



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS DCC High School Information (Virtual) Session *Lottery (choice) and Academy Presentation* September 2024

### 1. What is the Downcounty Consortium?

The Downcounty Consortium is comprised of five high schools for students who live in the DCC attendance area or attend a DCC middle school. The five high schools include Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton High Schools. Current Grade 8 students who live in the DCC or attend a DCC middle school are eligible to be assigned to a DCC high school. Students who reside in the area **MUST** submit a Choice form to be assigned to a high school for the following school year.

### 2. Which academies are offered at the DCC high schools and who can I contact for more information about academies?

#### **Montgomery Blair HS: 51 University Boulevard, East, Silver Spring, MD 20901**

- ❖ Entrepreneurship and Business Management
- ❖ Human Services Professions
- ❖ International Studies & Law
- ❖ Media, Music, and The Arts
- ❖ Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- ❖ For more information:
  - o Visit [www.mbhs.edu](http://www.mbhs.edu)
  - o Email Academy Coordinator: Beth Sanchez; [Beth\\_S\\_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Beth_S_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org)
  - o Attend Open House on Monday, September 30, 2024, 6 pm

#### **Albert Einstein HS: 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington, MD 20895**

- ❖ International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme
- ❖ Academy of Finance, Careers & Technology
- ❖ Renaissance Academy for College Readiness
- ❖ Visual and Performing Arts Academy
- ❖ Teacher Academy of Maryland
- ❖ For more information:
  - o Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/einsteinhs/academies/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/einsteinhs/academies/)
  - o Email Academy Coordinator: Tricia Gooley [Tricia\\_Gooley@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tricia_Gooley@mcpsmd.org)
  - o Attend Open House on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7 p.m.
  - o Visual Arts Center (VAC) at 6:00 p.m.

#### **John F. Kennedy HS: 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902**

- ❖ Healthcare Professions
- ❖ Broadcast Journalism & Communications
- ❖ Business Administration & Management
- ❖ International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme
- ❖ Teacher Academy of Maryland

- ❖ Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC)
- ❖ For more information:
  - o Visit [www.JFKAcademies.org](http://www.JFKAcademies.org)
  - o Email Academy Coordinator: Katie Beckett [Katherine\\_L\\_Beckett@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katherine_L_Beckett@mcpsmd.org)
  - o Attend Open House on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

**Northwood @ Woodward: 11211 Old Georgetown Road Rockville, MD 20852**

- ❖ Humanities, Art & Media
- ❖ Music, Theatre & Dance
- ❖ Politics, Advocacy, & Law
- ❖ Technological, Environmental, & Systems Sciences
- ❖ Finance, Accounting, Marketing, & Education
- ❖ Montgomery College Middle College Program @ Northwood (MC)<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ For more information:
  - o Visit <https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/northwoodacademies/home>
  - o Email Academy Coordinator: Holly Jones; [Holly\\_M\\_Jones@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Holly_M_Jones@mcpsmd.org)
  - o Attend Open House on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 7:00 p.m.  
(MC)<sup>2</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Wheaton HS: 12401 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906**

- ❖ Bioscience
- ❖ Engineering
- ❖ Information Technology
- ❖ Global Studies
- ❖ For more information:
  - o Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/academies/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/academies/)
  - o Email Academy Coordinator: Lisa Gerhardt; [Lisa\\_Gerhardt@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lisa_Gerhardt@mcpsmd.org)
  - o Attend Open House on Thursday, September 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

**3. What is the choice process timeline?**

- September/October
  - o Virtual Information Session
  - o DCC *Choice* lesson at DCC middle schools
  - o Open Houses at all five DCC high schools (*see high school's home page the night of the event to view the event*)
  - o *Choice* form submission instructions mailed to students' homes (mid-October)
  - o DCC private/non-MCPS students pre-enrollment process – email [DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org](mailto:DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org) to begin the process
- November
  - o Round 1 - *Choice* Form submission deadline– **November 1, 2024**
- January
  - o High school assignment letters mailed to students' homes in late January
- February
  - o Students register for high school courses



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### **4. When will the choice form link become available?**

The choice form link will become available once instructions are mailed to DCC MCPS residing students in mid-October. The student's MCPS google account will be needed to access the form.

Private school families will be provided a choice form once the pre-registration process is complete and all registration documents have been received.

### **5. What do all of the DCC high schools have in common?**

All schools have a comprehensive program, interesting and challenging coursework, honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, special education and ELD programs, partnerships with universities, colleges, businesses, and internships.

### **6. What is an academy program?**

A sequence of related courses designed around a central theme, a program of study that helps students make meaningful connections between their academics and their personal interests and make plans for post-high school and future careers

### **7. What is a student's base high school?**

Base high school is determined by a student's home address. To determine a student's base high school, visit: <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/SchoolAssignmentTool2/Index.xhtml>. Assignment to the base high school is guaranteed if selected 1<sup>st</sup> on *Choice* form or selected as 2<sup>nd</sup> choice if the 1<sup>st</sup> choice school is unavailable

### **8. What is Round 2 and who is eligible to participate?**

Round 2 is the second opportunity for students and parents to participate in the *Choice* process, for the upcoming school year. Round 2 is available to students who did not get their first choice in Round 1, students on transfer within the DCC, and new students to the DCC area.

### **9. How can I participate in Round 2?**

If you did not get your first choice in Round 1, you can complete a "Resubmit Form" on-line requesting participation in Round 2. Original choices will be re-entered. Re-entry of choices does not guarantee first choice in Round 2. Choices may NOT be changed from Round 1 to Round 2. If you are a new student to the DCC area since the Round 1 deadline, you can submit a completed Choice form using your student google account by the deadline for Round 2 which is Feb. 7, 2025.

### **10. How do students who live outside the DCC but attend a DCC middle school participate in DCC *Choice*?**

Transfer students have the option to participate in Round 2 of the lottery which occurs in early February. They will receive choice form submission instructions in the mail in mid-January. Round 2 forms need to be submitted by Feb. 7, 2025 and Round 2 assignment letters are mailed out in March.

### **11. Do students who apply to an interest or criteria-based application only program still need to complete a lottery *choice* form?**

Yes. The application process is a completely different process from the lottery *Choice* process.

### **12. If I am assigned a DCC or NEC school and I move within the DCC or NEC, can I change schools?**

Student reassignment in the consortium occurs only through the Change of Choice process (lottery/Round 2) or through an appeal. Students who move within the consortium stay at their assigned school as bus transportation for students 2 miles or more from assigned school is provided.

**Visit the DCC Website for additional information:** <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/>

Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS)

11721 Kemp Mill Road Silver Spring, MD 20902

240-740-7800

[DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org](mailto:DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org)



