

# MacArthur HS School Visioning

DCPS strives to open 'MacArthur' HS with a school culture that reflects student, family, and community input. Please add your comments below each prompt to help shape the future of MacArthur HS. Don't see a topic you would like to add input on? Use the "Additional Comments" section to add your thoughts. Please contact [dcps.planning@k12.dc.gov](mailto:dcps.planning@k12.dc.gov) with questions.

This page will remain open until June 24, 2022.

**GASTON, ONI (DCPS)** MAY 25, 2022 08:11PM

## Academic Programming

### 1) What should MacArthur students be known for?

*Strong academic program and attending top colleges* – ANONYMOUS

*Top flight high school that prizes academic excellence, problem solving, and intellectual rigor (IB!!!), with an emphasis on critical thinking, critical writing, STEM/coding, and vocational/trade opportunities. A school that pushes every student to reach their individual potential and to be well prepared for life - including how to have open and constructive dialogue with people that may say things that are disagreeable or even hurtful.* – ANONYMOUS

*Academic excellence, diversity (including international), a student body of critical thinkers with a global and action-oriented focus. Potentially vocational training in subjects with strong demand- technology, healthcare, graphic design.* – ANONYMOUS

*Strong AP courses, diversity, career academies similar to Jackson Reed, science and engineering* – ANONYMOUS

*Strong academic preparation.* – ANONYMOUS

### 2) What skills and interests should MacArthur students develop in high school?

*Critical thinking and creative writing skills* – ANONYMOUS

*1) Critical thinking/statistical reasoning/numeracy, and a love for learning. To learn how to learn, ask questions, and be curious? To question what they know and how they know it. 2) Independent problem solving - a curriculum and community that encourages and expects kids to solve academic and social challenges on their own without being led or mediated by an adult. 3) Opportunities to try new things like clubs, sports, and vocational skills like cooking, robotics, coding, wood shop -- things that give kids earned confidence that they can achieve hard things in the real world. 4) an ability to communicate and connect with people that we don't agree with. 5) a wide range of advanced classes.* – ANONYMOUS

*Writing (both creative and nonfiction), critical thinking, independence in navigating assignments and relationships, a range of sports, clubs, and art programs so that students can try things out. Some of this is being built at Hardy, but it should continue. Advanced classes/challenged in a range of subjects.* – ANONYMOUS

*I believe these students should have a well-rounded general high school experience, but that it would also help to have a specialty element that the school can be known for (e.g. global education, STEM, particular academies, etc). And critical thinking as mentioned above.* – ANONYMOUS

*Critical thinking generally, basic statistical reasoning specifically. They should understand how to interact with the modern world. What are reputable data sources? Are they reading a claim that is inherently quantitative without it being explicitly quantitative? What data are underlying the claim, and does the claim follow from the data and analysis?* – ANONYMOUS

*Finance, balancing a checkbook. Really life skills* – ANONYMOUS

### 3) What skills will students bring from elementary and middle school?

*Math, Reading, and Vocabulary skills at or above grade level* – ANONYMOUS

*Agree with previous post- and reading skills above grade level (and limited access to advanced ELA at Hardy- we need to address this). Exposure to a wide range of subjects- orchestra, drama, STEM, etc.- and appetite for more.* – ANONYMOUS

*All of that, yes, but also some kids will be below grade level or have individual challenges. The school must be able to fully support these students too, but not at the detriment of more advanced students.* – ANONYMOUS

Hardy students are coming with broad exposure to general subjects, but also to the arts: visual, music, drama. These will need to be represented in the curriculum. – ANONYMOUS

An understanding of how to digest news and process information. – ANONYMOUS

Judging by PARCC scores, relative proficiency in ELA and Math. Presumably a readiness for more advanced and more specialized math courses and English courses. – ANONYMOUS

## 4) In my opinion, students are most excited to engage in learning when...

When they have engaging and talented teachers and motivated students in the classroom – ANONYMOUS

Agree with above. Engaging teachers who meet students where they are and facilitate growth for all. Motivated peers who are also engaged. – ANONYMOUS

Programming should build on Hardy and add strength, not replicate. This is a neighborhood school. – ANONYMOUS

This school is relatively close to the Potomac River and the canal. There is a lot that might be connected to the environment, water, ecology and also the history of this area. – ANONYMOUS

It sounds like people would like to see a strong high school with opportunities and support. – ANONYMOUS

Yes & yes! ...they are CHALLENGED and their teachers and the community expects high performance and academic engagement. That means challenging work, that means deadlines, that means expectations, that means no kids playing games on tablets or iphones during class, that means real discipline for kids that do not meet community expectations. – ANONYMOUS

## Student Experience

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### 5) What does success look like for my student once they complete high school? What do they need to know and be able to do?

Ability to write and have constructive dialogue. Acceptance to top colleges or programs. Ability to navigate next steps independently and confidently. – ANONYMOUS

#1) Be able to achieve whatever next step they desire - for some that will have required top-level APs and advanced labs courses (chem, bio, robotics, coding), and languages and IB; for others that would be vocational training; for some that would be a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy. #2) Be well prepared for life - independence and problem solving abilities; have a voice and be able to advocate for themselves to peers and others: ability to navigate deadlines, expectations of quality and accuracy, etc. #3) be able to ask a question to learn about and understand others. 4) to have a constructive dialogue with another person that may not see the world the same. – ANONYMOUS

Being able to have a wide array of sports, clubs and extra curricular activities. Be able to keep students challenged with advanced courses, etc – ANONYMOUS

CIVICS - an understanding of our fragile democracy and what is needed to keep it going. – ANONYMOUS

### 6) When does my student feel the most successful at school?

My student feels the most successful when he has engaging teachers who foster curiosity and learning - this may be by providing individual feedback on assignments/in class and encouraging him to learn more. – ANONYMOUS

This may be counterintuitive, but my child feels most successful when she is pushed and when a 100% grade is actually a struggle rather than a "given". Challenging work that draws on curiosity, creative and critical thinking, and has deadline is key! – ANONYMOUS

When they have faculty and staff who take the extra time to guide them and support them with work. They need to be challenged – ANONYMOUS

### 7) When does my student feel the most challenged at school?

Good challenge- when teachers have the bandwidth to provide additional assignments or engage in more complex discussions. Bad challenge- when assignments are unclear, there's no feedback, or students are acting out/aggressive in class without repercussions. – ANONYMOUS

Challenge can come academically, athletically, in debate or drama- students should be invited and supported to stretch – ANONYMOUS

AMEN to ^^^. Agree 1000% – ANONYMOUS

academically – ANONYMOUS

## Facility Design

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### 8) In what ways could a school facility help to cultivate academic school culture?

The building should have spacious classrooms with lots of light as well as quiet study space and state-of-the-art science and technology labs. – ANONYMOUS

Community spaces that allow students and staff to gather in small and large groups. Quiet space, science and technology labs, art facilities, perhaps culinary facilities? – ANONYMOUS

TBH, The space doesn't matter if the kids' faces are into their tablets and iphones, so having a no-device/appropriate use policy is key. Beyond that, a lighted field seems ESSENTIAL. Lab space for bio, chem, robotics, seems important. Facilities to support things like cooking and shop - doing things with your hands - is key. – ANONYMOUS

Start with the end in mind rather than just retro-fitting existing spaces. In order to ensure a high-caliber experience, top-of-the-line high school spaces (even at small schools) should be examined in order to determine what the right baseline is, and build to that, rather than just taking existing classroom spaces and recrafting for larger students. — ANONYMOUS

Sufficient athletic facilities that don't require long trips across the city — ANONYMOUS

a design plan that is available before families have to choose between J-R and McC — ANONYMOUS

Common spaces where students mingle across grades. All school assemblies. — ANONYMOUS

## 9) How do you envision family and community interaction with a school facility?

There should be public access to a meeting space that does not mean the whole school is open. The gym and auditorium should have separate access. — ANONYMOUS

Parents should be welcome in the building. School should offer many different ways to engage with the principal and staff to permit parent and community engagement. — ANONYMOUS

Strong PTO to help with community and school engagement. — ANONYMOUS

## 10) What would be an ideal extracurricular activity that can take place on campus that would also build school culture?

Fencing classes for students and neighbors — ANONYMOUS

Musicals, sporting events (e.g. soccer, lacrosse, archery), community service events, speakers/talks, art exhibitions. — ANONYMOUS

Community service events that focus on improving the local community (invasive plant removal), etc.). Musicals that promote a sense of community. Team sports events that promote engagement and camaraderie. — ANONYMOUS

Theater- musicals, Clubs- chess, robotics, animation, art (exhibitions), Sports- baseball, basketball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, rowing, track, cross country, archery, football, etc — ANONYMOUS

Fencing? Crew? — ANONYMOUS

# Community

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## 11) How do we get students and families excited about attending MacArthur HS?

Offer competitive academics and sports — ANONYMOUS

Academic offerings and sports are critical. Families are excited about the smaller student body and potentially smaller class size. But will programming be limited (leading to lack of challenge)? How does a new high school without a track record impact applications for college? Starting with more than one grade would also be beneficial. — ANONYMOUS

1) A principal and key teachers that are superior and set very high academic expectations. The community demands nothing less than that. 2) Adequate funding/special funding in the early years so there is no "gap" between JR and MacArthur. 3) Starting with 9th and 10th at least to create gravity and community. 4) parents simply have to think their kid will get a better education and opportunity at MHS. — ANONYMOUS

Create a connection with other local assets, such as Georgetown University, Duke Ellington and others to help showcase additional opportunities in the arts, academically, etc, from established institutions that already have strong reputations. — ANONYMOUS

competitive sports, high academics and opportunities available to these students that may not be available to all other HS (internships, relationships with Georgetown Univ, America, etc) — ANONYMOUS

## 12) Describe the role MacArthur should play as a positive aspect of the neighborhood.

Offer the fields and outdoor space for use by the neighbors — ANONYMOUS

Agree- allow clubs and neighbors to rent/use the fields like Wilson — ANONYMOUS

First - do no harm. Have a minimum impact. No marauding bands of kids before and after school at the park, etc. No vandalism or shoplifting. No student parking on the streets. If the community feels that the school is not a huge, negative impact on their community, it will be a win. — ANONYMOUS

I think the school should strive to be a good member of the larger community -- like any other business or organization, but that we should not be thinking about what the school can do for the community. That's not really the responsibility of the school and is an unfair burden to place upon it. — ANONYMOUS

## 13) What community activities would you like to see take place on campus to help build a neighborhood connection?

Offer indoor space for community meetings and have the senior faculty hold regular meetings with neighbors to discuss concerns about parking, traffic congestion, and problematic student behavior — ANONYMOUS

The school should be receptive and responsive to community concerns. I don't know what else beyond that. — ANONYMOUS

## Additional Comments

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## Add additional comments below

*Imperatives: An inspiring, academic-focused principal. Ample early funding. Highest academic standards and expectations. An IB/STEM academy. Lots of APs and advanced lab courses (bio, chem, robotics, coding, etc.). A variety of sports teams and clubs. A lighted field.* — ANONYMOUS

*Consider how the naming opportunity is an asset that can be used to affiliate with institutions or individuals who can raise the reputational profile of this new school through partnership and engagement.* — ANONYMOUS

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