



Parent and Student
Informational Guide to
MAGNET Programs
2011-2012



**Global Studies and
International Baccalaureate**
Edgewood High School



Harford Technical High School



**Natural Resources and Agricultural
Sciences**
North Harford High School



Science and Mathematics Academy
at Aberdeen High School

Welcome Parents, and Congratulations, Students!

You have come to an important point in your education. Now is the time when you have some very important choices to make about your high school studies, and it begins with finding out more about what's available.

The magnet program video offers you some introductory, yet critical, information about the options you have for high school study.

You are very fortunate - all 8th graders in Harford County have more choices than ever, including:

- **Global Studies / International Baccalaureate**
Edgewood High School
- **Harford Technical High School**
- **Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences**
North Harford High School
- **Science and Mathematics Academy**
Aberdeen High School

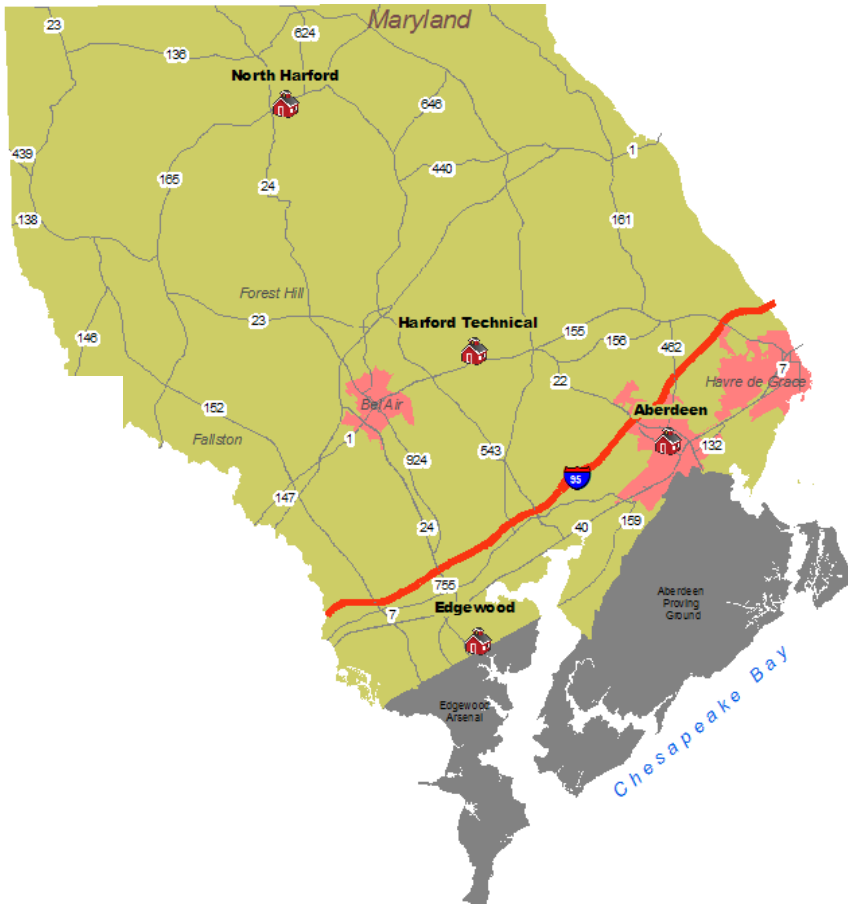
Explore your options, starting with this guidebook and the information in the video, to find which program is right for you!

The video is also available at www.hcps.org



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Magnet Program/School Locations in Harford County



A.A. Roberty Building
102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

410-838-7300 Fax 410-893-2478

Dr. Robert M. Tomback
Superintendent of Schools

Open House Dates

Open House is designed to give parents and students an in-depth look at the specific Magnet Program offered at that school. You will have the opportunity to hear more about the curriculum, meet teachers, students and parents currently involved with the Magnet Program, and see the school facilities. All questions regarding Open House events should be directed to the Program Specialists.

Science and Mathematics Academy

(Aberdeen High School)

October 19, 2011

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Program Specialist:

Ms. Sarah Voskuhl

410-273-5500

sarah.voskuhl@hcps.org

Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

(North Harford High School)

October 26, 2011

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Program Specialist:

Mr. Greg Murrell

410-638-3650

gregory.murrell@hcps.org

Global Studies and International Baccalaureate

(Edgewood High School)

November 2, 2011

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Program Specialist:

Mrs. Amy Woolf

410-612-1500

amy.woolf@hcps.org

Harford Technical High School

November 8, 2011

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. School-wide

Program Specialist:

Ms. Renie Valenti

410-638-3804

renie.valenti@hcps.org

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications will be available on-line at www.hcps.org beginning September 14, 2011.

TIMELINE

December 2, 2011	Closing date for applications
January - February 2012	Evaluation/interviews of candidates
March 5 - 9, 2012	Notification letters mailed
March 12 - 16, 2012	Families make final decision on program selection and notify appropriate Program Specialist(s).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Global Studies and International Baccalaureate (GSIB)

Edgewood High School
2415 Willoughby Beach Road
Edgewood, MD 21040
410-612-1500

Program Specialist: Amy Woolf
amy.woolf@hcps.org
Principal: Ms. L. Santos

Harford Technical High School (HTHS)

200 Thomas Run Road
Bel Air, MD 21015
410-638-3804

Program Specialist: Renie Valenti
renie.valenti@hcps.org
Principal: Mr. C. Hagan

Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (NRAS)

North Harford High School
211 Pylesville Road
Pylesville, MD 21132
410-638-3650

Program Specialist: Greg Murrell
gregory.murrell@hcps.org
Principal: Mr. E. Herbold

Science and Mathematics Academy (SMA)

Aberdeen High School
251 Paradise Road
Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-273-5500

Program Specialist: Sarah Voskuhl
sarah.voskuhl@hcps.org
Principal: Mr. M. O'Brien

Coordinator of Magnet Programs for HCPS

Mr. Frank Mezzanotte
102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-809-6069
frank.mezzanotte@hcps.org

7. If you are applying to IB, NRAS, or SMA, and you are an HCPS student, you will be asked to select teachers from a pull down menu. If two teachers are given, choose one.

- Regardless of program choice, each of your teachers will only need to fill out one recommendation form.
- Harford Tech does **not** require teacher recommendations.

Non-HCPS students will download the recommendation forms and give them to appropriate teachers to complete. Detailed instructions are provided on the website.

- Once your teacher has submitted a recommendation, it is applicable for **all** programs.

8. Next, you will be asked to submit your activities list. This can be done now or at a later time, but NOT later than December 2, 2011. Your application will not be considered until this step has been completed.

- This list only needs to be submitted once and is active for all programs to which you apply.
- Please provide information in the form of a bulleted **LIST**.
- Once you have submitted your activities list, you cannot go back to change it!

9. You will also be asked to write an essay for each of the programs you apply to (**with the exception of Harford Tech**). You may complete this now, or at a later time, but NOT later than December 2, 2011.

- Your application will not be considered until this step has been completed.
- Once you have submitted your essay, you cannot go back to change it!

10. Click "Submit Application." You may then return to the Home Page to apply to another program.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

***You can log back into your account at any time up until December 2nd to check the status of your application.**

***There is a place on the website, within your account, for you to withdraw your application to a particular program if you change your mind.**

*** Remember to see your school counselor if you need help.**

GUIDE TO THE ON-LINE APPLICATION

Applications will be available on-line at www.hcps.org beginning September 14, 2011.

1. Go to www.hcps.org

On the left side of the screen click on "Schools," "Magnet Programs," and "Application," or go to: www.hcps.org/magnetprograms/

First time users - "Click Here to Register"

2. Choose your middle school from the pull down menu or "other" if you are not currently a student in a Harford County public middle school.

- Fill in the required information to set up your account.
- **Double check your typing to ensure 100% accuracy!!**
- An email will arrive with your temporary password.
- You will be sent back to the main log on screen to continue.
- Log-on with your ID and temporary password - you will be prompted to change your password to something you can easily remember. You will need this information to log in to your account at any time in the future!!

3. There are four magnet programs from which to choose. More information on each of these programs can be found by clicking the link on this page. Once you have all the information you need, click "To Apply for Admission to a Magnet Program."

4. Read the Application Policy with your parent(s). Both statements at the end must be checked before you can continue.

5. For HCPS students, your information will appear. If everything is correct, click "Continue Application." If you need to make corrections, click "Edit my Information."

For non-HCPS students, please fill in all requested information.

6. You may apply to a maximum of **3** programs. Each application must be completed individually.

- For Harford Tech - choose ONE technical program
- For NRAS - choose your track in order of preference

Admissions Requirements

The following criteria are evaluated for each Magnet Program.

1. Academic achievement in middle school

- *Grades*
- *MSA and/or other standardized test scores*
- *SRI/Lexile scores*

2. Demonstrated interest and motivation for learning

- *Report card comments*
- *Teacher recommendations for GSIB, NRAS and SMA only*
- *School and community involvement*

3. Written communication skills

- *Written essay(s) for GSIB, NRAS and SMA only*

Additional, program-specific requirements:

Global Studies/International Baccalaureate

- Algebra I recommended, but not required

Harford Technical High School

- Attendance
- Demonstrated interest in a technical program

Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

- Algebra I recommended, but not required

Science and Mathematics Academy

- Algebra I (A & B) and Geometry must be successfully completed prior to entering the program. *Geometry may be taken during the summer before ninth grade.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. . .

1. Where should I turn in my application?

- For **ALL** applicants, this process is completed on-line.
- For non-HCPS students, transcripts must be sent to the Program Specialist at **each** program to which you apply.

2. What about teacher recommendation forms (for GSIB, NRAS & SMA only)?

- For HCPS students, this process is completed electronically.
- For non-HCPS students, teacher recommendation forms must be downloaded and given to the appropriate teachers. These must be returned (regardless of program choice) to:

Ms. Lyn Kautz
Harford County Public Schools
Office of Curriculum & Instruction
102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air MD 21014

3. Can I fax my application or letters of recommendation?

- No.

4. Can I apply to more than one magnet program?

- Yes, you may apply to a maximum of 3 programs.
- Keep in mind that each program has its own admission criteria and selection process.

5. How do I know if my application has been received?

- Notification will be sent via the email addresses provided on the application.

6. How will I find out about transportation?

- The HCPS Transportation Office will send a postcard in mid-August with all necessary information to those students attending a program outside of their attendance area.
- Students attending a program within their attendance area can find bus information on the HCPS website.
- Consolidated stops are used for all county-wide programs. This may involve using local elementary schools as bus stop locations and/or establishing stops at the entrances to developments.
- In some instances, ride times may exceed 45 minutes.
- There are no additional charges for transportation.

7. What about Harford County students who attend private schools or are home-schooled?

- You will access the application on-line as well. Follow the directions for “non-HCPS students”.

8. I want to apply, but I don’t currently live in Harford County. I am in the process of moving - what do I do?

- You may still apply. You must be a resident of Harford County when school starts. Proof of residency will be required when registering.

9. How can I improve my chances to attend a magnet program?

- Make sure the application is submitted on time and you are putting forth your best effort in middle school.

10. If I apply early do I have a better chance of admission?

- No. All applications received on or before the deadline are given the same consideration.

11. What if I receive accommodations through an IEP or 504 Plan?

- It is the policy of HCPS to afford equal opportunity in education to all students. Students receiving Special Education services or who have a 504 Plan are given the same consideration in the selection process as all other students.

12. I need help navigating the application process. Where can I receive help?

- Refer to our “Guide to the On-Line Application” on the next page.
- See your school counselor for help.

13. What if I change my mind and want to withdraw my application to a program?

- This can be completed on-line through the application website.

14. What if I’m on Home/Hospital teaching?

- You may still apply.
- Choose your assigned middle school on the application.