

Towson High School

69 Cedar Avenue, Towson MD 21286

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Law & Public Policy 2010-2011 Assessment Guidelines

The Law and Public Policy Program is an interdisciplinary magnet program in a comprehensive high school. The program offers courses on the gifted and talented level in law and public policy to develop strong communication, writing, and presentation skills for the highly able college-bound students.

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

Open House: **October 27, 2009** **6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** **Towson 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 MUST be mailed 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 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.*

Assessment: **Saturday, January 9, 2010** **12:15 p.m.**

Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. Students must enter the building through the Aigburth Road lobby (not the Cedar Avenue lobby). Students are asked to bring the assessment reminder for verification purposes and their "Personal Inventory – Prewriting Activity" (attached). Students should be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. Students will register for the assessment in the Aigburth lobby and then proceed to the auditorium. Students will be escorted from the auditorium to the testing rooms. Testing will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. **No one will be admitted to the assessment after 1:30 p.m.** On average, the entire assessment takes approximately 2 hours. Parents may wait in the cafeteria on the first floor, or return to the school within 2 hours.

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.

Inclement Weather Date: Saturday, January 23, 2010

Directions to Towson High School:

I-695 to Towson
Exit York Road South (26 A)
Left at Aigburth Road (Across from Towson University)
Turn right into the school parking lot.

Law & Public Policy Assessment Information

Prior to the Assessment

This **MUST** be completed prior to coming to the audition.

Personal Inventory: A Personal Inventory prewriting activity is included with these Assessment Guidelines. Completing this activity will help students prepare for the written assessment on January 9, 2010. Students should bring the Personal Inventory with them to the assessment.

How to prepare for the test: Students can prepare for the test portion of the assessment by working with tutorial preparation materials for the PSAT or SAT, English portion. Additionally, other print sources are available in educational resource establishments that provide practice in reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and sentence completion.

On the Day of the Assessment

The assessment takes approximately 2 hours.

Students will take a standardized, three-part, selected response, reading/vocabulary test and a writing assessment. Skills that are assessed by the test include reading comprehension, vocabulary, and sentence completion. Each component of the test is timed, but students will be given an opportunity to complete the assessment in full. The writing assessment will be composed and written on-site. The writing assessment will be scored using a standard rubric. Students need to bring the “Personal Inventory – Prewriting Activity,” #2 pencils and a blue or black ink pen to the assessment.

Towson High School
Law & Public Policy
Personal Inventory – Prewriting Activity

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

The Law & Public Policy Program at Towson High School prepares students to become productive global citizens. We challenge students to become life-long active learners and critical thinkers, and foster the development of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, and integrity. The Admissions Committee would like to learn about your interest in the Law & Public Policy Program and the activities and experiences you have had that relate to our program.

Directions: *Please respond to the items below. You will need to bring your responses with you to the Law & Public Policy Assessment at Towson High School on Saturday, January 9, 2010 (12:15 p.m.). Before you write your response, take time to visit our Web site (<http://towsonhs.bcps.org/lpp.html>) to review information about the Law & Public Policy Program. In addition, please review any documents you received at our Open House or during the High School Magnet Fair.*

1. Explain the strengths or skills that you have and how they contribute to either academic or personal accomplishments.

2. Identify leadership experiences that you have had and explain what you learned from them.

3. Describe how participating in school activities has helped you to develop as a citizen.

4. Identify community activities you are involved in and explain how they have helped you to develop as a productive citizen.

5. Explain why you want to participate in the Law & Public Policy Program at Towson High School. Include what you hope to gain from the program.

TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANT SELF-EVALUATION 2010-2011

Law and Public Policy

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
Law & Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Algebra I or higher in grade 8 ✓ B average (2.5 or better) in Language Arts/English, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science ✓ Performance on Written Assessment ✓ Performance on Vocabulary & Reading Test

Magnet Assessment Date

On January 9, 2010, (Inclement weather date: January 23, 2010), all students will be required to attend the written assessment and vocabulary and reading test held at Towson High School. Students should be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. All students should arrive by 12:15 p.m.. Any applicant who has a scheduling conflict with another magnet school can receive an alternate time by contacting the school directly.

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 combined scores on the written assessment and the vocabulary and reading test 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	Grade 7 1 st marking pd. grade/points	Grade 7 2 nd marking pd. grade/points	Grade 7 3 rd marking pd. grade/points	Grade 7 4 th marking pd. grade/points (if applicable)	Grade 8 1 st marking pd. grade/points	Total Points	Total Marking Periods (4 or 5)	Grade Average
Lang Arts/English								
Social Studies								
Math								
Science								

TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANT SELF-EVALUATION 2010-2011

Law & Public Policy

Criteria		Scoring Method		My information	My Score <small>(CIRCLE POINTS EARNED)</small>
Admission Criterion #1 Math Enrollment	Algebra I	Algebra I and higher	10 points	My Grade 8 math course is _____ <small>(record math course here)</small>	10 points
		Algebraic Thinking 2	5 points		or
		Pre-Algebra, Math 8, or below	0 points		5 points or 0 points
Admission Criterion #2 Grade Average <small>(see "How to Calculate Your Grade Average")</small>	"B" average or higher (2.5 or higher)	English/LA and Social Studies: Score 15 points for each grade average equaling "B" or higher (2.5 or higher)		English/Lang. Arts Average:	15 points or 0 points
		Score 0 points for each grade average less than "B". (less than 2.5)		Social Studies Average:	15 points or 0 points
		Math and Science: Score 10 points for each grade average equaling "B" or higher (2.5 or higher)		Mathematics Average:	10 points or 0 points
		Score 0 points for each grade average less than "B". (less than 2.5)		Science Average:	10 points or 0 points
Admission Criterion #3 Written Assessment	Score determines total points earned.	Applicants may earn up to 20 points.		To be determined on January 9, 2010.	Up to 20 points may be earned.
Admission Criterion #4 Vocabulary & Reading Test	Score on test determines total points earned.	Applicants may earn up to 20 points.		To be determined on January 9, 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.