

**10/15/2020 Question and Answers from the Magnet Information Night Live Event**

Q. What are all the magnet programs all about?

*All the information and links to our programs can be found at <https://www.hcps.org/Schools/MagnetPrograms/Default.aspx>*

Q. What do P-Tech specialize in?

*The P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) Program combines the best elements of high school, college, and work-based learning. Students are immersed in high school as well as college courses while working in the field of Computer Information Systems or Cyber Security. The program empowers students to pursue advanced education and to be financially successful in a global economy. The program meets the needs of every high school student who wishes to graduate from high school with a free college degree in either four, five, or six years. It is offered at Joppatowne High School in partnership with Harford Community College and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command on Aberdeen Proving Ground, offering students paid internships and individualized mentorship throughout their educational journey. The program is open source meaning any rising ninth grader may apply.*

Q. What was the website you mentioned in the beginning. [hcp.s.org/schools/magnetprogram/](https://www.hcps.org/schools/magnetprogram/)? nothing came up, may not have it correct.

<https://www.hcps.org/schools/MagnetPrograms/PTech.aspx>

Q. When reviewing students' GPAs and Grades, are the Middle School grades only, or are Elementary School grades reviewed as well?

*Only middle school grades will be reviewed.*

Q. Recommendation from athletic coaches or volunteer experiences in the application submission?

*Academic endorsements are used in our application process only*

Q. So is this for high school?

*Yes, this is for current 8th graders applying for specialty programs, "Magnets" in our high schools.*

Q. Do P-Tech and ITOA have academic requirements?

*Algebra I is recommended for ITOA, but not required. PTECH does not have additional academic requirements currently.*

Q. For teacher endorsements, if you are a current HCPS student but were not a student in HCPS for 7th grade what should you do?

*The application will default to grade 8 staff if no grade 7 staff is available.*

Q. How do u unblock webmaster email so that you see it if you get an email

*This can be set by clicking on an email from [webmaster@hcps.or](mailto:webmaster@hcps.or) and accepting this sender*

Q. What if the student's 7th grade teachers are no longer employed with hcps, who else would suffice for endorsements?

*Our system will default to the student's counselor at his or her school in this case*

Q. Where is PTECH Housed?

*Joppatowne High School*

Q. Do you have to attend Joppatowne high school to do early college?

*The early college PTECH program is only available at Joppatowne High.*

Q. Is there an Arts program within Harford County?

*Not as a Magnet program, but each high school offers Art courses including performing arts.*

Q If I were to apply to the IB magnet program, how much would I be able to focus on my technical skill in art?

*You can take art elective courses that Edgewood High School offers each year that you are in high school. Once you are in your junior year in the IB program, you can take an intense two-year higher-level course in the study of Visual Arts. We also offer IB Drama and IB Film courses.*

Q. If students want to do a sport and go further like in soccer, is there a skill for that like in Harford Tech or is that an extra class or it is an outside school thing?

*Students that attend HTHS will also play sports or join clubs and activities at HTHS. We play verse other schools in the county.*

Q. Once accepted into one of the pending high schools, will transportation be provided, or will the student have to get their own transportation from their home school?

*Transportation is provided to all students attending Magnet schools. Additional details can be found:*

*[https://www.hcps.org/Schools/docs/MagnetPrograms/Magnet\\_Program\\_Transportation\\_Guide\\_lines.pdf](https://www.hcps.org/Schools/docs/MagnetPrograms/Magnet_Program_Transportation_Guide_lines.pdf)*

Q. Would it be a possibility to not make it to a high school if you do not volunteer or do any community work.

*Yes, the activities list is only one part of the application process.*

Q. Can you share the racial demographics for SMA and IB?

The International Baccalaureate Program at EHS and the Science and Mathematics Academy at AHS are part of our larger school communities. Both the magnet programs and the schools themselves are diverse.

Q. If I want to be a veterinarian which program would better fit my kid?

*The Natural Resources and Agricultural Science program at North Harford High.*

Q. Does any of the magnet programs have classes for journalism?

*Journalism is a class offering at all our Magnet programs*

Q. Is there a ROTC program?

*Not at this point but we are in discussions with MSDE and DoD.*

Q. Which magnet school would be best for somebody who wants to go into business?

*The Ib program at Edgewood High School has the option for students to study finance through our Academy of Finance at Edgewood High.*

Q. Could you reiterate the math course requirements for each program?

*All programs can be found on page 5*

<https://www.hcps.org/Schools/docs/MagnetPrograms/ParentAndStudentInformationGuideToMagnets2020-21.pdf>

Q. For teacher endorsements, if you are a current HCPS student but were not a student in HCPS for 7th grade what should you do?

*The application will default to grade 8 staff if no grade 7 staff is available.*

Q. Is it hard to get into these programs?

*Each Magnet program has specific requirement for admission which can be challenging.*

Q. Are there are plans for magnet programs for middle school students or what programs are currently available for middle school students

*Harford County does not offer Magnet programs for middle school students currently. Each middle school offers students a variety of unified arts content for students to explore interests.*

Q. I see there is cyber security at HT, P-Tech and at HdG what is the difference in these?

*HT is a Cisco focused program, PTECH is focused on Information Technology and an Associates Degree while HdGHS is an Oracle focused program*

Q. Are there any programs for psychology?

*Not currently*

Q. What if we have letters of recommendation from our teachers from 7th and 6th grade

*Endorsements are from current 7<sup>th</sup> grade staff only. The application will pull these staff member from the student's prior schedule. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will not be an option.*

Q. Does Harford Tech or Edgewood High school have sports?

*All our Magnet schools offer both Junior varsity and Varsity athletics to all students.*

Q. When is the open house date for the IB Program?

*October 27, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM [Click here for access](#)*

Q. How many paragraphs should be included in the essay?

*The essay should be as short or long as the student feels to answer the prompt.*

Q. Can you go to P-Tech if you are a current 10th grader?

*The PTECH program is only accepting application for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.*

Q. What about kids coming from private school in terms of getting a recommendation?

*Private school students will be asked to provide contact information for teacher endorsement as a prt of their application as a Non-HCPS applicant.*

Q. What average GPA are the International Bacculaureate and the Science and Math Academy looking for?

*GPA is one of the criteria that is reviewed during the application process. Programs do not have GPA requirement for admission.*

Q. What if the student's 7th grade teachers are no longer employed with hcps, who else would suffice for endorsements?

*Our system will default to the student's counselor at his or her school in this case*

Q. How can I find more information on the nursing program in Hartford Tech?

*Plan to attend the Harford Tech open house on October 22 at 6:30 to 8:00 PM [Click here for access](#)*

Q. how do we tell teachers to recommend us?

*Teachers that are selected for endorsements by applicants are notified via email that they have Magnet application endorsements to be completed.*

Q What GPA is required for ITOA program?

*Programs do not have GPA requirements. GPA is one criterion that is reviewed.*

Q. Do you take into consideration the student's GPA from 6th to 8th grade?

*Student GPA is one of the criteria used for reviewing applicants*

Q. Can I ask a 6th grade teacher for a recommendation letter?

*Endorsements are from current 7th grade staff only. The application will pull these staff members from the student's prior schedule. 6th grade will not be an option.*

Q. Can students entering middle school attend the upcoming open houses, or do they have to wait?

*Open House events are open for all students and their families' grade from all grades*

Q. In what grade can you apply?

*Students in grade 8 are eligible to apply for our Magnet programs only.*

Q. For Havre De Grace, Algebra is recommended but not required. Does the selection prioritize kids who have Algebra background?

*Completion of the Algebra recommendation does benefit applications to the ITOA program*

Q. If we are doing a magnet program at a school, do we need to go to that school for regular classes?

*All HCPS and MSDE course and graduation requirements are completed as a part of the Magnet program admission to a school and program.*

Q. What program would offer graphic design and computer engineering.

*Harford Technical High School offers a Graphic Design program. Computer engineering would be covered in the PTECH program and Cyber Program at Harford Technical.*

Q. Is there an animal science program at Tech?

*All our Animal Science programs have been consolidated at the NRAS program at North Harford High School – They now offer two options- Small and Large Animal Science.*

Q. If you attend a private school, are you at a disadvantage? Our school ends at 8th grade, so do we register for whatever our home school would be?

*All applications are assigned a number and are treated equally throughout the process. If you are not offered a position in one of the programs that is applied for the student would register at their community high school for grade 9.*

Q. What about a homeschooling student - does the student need an alternative teacher endorsement aside from a parent who may be serving as teacher?

*The home school endorsement is acceptable. If any other instructor has worked with the child, this person can also be listed.*

Q. Are there advanced classes at North Harford? Such as advanced Math?

*All our Magnet programs offer advanced course options. These would include AP courses and some possible HCC dual enrollment based on individual program requirements.*

Q. I am a non-HCPS, in person learner, so I should I use my eighth-grade teachers for my endorsements?

*We are asking that endorsements be from grade 7 if possible.*

Q. Is there a way to obtain a list of the depot spots.

*Depot spots are normally at the community high schools or public library. These are determined by the number of students using the depot and the Magnet program.*

Q Will teacher recommendations be accepted from out-of-state school? We are new to the area and this will be our child's first year in Harford county.

*For student new to HCPS, endorsements will be accepted from grade 8 staff.*

Q. What if a student is interested in different programs at tech, ex. CAD and CAM

*Please plan to attend the Open house for Harford Technical High on October 22, 2020. [Click her to attend](#)*

Q. What would be the best school for my child if she wants to be a chemist or go in the direction of the science field?

*The Science and Mathematics Academy offer the opportunity for expanded study in the fields of science.*

Q. If taking part of the Havre De Grace Academy, and we choose to continue with college academic courses when given the choice, must we take courses related to the courses that we covered in our experience at the Havre De Grace school?

*Students are to complete all requirements for the completion of their program of study and graduation. In some cases, this can be done with dual enrollment college classes. Once these requirements are fulfilled the student could pursue additional college courses.*

Q. When will the applications be posted so see what they will look like?

*The application will post and open on October 19, 2020. [Click here to apply](#)*

Q. Can you speak about the activity list again? Did you say a recreation sport can count towards that?

*For the Activity List are of our application we would like a bulleted list of activities that the students have participated in over the last 3 years (middle school). This can include rec sports, church activities, volunteering, clubs etc.*

Q. How many seats are there in each program.

*Please see page 10 of the Parent and Student Information Guide to Magnet Programs. [Click here](#)*

Q. Are all open houses virtual?

*Yes, due to COVID 19 restriction. [Click here](#) for access to our document that has the embedded links on each program's logo*

Q. What is the percentage of students that typically get accepted county wise?

*Please see page 10 of the Parent and Student Information Guide to Magnet Programs. [Click here](#)*