't your thing, there are still a plethora of activities to become part of the Paint Branch community and capitalize on Paint Branch's vast resources. My eldest sister was a four year member of the marching band, now this may sound like something not too exciting to non music lovers, but the growing marching band may be the most appreciated thing at football games by students, especially the cowbell. I joined the Math Team my junior year because I figured it be a good extra-curricular on my transcript, but I learned more math than ever thought existed and had a blast with my teammates and coaches, especially the post-meet Chipotle trips. Unlike many students who drop their foreign language classes after a year or two, I took French all four years and loved it, the biggest perk was participating in a two-week exchange program. Hosting a French teenager for two weeks is fascinating, but traveling to France and seeing their school and Paris is a life-changing experience.

After four years at Paint Branch, I still can't tell you what career I want when I grow up, but I can tell you that choosing Paint Branch has been the best choice I've made so far in my life. Paint Branch makes anyone feel welcome to its growing community while managing excellent academics with tons of fun. Your choice to choose Paint Branch should be even easier than mine, since you'll get this whole experience in a brand new school. Go Panthers!

### Johnny Wright

Paint Branch High School, Class of 2011

University of Maryland, Class of 2015

## Paint Branch, the Perfect Fit

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade while attending Benjamin Banneker Middle School, I had to make an important decision in my academic career in regards to which high school I would be attending. With the NEC I was given the choice of attending Blake, Paint Branch or Springbrook high school and was told countless times that all three were very good schools. I settled on attending Paint Branch because of its strong focus on science, math, and engineering programs that determined my decision. It didn't hurt either that my older brother would also be attending Paint Branch and told me that he really enjoy attending Paint Branch.

Paint Branch science program I would say is one of the best in Montgomery County because while they have excellent science classes and challenge students take harder classes; at the same time they don't try to shove it down your throat. I took both biology and chemistry my sophomore year of high school which allowed me to take AP Biology my junior year. This enabled me during my senior year of high school to look for a science internship, and with the help of the amazing internship coordinator was able to land one at the FDA.

However I soon found out during my time in high school that Paint Branch has an excellent AP Program that covers a broad spectrum of subjects and a majority of subjects on the AP tests. As I can attest this allows Paint Branch students to become well rounded students that is crucial for success in college. I was also able to do an independent study course with one of my teachers to take an AP course that was not offered at Paint Branch; and is not uncommon to see students doing an independent study to cover one of the few AP exams that Paint Branch doesn't cover. Paint Branch encourages its students to challenge themselves to take AP exams and has an excellent support system to see that students succeed in these courses. As passing AP exam scores allow students to earn college credit in high school; looking excellent on their transcripts for college and in some cases allow them to graduate from college early.

Even if they don't earn a passing score on the AP exam, it really does prepare students to succeed in their college class equivalent.

It was also a great blessing that Paint Branch has so many AP classes because I learn during my sophomore and junior year that while I liked science, I actually preferred social studies classes. The teachers were a huge part of this decision because the social studies department at Paint Branch was top notch. They were all amazing teachers and really helped me to realize what I wanted to study in college, and prepare me for the rigorous college classes I am taking. However this the same way my other friends felt as well with the other academic departments at Paint Branch because Paint Branch has an excellent core of teachers in all academic areas.

So while students really can't go wrong when choosing among the three schools in the NEC, it really comes down to which school students think they will fit best in. For me this school was Paint Branch because of its strong science program, excellent AP program and fantastic teachers; and is probably the case for a lot of the students out there. So while I can't really speak for the other two schools in the NEC, I can say with confidence that you or your child with hard work will succeed at Paint Branch.

### Tony Nguyen

Paint Branch High School, Class of 2011

American University, Class of 2014/2015

## Paint Branch High School: My Alma Mater

Towards the conclusion of your middle school career, you are given three options as to what high school you may attend. Originally, James Hubert Blake high school was my home school, but out of pure convenience I decided to go to Paint Branch High School since it was the closest school from my house. Fortunately, I had a fantastic one-of-a-kind experience at Paint Branch where I found friends, family, and community.

Throughout my four years at Paint Branch, I made tight-knit relationships with almost all of my instructors, and I took away with me cultural diversity that helped me to see the world in a different light. There are plenty of different areas and opportunities for students to be involved, where each individual is sure to find the right niche to fit their personality. Paint Branch most assuredly provides a welcoming and comforting environment for all students.

### Christina Ngo

Paint Branch High School, Class of 2011

Pennsylvania State University Erie, Class of 2015