

Overlea High School

5401 Kenwood Avenue

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Academy of Finance (AOF) 2010-2011 Assessment Guidelines

The Academy of Finance (AOF) is a nationally recognized program and is affiliated with the National Academy Foundation (NAF.org). Completion of the Academy of Finance program of study helps prepare students for post-secondary education, not only in finance related majors, but also for any concentrated program requiring a strong foundation in business, social studies, mathematics, and language arts. There is a four-year sequence of study which offers upper level courses and provides the opportunity for students to enroll in a college-level finance course taught by college instructors during the senior year.

BCPS Magnet EXPO!: **Saturday, October 3, 2009** **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
Crowne Plaza Timonium

AOF Open House: **October 14, 2009** **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** **Overlea High**

Application Deadline: **November 30, 2009**

Application packets are available at www.bcps.org/offices/omp. Applications must be received or postmarked on or before November 30, 2009. Late applications are not processed.

Applications should be sent to:
High School Magnet Application
Office of Magnet Programs
6901 Charles Street
Towson, MD 21204

It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to submit a complete application and a copy of all report card grades for the 2008-2009 school year.

Assessment reminders will be mailed to all eligible 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.

Academy Assessment: **January 11 to 22, 2010** *Assessments by appointment*

Students with completed applications *will be invited* to the school to be *interviewed* and to write an essay *on-site* between January 11 and 22, 2010, between the hours of 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. All students will be contacted regarding a specific appointment date and time. Any applicant who has a scheduling conflict with another magnet school can receive an alternate time by contacting the schools directly.

Failure to attend an assessment WILL result in disqualification.

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, January 19 & 20, 2010.

Academy of Finance (AOF) Assessment Information

On the Day of the Assessment The assessment takes approximately 45 minutes.

Students should be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time. Students will meet the magnet coordinator in the front lobby. On average, the entire audition takes approximately 45 minutes. Parents may stay during the audition, or return to the school within 45 minutes. Seating will be available in the school for parents/guardians.

On the day of the assessment, applicants will participate in a personal interview and write a brief essay. It is recommended that students access the NAF.org Web site in order to become familiar with the Academy of Finance magnet program. For the written assessment, students will read and respond to a prompt, using writing skills learned in middle school. The written assessment may be either keyed on a computer or hand written. The interview and written responses will be scored using a standard rubric. Applicants may not take any notes or prepared responses into the assessment.

Please bring a blue or black ink pen to the assessment.

Applicants will be better prepared for the assessment phase (interview and essay) if they are able to respond to the following questions:

- What do you hope to gain from your participation in the Academy of Finance and what will you be able to contribute to this program?
- What do you know about the Academy of Finance? (This information can be obtained by attending the Overlea Open House and from the *NAF.org* Web site).
- What are the different types of materials that you read?
- What are the different types of activities in which you participate?
- What are your short-term and long-term goals?

OVERLEA HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANT SELF-EVALUATION 2010-2011

Academy of Finance (AOF)

DO NOT include this worksheet with your application.

Important: All applications must be postmarked by the application deadline of November 30, 2009. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission.

Admission Criteria

Magnet Program	Admission Criteria
Academy of Finance (AOF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Algebra I or higher in grade 8 ✓ C average (1.5 or better) in English/ Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science ✓ Satisfactory Attendance (94% or higher) ✓ Performance on Personal Interview ✓ Performance on Written Assessment

Magnet Assessment Date

All students will be required to attend a personal interview held at Overlea High School. All students will be contacted to arrange a date and time for the interview between January 11 and 22, 2010. Students should be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. Students will be reminded of the assessment by mail.

Placement Prior to the Lottery

According to Superintendent's Rule 6400, *at the high school level where the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of available seats, up to 20% of the seats may first be filled with candidates who show exceptional commitment and promise in the specialized program as evidenced by their performance on the approved magnet assessment(s). The remaining seats will be filled using the centralized random lottery selection process from the remaining pool of qualified applicants.* Specifically, students who earn the highest scores on the interview may fill up to 20% of the seats available in the magnet program.

Qualifying for Admission

The applicant must earn 80 points from the stated criteria in order to qualify for admission.

How to Calculate Your Grade Average

Convert your marking period grades to points (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E=0). Then divide by the number of marking periods.

Subject	Last Year's Report Card				Current Year's Report Card	Total Points	Total Marking Periods (4 or 5)	Grade Average
	1 st marking pd. grade/points	2 nd marking pd. grade/points	3 rd marking pd. grade/points	4 th marking pd. grade/points (if applicable)	1 st marking pd. grade/points			
English/Lang Arts								
Social Studies								
Math								
Science								

OVERLEA HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANT SELF-EVALUATION 2010-2011

Academy of Finance (AOF)

Criteria	Scoring Method	My information	My Score (CIRCLE POINTS EARNED)
Admission Criterion #1 Grade Average (see "How to Calculate Your Grade Average")	C average or higher (1.5 or higher)	Language Arts/English and Math Score 15 points for each average equaling "C" or higher (1.5 or higher). <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">15 points</div>	Lang. Arts/English Average: 15 points or 0 points
		Score 0 points for each average less than "C" (less than 1.5). <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">15 points</div>	Mathematics Average: 15 points or 0 points
		Social Studies and Science Score 10 points for each average equaling "C" or higher (1.5 or higher). <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">10 points</div>	Social Studies Average: 10 points or 0 points
		Score 0 points for each average less than "C" (less than 1.5). <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">10 points</div>	Science Average: 10 points or 0 points
Admission Criterion #2 Attendance	94% Attendance	Total absences in Grade 7 - <i>plus</i> - first quarter = 14 days or less. <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">10 points</div>	Total days absent in Grade 7 (<i>All quarters</i>) = ____ days
	Total absences in grade 7 - <i>plus</i> - first quarter of grade 8	Total absences in Grade 7 - <i>plus</i> - first quarter = 15 days or more. <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">0 points</div>	Total days absent in Grade 8 (<i>First quarter</i>) = ____ days Total days absent = ____ days
Admission Criterion #3 Written Assessment	Score on assessment determines total points earned.	Applicants may earn up to 20 points.	To be determined between January 11 and 22, 2010. Up to 20 points may be earned.
Admission Criterion #4 Interview	Score on interview determines total points earned.	Applicants may earn up to 20 points.	To be determined between January 11 and 22, 2010. Up to 20 points may be earned.
Points to Qualify	80 points	My Score:	

This worksheet is for STUDENT/PARENT USE ONLY.

DO NOT include this worksheet with your application.