

BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary schools encompass grades kindergarten through 5, generally serving students ages 5 to 10. During this school year, full-day kindergarten is offered in 28 schools (see pages 21 & 52). In accordance with Maryland law, all elementary schools will offer full-day kindergarten by 2007-08. Some elementary schools offer pre-kindergarten programs for 4-year-olds (see pages 26 & 52). The classroom teacher is responsible for most student instruction, supported by other faculty who specialize in art, music, physical education, media services, reading, special education and guidance. ★

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle schools encompass grades 6, 7 and 8 and are designed to provide a friendly and challenging academic environment that addresses the diverse needs of 10 to 14 year olds. Middle schools provide students with a solid educational foundation for future studies, an opportunity to sample a variety of exploratory subjects and encouragement to participate in activities that explore their special interests and talents. Middle schools also provide the adult guidance and positive school climate that children need as they move from close dependence on adults to greater personal independence that recognizes the special importance of peer friendships.

All courses and activities are designed to capitalize on students' energy and inquisitiveness by providing educational opportunities in a supportive environment. The curriculum includes the required subjects of language arts, social studies, science, math and physical education. Each student is also required to explore activities in family and consumer science, technology, and the arts. For students who would like a wider sample of study and/or a more in-depth experience, there are electives such as foreign language, band, chorus, theatre and visual art. In all areas, students are grouped in a variety of ways so they can study relationships between subjects. ★

HIGH SCHOOL

Students in grades 9 to 12 attend one of nine Frederick County high schools. (Academy programs are listed on page 27.) Beginning with the class of 2006, students are required to earn 25 credits to graduate (see page 33 for details).

The mission of the public high school is to challenge and help students grow intellectually, personally and socially. Graduates should be able and willing to take the appropriate first steps into a chosen field of work or study, to act responsibly as citizens and to enjoy a productive life.

In addition to a wide range of courses available at the local high school, students may attend classes at the Career and Technology Center, participate in work-study programs and internships, and enjoy a variety of extracurricular activities. Qualified seniors may also enroll at local educational institutions, such as Frederick Community College. Guidance counselors meet with high school students and incoming freshmen at least once a year to evaluate and plan course schedules. ★

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Career and Technology Center and each high school offer programs for students who have identified specific interests in post-secondary employment, further career education or both. Many programs offer college credit through agreements with Frederick Community College and other post-secondary institutions. Tech Prep programs are available to those who plan to attend a community college or an apprenticeship program. Contact your school counselor for details.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

This specialized high school offers 25 career preparatory programs, most open to students in grades 10-12. Programs range from the Academy of Finance, agricultural and commercial metals technology, automotive technology and carpentry to Cisco computer networking, computer-aided architectural design and engineering graphics, cosmetology, culinary arts, electronics, fire and rescue, communications, health careers, landscape management, law enforcement, marketing, masonry, plumbing/HVAC, television production and web design. Most require two years, and many prepare students for national and state certification and offer college credits. Visit www.careertech.net for details. To apply, contact the high school guidance counselor. ★

FLEXIBLE EVENING HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT EDUCATION

Flexible Evening High School (FEHS), located in Walkersville, offers students of high school age an opportunity to earn a Maryland high school diploma by attending evening classes and accumulating credits.

The Adult Education Office, also in Walkersville, offers out-of-school adults the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma through General Educational Development (GED) preparation and testing or through the Maryland External Diploma Program (EDP). The Adult Education Office also sponsors programs that enable county residents to improve skills and knowledge in areas that complement the FCPS curriculum. Generally for enrichment rather than credit, programs include Adult Basic Education, English Language Learners and Even Start.

For information on these programs, call the Adult Education Office. ★

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

The Mentor/Internship Program provides students the opportunity to explore responsibilities, advantages and disadvantages of specific careers. Students are matched with professionals in the community who serve as mentors. Mentors provide learning opportunities and help students develop post-secondary educational and career plans. ★

WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The Work-Study Program is a cornerstone of the FCPS School-to-Careers Transition Education Program that helps learners make smooth transitions between education and employment. A cooperative venture between the school system and employers, it is planned and supervised by school staff and employers. It enables students to develop additional skills in a field of interest while working and provides a well-trained student work force for local business and industry. Eligible 12th grade students may spend a half day in classes and a half day at a job. To apply, contact your high school Work-Study coordinator before the end of the junior year. ★