GEORGE WASHINGTON Carver Center FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Literary Arts

***Literary Arts** promotes lively exchange of ideas, and that nurtures the development of each writer's voice. Students pursue an enriched and sequential set of experiences through a four-year period. Literary Arts students are characterized by their determination to master correct grammatical structures, by their willingness to participate in the critique process, and by their interest in reading as a source of inspiration and of good writing models.*

***BCPS Magnet Transportation Information:** George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology (Central Area) Transportation is provided at community pick-up points for students from all areas of Baltimore County Public Schools.*

Open House: *Sunday, October 9, 2011* *1 - 3 p.m.*

2012-2013 Assessment Guidelines

Assessment Date: Saturday, January 21, 2012 ***Auditions by appointment***

Pre-Audition Workshop: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 6:30 – 8 p.m.
The workshop is optional and participation in the workshop is not considered during the application, audition or decision process. Students who wish to participate in the workshop MUST register. The cost of the workshop is $10. It is recommended that you sign up for the workshop during the Open House, but if you are unable to attend the Open House, you may register until **October 14th, 2011** by calling (410) 887-2793.

Assessment reminders will be mailed to all applicants.
Parents/Guardians of applicants who have NOT received notification at least five (5) days prior to the assessment date MUST contact the school to verify/schedule an appointment.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact both the school and Magnet Office immediately if the applicant cannot attend or complete the scheduled assessment due to an unforeseen illness or emergency. Please be aware that assessments will not be rescheduled without documentation verifying the illness or emergency.

Inclement Weather Date: Saturday, January 28, 2012, at the previously scheduled appointment time

Inclement Weather: In the event that schools are closed due to inclement weather, weeknight magnet assessments will be postponed. Weekend magnet assessments will be postponed if the snow emergency plan is put into effect for Baltimore County. Postponed assessments will occur on the designated inclement weather date.

Carver Center
938 York Road
Towson, MD 21204

Magnet Coordinator
Lori Turner
(410) 887-2775/2793
lturner2@bcps.org

Directions to Carver Center:

From West:
- I-695 N to Towson
- Take exit 26A toward Towson/York Rd
- Turn left at West Rd (signs for Towson/York Rd)
- Take the 1st right onto York Rd
- Make a right at the next light, Fairmount Ave.

From East:
- I-695 W to Towson
- Take exit 26 toward Towson
- Turn left at MD-45/York Rd
- Make a right at the next light, Fairmount Ave.

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On the Day of the Audition

The audition takes approximately 2 hours.

Auditions by Appointment ONLY

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to:

- ensure that the applicant attends the assessment on the scheduled date and time.
- contact the schools if scheduled magnet assessment appointments conflict.

Failure to attend an assessment WILL result in disqualification.

Registration Information

Applicants will be advised of their appointments by postcard. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time. Students will register for the audition in the front lobby. Students who are more than 10 minutes late may not be admitted into the audition. On average, the entire audition takes approximately two hours. Due to personnel and time constraints, auditions may not be rescheduled. Parents may stay in the main lobby during the audition, or return to the school within two hours. Due to the high volume of applicants, there will be no seating available in the school for parents/guardians.

Assessment Description

Applicants will demonstrate their talent for the expression of ideas through the written word, enthusiasm, seriousness, love of literature, and ability to work for long periods of time independently.

Students who audition for Literary Arts will complete the following on the day of their audition:

1. **Writing Assessment (90 points):** Writing is evaluated for choice of topic, use of language, maturity of sentence structure, mastery of form, development of topic, original and creative approach. Candidates will have 90 minutes to complete the following:
   - **Creative Writing (30 points) :** Candidates are given an opportunity to demonstrate their talents as creative writers.
   - **Informative Writing (30 points):** Candidates are given an opportunity to write about influences on them as writers.
   - **Analytical Writing (30 points):** Candidates will read a short literary work by a published author, which will be provided at the time of the audition. They will write an analysis of what the work means and how it achieves its meaning.
2. **Interview (10 points):** In a one-on-one session with a member of the faculty, candidates will share their interest in writing as a long-term commitment.

Documented testing accommodations, as appropriate to the assessment, will be provided.

Applicants must score 80% or higher to qualify for admission.

Literary Arts

Magnet Events

Magnet *EXPO!*	**Saturday, September 24, 2011** **Crowne Plaza Timonium**	**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
Magnet Application Meetings	**Tuesday, September 27, 2011** **Woodlawn HS Auditorium**	**Program starts at 6 p.m.**
	Wednesday, September 28, 2011 **Kenwood HS Auditorium**	**Program starts at 6p.m.**
Application Deadline	**Wednesday, November 30, 2011**	

Application packets are available at www.bcps.org/offices/omp . Applications must be hand delivered or postmarked on or before **November 30, 2011**. Late applications are not processed.

Literary Arts

Classes in the Literary Arts Prime receive GT Credit.
Students in Literary Arts usually take GT level English classes.

Literary Arts Philosophy

Originality and style in writing are products of serious reading, thinking, observation, practice, and discipline. In an atmosphere that celebrates the diversity of human perspectives, that promotes lively exchange of ideas, and that nurtures the development of each writer's voice, students pursue an enriched and sequential set of experiences through a four-year period.

The philosophy of writing is primarily a process which enables students to participate dynamically in their own development of excellent literary skills and methods for positively and critically interacting with their own texts and those of their peers. Such deliberate study will foster a long and fulfilling relationship with the craft of writing powerfully and effectively, whether as a career, as part of a career, or as a personal way of understanding and interacting with the world.

Student Profile: Successful Literary Arts students are characterized by their ability to work independently for long periods of time, by their determination to master correct grammatical structures, by their willingness to participate in the critique process, and by their interest in reading as a source of inspiration and of good writing models. They are comfortable in Honors and GT level English classes.

Level I - Introduction to Literary Arts

Students are introduced to the writer's discipline in the workshop setting. Avenues of publishing in outside magazines are explored. Activities include the following: identification of the literary aspects of specific genres; analysis of model texts for specific literary purposes; manipulation of language for clear, effective expression; development of author's voice and topics for portfolio pieces through journal writing; initiation of management skills for portfolios; participation in literary arts activities such as Carver Center Coffee House readings; development and presentation of a personal anthology that showcases not only mastery of the skills taught at this level, but also growth as a writer.

Level II – Students take both of the following classes:

The Profession of Writing

Students practice four major genres of creative writing under the guidance of professional writers-in-residence. Practicing poets, playwrights, fiction writers, and screenwriters help students increase their knowledge of the "real world" aspects of writing. Students analyze current literary publications, enter local and national writing contests and develop skills in oral presentation of their original work. They also continue to develop their literary voice through journal writing and by creating portfolio pieces that reflect the diversity of genres taught this year. Participation at Carver Center Coffee House readings and contribution to the literary magazine, *Synergy*, are expected.

Writing Seminar in Non-Fiction
This course is designed to help students write effective prose through exploration of the form and techniques of journalism. The course examines interview techniques, research skills, style and structure of various media. Additionally, students explore different forms of non-fiction such as memoirs, family recollection and the personal essay.

Level III- Students take both of the following classes:

Literary Forms and an Elective
Students participate in focused study of the foundations of literary forms in their historical context, with specific reference to the origin of the classical forms in drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, as well as their evolution to the present day for the purpose of producing those forms in new ways in their own writing. Students refine their editing skills through their involvement on a regular basis in critiques of classmates' and their own work. Ongoing activities include journal writing, portfolio building, and submission to contests and literary publications. Participation in Carver Center Coffee House readings and production of *Synergy* are encouraged.

Texts: Rules for the Dance, Mary Oliver
Strong Measures, P. Dacy, D. James, editors
Handbook of Poetic Forms, Ron Padgett, editor

Electives in Levels III and IV

Poetic Traditions
Students explore works by well and lesser-known poets from the tradition, as well as movements, styles, techniques and philosophies that have contributed to this tradition from Sappho to present-day writers. Assignments include both creative and critical responses to the works, as well as memorization exercises and the teaching of a class. One of the major goals of this course is to allow each student to locate themselves more fully within the literary tradition, while also revealing the vibrant and relevant resources available to them.

Fiction / Non-Fiction
Students learn the mechanics and tools of writing creative fiction and non-fiction through exercises, reading, study, and practice. They examine each part of the writing process, and, in turn, they write and rewrite three primary works per semester.

Journalism II, III, IV
As staff and editors of our school newspaper, *Catalyst*, students produce 4-5 issues per year.

Level IV – Writing Seminar

- Students determine their literary strengths in the different genres and then create, develop, revise, and polish their best pieces through focussed editing with peers, redrafting as needed, and polishing under the guidance of professional writers working as mentors. The resultant works are entered into major local and national competitions and become part of the final portfolios for college.
- Based on reading published authors' direct/indirect statements of their writing values and grounded in their own experience and reflection of what is important to them as writers, students will craft their own statement of their writing values.

- Students complete in-depth work on their literary lineages, write a proposal for the presentation of this work, and then carry out the terms of their proposals.
- Responsibilities to the larger writing community are addressed through mentor journals with the Level 1 writers, through the administration of the Baltimore County Middle School Creative Writing Contest, and through bringing prominent area writers to Carver Center to discuss their work and their craft.
- Portfolios for college admissions and scholarships are finalized.
- Students explore contemporary essayists and utilize non-fiction techniques in writing personal essays.
- Larger cultural literary issues of the role of language are addressed through critical readings and discussion of Hayakawa's, *Language in Thought and Action*, and articles in literary journals.
- Independent learning projects are designed and implemented.
- Seniors take charge of their final coffeehouse, the Senior Showcase.