

# Montgomery County Public Schools

Strong academics and real-world professional experiences so students can design their own future and stand out among the best.

### WHAT ARE CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS?

Career readiness programs combine strong academics with technical skills and real-world professional experiences that give students a competitive advantage for college and lifelong career success.

#### **CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS COMBINE**







ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE



Each MCPS high school offers rigorous programs where students explore their interests and get a head start on reaching their career and college goals. For a full list of programs, visit **MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/CAREER-READINESS**.

#### WHY CAREER READINESS?

MCPS recognizes that as the economy, the cost of college, and the labor market continue to change, a more comprehensive approach in high school is needed to ensure every graduate leaves prepared for their next step.

#### CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS HELP STUDENTS DESIGN THEIR OWN FUTURE BY

- Offering a combination of both college-level and career readiness courses
- Providing relevant experiences and internships where students learn skills that make them more marketable to employers

## STUDENTS WILL LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL WITH MORE OPTIONS AND BETTER EQUIPPED TO NAVIGATE CHANGES THAT INCLUDE

- Growth in IT, engineering, business management, health care, biosciences, hospitality, public service, and other high-demand industries
- More career opportunities for skilled technical workers with some level of postsecondary education
- Higher college costs and more student debt

#### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Graduates of MCPS credit career readiness programs with their success.

- I had AP courses like everyone else, but my paid internship experience helped me stand out from the pack on college applications and gave me an edge in college, in business school, and in my career in finance.
- <sup>4</sup>Not only did I learn advanced programming, but I also learned how to collaborate and work on teams. I apply what I learned in high school every day as a software engineer at Amazon.<sup>9</sup>
- <sup>44</sup>By the time I graduated from college I had six years of bioscience experience, including the NIH internship I had in high school. That gave me a real advantage over my college classmates when we interviewed for jobs.<sup>99</sup>

## Montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Career-Readiness