APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
Class of 2021

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 or your Grade 7 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 a check for $65.00 for testing fee, 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 4, 2016. If hand-delivered, the application must be in Blair’s main office by 3:00 pm on November 4, 2016.

If you paid the testing fee with your application to Blair, Poolesville, or Richard Montgomery, you DO NOT need to pay a fee for CAP. If you are ONLY applying to CAP, you need to send a check made out to MCPS for $65 with your application. If that is a financial hardship, include a letter with your application to that effect to be considered for a waiver of the fee.

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 4, 2016
Selection and Notification
Admission to the Communication Arts Program 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 February 6, 2017.

Test Preparation
Applicants will be tested at Blair High School on December 3, 2016 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. A test preparation booklet is available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/ or any MCPS middle school.

Important Testing Information
1. If you paid the testing fee with your application to Blair, Poolesville, or Richard Montgomery, you DO NOT need to pay a fee for CAP. If you are ONLY applying to CAP, you can either send in a check made out to MCPS for $65 with your application, or use the online payment system for all special programs. Pay online at http://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/. Use the “Special Programs – Magnet High School Program” link. If that is a financial hardship, include a letter with your application to that effect to be considered for a waiver of the fee.

2. Students applying only to the Communications Arts Program will take only the verbal portion of the test and complete a 30 minute essay.

3. a. Applicants to CAP only must report to the Montgomery Blair High School between 7:45-8:00 a.m. on December 3, 2016. Testing should be completed around 10:00 a.m. Since there is no waiting area, parents should plan to pick up students from the cafeteria parking lot (University Blvd.) at 10:00 a.m.
   b. Applicants to CAP who also applied to any of the other magnet programs (Blair, Richard Montgomery, or Poolesville) should follow the testing instructions in the magnet application. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/ to view the magnet application for testing information. Students applying to multiple programs should be finished with the test by 11:00 a.m.

4. Specialized admissions tests were developed for the Montgomery Blair Magnet Program, the Richard Montgomery IB Program, the Poolesville High School Program, and The Communication Arts Program to assess knowledge and skills that are needed for success in a high school program designed for exceptionally high achieving students. They measure reasoning ability, critical thinking, and knowledge and skills students have learned over the years. A test preparation booklet is available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/Special programs/ or any MCPS middle school. The following advice is offered to students:
   • Keeping up with your schoolwork throughout the year is the best possible preparation for these tests.
   • Cramming is usually not very effective and will do little to improve scores.
   • Be certain to rest well the night before the test and eat a good breakfast on the day of the test.
   • Plan to arrive by the designated time.
   • Bring several sharpened number 2 pencils. You do not need a student ID if you are an MCPS student.
   • You will NOT be permitted to use calculators and calculator watches during testing.
   • Test scores are based on the number of correct answers marked on the answer sheet. There is no penalty for a wrong answer. Therefore, omitting a question will not give you an advantage, and wrong answers will not be deducted from your correct answers.

5. 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.
Testing Site Information
The following directions apply to all applicants to the Science, Mathematics, Computer Science Program at Montgomery Blair High School, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Richard Montgomery High School, the Whole School Magnet Program at Poolesville High School, and The Communication Arts Program.

1. Applicants to **CAP only** must report to the Montgomery Blair High School between 7:45-8:00 a.m. on December 3, 2016. Testing should be completed around 10:00 a.m. Since there is no waiting area, parents should plan to pick up students from the cafeteria (University Blvd. parking lot) at 10:00 a.m.

2. Applicants to CAP who also applied to any of the other magnet programs (Blair, Richard Montgomery or Poolesville) should follow the testing instructions in the magnet application.
   a) Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms) to view the magnet application for testing information.
   b) Students are assigned to a testing site based on their home high school. The same tests will be administered at all sites and results given to the appropriate program coordinator(s). Students who currently attend middle school magnet programs at Roberto Clemente, Eastern, or Takoma Park middle schools, a middle school other than their assigned middle school, or a private school may visit the school assignment locator on [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) to locate their home high school cluster and identify the testing site.

3. All applicants must report to their assigned testing site on December 3, 2016, between 7:45-8:00 a.m. (SNOW DATE: December 10, 2016). 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 4, 2016, at Richard Montgomery High School with a SNOW DATE of December 10, 2016. Written requests for the alternate test date must be submitted to the program coordinator by November 4, 2016. 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 4, 2016, 8:00–11:00 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School (SNOW DATE: December 11, 2016).
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?

*Parents/Guardians, please don’t forget to sign the Permission Statement on the next page.
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.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>MCPS ID #</th>
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</table>

**Self Evaluation Form:**

CAP students pursue a rigorous humanities curriculum with an interdisciplinary connection among English, social studies, communication, and visual/fine arts. Please respond to the following prompt as it applies to you as you study, work, and interact in your favorite class or activity related to the focus of CAP. Be specific and choose your words carefully. Your response must fit in the space below. Your response may be word processed and pasted in this space. Please, **no creative writing** (e.g. stories, poems, mock interviews, etc.).

What is the most pressing issue of your generation? How have you been involved in resolving it (both in and outside of school) and/or how do you see yourself becoming involved in the future?

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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
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: English

STUDENT: Fill in the information below and give this form to the English teacher making the recommendation. Students may choose either their current 8th grade English teacher or their 7th grade English teacher. (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 form for this student using FileMaker on an MCPS computer, or by accessing http://bit.ly/mcpsteacherrec using Google Chrome browser by December 9, 2016. See your school counselor for access to FileMaker or call 301-592-2054 for assistance.

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 9, 2016.

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

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COMMENTS:
Please discuss 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 form for this student using FileMaker on an MCPS computer, or by accessing http://bit.ly/mcpsteacherrec using Google Chrome browser by December 9, 2016. See your school counselor for access to FileMaker or call 301-592-2054 for assistance.

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 9, 2016.

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
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COMMENTS:  
Please discuss any issues you feel are important for the committee to know, including the student’s academic and personal integrity.
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 9, 2016. 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:

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 9, 2016.

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 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.

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<th>Question</th>
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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.