

# TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL

## Law & Public Policy

*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 Transportation Information:** *Towson High School (Central Area)*  
*Transportation is provided at community pick-up points for students from all areas of Baltimore County. Students transfer buses at George Washington Carver Center.*

**Open House:** Thursday, October 20, 2011 Programs starts at 6:30p.m.

## 2012-2013 Assessment Guidelines

**Assessment Date:** Saturday, January 7, 2012 12:15 p.m.


**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 21, 2012 12:15 p.m.

**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.

<p><b>Towson High School</b> 69 Cedar Avenue Towson, MD 21286</p>	<p><b><u>Directions to Towson High School:</u></b></p> <p>From I-695</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Exit onto York Road South (26 A)</li><li>▪ Go through the Towson traffic circle and continue south on York Road</li><li>▪ Turn left at Aigburth Road (first traffic light after intersection of Burke Avenue and York Road, across from Towson University)</li><li>▪ Go two blocks and turn right into the school parking lot.</li></ul>
	
<p><b><u>Magnet Coordinator</u></b> Mary-Elizabeth White (410) 887-3608 ext. 243 mwhite@bcps.org</p>	

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### Prior to the Assessment

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

Complete the 2012-2013 Applicant Self-Evaluation form included with these guidelines.

**Personal Inventory:** A *Personal Inventory* is included with these Assessment Guidelines. Completing this activity will help applicants prepare for the writing portion of the assessment on January 7, 2012. Applicants must bring the completed *Personal Inventory* with them to the assessment.

**How to prepare for the test:** Applicants can prepare for the Language Arts component 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.

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 need to bring the assessment reminder (for verification purposes); the *Personal Inventory* (attached); several, sharpened #2 pencils; a soft eraser; and a blue or black ink pen to the assessment. On **Saturday, January 7, 2012**, Towson High School will be open for registration beginning at 12 p.m. Applicants should be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. Applicants and parents/guardians must enter the building through the Aigburth Road lobby (not the Cedar Avenue lobby).

Registrations are scheduled as follows:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Registration Time</u>
A-D	12:15 p.m.
E-K	12:30 p.m.
L-R	12:45 p.m.
S-Z	1:00 p.m.

***No one will be admitted to the assessment after 1:15.***

Applicants will register for the assessment and then proceed into the auditorium. Applicants will be escorted from the auditorium to their testing room. The assessment takes approximately 2 hours from the time applicants are taken to their testing room. Parents/guardians may wait in the cafeteria on the first floor or return to the school within 2.5 hours after registration. All applicants must be picked up by no later than 4 p.m.

*Electronic devices, such as iPods and cellular phones, **are not allowed** in the testing areas.*

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### Assessment Description

Applicants will complete a standardized, selected response (multiple choice) test and a writing assessment.

Magnet Test: (35 points)

The test consists of 70 questions, which are divided into two sections - reading comprehension and vocabulary. Each section of the test is timed, but applicants will be given an opportunity to complete the assessment in full. Applicants can earn up to 35 evaluation points.

Writing Assessment: (20 pts)

Applicants will be asked to write an essay in response to a specific prompt. The essay will be evaluated on how thoroughly it addresses the requirements of the prompt. The writing assessment will be composed and written on-site. Essays written in advance will not be accepted. Applicants will be able to use their Personal Inventory during the writing assessment. The writing assessment will be scored using a standard rubric on a 20 point scale.

<b>Documented testing accommodations, as appropriate to the assessment, will be provided.</b>
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## Magnet Events

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

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

**Towson High School  
Law & Public Policy  
Personal Inventory**

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 7, 2012 (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 BCPS Magnet EXPO!*

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

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

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

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

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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.

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# TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL 2012-2013 APPLICANT SELF-EVALUATION 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, 2011**. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission.

### Admission Criteria

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

### Magnet Assessment Date

On January 7, 2012, (Inclement weather date: January 21, 2012), all applicants will be required to attend the magnet assessment at Towson High School. Applicants should be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. All applicants should arrive according to their last name:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Registration Time</u>
A-D	12:15 p.m.
E-K	12:30 p.m.
L-R	12:45 p.m.
S-Z	1:00 p.m.

Please call to arrange an alternative testing time if there is a scheduling conflict.

### 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, applicants who earn the highest combined scores on the written assessment and the vocabulary and reading test may be selected to fill up to 20% of the seats available in the magnet program.

### Qualifying for Admission

The applicant must earn at least 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 <sup>st</sup> marking pd. grade/points	2 <sup>nd</sup> marking pd. grade/points	3 <sup>rd</sup> marking pd. grade/points	4 <sup>th</sup> marking pd. grade/points (if applicable)	1 <sup>st</sup> marking pd. grade/points			
English/Lang Arts								
Math								
Science								
Social Studies								

**TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2012-2013 APPLICANT SELF-EVALUATION**  
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Criteria		Scoring Method		My information	My Score	
<b>Admission Criterion #1</b> Math Enrollment	Algebra I	Algebra I and higher	5 points	My current math course is _____ (record math course here)	_____/5 pts	
		Algebraic Thinking 2	2 points			
		Pre-Algebra, Math 8, or below	0 points			
<b>Admission Criterion #2</b> Grade Average (see "How to Calculate Your Grade Average")	"B" average or higher (2.5 or higher)	<b>English/LA, Social Studies Math and Science:</b> Score 10 points for each grade average equaling "B" or higher (2.5 or higher) Score 0 points for each grade average less than "B".(less than 2.5)		English/Lang. Arts Average: _____	_____/10 pts	
				Social Studies Average: _____	_____/10 pts	
				Mathematics Average: _____	_____/10 pts	
				Science Average: _____	_____/10 pts	
<b>Admission Criterion #3</b> Written Assessment	Score determines total points earned.	Applicants may earn up to 20 points.		To be determined on January 7, 2012.	_____/20 pts	
<b>Admission Criterion #4</b> Vocabulary & Reading Test	Score on test determines total points earned.	Applicants may earn up to 35 points.		To be determined on January 7, 2012.	_____/35pts	
<b>Points to Qualify</b>		<b>80 points</b>			<b>My Score:</b>	_____/100 pts

**FINAL REMINDER: DO NOT include this worksheet with your application.**  
**FOR APPLICANT SELF-ASSESSMENT USE ONLY – does not indicate qualification for programs.**