

## 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 fifty third year. Contact Principal Casey Robinson 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 scaffolded options we expand choices in the upper grades to include the English 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 or pursue internships and independent study projects.

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 bi-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 themselves, 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 720 for grades 6-12 consists of students who voluntarily choose 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 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 reported on the transcript is based on this parallel ranking system if the home school ranks). The ranking question on the secondary school report reflects the class size of the HBW senior class and the fact that we do not rank. If you have any questions, please contact Fatima Posada-Bellaz at 703-228-6352.

## IV. PROGRAM INFORMATION

The sixty teachers in the program are state-accredited teachers. 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 advanced placement (AP) program is offered including 20 AP courses (English Language; English Literature; Modern European History, US History, Psychology, US Government, Precalculus, AB Calculus, BC Calculus, Statistics, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Latin, French, Spanish Language, Music Theory, Studio Art). We offer three intensified courses (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II) and one dual enrollment course (Multivariable Calculus). Students who complete an AP course and the exam receive an additional quality point in their GPA.

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: 2021 – 2024

### MEAN SAT SCORES\*

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>% of class Represented</u>	<u>Reading/Writing Scores</u>	<u>Math Scores</u>	<u>Combined Scores</u>
Class of 2024	107	56%	667	627	1295
Class of 2023	107	53%	660	649	1309
Class of 2022	108	47%	662	652	1314
Class of 2021	105	26%	668	692	1360

\* Junior Year Scores

### MEAN ACT SCORES\*

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>% of class Represented</u>	<u>English Scores</u>	<u>Math Scores</u>	<u>Reading Scores</u>	<u>Science Scores</u>	<u>Composite Scores</u>
Class of 2024	107	11%	32	29	33	31	31
Class of 2023	107	32%	29	27	31	28	29
Class of 2022	108	10%	33	30	34	29	32
Class of 2021	105	15%	29	27	31	27	29

\*Junior Year Scores

### NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM

	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>Number of Semi-Finalists</u>	<u>Percent of Senior Class</u>
Class of 2024	107	1	.93%
Class of 2023	107	3	2.8%
Class of 2022	108	5	4.6%
Class of 2021	105	2	1.9%

### 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 2023	641	14%	20%	24%	25%	18%
Spring of 2022	570	15%	21%	24%	25%	15%
Spring of 2021	543	13%	22%	26%	27%	11%

### PLANS OF GRADUATES

	<u>Four-Year Colleges</u>	<u>Two-Year Colleges</u>	<u>Work/Study/Travel</u>
Class of 2023	81%	9%	10%
Class of 2022	85%	4%	11%
Class of 2021	80%	15%	4%

**H-B WOODLAWN  
CLASS OF 2023  
SENIORS' PLANS BY STATE**

**ARIZONA (1)**

Arizona State University-1

**CALIFORNIA (5)**

Occidental College-1

University of California-Riverside-1

University of California-Santa Cruz-1

University of Southern California-2

**CONNECTICUT (1)**

Wesleyan University-1

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (2)**

American University-1

Trinity Washington University-1

**DELAWARE (1)**

University of Delaware—1

**FLORIDA (1)**

University of Miami-1

**KENTUCKY (1)**

University of Kentucky-1

**MASSACHUSETTS (5)**

Boston College-1

Boston University-1

Emerson College-1

Massachusetts Institute of Technology-1

Smith College-1

**NORTH CAROLINA (2)**

Duke University-1

Wake Forest University-1

**NEW YORK (5)**

Columbia University-1

Hamilton College-1

New York University-1

Rochester Institute of Technology-2

**OHIO (2)**

Oberlin College-1

University of Dayton-1

**PENNSYLVANIA (10)**

Drexel University-2

Indiana University of Pennsylvania-1

Millersville University of Pennsylvania-1

Pennsylvania State University-1

Temple University-1

University of Pittsburgh-4

**RHODE ISLAND (1)**

Brown University-1

**SOUTH CAROLINA (1)**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College-1

**TENNESSEE (1)**

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville-1

**TEXAS (2)**

Baylor University-1

Southern Methodist University-1

**VIRGINIA (53)**

College of William and Mary—4

Eastern Mennonite University-1

George Mason University—7

Hampden-Sydney College-1

Hollins University-1

James Madison University—6

Mary Baldwin University-1

Northern Virginia Community College--10

Old Dominion University-1

Southern Virginia University-1

University of Mary Washington—2

University of Richmond-1

University of Virginia—9

Virginia Commonwealth University—4

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University-4

**VERMONT (2)**

University of Vermont—2

**WEST VIRGINIA (1)**

West Virginia University-1

**ITALY (1)**

The American University of Rome—1

**GAP YEAR/WORK (11)**