



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION Class of 2023

Directions

1. Fill out and sign Form A. Parent/guardian signature also required.
2. Complete and sign Form B. Parent/guardian signature also required.
3. Fill out Form C and attach a copy of your Grade 7 report card.
4. Give Form D-1 to your Grade 8 English teacher, and Form D-2 to the teacher of your choice (preferably to someone who has taught you in 7th or 8th grade). Give Form D-3 to your guidance counselor. **Give them to your teachers and counselor immediately.**
5. **Mail or hand deliver Forms A, B and C (with a copy of your Grade 7 final report card) to the Communication Arts Program at Blair.** If mailed, the application packet must be postmarked by **November 2, 2018**. If hand-delivered, the application must be in Blair's main office by **3:00 pm on November 2, 2018**.

IMPORTANT: All forms must be received by the deadline for you to be considered for a place in the program. **Due to the volume of applications, we cannot confirm receipt.** We recommend that you send the application by registered mail unless you are dropping it off in person. Call the CAP office at 301-649-2854 with any questions.

PLEASE MAIL TO

Ms. Sarah Fillman, CAP Coordinator
Montgomery Blair High School
51 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 2, 2018

Qualifications

Students who apply to the Communication Arts Program should

1. live in the Downcounty Consortium (DCC) or attend a DCC feeder middle school.
2. have at least a 2.75 GPA.
3. be enrolled in honors English and Social Studies (if offered at their middle school).

Selection and Notification

Admission to the CAP is very competitive. Highly motivated gifted and talented students are encouraged to apply. Multiple criteria are used to evaluate candidates, including teacher recommendations, written statements from candidates, previous grades and coursework, test scores, and achievements. Notification of selection decisions should occur by mail to each parent/student by early to mid-February, 2019.

Application Test

Applicants will be tested at Blair High School on **December 1, 2018 from 8–11 a.m.** Please reserve that date. The same test is administered for the Montgomery Blair Magnet Program, the Richard Montgomery IB Program, the Poolesville High School Magnet Program, and the Communication Arts Program. Students applying to more than one application sit for the same test.

Important Testing Information

1. Applicants must report to Montgomery Blair High School between 7:45-8:00 a.m. on December 1, 2018. Testing should be completed around 11:00 a.m. Since there is no waiting area, parents should plan to pick up students from the cafeteria parking lot (University Blvd.) at 11:00 a.m.
2. At the time of testing, students are asked to sign a statement indicating they feel well enough to complete the testing session. If a student is ill on the day of testing, the parent should not bring him or her to the testing site. Instead, the parent should call the program coordinator on the next school day to reschedule.
3. All applicants must report to their assigned testing site on **December 1, 2018, between 7:45-8:00 a.m. (SNOW DATE: December 8, 2018)**. No contact will be made to confirm this testing date. (Students who are unable to test on Saturday because of religious or other special reasons will be able to test on **Sunday, December 2, 2018**, at Richard Montgomery High School with a **SNOW DATE** of December 9, 2018. Written requests for the alternate test date must be submitted to the program coordinator by **November 2, 2018**. A telephone contact from the coordinator will confirm testing on this alternate date.)

Testing Accommodations

If the applicant requires testing accommodations, a copy of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan that specifies the accommodations **MUST** be submitted with the application. The program coordinator will contact the applicant or parent/guardian to discuss accommodations and times.

Special needs testing: December 2, 2018, 8:00–11:00 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School (SNOW DATE: December 9, 2018).

Personal Information

Student Name _____

MCPS ID# _____

Home Address _____

_____ **Please include Zip code**

Date of Birth _____

Home High School _____

Current Middle School _____

Home Middle School _____

Home Phone _____

Parents/Guardians

_____ work/cell phone: _____

_____ work/cell phone: _____

Parent/Guardian e-mail _____

Are you applying to the

_____ **IB Program at Richard Montgomery?**

_____ **Science/Math/Computer Science Magnet at Blair?**

_____ **Any House at the Whole School Magnet at Poolesville High School?**

_____ **Other program/s? (list here: _____).**

_____ **The Communication Arts Program ONLY?**

IEP/504

Parents of students who currently receive special education services or testing accommodations under Section 504 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) **MUST** include a copy of the applicant’s plan. Accommodations must be in place at the time of testing.

Does the applicant have an IEP or a Section 504 plan? **Yes** **No**

Parent Permission Statement

I hereby submit application for my child to be considered for this high school program and give my permission for school officials to report my child’s achievement and aptitude test scores when required. I understand that the teacher information and test results will be maintained in confidence by the Screening Committee; that the recommendation scores cannot be shared outside the Screening Committee, and that applications will not be returned to parents or students.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **date:** _____

Student Signature _____ **date:** _____

To be completed by the applicant only. No assistance should be given. **You may use only the space provided.**

Student's Last Name *First Name* *Initial* *MCPS ID #*

Application Essay:

CAP students pursue a rigorous humanities curriculum with an interdisciplinary connection among English, social studies, communication, and visual/fine arts. So that we are able to both preview your writing capabilities and learn more about you, **please respond to the following quote as it applies to you and your life experience.** Be specific and choose your words carefully. Your response must fit in the space below. Please, **no creative writing** (e.g. stories, poems, mock interviews, etc.).

“Humans aren’t as good as we should be in our capacity to empathize with feelings and thoughts of others, be they humans or other animals on Earth. So maybe part of our formal education should be training in empathy. Imagine how different the world would be if, in fact, that were ‘reading, writing, arithmetic, empathy.’” – Neil deGrasse Tyson

Current School and Community Activities: Self-Evaluation

Below are three facets on which CAP students reflect as they complete assignments and projects. For each of the competencies, answer the questions to reveal how you would be an ideal candidate for the program.

Critical Thinking: Describe a time in which you had to question an idea or belief you believed to be true.

Social Awareness: Describe an activity, club, organization, team, etc. that has impacted the person you are becoming or has served as a vehicle to help you impact the world around you.

Media and Communications: Describe an assignment that you have completed which reflects an understanding of media’s role in shaping our society OR describe an assignment in which you had to communicate in a way you hadn’t before.

Please sign your consent to the following statement before submitting your application:

I understand that I cannot give or receive help other than that in the classroom instruction in the completion of this application. All the information submitted is true to my knowledge. All application materials will be retained by the school.

Applicant Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Montgomery Blair High School



Communication Arts Program

GRADE 7 FINAL GRADE REPORT

Directions:

- 1. Fill out the information below and
- 2. Submit with a Xeroxed copy of **Grade 7** final report card.

Applications will not be processed until/unless all forms are received!

Student Name _____

Current School _____

Home High School _____

Directions for Teacher Recommendation: 8th Grade English

STUDENT: Fill in the information below and give this form to your 8th grade English teacher making the recommendation. (If you printed the application from Blair's website, be sure to give your teacher both pages of Form D-1.)

Student Name: _____ MCPS ID#: _____

Current School: _____

TEACHER:

MCPS Teacher: Complete the teacher recommendation Google Form for this student by accessing <http://bit.ly/mcpsteacherrec> using Google Chrome browser by December 7, 2018.

Non-MCPS Teacher: Complete the D-1 Evaluation Form and send to the address below:

Ms. Sarah Fillman, CAP Coordinator
Montgomery Blair High School
51 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

All recommendations should be posted on-line or in the CAP office by December 7, 2018.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Communication Arts Program at Montgomery Blair High School is a four year, honors level interdisciplinary program in the humanities and media. The curriculum is designed for students who are good writers, who work well in groups, and who are interested in the relationships among English, social studies, and communications. Students who are intellectually curious, willing to try new approaches, and eager to be challenged academically will be most successful in this program. CAP is product-driven, and there is an emphasis on collaborative learning.

All students who apply **must** be currently enrolled in **gifted and talented/honors English and Social Studies** (if available) and earning at least a B average.

Your recommendation is an important consideration in the selection process. Please complete the recommendation with reference to the demands of this program. Your comments are encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Capacity in which you know this student: _____ Course _____

Grade Level _____

RECOMMENDATION: English Teacher Evaluation

Please use the following scale in completing the descriptors for this student. Consider the student with reference to the demands of the program.

- 5 – Exhibits this trait to an exceptional degree
- 4 – Exhibits this trait consistently
- 3 – Exhibits this trait frequently
- 2 – Exhibits this trait occasionally
- 1 – Exhibits this trait rarely
- na – Trait is not observed

Student traits	5	4	3	2	1	na
1. Demonstrates higher order thinking skills (analysis & synthesis of ideas)						
2. Learns quickly with good retention						
3. Is a keen and alert observer						
4. Applies concepts to new materials						
5. Quickly recognizes and understands conceptual relationships						
6. Seeks intellectual challenges						
7. Is sensitive to clock and calendar deadlines						
8. Works well in group settings						
9. Demonstrates ability to concentrate						
Demonstrates strong skills in						
10. Oral communication						
11. Content appropriate reading comprehension						
12. Content appropriate critical thinking						
13. Content appropriate problem solving						
14. Is a self-starter						
15. Demonstrates initiative and intellectual curiosity						
16. Is a self-starter and can work independently						
17. Can see past immediate rewards to long-range goals						
18. Generates a large number of ideas or solutions to problems						
19. Is a high academic risk-taker						
20. Demonstrates an interest and enthusiasm for learning						

COMMENTS:

Please discuss this student's strengths, work ethic, and reasons they may be a good fit for CAP. Also, please indicate any issues you feel are important for the committee to know, including the student's academic and personal integrity.

Directions for Teacher Recommendation: Selected Teacher (other than English)

STUDENT: Fill in the information below and give this form to the selected non-English academic teacher making the recommendation. (If you printed the application from Blair's website, be sure to give your teacher both pages of Form D-2.)

Student Name: _____ MCPS ID#: _____

Current School: _____

TEACHER:

MCPS Teacher: Complete the teacher recommendation Google Form for this student by accessing <http://bit.ly/mcpsteacherrec> using Google Chrome browser by December 7, 2018.

Non-MCPS Teacher: Complete the D-2 Evaluation Form and send to the address below:

Ms. Sarah Fillman, CAP Coordinator
Montgomery Blair High School
51 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

All recommendations must be posted on-line or in the CAP office by **December 7, 2018.**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Communication Arts Program at Montgomery Blair High School is a four year, honors level interdisciplinary program in the humanities and media. The curriculum is designed for students who are good writers, who work well in groups, and who are interested in the relationships among English, social studies, and communications. Students who are intellectually curious, willing to try new approaches, and eager to be challenged academically will be most successful in this program. CAP is product-driven, and there is an emphasis on collaborative learning.

All students who apply **must** be currently enrolled in **gifted and talented English and Social Studies** (if available) and earning at least a B average.

Your recommendation is an important consideration in the selection process. Please complete the recommendation with reference to the demands of this program. Your comments are encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Capacity in which you know this student: Course _____

Grade Level _____

RECOMMENDATION: Selected Teacher Evaluation

Please use the following scale in completing the descriptors for this student. Consider the student with reference to the demands of the program.

- 5 – Exhibits this trait to an exceptional degree
- 4 – Exhibits this trait consistently
- 3 – Exhibits this trait frequently
- 2 – Exhibits this trait occasionally
- 1 – Exhibits this trait rarely
- na – Trait is not observed

Student traits	5	4	3	2	1	na
1) Demonstrates higher order thinking skills (analysis & synthesis of ideas)						
1) Learns quickly with good retention						
2) Is a keen and alert observer						
3) Applies concepts to new materials						
4) Quickly recognizes and understands conceptual relationships						
5) Seeks intellectual challenges						
6) Is sensitive to clock and calendar deadlines						
7) Works well in group settings						
8) Demonstrates ability to concentrate						
Demonstrates strong skills in						
9) Oral communication						
10) Content appropriate reading comprehension						
11) Content appropriate critical thinking						
12) Content appropriate problem solving						
13) Is a self-starter						
14) Demonstrates initiative and intellectual curiosity						
15) Is a self-starter and can work independently						
16) Can see past immediate rewards to long-range goals						
17) Generates a large number of ideas or solutions to problems						
18) Is a high academic risk-taker						
19) Demonstrates an interest and enthusiasm for learning						

COMMENTS:

Please discuss this student's strengths, work ethic, and reasons they may be a good fit for CAP. Also, please indicate any issues you feel are important for the committee to know, including the student's academic and personal integrity.



(Confidential)

FORM D-3

Directions for Recommendation: School Counselor

STUDENT: Fill in the information below and give this form to your current school counselor who will be making the recommendation. (If you printed the application from Blair’s website, be sure to give your counselor both pages of Form D-3.)

Student Name: _____ MCPS ID#: _____

Current School: _____

COUNSELOR:

MCPS Counselors: Complete the counselor recommendation form for this student by hand and PONY or email a scanned copy to Sarah Fillman by December 8, 2017. We understand that you may not know the student very well but any information you do have will be helpful for the acceptance panel.

Non-MCPS Counselor: Complete the D-3 Evaluation Form and send to the address below:

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Montgomery Blair High School
51 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

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All students who apply **must** be currently enrolled in **honors/gifted and talented English and Social Studies** (if available) and earning at least a B average.

Your recommendation is an important consideration in the selection process. Please complete the recommendation with reference to the demands of this program. Your comments are encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Capacity in which you know this student: _____

RECOMMENDATION: *School Counselor*

Please answer the following to the best of your ability.

- 5 – Very well
- 4 – Fairly well
- 3 – We have met

- 2 – Not well
- 1 – Not at all

Question	5	4	3	2	1
1) How well do you know the student?					

If able, please discuss any strengths you know of that would make this student an asset to our program.

If able, please discuss any issues you feel are important for the committee to know, including the student's academic and personal integrity.