



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/)

August 29, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 8 Students:

As the new school year kicks off, we are excited to share information regarding new high school opportunities. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has engaged in significant school reform work since 2016 beginning with enriched and accelerated programming in elementary schools, middle schools, and now on to our high schools. A fundamental belief of this work is that all of our students should have a variety of rigorous and engaging academic options along with opportunities to build the foundational skills of literacy, numeracy and critical thinking at high levels. It is our commitment to provide opportunities for students to develop their potential and skills at every grade level.

As a result of this work, we are excited to announce new regional high school programs. In addition to the numerous local, regional, and countywide high school options currently available, Grade 8 students (eligibility varies) may be able to apply to the following high school programs opening in 2020–2021:

- Regional Career Readiness Programs at Seneca Valley High School
- Regional Career Readiness Programs at Wheaton High School/Thomas Edison High School of Technology
- Regional International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme at John F. Kennedy High School
- Regional IB Diploma Programme at Springbrook High School
- Regional IB Diploma Programme at Watkins Mill High School
- IB Career Program: Project Lead the Way Engineering at Rockville High School
- IB Career Program: Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences at Rockville High School

As you learn more about your high school options this fall, consider the vast array of opportunities at your local high school and the regional/countywide program. Most of MCPS' families choose the options at their local high school. Additional information will be available to you in early October in your MyMCPS portal (document library on the left navigation bar). If you have questions about the myMCPS parent portal account, please contact your child's school. Grade 8 students will receive a personalized regional/countywide eligibility report. This report will list the regional/countywide programs your student is eligible for along with the common high school application web link. This year families can apply using one link and will receive one notification.

We are excited about these new options and invite you to attend the High School Preview Night for your high school cluster community. Presentations begin at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- September 19, 2019—Preview at Richard Montgomery High School.  
For the following high school clusters: Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Winston Churchill, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Sherwood, Walt Whitman, and Wootton.
- September 25, 2019—Preview at Watkins Mill High School.  
For the following high school clusters: Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill.
- September 26, 2019—Preview at John F. Kennedy High School (Choice Presentation at 6:30 p.m. and High School Preview Presentation at 7:30 p.m.)  
For the five Downcounty Consortium schools: Albert Einstein, Montgomery Blair, John F. Kennedy, , Northwood, and Wheaton
- October 2, 2019—James Hubert Blake High School (Choice Presentation at 6:30 p.m. and High School Preview Presentation at 7:30 p.m.)  
For the three Northeast Consortium schools: James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch, and Springbrook.

This is an opportunity to receive an overview about the various programs available to high school students. In addition, regional/countywide programs will host an open house in October for interested students and parents/guardians. Presentations will be live streamed on the MCPS website. Information will be presented in both English and Spanish. For a complete list of high school regional/countywide application programs, Frequently Asked Questions, and October high school regional/countywide programs open houses, visit <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/>.

Sincerely,

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.  
Chief Academic Officer