



**CHARLES
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

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Scholars Course of Study



The Scholars Course of Study is dedicated to Dr. Walter N. Davis for his guidance related to the establishment of the Scholars Program and to his commitment to the instructional program of Charles County Public Schools. Dr. Walter N. Davis served as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for Charles County Public Schools from 1987 to 1995.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees/ adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

Charles County Public Schools
5980 Radio Station Road
P.O. Box 2770
La Plata, Maryland 20646
301-932-6610; 301-870-3814

SCHOLARS STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Students in the Charles County Scholars Course of Study are committed to the following:

- ◆ A challenging academic course of study that focuses on the higher-level thinking skills
- ◆ Utilizing a support system for academic success that includes parents, teachers, counselors, and/or administrators
- ◆ Intrinsic motivation as well as extrinsic recognition



IDENTIFICATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students who demonstrate talent and interest in academic areas and work beyond grade level content in reading and mathematics in elementary school are encouraged to participate in the Scholars Course of Study in middle school.

In the spring of fifth grade, an articulation team recommends advanced level courses for students transitioning to middle school based on, but not limited to, the following factors:

- ◆ Participation in above grade level reading and accelerated math
- ◆ Assessment data
- ◆ Classroom performance
- ◆ Teacher observation

Parents are notified of course recommendations by letter.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS

Qualified students must take three consecutive years of advanced classes in the following areas:

- ◆ Language Arts
- ◆ Mathematics (including Algebra 1)
- ◆ Social Studies
- ◆ Science
- ◆ One year of a World Language

Scholars participation is noted on the report card after the first marking period in sixth grade.



RECOGNITION

Students who take required courses and achieve a 3.2 cumulative grade point average will be acknowledged at the eighth grade awards assembly and/or promotion ceremony. Grade point averages are determined from sixth grade to third quarter eighth grade.

Special circumstances may be addressed by the school administration.

Participation in middle school Scholars Course of Study does not guarantee participation in high school. Determination of qualification will start again when entering high school.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS

Students must earn 18 credits from advanced courses and be enrolled in high school for four years in the following:

- ◆ 4 English (Honors, Advanced Placement)
- ◆ 3 Lab Sciences (Honors, Advanced Placement)
- ◆ 3 Social Studies (Honors, Advanced Placement)
- ◆ 4 Mathematics - taken in grades 9 - 12 (at least 3 must be Honors or Advanced Placement)
- ◆ 3 World Languages - at least two in the same language (credit can be awarded based on successful completion of designated high school level World Language courses taken during middle school.)
- ◆ 1 additional advanced course

Participation in the program is noted on the report card.



RECOGNITION

Students who complete the required courses and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 (weighted) are recognized at graduation with a medallion and notation in the graduation program. Statement of completion will be noted on final transcript.