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Advice for Montgomery County Parents and Students on College Preparation • **Spring 2019**

Hellen Kim (right) talks with her professor, Debra Poese (left), about the significant changes in secondary mathematics instruction since she was a student. Inspired by her Rockville High School teachers, Kim wants to impact on future high school math students.

IMPORTANT dates and deadlines 2019

April
- Future Raptors: Join us for an Open House on April 6, at the Rockville Campus. Go to: montgomerycollege.edu/open-house

May
- Sign up for the ACT test by May 3; test is administered on June 8 .
- Sign up for the SAT test by May 3; test is administered on June 1.
- Compare offers of admission and financial aid; discuss them with family and counselors.
- Attend spring college events for admitted students.
- Research housing choices and meal plans at colleges.
- Scholarship applications are available. Go to MDgo4it.org for applications.

June
- Ask to shadow someone whose job interests you.
- Get a summer job. Your high school Career Center may have job listings that interest you.
- Sign up for the ACT test by June 14; test is administered on July 13.

July
- Sign up for the SAT test in July; test is administered on Aug. 24.
- Check out the websites of colleges that interest you—read the admissions section, take a virtual tour, and look at the courses offered.
- Work on special submissions for college applications: portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples.
- commonapp.org provides the Common Application, which many colleges use for admission; they may also require forms of their own.
- NACACnet.org lists regional college fairs.

August
- Sign up for the ACT test by Aug. 16; test is administered on Sept. 14.
- Type a personal profile so your counselor can have a guide when writing your recommendations. • List your goals, academic interests, achievements, volunteer and extracurricular activities, work experience, and problems you have overcome.
- Update your resume to include summer employment and volunteer activities.

- Check out studentaid.ed.gov and MDgo4it.org for financial aid information.
- Continue planning college visits—research dates, costs, etc.
- Get organized. Make separate files for each college and scholarship program.
- Practice writing online applications: fill out rough drafts; don't submit them.

September
- Sign up for the SAT test in Sept.; test is administered on Oct. 5.
- Sign up for the ACT test by Sep. 27; test is administered on Oct. 26.
- Mark the calendar with admission and financial aid deadlines.
- Visit colleges—and don't just take the tour. Schedule an admissions interview if possible. Send thank-you notes to interviewers.
- Take on leadership roles in your school or community.
- Begin drafting college application essays. (Yes, really.)
- Review your transcript—check for errors and make sure it shows any high school credits you earned in middle school.

October
- Sign up for the SAT test in Oct.; test is administered on Nov. 2.
- The earlier you apply to some colleges, the better your chances might be for admission.
- Should you use the Common Application? See commonapp.org and individual colleges for details.
- Keep a copy of every form you submit.
- Talk with teachers and counselors about recommendations—to ask for recommendations, discuss your interests and college choices. Give each teacher/counselor your resume along with stamped, addressed envelopes.
- Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other required special submissions.
- After drafting applications, let them sit for a few days and then proofread. Proofread from a paper copy.
- Financial aid information is available from colleges; get it and check the due dates.
- Apply for scholarships.

Source: mhec.state.md.us

Are You Interested in Teaching?
Maryland Has a Critical Shortage

According to the *Maryland Teacher Staffing Report* (2016–2018), produced by the Maryland State Department of Education, the state is experiencing critical shortages for teachers of chemistry, English, math, physics, and Spanish.

To meet this shortage, Montgomery College offers five curricula leading to an associate of arts in teaching (AAT-secondary education)—and all programs successfully transfer to four-year public colleges and universities in the state of Maryland.

The College's secondary education program enables students to fulfill their General Education requirements, participate in fieldwork experiences, and complete a core of professional education coursework required for the first two years of teacher preparation. To earn the AAT, students must achieve a minimum of a 2.75 cumulative GPA and present required scores on a state-approved basic skills test.

Hellen Kim, a Rockville High School graduate who is majoring in the secondary education program in math says, "When I was an MCPS student, the teachers who had the most impact on me were my math teachers. I want to make a difference for students like my math teachers did for me." She says she finds the program easy to navigate—and the staff incredibly supportive.

One such support program Kim availed herself of is the Culturally Responsive Educators Aspiring for Teaching Excellence (CREATE) cohort. Students apply for CREATE in the spring and the cohort begins in the fall with one-on-one advising, leadership opportunities, content specific study sessions, and social activities. Students in the CREATE cohort have higher on-time graduation rates and successful transfer to four-year schools.

Debra Poese, director of teacher education partnerships at the College, says there is a great deal of support for students, particularly with regard to transfer. "I can pretty much guarantee we can find students [in secondary education] some scholarship money, particularly those who major in world languages or STEM (chemistry, math, and physics)," she says. In addition, the state of Maryland offers student assistance grants and potential loan forgiveness programs for secondary education majors.

For more information on the AAT program in secondary education, email debra.poese@montgomerycollege.edu.

New Pathway Helps MCPS Students
Earn College Credits Now

Through the Jump Start to College Pathway, high school students at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have another opportunity to earn college credits at Montgomery College (MC) through dual enrollment while meeting high school graduation requirements.

"This pathway enables students to be more strategic in planning their general education credits for college," says Akima Rogers, associate director of academic initiatives at Montgomery College.

"We [MCPS] have so many students who are capable, interested, and motivated to do college work, we're always interested in working with Montgomery College to provide as many opportunities as we can for parents and students to save time and money in preparing for college," says Genevieve Floyd, MCPS's supervisor of career and postsecondary partnerships.

A few facts to about the Jump Start to College Pathway:

- Students taking advantage of the Jump Start to College Pathway must take English, mathematics, science, social studies, and other courses required for a Maryland high school diploma.
- All college courses may be used to earn dual credit; dual credit allows students to receive high school and college credit for each college course successfully completed.
- College course grades on the high school transcript will count for advanced level credit when calculated in weighted GPA, just like Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.
- All college courses are offered at a reduced tuition cost.
- Students who take select AP and International Baccalaureate courses and score high enough on the respective course examination, may be able to earn college credit for specific college courses.
- Each student's enrollment in any MC course is dependent on the student meeting all requirements, prerequisites, and assessment levels for the course as determined by MC.

For more information, visit montgomerycollege.edu/dep.

A Sample Pathway to Earn College Credits

Grade 9/Year 1	Grade 10/Year 2	Grade 11/Year 3		Grade 12/Year 4	
		Semster 1	Semester 2	Semster 1	Semester 2
English English 9/Honors	**English** English 10/Honors	**English** English 11 or AP Language		**English** MC ENGL101	**English** MC ENGL102 or MC ENGL103
Mathematics Algebra 1 or higher	**Mathematics** Geometry or higher	**Mathematics** Algebra 2 or higher		**Mathematics** MC MATH117 or higher	**Mathematics** MC MATH165 or higher
Science 9th Grade NGSS Science	**Science** 10th Grade NGSS Science	**Science** 11th Grade NGSS Science		**Science** MC Natural Sciences Distribution with Lab	**Science** MC Natural Sciences Distribution without Lab
Social Studies U.S. History	**Social Studies** National, State, and Local Government	**Social Studies** World History		**MC Gen.Ed. Requirement or Elective**	**MC Elective or Other Required Course(s)**
		Fine Arts MC Fine Arts Course	**Social Studies** MC SOCY100		**MC Elective or Other Required Course(s)**
Physical Education	**Elective and/or Health**	**MC General Education Requirement or other MCPS class**	**MC General Education Requirement or other MCPS class**		
Foreign Language	**Foreign Language**	**MC or MCPS Foreign Language or Elective or Other Required Course(s)**	**MC or MCPS Foreign Language or Elective or Other Required Course(s)**		
Technology MCPS Tech. Ed. Course	**Elective and/or Health**				

- All MCPS courses taken on the high school campus
- All MC courses taken on an MC campus or online, unless offered on the high school campus
- All MCPS courses taken on the high school campus, MC courses taken on an MC campus or online

MC course titles and descriptions can be found at: catalog.montgomerycollege.edu

Bezawit Hailu (right) teaches biology student Ibrahim Dairou (left), a Walter Johnson High School graduate, to properly use a micropipette. Hailu, who wants to go to medical school someday, will transfer to the University of Maryland or the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The Cultural Arts Center Is Built for Performance