

# Introduction

## MARYLAND DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

The state of Maryland authorizes one diploma for all high school graduates, based upon successful fulfillment of four categories of requirements: enrollment, course credit, student service learning (SSL), and Maryland assessments: MCPS requirements that extend state requirements are designated below with a double asterisk (\*\*). All requirements are summarized in the table below.

### Enrollment

Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond Grade 8. (For exceptions, see Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment.)

### Course Credits

Students shall be enrolled in a Montgomery County Public School and have earned a minimum of 22 credits (unless a pre-approved MCPS alternative is satisfied) that include the following:

MCPS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE			
English	4 credits		
Fine Arts	1 credit (Selected courses in art, dance, drama/theater, and music that satisfy the fine arts requirement are marked FA)		
Health Education	0.5 credit		
Mathematics	4 credits** (1 algebra credit, 1 geometry credit) Students who successfully complete a calculus course may be exempted from this 4-credit requirement.		
Physical Education	1 credit		
Science	3 credits (1 biology credit and 1 physical science credit must be included)		
Social Studies	3 credits (1 U.S. History credit; 1 World History credit; and 1 National, State, and Local Government credit)		
Technology Education	1 credit (Allowed courses depend on graduation year.) See information below, in the course listings, and at <a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/</a>		
Electives: The additional credits required for graduation may be fulfilled by one of the following three options	<b>OPTION 1</b>	<b>OPTION 2</b>	<b>OPTION 3</b>
	2 credits in a foreign language <b>OR</b> 2 credits in American Sign Language <b>AND 2.5 credits</b> in elective courses	2 credits in advanced technology education <b>AND 2.5 credits</b> in elective courses	4 credits in a state-approved career and technology program <b>AND 0.5 credit</b> in electives courses
Student Service Learning (SSL)	Students must meet established service-learning requirements delineated in this bulletin and online at <a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/</a> .		
<b>Assessment Requirements</b>			
High School Assessments	Students must meet the Maryland High School Assessments requirements for English, algebra/data analysis, biology, and government.		

## Maryland High School Assessments (HSA)

Maryland High School Assessments are end-of-course tests related to the MCPS courses Algebra 1, Biology, English 10, and NSL Government. All students enrolled in an HSA course are required to take the appropriate HSA upon completion of the course. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has designed the tests to measure student achievement and school performance, providing valuable information to students, parents, and schools. Maryland high school students must meet the HSA requirements in order to receive a Maryland High School Diploma.

The Maryland High School Assessments for Algebra/Data Analysis and English also serve to meet the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) math and reading requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (ESEA). For details visit the MSDE website [www.marylandpublicschools.org/](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/).

For more information about the HSA or MSA, visit <http://hsaexam.org/about.html>, contact your local high school, or contact the MCPS Office of High School Instruction and Achievement, 301-517-5007.

## Maryland High School Certificate

This certificate is awarded to students with disabilities who do not meet the requirements for a diploma but who meet one of the following criteria:

1. The student is enrolled in a special education program for at least four years beyond Grade 8, or its age equivalent. The student is determined to have developed appropriate skills for the individual to enter the world of work, act responsibly as a citizen, and enjoy a fulfilling life by an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) Team, with agreement of the student's parents/guardians. The world of work includes, but is not limited to, gainful employment, work activity centers, supported employment, or sheltered workshops.
2. After being enrolled in a special education program for four years beyond Grade 8, or its age equivalent, the student reached age 21.

## Montgomery County Public Schools Certificate of Merit (CM)

In addition to the Maryland high school diploma, students who meet the following requirements may be awarded the Montgomery County Public Schools Certificate of Merit, a diploma endorsement:

- **Advanced Courses**

At least 12 credits must be earned in advanced courses identified by MCPS as applicable to the Certificate of Merit. A **CM** appears in the course listings in this bulletin to designate courses that satisfy this requirement. All courses to be counted toward the Certificate of Merit must be taken for a letter grade.

- **Mathematics Requirement**

Students must successfully complete and receive credit for the MCPS Algebra 2 course.

- **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

Students must obtain at least a 3.0 unweighted cumulative grade point average.

## Courses and Credits

Each high school provides a comprehensive program of studies that enables all students to earn required graduation credits. All high school courses are one semester in length. All courses satisfying graduation requirements must be taken for a letter grade. Upon completion of each semester's work, students earn credit in each course taken—0.5 credit for successful completion of a single-period course, 1 credit for a double-period course, and so on. Yearlong courses usually have the same name for the two semesters with the title of the first semester followed by "A" or "1" and the second by "B" or "2". Yearlong courses are usually sequenced to begin in the fall with "A" or "1."

## Technology Education Requirement for Graduation

To satisfy MSDE high school graduation requirements, students graduating in 2012 or later will be required to take a state-approved technology education course. Technology education courses meeting state approval and available in all MCPS high schools are identified with the symbol **T2**. Note that MCPS eLearning offers Foundations of Technology A/B in an online format during the summer. Advanced technology courses for students in the classes of 2012 and beyond who wish to pursue Option 2 for high school graduation must be similarly approved. Courses meeting these revised requirements are noted in the course listings. Courses satisfying the current technology education requirement for students graduation in 2011 are identified with a **TE**. Further information is available at the MCPS website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/).

## Student Service Learning

The Student Service Learning (SSL) program in MCPS promotes a culture of student involvement and student responsibility through civic engagement. Service learning is a graduation requirement in Maryland. Beginning with the class of 2011 MCPS students must complete a minimum of 75 service-learning hours for graduation. The specific SSL hour requirement and other SSL information are shown at <http://mcpsssl.org>. MCPS students begin fulfilling this requirement the summer after Grade 5 and continue to accrue SSL hours through high school. Students who earn 260 or more SSL hours receive a Certificate of Meritorious Service at the time of graduation. Preparation, action, and reflection are the three phases of service learning that distinguish SSL from traditional volunteering and community service efforts.

### Service learning hours are earned through:

- **School Courses**  
Successful completion of specific courses identified in this Course Bulletin where the three phases of SSL achieve curricular objectives
- **School Clubs**  
Fully participating and completing the three phases of service learning in activities promoted by school-sponsored clubs and organizations
- **Community Organizations and Opportunities—must be preapproved for SSL**  
Fully participating with community organizations tagged as “Approved SSL MCPS” and opportunities tagged “MCPS SSL Approved” at the website <http://mcpsssl.org> or by having MCPS Form 560-50, Request for Student Service Learning Preapproval granted prior to earning hours with organizations and opportunities that are not tagged as MCPS SSL approved at the website.

All activities for which SSL hours are desired must occur in a public place, be secular in nature, and be supervised by a representative from a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Parents and relatives may not directly supervise a student. One SSL hour is awarded for every one hour of service outside of the instructional day with a maximum of 8 hours in a 24-hour period. MCPS Form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification, is required to document all activities for which SSL hours are desired. More information is available at the MCPS SSL site, <http://mcpsssl.org>, or the SSL FAQ pages at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/faqs/faq.shtm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/faqs/faq.shtm). For individual SSL questions, contact the SSL coordinator in any middle or high school.

## High School Credit for Middle School Students

High school credit is awarded to students who complete yearlong high school courses while in middle school after the student has passed both semesters of the course and passed the semester B high school final examination. The credit and grade are recorded on a student’s transcript during the first year of high school. Grades 6–8 students may retake a high school course taken in middle school and receive the higher grade earned. Students wishing to retake a course should use MCPS form

560-55, *Request to Retake High School Course Taken in Middle School*. This form is available from counselors and online at [www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/forms/pdf/560-55.pdf](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/forms/pdf/560-55.pdf).

## Honors, Advanced-Level, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate Courses

Honors, advanced-level, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses provide opportunities for students to pursue rigorous and challenging studies. Typically, students enroll in individual honors, advanced-level, and AP courses and not in a program as a whole. Students seeking an external curriculum diploma, such as the IB diploma, or participating in local school certificate programs must meet the requirements of that program in addition to the requirements for graduation in MCPS. Information about the International Baccalaureate programs in MCPS appears later in this introduction. The table on page 8 lists all MCPS Advanced Placement and advanced-level courses.

Students should consult school counselors for the courses offered at individual high schools. Students in honors, AP, and advanced-level courses are expected to maintain at least a C average. Students who receive a grade of D or E over two consecutive marking periods should be counseled and supported.

- **Honors Courses**  
Honors courses provide expectations and opportunities for students to work at an accelerated pace, to engage in more rigorous and complex content and processes, and to develop authentic products that reflect the student’s understanding of key concepts. The curriculum in each honors course includes appropriate adaptations for accelerated and enriched learning for pursuing in-depth studies that require abstract and higher-order thinking skills.
- **Advanced-Level Courses**  
Advanced-level courses are based upon previous achievement in a sequence of study. Advanced-level courses include appropriate adaptations for accelerated and enriched learning for pursuing in-depth studies that require abstract and higher-order thinking skills.
- **Advanced Placement Courses**  
MCPS has developed courses that meet College Board guidelines to accompany the Advanced Placement examinations. These courses include concepts and skills that help students prepare for the AP exams. A qualifying score on an AP exam may give the student college credit or advanced standing in the subject in college. These courses include concepts and skills that help students prepare for the AP exams. All AP courses offered in MCPS have met the requirements of and been approved by the College Board Audit Committee.
- **Criteria for Enrollment in Honors, Advanced Placement, and Advanced-level Courses**  
Principals ensure that all students who have the capability, or motivation or potential to accept the challenge of honors, advanced-level and/or AP courses will be accorded an opportunity to do so. Each semester, principals will convene their schools’ Honors/AP Review Committee to review the participation of students in honors, advanced-level, and AP courses to ensure consistent implementation of the MCPS Gifted and Talented Education Policy (IOA), [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ioa.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ioa.pdf), and the accompanying regulation (IOA-RA), [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ioara.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ioara.pdf). This multi-stakeholder committee is co-chaired by the principal and a faculty member, and includes counselors, teachers, representative resource teachers/department chairs and staff who have expertise in special needs (e.g., ESOL and special education).

The Honors/AP Review Committee also ensures that each school provides responsible open enrollment in honors, advanced-level, and AP courses for every student who is capable of or motivated to pursue a rigorous program and higher-level course work. The committee documents the strengths that each student brings to

honors, advanced-level, and AP work and recommends a plan for outreach, nurturing, and support of potential candidates. A profile of student strengths can be determined by conducting a thorough review of the following multiple criteria:

- Mastery of course prerequisites (grades of A, B, or C)
- Parent/guardian recommendations
- Standardized test scores, as appropriate
- Willingness to complete challenging assignments
- Student interest or motivation
- Teacher/counselor recommendations
- Work samples and portfolios

Schools will evaluate multiple criteria for each student as no single criterion is to be used to exclude a student from pursuing honors, advanced-level, and AP course work.

Prior to the start of each semester, school counselors notify all candidates for honors, advanced-level, and AP courses regarding their enrollment.

• **Review Process for Enrollment in Honors, Advanced Placement, and Advanced-Level Courses**

Students who are not recommended for enrollment, but who still wish to be considered for honors, advanced-level, or AP course placement should appeal in writing to the principal for a special review within 10 school days of notification.

## COURSE-RELATED INFORMATION

### Student Withdrawal from a Course

A student-initiated withdrawal may occur when the student and parents/guardians determine that withdrawal will be beneficial to the student. The student's withdrawal request must be approved by parents/guardians in writing, reviewed by the counselor, and discussed with the student to ensure that there is understanding that withdrawing from the course may result in a possible delay in meeting graduation requirements. The counselor's recommendation is forwarded to the principal for approval.

If a student withdraws from a course before the end of the fifth week (25 school days), no notation is made on the student's permanent record card or report card. The request to withdraw must be made by the 25th school day. If the student withdraws after 25 school days of the course, the date of the withdrawal and the achievement attained at the time of withdrawal will be entered on the report card and permanent record. Withdrawal grades are not used in computing GPA or WGPA. However, they are included when determining student academic eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities.

### Alternative Provisions for Earning Credit

In addition to earning credits during the regular school day and year, credits may be earned through summer school, extended-day learning opportunities, work experience programs, online courses, and college courses. Advance permission from the principal or designee is required in all cases involving alternative provisions for earning credit. Specific provisions govern the use of each of these programs. It is critical that students and parents consider these programs carefully and consult school counselors in advance to obtain full information about any alternative means of earning credit and its advisability. Online courses must be approved by MSDE and MCPS. The content of an online course must meet MCPS content standards to be considered for credit. The list of online courses approved by MCPS for credit towards graduation is at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning).

Alternative provisions for earning credit are discussed in MCPS regulation High School Graduation Requirements, ISB-RA, found at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/isbra.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/isbra.pdf).

### Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment

Specific provisions governing the use of alternatives to four-year enrollment are delineated in the MCPS regulation High School Graduation Requirements, ISB-RA, found at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/isbra.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/isbra.pdf).

[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/isbra.pdf](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/isbra.pdf). Advice from counselors is critical and should begin far in advance. The principal's permission is required and must be obtained in advance. The alternatives include early college admission programs, early admission to an approved vocational, technical, or other postsecondary school, or the General Educational Development (GED) testing program.

### Attendance

A commitment to school attendance on the part of both students and parents/guardians is an essential component of a high-quality learning experience. Parents and school personnel are expected to do everything possible to ensure each student's regular attendance. Students should attend all scheduled classes and approved educational activities and are responsible for completing all assigned work on time. Students should be enrolled in a full-day program or spend a comparable period of time in an alternative program or activity approved by the student's parent/guardian and principal.

### Grading and Reporting

#### Basis for Grading

Grades reflect student achievement based on what the student knows and is able to do, as defined by the MCPS curriculum. Students receiving services for limited English proficiency, special education, or 504 disabilities will be afforded all accommodations and modifications as documented by English Language Learner (ELL) plans, individualized education programs (IEPs), or Section 504 plans.

#### Procedures for Grading

Grading procedures will be applied consistently within and among schools. Grading practices must include clear and timely communication, alignment with curriculum, accurate reflection of student achievement, and fair representation of student performance. Grading practices must be fair and manageable, and support effective teaching and learning. Grades on report cards reflect academic achievement in relation to course expectations, as outlined in the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum. Extra credit may not be used. Course-specific procedures for grading are defined, used consistently, and explained clearly to students and parents in writing at the beginning of a semester or school year. A final evaluation activity is required at the conclusion of all courses. Semester examinations in specified courses are computed as 25% of the final grade for the semester and reported separately on the report card.

#### Reporting Student Progress

Teachers will provide students and parents with information about achievement throughout the marking period. This feedback may take several forms, including the following:

- Report cards
- Interims/progress reports
- Online grade reports (Edline)
- Parent conferences
- Informal methods of communication
- Teacher feedback

#### Credit/No Credit Grading Option

The Credit/No Credit grading option may be used only in courses not specifically required for graduation by MSDE or MCPS. Credit/No Credit cannot be applied to a Certificate of Merit course.

#### Grade Point Average (GPA) and Weighted Grade Point Average (WGPA)

Only final course grades and credit reported on high school transcripts are used in determining GPA and WGPA in accordance with the procedures set forth in MCPS Regulation IKC-RA: Grade Point Averages and Weighted Grade Point Averages, [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ikcra.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ikcra.pdf). To determine WGPA, an additional quality point will be added to grades of A, B, and C in all honors, advanced-level, and Advanced Placement courses only.

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A Marking Period Average (MPA), used in determining academic eligibility, is shown on student report cards. The MPA is not cumulative and is not used to establish the GPA or WGPA.

MCPS does not rank students. Additional information about grading and reporting is available on the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/).

## Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Students must maintain a 2.0 marking period average (MPA), with not more than one failing grade in the previous marking period, in order to participate in extracurricular activities during the next marking period. The MPA is not the same as the GPA. Further information can be found in MCPS Regulation IQD-RA: Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities, [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/iqdra.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/iqdra.pdf).

## National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center

The National Collegiate Athletic Association established the **NCAA** Eligibility Center to serve as the authorizing group for the final review and approval of core courses for freshmen college students who want to participate in intercollegiate athletics in NCAA Division I-A, I-AA, and II colleges and universities. The NCAA Eligibility Center Approved Core Courses are identified in the course bulletin with the symbol **NCAA**. In all cases, the list of eligible courses available at the NCAA Eligibility Center website represents the final determination of acceptable core courses. To learn more about NCAA Approved Core Courses or about NCAA Freshmen Eligibility Standards contact the local school resource counselor and visit the NCAA-IEC website at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>.

## Taking Courses Not Available at the Home School

Students wishing to attend a neighboring school for a course not available at the home school must apply through their home school counseling office. Courses are open to students on a space-available basis. Students/parents must provide transportation.

## MCPS COUNTY-WIDE PROGRAMS

### The Superintendent's Leadership Program

The Superintendent's Leadership Program (SLP) is an honors career and leadership development program for high school seniors in the humanities. Students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and academic excellence are selected through a highly competitive process. The SLP is designed to encourage lifelong learning, provide practical experience, and develop global citizenship. Participants earn two honors credit hours per semester and must apply in the spring of their junior year. Up to 15 students are selected. Participants devote 15 hours per week to an internship in their primary field of study as well as conducting other program activities. Students learn how to manage projects, overcome challenges, make decisions, and operate as independent leaders and members of teams.

The interactive online application is available through the MCPS website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/leadership](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/leadership). Applicants must have a 3.5 weighted GPA and have completed all requirements for graduation except English and Math. Students accepted will be allowed up to four morning classes. The program is open only to rising seniors enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools. The deadline for completed applications and supporting materials is March 15. Applicants will be interviewed in April and receive notification of acceptance in early May.

Significant program components include the following:

- Internships with top-level industry partners.
- Field trips to meet with industry executives and community leaders.
- Didactic seminars facilitated by executives, officials, and community leaders.
- Research and writing assignments.
- Class service projects and team activities.
- Examination of global policy issues.

For more information or an application please contact:

### Superintendent's Leadership Program

Montgomery County Public Schools  
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 251  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 279-3546  
[kim\\_d\\_jones@mcpsmd.org](mailto:kim_d_jones@mcpsmd.org)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/leadership](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/leadership)

## Career Pathway Programs (CPP)

Career Pathway Programs (CPP) are state-approved programs that satisfy the career development graduation requirement and are designated by a **CPP** in this bulletin. Each of these programs is designed to help students acquire the specialized knowledge, skills, attitudes, and work habits required for employment and postsecondary education. Each MCPS high school offers career development programs.

Students seeking to enroll in a CPP that includes a work-based learning component may be required by the employer or sponsoring organization to provide appropriate documentation that may include a social security number and/or proof of citizenship/green card. Please review program applications and CPP requirements carefully for specific work-based learning component guidelines.

Extensive information about MCPS Career Pathway Programs is available at the website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/).

## Program Options

Schools not offering a particular CPP may request placement of a student in that program at another school. Efforts will be made to fulfill reasonable student requests for transportation; students and counselors must ensure that the proper amount of transportation time is allocated in the student schedule. Form 565-6 is available through the MCPS website [/www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/materials/books/Form\\_ordering\\_page.shtm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/materials/books/Form_ordering_page.shtm).

## Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST) provides all MCPS students the opportunity to co-enroll in advanced academic, technical, and career programs. The mission of TEHST is to provide students with state-of-the-art technological, academic, and interpersonal skills needed to achieve excellence in their chosen fields of study. The variety of career development programs offered at TEHST allows students to explore and experience traditional and nontraditional career options and to prepare for a wide range of expanding and challenging postsecondary options. Students enroll in Thomas Edison programs through their home school and take courses at both the home school and at Thomas Edison. Bus transportation is provided. All programs offered at TEHST are state-approved and most meet the career development graduation requirement for students.

Registration packets are available from Thomas Edison, from local school counselors, and at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/edison/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/edison/).

## College Credit Available at Montgomery College for MCPS Students Who Complete Career Pathway Programs

MCPS graduates who successfully complete one of 38 career pathway programs may earn free college credit when receiving grades of "A" or "B" in courses articulated with Montgomery College (MC). Earned credits may be used toward an Associate degree at MC. For more information regarding the MC articulated credit for career pathway programs, contact your school counselor. MC offers financial aid to help pay tuition and fees to students who qualify. If you have questions about the 38 MCPS career pathway programs, you may call 301-309-MCPS (6277) for information regarding career pathway programs or visit the web site at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/). Please call 301-279-5000 at MC for college-related information, including information from the Financial Aid Office, and an application packet.

## Foundations Office Programs

The Foundations Office provides programs in partnership with three separate non-profit educational foundations: automotive, construction, and information technology. Each provides a liaison between the business/professional community and MCPS to promote and advance student education, training, and preparation for college and a full range of careers within the automotive, construction, and information technology industries. Additional information may be found at [www.foundationsoffice.org](http://www.foundationsoffice.org). All Foundation student programs provide opportunities to earn industry recognized credentials and also provide entrepreneurial experiences.

- **Automotive Trades Foundations Programs**

Automotive Trades Foundation Programs are located at Damascus, Thomas Edison, Gaithersburg, and Seneca Valley high schools. Three student-run car sales per school year are held, selling over 2000 renovated vehicles to date. Students donate one renovated vehicle yearly to a deserving Montgomery County organization.

- **Construction Trades Foundations Program**

Construction Trades Foundation Programs are located at Damascus and Thomas Edison high schools. Students design, construct, and market student-built houses; 37 houses have been built and sold thus far in Montgomery County.

- **Information Technology Programs**

Information Technology Programs are located at Clarksburg, Thomas Edison, and Rockville high schools. Students renovate, market, and sell donated computers to the community during three yearly sales. Students also donate a refurbished computer lab yearly to a deserving Montgomery County non-profit organization.

## High School Science/Mathematics/Computer Science Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair HS and Poolesville HS

Recognizing that education is an individual experience that depends on the unique talents and interests of each person, the mission of the MCPS High School Science/Mathematics/Computer Science Magnet Program is to provide an environment in which each person's education is maximized by emphasizing the interrelationships among the disciplines, developing a repertoire of problem-solving techniques, and pursuing both independent and collaborative research projects.

To realize this mission, the staff nurtures the special talents of its academically able students challenging those students through a unique, diversified curriculum by fostering individualism, independent thinking, and self-confidence. The environment, structure, and content promote the self-learner concept in which students participate in constructing their own knowledge base and learn problem-solving strategies that foster the multidisciplinary approach. This interdisciplinary approach to learning allows students to develop the ability to think precisely and creatively. The scope of their education extends beyond traditional classroom boundaries as students are asked to connect with a community that includes not only parents, mentors, other students, and staff, but also a physical environment as diverse as our region.

The curriculum is designed to enable each student to build a solid foundation in Grades 9 and 10. Core courses in these first two years include physics, chemistry, Earth science, biology, two years of computer science, two years of mathematics, and an interdisciplinary course entitled Research and Experimentation for Problem Solving. During their junior and senior years, students have opportunities to go beyond traditional high school offerings with more than 25 special courses and independent research projects.

Program descriptions, brochures, and applications can be found at the MCPS website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/magnets/science\\_math\\_compsci.shtm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/magnets/science_math_compsci.shtm).

## Blair/Poolesville Magnet Courses

Blair/Poolesville magnet courses are listed at the end of each departmental listing in this bulletin. Courses unique to the IB and Blair/Poolesville Magnet programs are included in the Interdisciplinary and Research Courses section within the departmental listings.

## The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programs in MCPS

The IB Diploma program is offered at

- Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (for students in the B-CC area)
- Einstein High School (for students in the Downcounty Consortium)
- Richard Montgomery High School (for students who are selected through a competitive county-wide application and selection process during their eighth grade year)
- Rockville High School (for students in the Rockville HS area)
- Springbrook High School (for students in the Northeast Consortium)
- Watkins Mill High School (for students in the Watkins Mill area)

The MCPS International Baccalaureate Program website, [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/ib.shtm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/ib.shtm), contains links to each school's program and admission process. The IB organization allows schools to develop individual programs within their subject specifications. Each of these MCPS schools has individualized its programs by unique selections in the IB electives and languages. Local school course listings will indicate those courses unique to a given school.

The IB countywide program at Richard Montgomery High School (RMHS) is designed for highly gifted students in Montgomery County and has an application process that occurs in Grade 8. John F. Kennedy (for students in the Downcounty Consortium) and Seneca Valley (for students in the Seneca Valley HS area) high schools are candidate schools for the IB program. Pending authorization, the IB program will be available at these two schools for students graduating in the year 2012 or later.

## International Baccalaureate Courses

IB courses are listed at the end of each departmental listing in this bulletin. Courses unique to the IB and Blair/Poolesville Magnet programs are included in the Interdisciplinary and Research Courses section within the departmental listings.

## Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College and The University System of Maryland Partnership Programs

### Programs for "College Ready" MCPS High School Students

"College ready" high school juniors or seniors may earn college credits while in high school through dual enrollment programs. Select high schools offer dual enrollment programs between MCPS and Montgomery College; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and University of Maryland,

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University Campus. Students may enroll in college courses offered at their home high school or on the college campus during the school day. Credits for these courses are fully transferable to the providing institution. Students must check with the college of their choice to ensure transferability at other institutions of higher education. Limited financial aid is available through the institutions' financial aid offices to help pay tuition and fees.

For information about dual enrollment programs contact your school counselor or go to the MCPS website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/studentpartnerships/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/studentpartnerships/). Montgomery College early placement programs can be accessed by all MCPS students by contacting the college admissions office at 240-567-5000.

## MC Ensembles Partnership Program

The MC Ensembles Partnership gives talented MCPS high school instrumental music students the opportunity to participate in the MC Symphony Orchestra or MC Wind Ensemble and empowers them to be service leaders in their community. For additional information, contact Dr. Jay Crowder, Music Department Chair, at 240-567-7554, [jay.crowder@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:jay.crowder@montgomerycollege.edu) or speak with your school's instrumental music teacher.

## Gateway to College Program at Montgomery College

The Gateway to College Program at MC serves high school students, 16-20 years old, for whom high school completion is at risk. To enroll, students must be significantly behind in credit attainment and have a GPA that is less than 2.0. Students attend classes on the college campus, simultaneously earning their high school diploma and an associate's degree or certificate. For more information about the Gateway to College Program, contact your school counselor, call or email Amy Crowley, Gateway to College at MC program director, at 301-610-4052 or [amy.crowley@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:amy.crowley@montgomerycollege.edu), or go to the website [www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/mcmcps/gateway/](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/mcmcps/gateway/).

## ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academies

Twelve Montgomery County Public Schools host free Saturday morning programs providing enrichment, tutoring, and mentoring for students in Grades 1-12. The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academies programs are also known as "Saturday Schools". The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. was established in 1986 by the Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as an outgrowth of the Saturday School Initiative of Blacks United for Excellence in Education. Saturday Schools are open to all students regardless of their home school. High school sites include Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, Gaithersburg, John F. Kennedy, Magruder, Northwest, Paint Branch, Rockville, Sherwood, Springbrook, Watkins Mill, and Wheaton.

For more information about Saturday Schools tutoring and the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academies, contact your local school or check the MCPS website, [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/gbtl/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/gbtl/).

## Student Online Learning/eLearning

MCPS Student eLearning provides an alternative for students to take high school courses outside of the traditional classroom setting. For more information or to enroll in an online class, see your counselor or visit the eLearning website, [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/onlinelearning/). At this site, students can learn more about eLearning in MCPS, review the titles of all courses approved by MCPS and MSDE for credit towards graduation, read the Frequently Asked Questions page, and take a tour of an online course.

## SUMMER SCHOOL

### Summer School 2010

The Regional Summer School Program provides an alternative for students to receive credit for select courses during the summer. The courses taught follow the same curriculum guidelines as those during the regular school year. Brochures for the 2010 Regional Summer School Program will be available in all schools by the last week of April 2010. Registration forms, tuition reduction waiver vouchers, and a copy of the summer school brochure will also be available on the MCPS website.

### Summer School Sites and Schedules

Summer School site locations and schedules will be advertised as soon as they are available. The sites for the Regional Summer School Program are selected based upon serving the needs of all students. All high schools can also develop their own Local School Program (LSP) to serve the needs of their specific population. The LSP operates independent of the Regional Summer School Program.

### Contact Information

Questions regarding Local School Programs should be directed to individual schools. Questions regarding the Regional Summer School Program should be directed to 301-279-3202.

Regional Summer School Program  
Carver Educational Services Center  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Fax: 301-517-5957



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND ADVANCED-LEVEL COURSES

6313/6314	Advanced Studio A/B
3310/3311	Algebra 2, Honors A/B
3761/3762	Anatomy and Physiology A/B (BC)
1899/1900	Arabic 3 A/B
6456/6457	Art History, Advanced Placement A/B
3641/3642	Biology, Advanced Placement A/B (BC)
3651/3652	Biology, Advanced Placement A/B (DP) (BC)
3452/3453	Calculus AB, Advanced Placement, A/B
3491/3492	Calculus BC, Advanced Placement, A/B
3356/3357	Calculus with Applications A/B
6385/6386	Ceramics/Sculpture 3 A/B
3751/3752	Chemistry, Advanced Placement A/B(DP) (PC)
3741/3742	Chemistry, Advanced Placement A/B (PC)
1879/1880	Chinese 5 A/B
1881/1882	Chinese 6 A/B
1929/1930	Chinese Language and Culture, Advanced Placement A/B
2989/2990	Computer Programming 1 A/B
4200/4201	Computer Programming 1 A/B
2901/2902	Computer Programming 2, Advanced Placement Computer Science A/B
2965/2966	Computer Programming 3—Advanced Topics in Computer Science A/B
2315	Economics, Macroeconomics, Advanced Placement
2316	Economics, Microeconomics, Advanced Placement
1015/1016	English Language and Composition, Advanced Placement, A/B
1017/1018	English Literature and Composition, Advanced Placement, A/B
3659/3660	Environmental Science, Advanced Placement A/B (SC)
3674/3675	Environmental Science, Honors A/B (DP) (SC)
3676/3677	Environmental Science, Honors A/B (SC)
3864/3865	Forensic Science A/B (SC)
1615/1625	French 5 A/B
1616/1626	French 6 A/B
1635/1636	French Language, Advanced Placement A/B
1965/1975	German 5 A/B
1966/1976	German 6 A/B
2132/2145	Government, Comparative Government and Politics A/B, Advanced Placement
2104/2105	Government, United States and Politics with NSL, Advanced Placement A/B
2131	Government, United States Government and Politics, Advanced Placement
2216/2217	History, European, Advanced Placement A/B
2114/2124	History, United States, Advanced Placement A/B
2240/2241	History, World, Advanced Placement A/B

2332/2333	Human Geography, Advanced Placement A/B
1794/1795	Italian 5 A/B
1843/1844	Japanese 5 A/B
1829/1830	Japanese 6 A/B
1539/1540	Japanese Language and Culture, Advanced Placement A/B
1819/1820	Latin, Vergil, Advanced Placement A/B
3657/3658	Molecular Biology A/B (BC)
3653/3654	Molecular Biology A/B (DP) (BC)
3048/3049	Multivariable Calculus and Differential Equations A/B
6547/6548	Music Theory and Composition, Advanced Placement
3837/3838	Physics B, Advanced Placement A/B (PC)
3839/3840	Physics C, Advanced Placement A/B (PC)
3851/3852	Physics, Advanced Placement A/B (DP) (PC)
3841/3842	Physics, Advanced Placement A/B (PC)
3350/3351	Precalculus, Honors A/B
5150/5151	Principles of Engineering A/B (T2/TE credit)
2330/2331	Psychology, Advanced Placement A/B
1153	Publications Editing, Layout, and Business Management
2981/2982	Research Project A/B
1859/1860	Russian 5 A/B
1861/1862	Russian 6 A/B
2225	Seminar in Peace Studies
2958	Software Design
1715/1725	Spanish 5 A/B
1716/1726	Spanish 6 A/B
1759/1760	Spanish Language, Advanced Placement A/B
1761/1762	Spanish Literature, Advanced Placement A/B
3320/3321	Statistics, Advanced Placement, A/B
6486	Studio Art 2-D, Advanced Placement
6487	Studio Art 2-D, Advanced Placement
6305/6306	Studio Art 3 A/B
6488	Studio Art 3-D, Advanced Placement
6489	Studio Art 3-D, Advanced Placement
6482	Studio Art Drawing, Advanced Placement
6484	Studio Art Drawing, Advanced Placement
7829	Superintendent's Leadership Program
7830	Superintendent's Leadership Program
7831	Superintendent's Leadership Program
7832	Superintendent's Leadership Program
1152	Techniques of Advanced Journalism
6490/6491	Visual Art Center A/B
6492/6493	Visual Art Center A/B

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA COURSES

1022/1023	Pre-IB English 9 A/B
1024/1025	Pre-IB English 10 A/B
1026/1027	IB English 1 A/B
1028/1029	IB English 2 A/B
1030	IB Extended Essay
1609/1610	Pre-IB French 2A/2B
1617/1618	Pre-IB French 3 A/B
1619/1620	IB French 4 A/B
1627/1628	IB French 5 A/B
1629/1630	IB French 6 A/B
1647	Pre-IB Chinese 2A/2B
1648	Pre-IB Chinese 2A/2B
1649	Pre-IB Chinese 3A/3B
1650	Pre-IB Chinese 3A/3B
1651/1652	IB Chinese 4 A/B
1653/1654	IB Chinese 5 A/B
1655/1656	IB Chinese 6 A/B
1657/1661	IB Chinese 7A/7B
1658/1662	IB French 7A/7B
1660/1664	IB Spanish 7A/7B
1717/1718	Pre-IB Spanish 3A/3B
1747/1748	Pre-IB Spanish 1A/1B
1749/1750	Pre-IB Spanish 2A/2B
1751/1752	IB Spanish 4 A/B
1753/1754	IB Spanish 5 A/B
1755/1756	IB Spanish 6 A/B
1863/1864	IB Russian 3 A/B
1865/1866	IB Russian 4 A/B

2007	Theory of Knowledge 1
2008	Theory of Knowledge 2
2011/2012	IB Theory of Knowledge 1/Extended Essay A/B
2133/2134	Pre-IB Government A/B
2230/2231	IB History 1 A/B
2232/2233	IB Psychology A/B
2234/2235	IB Economics A/B
2403/2404	IB History 2 A/B
2405/2406	IB Information Technology in a Global Society A/B
3208/3209	Pre-IB Geometry A/B
3306/3307	IB Analysis and Applications of Functions A/B
3410/3418	IB Math Studies A/B
3420/3424	IB Precalculus A/B
3496/3497	IB HL Mathematics A/B
3606/3607	IB Biology A/B
3634/3635	Pre-IB Biology A/B
3744/3745	Pre-IB Chemistry A/B
3746/3747	IB Chemistry 1 A/B
3757/3758	IB Environmental Systems A/B
3844/3845	IB Physics 1 A/B
3846/3847	IB Physics 2 A/B
6102/6103	IB Visual Arts 1 A/B
6107/6108	IB Visual Arts 2 A/B
6567/6568	IB Advanced Music A/B
8071/8072	IB Theater 1 A/B
8073/8074	IB Theater 2 A/B