

Laurel High School



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Torrence Oxendine
Athletic Director

"...offers an academically challenging environment, where our diverse student population works, learns, and prepares together for opportunities ahead of them as lifelong learners in a global community."

School and Community

Laurel High School, a suburban public high school founded in 1899, midway between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD is one of twenty-five high schools in Prince George's County and the oldest in the county. Accredited by the Middle States Association of College and Schools, Laurel High School is a 9-12 comprehensive high school serving a diverse population of approximately 1858 students composed of 60% African American, 6% Caucasian, 5% Asian, 27% Hispanic, and 2% other.

Curriculum

Operating on an A/B, four-period day schedule, Laurel High School offers an Honors program, special education, Advanced Placement program, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and a Technical Academy Program offering certifications in Cosmetology, Automotive Technology, Nursing, and Computer Networking in CISCO. Laurel High School also offers Academy Programs in the following areas: Global Studies featuring concentrations in International Business and Finance and in International Relations, the Law and Public Service academy featuring concentrations in Child, Growth, and Development, Teacher Academy, Forensics, and Pre-law and Social Justice. Each incoming freshman must select an academy to follow throughout the next four years in high school. Students are also encouraged to take dual enrollment options at the local colleges.

Student Activities

Laurel High School sponsors an excellent program of co-curricular activities. Opportunities exist in student publications (award winning newspaper, *The Shield*) community service, academic competitions, music, AFJROTC, theater, and athletics in baseball, track, basketball, football, swimming, softball, and wrestling.

Honors Courses

Laurel High School offers honors level courses in most academic subjects. LHS currently offers twelve honors courses. Placement in honors courses depends on student achievement, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, and the student's post-secondary goals; students are not tracked into any one program or level. Prince George's County Public Schools no longer recognizes Honors courses on the transcript. Honors courses can be determined by the fifth number in the course number as a "9" (*i.e.*, *Geometry - 311593*).

Pre-Diploma (PDP) Program

The PDP program offers seven accelerated courses for 9th and 10th grade students accepted into the Pre-IB program from Laurel High School's feeder middle schools and from the areas of Laurel, Beltsville, Hyattsville, Adelphi, and Silver Spring that are within the attendance boundaries of LHS. Accelerated courses are offered in English 9, English 10, U.S. History, Local, State and National Government, Biology, Chemistry, and Art History in preparation for entry into the Diploma program in 11th grade.

Advanced Placement Program

Laurel High School's offering of AP courses varies year-to-year based on student interest. Open enrollment exists within the AP Program, however, students must obtain a teacher recommendation and are required to complete summer work. LHS currently offers eleven AP courses including: AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP French Language, AP Spanish Language, AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, AP U.S. Government, AP World History, AP Calculus, AP Biology, and AP Music Theory.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

The IB Program at Laurel High School was established in 1989. There are approximately 250 students from Grade 9 - Grade 12 in the program. There are currently twenty-seven courses currently available in the IB Diploma (11th and 12th grade) including: World Literature 1 & 2, IB French A & B, IB Spanish A & B, IB Initio Spanish 1 & 2, IB World History, IB Geography 1 & 2, IB History of Americas, IB Math 1 & 2, IB Math Studies, IB Biology 1 & 2, IB Chemistry 1 & 2, IB Art 1 & 2, IB Theatre 1 & 2, IB Dance 1 & 2, and Theory of Knowledge 1 & 2.

Graduation Requirements

To meet Maryland graduation requirements, students must earn a minimum of 21 credits, pass the state's High School Assessment Examinations in Algebra 1, Biology, and English 10, and earn 24 independent service learning hours. In addition to completing the state requirements, Prince George's County requires all students to complete four years of high school beyond grade eight and complete at least four credits of coursework in their senior year of high school. Graduation requirements include the following:

<i>Courses</i>	<i>Credits</i>
English	4
Social Studies	3
Science	3
Mathematics	3
Fine Art	1
Foundations of Technology	1
Health Issues	½
Personal Fitness	½
Foreign Language <i>or</i>	2
Advanced Technology <i>or</i>	2
State Approved Career & Technology Program	4-9
Electives	3

Grading and Ranking

Students take a maximum of eight courses per year with .50 credit earned after successful completion of a semester course or 1 credit after successful completion of a year-long course. All high school classes are included in computing grade point average. International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses are weighted with an additional 1.0 quality point in grade point average calculations. For example: A=5.0; B=4.0; C=3.0, D=2.0 and E=0.

Grade	Grade Description	Scale	Quality Points
A	Excellent	90-100	4
B	Above Average	80-89	3
C	Average	70-79	2
D	Below Average	60-69	1
E	Failure	0-59	0
P	Pass	60-100	0
F	Fail	0-59	0
W	Withdrawn	n/a	n/a

Note: Prince George's County Public Schools no longer provide senior rank or student descriptive rankings on student transcripts. Below is a ranking table for the Class of 2016 of Laurel High School for admissions purposes only.

Ranking for Class of 2016 Total seniors: 431

GPA	%
4.0	1%
3.92	5%
3.625	10%
3.396	15%
3.286	20%
3.146	25%
3.022	30%
2.75	40%
2.479	50%

The highest GPA in the class is 4.333

Standardized Test Results (2014-2015)

ACT Composite: 18.1

SAT Critical Reading: 446

SAT Math: 418

SAT Writing: 433

Advanced Placement (3 or better): 8.3%, 517 exams given

Post-High School Placement (Class of 2015)

Total seniors: 392

Four-year colleges	46%
Two-year colleges	35%
Technical school	3%
Military	7%
Work/other	9%

Students at Laurel High School matriculated to some of the following schools:

- Bowie State University
- Delaware State University
- Frostburg State University
- Full-Sail University
- Hampton University
- Howard Community College
- Howard University
- McDaniel College
- Montgomery College
- North Carolina A& T University
- Prince George's Community College
- Towson University
- University of Maryland Baltimore County
- University of Maryland College Park
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Salisbury University
- Spelman College
- Stevenson University
- St. John's University

Awards and Distinctions

Members of the Class of 2015 were offered approximately \$5.4 million in college and academic scholarships.