Parent and Student Informational Guide to
Magnet Programs 2019-2020

Global Studies
International Baccalaureate
Edgewood High School

Harford Technical High School

Natural Resources Agriculture Science
North Harford High School

Science and Mathematics Academy
Aberdeen High School

Information Technology
Oracle Academy
Harve De Grace 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

- **Information Technology Oracle Academy**  
  Havre De Grace High School

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

---

The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic identification, political affiliation, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Inquiries related to the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County should be directed to the Manager of Communications, **410-588-5203**.
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 appropriate Program Specialists.

**Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences**  
(North Harford High School)  
**October 26, 2019**  
9:00 am—12:00 pm  
Program Specialist: Mr. Greg Murrell  
410-638-3650  
Gregory.Murrell@hcpss.org

**Science and Mathematics Academy**  
(Aberdeen High School)  
**November 6, 2019**  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium  
Program Specialist: Ms. Sarah Ashley  
410-273-5500  
Sarah.Ashley@hcpss.org

**Harford Technical High School**  
**November 5, 2019**  
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. School-wide  
Program Specialist: Mrs. Jeanne Donlick  
410-638-3804  
Jeanne.Donlick@hcpss.org

**Global Studies and International Baccalaureate**  
(Edgewood High School)  
**November 7, 2019**  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium  
Program Specialist: Laura Childs  
410-612-1500  
Jamie.Childs@hcpss.org
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications will be available on-line at www.hcps.org beginning October 23, 2019.

TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2019</td>
<td>Closing date for applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - February 2020</td>
<td>Evaluation of candidates*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2020</td>
<td>Notification sent to all applicants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Global Studies and International Baccalaureate (GSIB)
Edgewood High School
2415 Willoughby Beach Road
Edgewood, MD 21040
410-612-1500
Program Specialist: Laura Childs
Jamie.Childs@hcps.org
Principal: Mr. K. Mack

Harford Technical High School (HTHS)
200 Thomas Run Road
Bel Air, MD 21015
410-638-3804
Principal: Mr. J. Collins
Jeanne.Donlick@hcps.org

Information Technology Oracle Academy
700 Congress Avenue
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
410-939-6600
Program Specialist: Robert Scott
Robert.Scott@hcps.org
Principal: Mr. J. Reynolds

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. B. Pawlicki

Science and Mathematics Academy (SMA)
Aberdeen High School
251 Paradise Road
Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-273-5500
Program Specialist: Sarah Ashley
Sarah.Ashley@hcps.org
Principal: Mr. M. Quigg

Supervisor of Magnet and CTE Programs
102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-588-5244
Robert.Limpert@hcps.org

7. TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Non-HCPS students will download the recommendation forms and email them to appropriate middle school teachers to complete. Completed forms must be emailed to each Program Specialist(s) for the program(s) to which you are applying. Email addresses are on page 4 of this booklet and on the recommendation form.

8. Next, you will be asked to submit your ACTIVITY LIST. This can be done now or at a later time, but NOT later than December 1, 2019. 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 Activity 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. You may complete this now, or at a later time, but NOT later than December 1, 2019.

- 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 1st to review 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 ONLINE APPLICATION

Applications will be available online at www.hcps.org beginning October 23, 2019.

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 five magnet programs from which to choose. 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 HCPS magnet programs. Each application must be completed individually. Note:
   - For Harford Tech - choose ONE technical program
   - For NRAS - choose your pathways in order of preference

Admission Requirements

These minimum criteria are evaluated during initial screenings of each Magnet Program applicant. Beyond these, each program uses additional evaluation and screenings during the months of January and February to determine the competitiveness and admission status of each applicant. You will receive further information from each Program Specialist as appropriate.

1. **Academic achievement in middle school, to include:**
   - Grades
   - Standardized test scores
   - Scholastic Reading Index (SRI)/Lexile scores

2. **Demonstrated interest and motivation for learning:**
   - Report card comments
   - Teacher recommendations
   - School and community involvement (Activity List)

3. **Written communication skills**
   - Written essay(s)

**Additional, program-specific requirements:**

**Global Studies/International Baccalaureate**
   - Algebra 1 must be successfully completed prior to entering
   - Strongly recommend successful completion of Geometry

**Harford Technical High School**
   - Attendance
   - Consideration for honors placement is based on 7th/8th grade standardized test scores and HTHS placement testing
   - Consideration for Advanced Placement is based on middle school teacher’s recommendation
   - See application for program-specific requirements

**Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and Information Technology**
   - **Algebra 1** recommended, but not required

**Science and Mathematics Academy**
   - Algebra 1 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 online.
   • For non-HCPS students, middle school transcripts and test scores must be sent to the Program Specialist at each program to which you apply.

2. What about teacher recommendation forms?
   • For HCPS students, this process is completed electronically.
   • For non-HCPS students, teacher recommendation forms must be downloaded and emailed to current middle school teachers (as noted on the recommendation form). Completed recommendations should then be emailed to the appropriate Program Specialist for each magnet program to which you apply (emailing information for each Program Specialist can be found on page 4 of this booklet).

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. *You may apply to only one program at Harford Technical High School; multiple applications to different technical programs, from the same student, are not accepted.

5. How do I know if my application has been received?
   Please note all important communication from Harford County Public Schools, and from the Program Specialist at each Magnet Program, will come to you via EMAIL. It is imperative you enter a FUNCTIONING, frequently checked, and correctly typed email address on the application; the parent’s and the student’s emails are strongly encouraged on the application. The following information is relayed to applicants and parent(s) via email:
   1. Initial acknowledgment of receipt of your application;
   2. Periodic updates regarding evaluation and screening of the application;
   3. Notifications regarding further assessment/testing; and
   4. Notification of admissions status throughout the admissions process.

   Notification will be sent via the email addresses provided on the application. Set your email to accept correspondence from webmaster@hcps.org. In addition, allow your email to accept messages from the appropriate Program Specialist(s) noted on pages 3 & 4 of this booklet. This will prevent your SPAM filter from automatically deleting these emails.

6. How will I find out about transportation?
   Please visit http://www.hcps.org/departments/operations/transportation.aspx for the most up to date information about Harford County Public Schools Transportation guidelines for magnet programs.

7. What about Harford County students who attend private schools or are home-schooled?
   You will access the application online 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 of acceptance to a magnet program?
   Make sure the complete application is submitted on time and you are putting forth your best effort in middle school.

10. What if I have not been enrolled in a Harford County public middle school for ALL or part of grades 6, 7, and/or 8?
   Parent(s) will send all transcript information from the school/setting outside of HCPS, directly to the appropriate Program Specialist(s).

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 with the application process. Where can I get help?
   • Refer to our “Guide to the Online Application” on the next page.
   • See your School Counselor for help; you may also contact the appropriate Program Specialist.

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.