

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE H-B WOODLAWN PROGRAM

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The H-B Woodlawn Program is based on a proposal developed by students and teachers in Arlington, and approved by the Arlington County School Board in 1971. The Program for grades 6-12 is now in its fortieth year. Contact Principal Frank Haltiwanger for more information.

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The H-B Woodlawn Program is designed to provide our students with more control over their education than traditional comprehensive schools permit. 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.

II. SYSTEM OF OPERATION

The central focus of our system is student choice. Students make choices in three general areas:

A. Use of Time and Personal Behavior

H-B Woodlawn does not provide "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 6th to 12th grade. Some students use free time for study, while others spend it socially or away from the building. Instead of having a system of rules to govern their use of time and behavior, H-B Woodlawn students are held accountable for the consequences of their actions. Students must monitor themselves on and off campus. 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.

B. Educational Goals

The second area in which we give students more control is in setting educational goals. Beginning in middle school with personal "contracts," we expand choices in the upper grades to include the English and social studies elective programs, independent study and AP courses.

The student who can best take advantage of the personal freedom at H-B Woodlawn is self-motivated and self-directed. For these independent learners, there is no limit to their success. The flexibility, informality and individuality of the atmosphere at H-B Woodlawn encourage these students to design and implement their own programs. Some older students also take college courses, pursue internships and independent study projects, and participate in our "Community as School" Program.

Students are empowered to have control over their educational program. They are also left somewhat unprotected to suffer the consequences of their actions. In 1971 we selected "a word to the wise is sufficient" (*Verbum Sap Sat*) as our school motto to reflect our association of freedom with responsibility.

C. School Governance

We do this through the "Town Meeting" which is H-B Woodlawn's policy-making body. The Town Meeting decides the allocation of staffing given to departments, teacher hiring, the expenditure of parent-raised funds, and general school rules. Town Meetings are held weekly throughout the year. 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 other relations with adults. At H-B Woodlawn, students address their teachers by their first names and choose their own "teacher-advisor." To us, this symbolizes an equal footing in the educational process, and also stresses for the student the need to make decisions for himself or herself, not by relying on an impersonal school structure or on the power and authority of a teacher or administrator. For this same reason, administrators also teach classes and have "teacher-advisor" groups.

III. RELATIONSHIP TO THE "HOME SCHOOL"

The current enrollment of 606 for grades 6-12 consists of students who voluntarily chose to attend the H-B Woodlawn Program rather than attend their regular neighborhood middle school and high school. We operate out of our own separate building and our students take all of their classes at H-B Woodlawn. Since we are a program, our students retain their official membership in their "home" schools by:

- a. participating in sports and other extracurricular activities at that home high school;
- b. receiving their diplomas from their home high school;
- c. having their GPA from H-B Woodlawn matched up with the identical GPA of their particular home high school senior class (the Class Rank we report is based on this parallel ranking system).

IV. PROGRAM INFORMATION

The sixty teachers in the Program are state-accredited teachers who have volunteered from the County secondary schools. Most have Masters degrees or beyond. Instead of having traditional guidance counselors, each teacher and administrator serves as a "teacher-advisor" for about fifteen students.

Students volunteer to participate in this alternative to the traditional neighborhood schools. Because the Program is oversubscribed each year, our students are selected by lottery. An extensive advanced placement (AP) program is offered in English, social studies, mathematics, science, foreign language, and fine arts. The strength of this program is demonstrated by the number of scores of 3, 4, and 5 achieved by our students on the "AP" tests each year. This strength has been recognized by Jay Matthews, the author of *Class Struggle* and *Harvard Schmarvard*. Using his "challenge index," he rated H-B Woodlawn as #1 in 2004-2010 among highly competitive public high schools (with open enrollment policies) in the Washington, D.C. area (*The Washington Post*). Matthews also ranks H-B Woodlawn as a top school in the U.S. in 1998 to 2010 (*Newsweek*).

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.

STUDENT PROFILES: 2007 – 2011

MEAN SAT SCORES*

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>% of class Represented</u>	<u>Reading Score</u>	<u>Math Score</u>	<u>Writing Scores</u>	<u>Combined Scores</u>
Class of 2011*	77	88%	626	616	606	1848
Class of 2010	77	76%	645	633	611	1889
Class of 2009	75	86%	608	601	593	1812
Class of 2008	76	83%	655	655	637	1947
Class of 2007	76	94%	645	620	624	1889

* Junior Year Scores

NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM**

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>Number of Semi-Finalists</u>	<u>Percent of Senior Class</u>
Class of 2011	77	2	3%
Class of 2010	77	5	6%
Class of 2009	75	3	4%
Class of 2008	75	6	8%
Class of 2007	77	1	1%
Class of 2006	79	0	0%

** Students are listed under home high school by the NMSC

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

<u>Year Tests Taken</u>	<u>Number of AP Tests Taken</u>	<u>Number of AP</u>				
		<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Spring of 2010	452	17%	24%	29%	18%	12%
Spring of 2009	443	17%	21%	24%	21%	18%
Spring of 2008	398	14%	17%	28%	23%	18%
Spring of 2007	425	10%	14%	31%	24%	21%
Spring of 2006	454	9%	18%	24%	31%	19%

PLANS OF GRADUATES

	<u>Four-Year Colleges</u>	<u>Two-Year Colleges</u>	<u>Work/Study/Travel</u>
Class of 2010	87%	9%	4%
Class of 2009	90%	6%	4%
Class of 2008	91%	5%	4%
Class of 2007	96%	3%	1%
Class of 2006	96%	2%	2%

**H-B WOODLAWN – CLASS OF 2010
SENIORS' PLANS BY STATE**

ARIZONA (1)

University of Arizona1

CALIFORNIA (3)

Pomona College1

University of California Berkeley.....1

University of Redlands1

FLORIDA (2)

Eckerd College.....1

University of Central Florida1

MARYLAND (1)

Loyola University of Maryland1

MASSACHUSETTS (4)

Amherst College1

Boston University1

Northeastern University1

Williams College1

MINNESOTA (1)

Carleton College1

MONTANA (1)

Montana State University1

NEBRASKA (1)

University of Nebraska1

NEW JERSEY (1)

Drew University.....1

NEW YORK (3)

Barnard College1

New York Institute of Technology1

Sarah Lawrence College1

NORTH CAROLINA (2)

North Carolina State University.....1

Warren Wilson College.....1

OHIO (4)

Denison University1

Oberlin College.....2

University of Cincinnati.....1

OREGON (1)

Reed College.....1

PENNSYLVANIA (5)

Bryn Mawr College.....1

Gettysburg College1

Haverford College.....1

University of Pennsylvania.....1

University of Pittsburgh.....1

POLAND (1)

A University in Poland.....1

RHODE ISLAND (1)

Brown University1

SOUTH CAROLINA (2)

College of Charleston1

Clemson University1

TENNESSEE (1)

Sewanee University of the South.....1

VIRGINIA (36)

Blue Ridge Community College.....2

Christopher Newport University.....1

The College of William and Mary3

George Mason University3

James Madison University4

Northern Virginia Community College... 5

Old Dominion University1

Randolph Macon College1

University of Mary Washington1

University of Virginia6

Virginia Commonwealth University...7

Virginia Tech4

WASHINGTON (1)

The Evergreen State College1

GAP YEAR3