

Loch Raven Academy
8101 La Salle Road Towson, MD 21286

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Assessment Guidelines 2010-2011

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

Open House: **October 7, 2009** **6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** **Loch Raven Acad.**

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:
Middle 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: **January 9, 2010** **8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** *All Assessments by Appointment*

Applicants must attend the school-based assessment for the program to which they applied. Students will be invited to the school for the *on-site* assessment. All students will be contacted by mail 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.

Inclement Weather Date: January 23, 2010 at the previously scheduled appointment time

Directions to Loch Raven Technical Academy:

From Interstate 695

Take exit 29 to merge onto Loch Raven Blvd/MD-542

Turn right at Taylor Ave (Slight left at Goucher Blvd as Taylor Ave becomes Goucher Blvd)

Take the 1st right onto LaSalle Rd

Take the 1st right into Loch Raven Academy at 8101 LaSalle Rd

Assessment Information

On the Day of the Assessment

Assessment times, reminders, and directions will be mailed to all applicants. Students should arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time. At least one parent/guardian is expected to remain at school until the assessment is ended. **If a student arrives more than 5 minutes after the scheduled start time of the assessment, they will not be able to participate in the assessment.**

If problems or issues arise on the day of the assessment, please contact Loch Raven Academy at (410) 887-3518.

Failure to attend an assessment will result in disqualification.

On Assessment Day, Saturday, January 9th, 2010, a standard rubric will be used to score performances in the following areas.

Part I – Essay (10 points): The essay will reflect a topic or the demonstration of interest in the applied magnet theme.

Please bring – Two #2 pencils and an eraser.

All students applying to Loch Raven Academy will complete a written essay on Assessment Day. **Please do not prepare an essay before the Assessment Day.** The essay will be scored using a standard rubric.

Part II – Magnet Assessment (50 points): Select One of the Magnets Below:

CONSERVATION SCIENCES MAGNET

(Earth/Space Science, Environmental Sciences, and Aquatic Sciences)

Environmental scientists investigate different issues that can affect the health of an ecosystem. While in this magnet program students will investigate a variety of issues and, as scientists, try to find a solution for any problem that may be harming the ecosystem. These solutions must be based on scientific research, reading assignments, hands-on labs and integrated computer technology. It is imperative that students in this magnet have an interest in science. In addition, students need to demonstrate proficiency in both reading and math to expect success in the magnet science courses, which offer high school credit.

Assessment Process

Please bring – Sharpened #2 Pencil. No additional items needed.

On Assessment Day, students will independently complete a performance-based assessment and test. Students will read and complete a scientific investigation. Based on the results gathered, students will be required to make a decision about an environmental issue with scientific justification.

In part one, students will read a description of a science investigation, develop a reasonable hypothesis, and conduct the investigation. After completing the investigation, students will analyze the results of the investigation and formulate a scientific conclusion. This conclusion will determine the validity of the hypothesis.

In part two, students will review the data collected and displayed in a student created graph from the science investigation. Students will make a decision about an environmental issue based on data collected. Students will share their decision and justification in a written format.

On Assessment Day, a standard rubric will be used to score both the written and performance parts of the assessment.

ARTS EXPLORATION MAGNET

In the Performing Arts program, concepts and skills are developed through performance, where students will learn and grow as they experience the entire creative process from the infancy of an idea to the fruition of a production. Students are encouraged to take risks and are challenged to problem-solve by working individually and with an ensemble. The Performing Arts program is designed to give students flexibility and choices. Students will explore performance through Theater Arts and Steel Pan/ Percussion. Appreciation and analysis of performance are stressed within all the fields to increase students' understanding of all art forms.

Audition Process

Please bring

Just be prepared for a single audition in a performing arts area of interest. An audition piece may consist of the following:

- A rhythmic sight reading (no materials are required)
- A prepared song (a cappella or with their own pre-recorded accompaniment- 2 to 3 minutes)
- A prepared dance or movement piece (with their own pre-recorded accompaniment- 2 to 3 minutes and dance wear as appropriate)
- A prepared monologue- 2 to 3 minutes.

In the first part of their auditions, students will audition in one area and perform one selection of their choosing in drama and choral or perform a given piece in steel pan/percussion or dance. This performance section will be scored on standard rubric for each area.

In the second part, students will participate in an interview demonstrating their interest and knowledge of performing arts

ARTS EXPLORATION MAGNET: VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts Magnet provides a stimulating opportunity for students to experience the arts. Concepts and skills are developed through a performance-based program. Students are encouraged to take risks and are challenged to problem-solve through their learning by working individually and in groups. The program is designed to provide a variety of experiences in drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, computer technology, printmaking, ceramics and photography. Appreciation, aesthetics and criticism of the art-making process and product are stressed in all areas of concentration. Students are expected to keep sketchbooks, personal journals and develop portfolios of their work. All visual arts students are encouraged to set individual goals and recognize their artistic growth and potential. Most importantly, they should have a passion for creating and expressing themselves within the visual arts.

Assessment Process

Please bring – 1) completed family drawing, 2) self-portrait, 3) portfolio & 4) sharpened #2 pencil(s) with eraser

At the time of their appointment, students should bring the following previously completed drawings:

- **A Family Activity drawing** which shows their family involved in an activity. The drawing should be done on white paper, which measures 8 ½ x 11 inches. The student may choose from colored pencils or markers to complete the drawing. The drawing will be scored on the student's ability to communicate the family activity by using an interesting point of view, figure proportions, figure placement in the composition and the variety of use of the elements of art. The finished drawing will be kept on file as a part of the assessment record of each applicant.

- **A Self Portrait from direct observation** -on 8 ½ X 11-paper using pencil, look in a mirror to draw a picture of yourself. Use values to show 3-D form. In the background create an imaginary scene. Drawing will be scored on the proportions and detail of the face, use of shading to show 3-D form, interesting composition and creativity. The finished drawing will be kept on file as a part of the assessment record of each applicant.
- **Portfolio**- A variety of artworks created with in the last year. Please bring between 3-5 selected works. Portfolio will be scored on creativity, time and effort, attention to detail, and handling of the media. Applicants will take the portfolio with them after the assessment.

Each student will be asked to respond to questions related to their family drawing and self-portrait. The questions will address the composition, the figure placement, the use of color, and other art elements.

Students will be asked to complete a still-life drawing based on an arrangement that will be set up in the art room. Each student may work as long as, but no more than 45 minutes to do the drawing using pencil. Paper and drawing boards will be supplied. Students are to bring their own **sharpened** #2 pencil(s). The drawing will be scored on the student's ability to communicate a focal point, an accurate size relationship of objects and the use of art elements to create variety in the composition. The completed drawing will be kept on file as part of the assessment record of each applicant.

LAW AND FINANCE MAGNET

The Law and Finance program is specifically designed to allow students to explore a wide variety of topics and problem-based learning activities that extend their understanding of legal issues, finance, and business technology in the 21st century. Students will have the opportunity to take the Juvenile Justice high school exam for high school credit. The program prepares students with the foundations for success in high school magnet program offerings in finance, law and public policy, and related career and technical programs. Students are challenged to think critically about the purpose for laws and free enterprise in our society through written and verbal communication. Students who have strong reading skills, math skills, and have shown proficiency in Social Studies are good candidates for this program.

Assessment Process

Please bring – 2 #2 pencils sharpened

Students will be evaluated using a Reading Comprehension & Math Skills test. In the Reading Comprehension test, students will read, comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate informational and literary texts. On the Math Skills test, students will use computation to recognize number patterns and relationships. In addition, the Math Skills test will demonstrate the students' ability to apply mathematical processes in making connections and apply reasoning to solve problems.

On Assessment Day, a standard rubric will be used to score student assessments.