

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 thirty-first year. Contact Principal Ray Anderson 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 encourages 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 530 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. taking the SAT/PSAT under the CEEB code of their home high school (Wakefield High School, Washington-Lee High School, or Yorktown High School);
- b. participating in sports and other extracurricular activities at that home high school;
- c. receiving their diplomas from their home high school;
- d. 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 forty-four 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. Recently this strength has been recognized by Jay Matthews, the author of *Class Struggle*. Using his Achallenge index,[≡] he rated H-B Woodlawn #2 in the Washington, D.C. area (*The Washington Post*, March 22, 1998); #3 in the Washington, D.C. area (*The Washington Post*, October 24, 1999) and #8 in the U.S. (*Newsweek*, March 30, 1998) among highly competitive public high schools with open enrollment policies.

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: 1997 - 2002

MEAN SAT SCORES*

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>% of class Represented</u>	<u>Verbal Score</u>	<u>Math Score</u>	<u>Combined Scores</u>
Class of 2002**	82	67%	626	605	1231
Class of 2001	80	91%	620	558	1178
Class of 2000	78	87%	615	580	1195
Class of 1999	76	92%	612	594	1206
Class of 1998	75	96%	642	606	1248
Class of 1997	74	99%	638	615	1253

* Included in home high school score by CEEB

** Junior Year Scores

NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM***

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>Number of Semi-Finalists</u>	<u>Percent of Senior Class</u>
Class of 2002	82	2	2%
Class of 2001	80	2	3%
Class of 2000	78	3	4%
Class of 1999	76	4	5%
Class of 1998	75	7	9%
Class of 1997	74	4	5%

*** 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>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	
Spring of 2001	250	11%	24%	29%	24%	12%
Spring of 2000	191	19%	28%	29%	16%	8%
Spring of 1999	178	12%	27%	37%	18%	6%
Spring of 1998	202	28%	24%	35%	9%	4%
Spring of 1997	175	19%	29%	29%	15%	7%

COMMENTS: Over one-third of the scores are 4 or 5; about two-thirds are 3 or higher.

PLANS OF GRADUATES

	<u>Four-Year Colleges</u>	<u>Two-Year Colleges</u>	<u>Work/Study/Travel</u>
Class of 2001	86%	8%	6%
Class of 2000	85%	10%	5%
Class of 1999	90%	1%	9%
Class of 1998	92%	4%	4%
Class of 1997	95%	1%	4%

**H-B WOODLAWN
CLASS OF 2001
SENIORS' PLANS BY STATE**

CALIFORNIA

University of Calif. – Berkeley 1
 University of Calif.– Santa Cruz 1
 University of San Francisco 1
 University of Southern California 1

COLORADO

Colorado College 1

CONNECTICUT

Quinnipiac College 1

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

George Washington University 3

FLORIDA

Florida International University 1

GEORGIA

Savannah College of Art and Design 1

INDIANA

Indiana University 1

MARYLAND

Naval Academy 2
 Western Maryland College 1

MASSACHUSETTS

Mount Holyoke College 1
 University of Mass. – Amherst 1
 Williams College 1

MINNESOTA

Carleton College 1

NEW YORK

Pace University 1

NORTH CAROLINA

Guilford College 2

OHIO

Central State University 1

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma University 1

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr College 1
 Temple University 1
 University of Pennsylvania 1

RHODE ISLAND

Brown University 1

TEXAS

Baylor University 1

VIRGINIA

Christopher Newport University 1
 College of William and Mary 5
 George Mason University 4
 Graham Webb Beauty School 1
 James Madison University 4
 Mary Washington College 1
 Northern Virginia Comm. College 5
 University of Richmond 1
 University of Virginia 11
 Virginia Commonwealth University 9
 Virginia Tech 4

OTHER

Employment 3
 Internships 2