

H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program

A Countywide Alternative Program

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www.arlington.k12.va.us/schools/woodlawn



Student choice is the central focus of **H-B Woodlawn's** alternative secondary program. Our school's program does not provide for "continuous adult supervision." Rather, students must decide how to use their time wisely to

meet their obligations. The amount of "unsupervised" time increases gradually from sixth - 12th grade. To make this offer of freedom work, we must trust the good intentions of our students and they must reciprocate with a sufficient degree of personal responsibility. The student who can best take advantage of the personal freedom at **H-B Woodlawn** is self-motivated and self-directed. Students are empowered to have control over their educational program. Accordingly, they are responsible for their actions. In 1971, we selected "a word to the wise is sufficient" as our school motto to reflect our association of freedom with responsibility. The "Town Meeting" is **H-B Woodlawn's** policy-making body. Each student, teacher and parent in attendance has an equal vote. As students are treated equally with adults in Town Meeting voting, so are they in relations with adults. Our experience has been that **H-B Woodlawn** students approach college with a mature and realistic understanding of their interests and abilities and with a heightened commitment to learning for its inherent value.

Philosophy Statement

The H-B Woodlawn Program is designed to provide our students with more control over their education than traditional comprehensive schools permit. We focus on students who need less restriction and more freedom to be successful in school. We prize self-motivation and self-discipline in our students, for we know that these characteristics are vital for success here. We also work hard to inculcate these habits in our students, incrementally increasing freedom and expectations of responsibility through the grades.

Goals

All of our schools set annual goals. Our school's goals are listed here.

- Provide a flexible and individualized learning environment for students.
- Increase Standards of Learning test results by five percent.
- Continue implementation of a multi-year school assessment process.

Instructional Highlights*

All Arlington secondary schools teach the adopted curricula and offer gifted services, special education services, reading support and English language support to those students who qualify. Yet each school's program is a little different. These are some of the instructional features of our school's program.

- Broad elective choices
- Sixteen Advanced Placement classes
- Separate middle and high school special education resource rooms
- High Intensity Language Training (HILT) Program for 18-22-year-old students
- Student-generated choices in English and social studies
- Optional senior projects
- Community-As-School program
- Five foreign languages offered (Spanish, French, German, Latin and Japanese)

Awards and Recognition*

We're proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff. Here are some of their accomplishments.

- *The Washington Post* listing of Competitive High Schools: Ranked #1 on the 2005 and 2006 "challenge index."
- *Newsweek* Magazine listing of "Best 100 High Schools" (1998, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006); #13 in USA in 2006
- Eleven drama productions during the 2005-06 school year
- Three Cappie Awards for student-directed drama production of *The Marriage of Bette & Boo*

Interscholastic Competition

High school students who wish to participate in interscholastic competition can do so through their neighborhood high schools.

- Chess
- Frisbee
- Lego League

Intramural Opportunities

- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Flag Football
- Tennis
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Softball
- Floor Hockey
- Indoor Soccer

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

- Parent Advisory Committee (PTA)
- Grade level networks in each grade
- Monthly parent newsletter
- Parents volunteer in a variety of capacities.
- Music Boosters network
- Drama Boosters network

Technology

Student access to technology is an Arlington priority. All of our schools have state-of-the-art computer labs, teacher voice mail, access to the Internet and a school home page. While students have access to some older computers for backup or overflow, the number of new and mid-level stations used for instruction and testing are reported below.

Number of computer stations in labs and classrooms: 190

Student Stations: 131

Teacher Stations: 59

Number of computer labs: 3

School Information Telephone Line: yes

School Safety

To effectively promote the learning and teaching needed to achieve our high academic goals, we believe it is important to provide a safe school that is free of disruption.

Fire Drills Per Year: 12

School Bus Drills Per Year: 2

Safety Assemblies: yes

Youth Resource Officer: yes

Transportation

90% qualify to ride the bus and live more than 1 1/2 miles from school

10% live within the 1 1/2-mile walking zone

All students who live more than 1 1/2 miles from school are eligible to ride the bus.

School Population*

Enrollment, Grades 6–12: 592

Students who receive English as a second language support: 53

Asian/Pacific Islander: 8.9%

Black: 6.7%

Hispanic: 15.7%

White: 68.4%

Unspecified: 0.6%

Total Teaching Faculty: 60

Total Administrators: 3

Teachers with a master's degree or beyond: 36

Average Years of Teaching Experience in Arlington: 13

Total Average Years of Teaching Experience: 17