

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Parent and Student
Informational Guide to
MAGNET Programs
2009-2010



**Global Studies and
the International Baccalaureate Diploma
Program**



Harford Technical High School



**Natural Resources and Agricultural
Sciences**



Science and Mathematics Academy

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**
at Edgewood High School
- **Harford Technical High School**
- **Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences**
at North Harford High School
- **Science and Mathematics Academy**
at 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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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.

Global Studies and International Baccalaureate at Edgewood High School

Wednesday, November 4, 2009
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

Wednesday, November 11, 2009
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. School-wide

Program Specialist: Ms. Renie Valenti
410-638-3804 renie.valenti@hcps.org

Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences at North Harford High School

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Program Specialist: Mr. Greg Murrell
410-638-3650 gregory.murrell@hcps.org

Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 and Tuesday October, 27, 2009
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

Program Specialist: Mrs. Donna Clem
410-273-5500 donna.clem@hcps.org

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications will be available on-line at www.hcps.org beginning September 23, 2009

TIMELINE

December 4, 2009	Closing date for applications
March 1 - 5, 2010	Notification letters mailed
March 8 -12, 2010	Families make final decision on program selection and notify Program Specialists.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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
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Global Studies and International Baccalaureate (IB)

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
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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: Dr. D. Thomas
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Science and Mathematics Academy (SMA)

Aberdeen High School 251 Paradise Road Aberdeen, MD 21001 410-273-5500	Program Specialist: Donna Clem donna.clem@hcps.org Principal: Mr. T. Szerensits
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Coordinator of Magnet Programs for HCPS

Mr. Frank Mezzanotte
102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-838-6069
frank.mezzanotte@hcps.org

Admission 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 (IB, NRAS and SMA only)*
- *School and community involvement*

3. Written communication skills

- *Written essay(s)*

Program specific requirements:

Global Studies/International Baccalaureate

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

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 HCPS students, this process is completed on-line.
- For non-HCPS students, the application is still completed on-line.
- Transcripts need to be sent to the Program Specialist of **each** program to which you apply.

2. What about my teacher recommendation forms?

- 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 will all be returned (*regardless of program choice*) to:

Amy Woolf
Edgewood High School
2415 Willoughby Beach Road
Edgewood, MD 21040

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 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.
 - Bus stops are consolidated.
 - There are no additional charges for transportation.
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7. What about Harford County students who attend private schools?

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

8. I want to apply, but 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 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.

GUIDE TO THE ON-LINE APPLICATION

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 HCPS.

- Fill in the required information to set your password.
- 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.

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 continuing.

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 the requested information.

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

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

7. HCPS students, you will be asked to select teachers from a pull down menu. If two teachers are given, choose one.

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

Non-HCPS students, will download the recommendation form and give to 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 4, 2009. 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.
- 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 4, 2009. Your application will not be considered until this step has been completed.

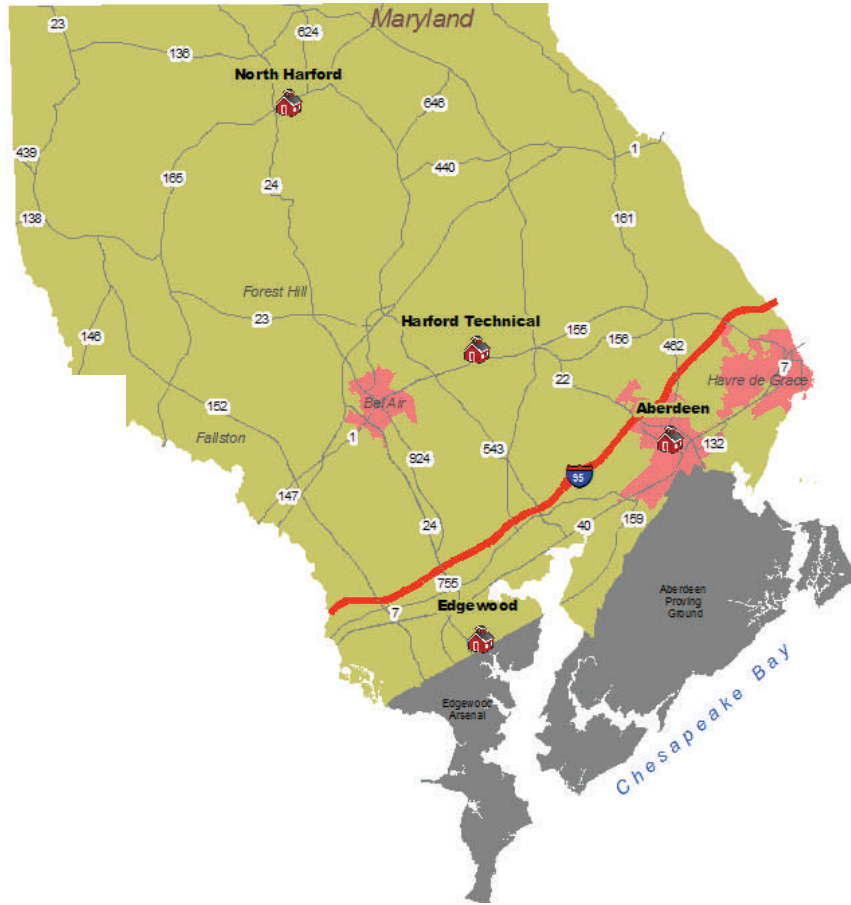
10. Click "Submit Application." You may then return to the Home Page to apply to another program.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

****You can log back into your account at any time up until December 4th to check the status of your application.***

****There is also a place 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.***



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102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-7300 Fax 410-893-2478
Dr. Robert Tomback
Superintendent of Schools