

# Blacksburg High School



## Information for Military Families

Blacksburg High School would like to welcome all families that serve in our country's military. BHS salutes you and we commit to the support of military connected students.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our military families, especially our youngest heroes - your children, our students. Our school is dedicated to offering a variety of educational opportunities to your family. Please take a few minutes to browse our website and contact us with any questions.

As a school district, we know that children of military families have unique needs at home and school and we work diligently to meet those needs.

## Contacts

We have a very helpful Guidance Department if you have any questions about military families at BHS. All of our school counselors are listed below; Mrs. Kate Buchanan serves as the BHS military student support point of contact. You can call our Guidance Department at 540-951-5715.

Blumenthal, Shelley [sblument@mcps.org](mailto:sblument@mcps.org)  
\*Buchanan, Kate [cbuchan@mcps.org](mailto:cbuchan@mcps.org)

Cox, Chad [chadcox@mcps.org](mailto:chadcox@mcps.org)  
Dwoyer, Emily [emilydwoyer@mcps.org](mailto:emilydwoyer@mcps.org)

Montgomery County Public Schools' Director of Student Services, Judith Diggs [jdiggs@mcps.org](mailto:jdiggs@mcps.org), is available if you need to contract someone at the school division level. Her contact number is 540-382-5100, ext. 1029.

The Army has a number of School Liaison Officers assigned to Virginia. The school liaison officer closest in terms of proximity is Chaundra Taswell who sits at Fort Lee in Prince George County Virginia. Two others are Wendy O'Sullivan and Jamie Albers assigned to Fort Belvoir located in Fairfax County Virginia. Lastly, Ann Daffin sits on Fort Myers in Alexandria, Va.

The team at Fort Belvoir has been assigned to serve those families who reside in the vicinity of Albermarle County, Virginia. This is the closest highly military impacted school division to you.

They can be reached at:

- Fort Belvoir Wendy O'Sullivan [ena.w.osullivan.naf@mail.mil](mailto:ena.w.osullivan.naf@mail.mil) 703-805-1794; 703-216-1262 cell
- Fort Belvoir Jamie Albers [jamie.albers2.naf@mail.mil](mailto:jamie.albers2.naf@mail.mil) 703-805-2606; 703-216-2994 cell
- Fort Lee Chaundra Taswell [chaundra.e.taswell.naf@mail.mil](mailto:chaundra.e.taswell.naf@mail.mil) 804-765-3813
- Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (Myer) E. Ann Daffin [elizabeth.a.daffin.civ@mail.mil](mailto:elizabeth.a.daffin.civ@mail.mil) 703-696-7620

## Planning your Arrival to Montgomery County Public Schools

Welcome to Blacksburg High School, in the Montgomery County Public Schools District in Virginia! We are excited to have you join the MCPS family.

### Registration/Enrollment Information

1. If your student **has never been** in an MCPS school previously, complete the Registration forms **online at: <http://www.mcps.org/parents/registration>**

*Printed forms are provided if internet access is unavailable.*

2. If your student **has previously attended** any MCPS school, please print and complete the Registration forms found online at: [http://www.mcps.org/parents/forms\\_for\\_parents](http://www.mcps.org/parents/forms_for_parents)

*Printed forms are provided if internet access is unavailable.*

MCPS has specific forms that must be completed for enrollment.

The following forms are available to complete online through [InfoSnap](#). Follow the appropriate link above for the school year in which you wish to enroll, create an account, log in and complete the online portion of registration.

Required forms include:

- [Student Registration Form](#)
- [Student Health Information Form](#)
- [Virginia School Entrance Health Form](#) - Physical Exam and Immunization Certification (may be provided after registration, but must be provided before the first day of school)
- [Acceptable Technology Use and Internet Safety Policy](#)
- [Directory Information Consent Form](#)

The remaining forms can be printed and completed prior to enrollment, or completed at your child's school.

- [Student Residency Questionnaire](#)
- [Affirmation Relating to Expulsion](#)
- [Medication Permission Form](#)
- [e-Learning 1-to-1 Initiative Contract](#)
- Code of Student Conduct Receipt

Following completion of the Student Registration Form, please contact the BHS Registrar, Tammy Wright, for an appointment at 540-951-5715.

## Required Educational Records/Documents

In addition to completing the enrollment forms, the parent or legal guardian **must** provide the following documents to the school (shown to school staff, the school will not keep the documents):

- **TWO** Proofs of Residency (such as a utility bill, deed/lease, tax return, voter registration card) **REQUIRED**
- Student's Birth Certificate (International Students present Passport)
- Student's Immunization Record Custodial Documentation (if applicable)
- Copy of transcript/report card from previous school
- Photo ID of parent registering student

According to the Code of Virginia, Military Connected Students will be identified as newly enrolled uniformed services-connected students. Students who have military connections will be coded in student records accordingly:

- Active Duty: Student is a dependent of a member of the Active Duty Force (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Services).
- Reserve: Student is a dependent of a member of the Reserve Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard). STUDENT INFORMAT

Questions about enrollment should be directed to Blacksburg High School, call 540-951-5715. For additional questions, call Montgomery County Public Schools Student Services at 540-382-5100 x1029.

### **Transfer of Student Records**

#### Within the School Division

The student record shall follow the student from school to school in order to show a pattern in the student's development.

#### Outside the School Division

When a student transfers to another school division or post-secondary educational institution, a transcript of his/her scholastic record, to include academic achievement, standardized test data, cumulative health-physical fitness record, medical records, special education and 504 records, and other pertinent information shall be sent promptly, upon request, to the appropriate official of the school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

## **Academic Planning**

After enrollment, you will then meet with a school counselor to request courses (for fall enrollments), or a class schedule will be created (for transfer students).

MCPS is committed to assisting all students in developing their abilities and interests. The MCPS High School Program of Studies is comprehensive and offers preparation for students who plan to continue their formal education beyond high school and for those who plan to enter directly into the workplace or the military.

The 2018 MCPS Program of Studies includes a complete listing of courses offered at MCPS High Schools.

School counselors are available to assist students in academic planning, and goal setting as well as provide support through their college/career goals.

The curriculum at Blacksburg High School offers a rigorous college-preparatory track for college-bound students and a wide selection of career and technical and work training courses. Talents and skills are developed through a variety of academic work in: art, music, career and technical education, work and family studies, and various trade and industrial courses. Special education is provided, and faculty, peer, and student tutorial assistance are available free to students. Students may apply for a limited number of slots in the Southwest Virginia Governor's School half day STEM program for 11th and 12th grades.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Candidates for graduation are required to earn a minimum of 22 units of credit in grades 9-12. Eighteen of the 22 are specified. The Advanced Studies Diploma (26 credits) is available for those who meet requirements of 22 specified courses including foreign language.

The [2018 Blacksburg High School Handbook](#) includes information about registering for classes, grade requirements, a planning guide, and scheduling.

### **Student Services – Special Education**

Montgomery County Public Schools administers a program of educational services for persons with disabilities as required by all applicable law.

Special Education is an integral part of the total collaborative education system where diversity is valued and all students are encouraged towards independence.

Academic behavioral instruction should be authentic with high expectations, promoting active engagement for all students.

Staff will be empowered to meet the educational needs of all students through shared responsibility.

Parent involvement is in an integral and valued part of the special education process.

The MCPS Special Education mission is to engage, encourage, and empower students with disabilities by providing, in the least restrictive environment, the supports and services needed to graduate and live, learn, work and participate in communities of their choice with maximum independence.

Blacksburg High School currently operates the majority of its Special Education Programs following an inclusion model. For more information about these programs, please contact the Special Education Consulting Teacher, Mr. Steve Darden [sdarden@mcps.org](mailto:sdarden@mcps.org) at BHS.

Special Education & Special Services Special Education Programs and Special Services include:

Emotionally Disturbed	Visually Handicapped
Gifted and Talented	Vocational Assessment and help With Job Placement
Learning Disabilities	Other Health Impaired
Hearing Impaired	Orthopedically Impaired
Educable Mentally Handicapped	Occupational Therapy Counseling
Physical Therapy	Learning Strategies
Trainable Mentally Handicapped	Child Study
Speech/Language Transition Services	Team 504

### **Special Education Contact Information:**

**Patricia Nelson, Ed.D.**  
Director of Special Education  
(540) 382-5100 (ext. 1081)  
[patnelson@mcps.org](mailto:patnelson@mcps.org)

**Josie Loomis, Ed.S., NCSP**  
Coordinator of Programs  
(540) 382-5100 (ext. 1092)  
[josieloomis@mcps.org](mailto:josieloomis@mcps.org)

**Julie Ligon, Ph.D.**  
Supervisor of Special Education -  
Preschool and Elementary Education  
(540) 382-5100 (ext. 1082)  
[jligon@mcps.org](mailto:jligon@mcps.org)

**Melissa Proudfoot**  
Coordinator of Response to Intervention  
(RTI) and Results Driven Accountability (RDA)  
(540) 382-5100 (ext. 1083)  
[melissaproudfoot@mcps.org](mailto:melissaproudfoot@mcps.org)

**Debbie Wells, Ed.D.**

**Kathleen Wright, M.S., CCC-SLP**

Supervisor of Special Education -  
Secondary Education  
(540) 382-5100 (ext. 1085)  
[dwells@mcps.org](mailto:dwells@mcps.org)

Lead Speech Therapist  
(540) 382-5100 (ext. 1092)  
[kwright2@mcps.org](mailto:kwright2@mcps.org)

## Resources

- [Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia](#)
- [General Resources for Students with Special Needs](#)

## Advanced Placement Courses

Blacksburg High School offers over 20 AP courses in a variety of curriculums.

Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Statistics, Chemistry (2 class blocks), Biology (2 class blocks), Physics (2 class blocks), Environmental Science (2 class blocks), European History, U.S. History, U.S. Government and Politics, World History, English Language and Composition (11th Grade), English Literature and Composition (12th Grade), Psychology, three Art courses, Spanish, French

All AP classes are weighted. All students must take mid-year exams. Students taking the national exam at year end do not have to take June semester exams.

## Home School Instruction

In Montgomery County, a parent who elects home instruction must notify the school division no later than August 15 of the intent to do so for the coming school year. Parents who move into the school district or begin home instruction after the school year has begun must notify MCPS of their intent to provide home instruction as soon as possible and comply with the provisions of the statute within 30 days of such notice. The notice may be in the form of a letter or other written document and must identify the child or children involved. MCPS has developed a form to provide notice to the school division.

## Evidence of Achievement

The home school parent is required to submit, by the following August 1, evidence of the child's academic achievement in one of the following ways:

- Evidence that the child has attained a composite score in or above the fourth stanine on a nationally normed standardized achievement test;
- An evaluation or assessment which the school division administration determines to indicate that the child is achieving an adequate level of educational growth and progress.

## Forms and Resources

- [Notice of Intent](#)
- [Home School Handbook](#)
- [Religious Exemption Form](#)
- [Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers](#)
- [PSAT, ACT, and SAT Testing Options](#)
- [SOL objectives information](#)
- [MCPS Policy](#)
- [Driver Education for Home School](#)

## Interstate Compact Rules for Military Children

Virginia is home to some of the nation's largest and most important military installations, so it is not surprising that Virginia schools educate more military children than any other state in the nation. As of August 2017 there are more than 70,000 military connected students residing and attending public schools

across the Commonwealth.

Frequent moves, family separations through deployments, and reintegration following deployments can make school, home, and community-life challenging for military children. Yet, even in such circumstances, these students continually demonstrate resilience and perseverance. Their contributions to our schools and communities include unique and valuable perspectives on learning, friendship, and growing up.

Virginia is a proud member of the [Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) and is committed to the care and education of the children of the men and women of our armed forces. By partnering with school liaison officers, military leaders, educators, and community organizations, the Virginia Department of Education provides resources and support for military service children and their families during all stages of transition and deployment.

## Blacksburg High School PTSO

The Blacksburg High School PTSO is a collaborative of parents, teachers, students and administrators at our school. The primary purpose of the PTSO is twofold: to provide a communication link between the parents and staff at the school, and to offer a vehicle for funding enrichment programs for our students. The time and energy devoted by PTSO members makes the difference between an average educational experience and a superior one.

For more information about the BHS PTSO please go to [Blacksburg High School PTSO](#).

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Girls' JV Volleyball	Boys' JV Basketball	Boys' JV Baseball
Girls' Varsity Volleyball	Boys' Varsity Basketball	Boys' Varsity Baseball
JV Cheerleading	JV Cheerleading	Boys' Lacrosse
Varsity Cheerleading	Varsity Cheerleading	Girls' Lacrosse
Girls' Cross Country	Girls' Indoor Track	Girls' JV Softball
Boys' Cross Country	Boys' Indoor Track	Girls' Varsity Softball
JV Football	Girls' Swim/Dive	Boys' JV Soccer
Varsity Football	Boys' Swim/Dive	Boys' Varsity Soccer
Golf	Girls' JV Basketball	Girls' JV Soccer
	Girls' Varsity Basketball	Girls' Varsity Soccer
	Wrestling	Boys' Tennis
		Girls' Tennis
		Boys' Outdoor Track
		Girls' Outdoor Track
	VHSL Year-Long Activities	
Debate	Forensics	ACE/Scholastic Bowl
Creative Writing	Literary Magazine	Yearbook
Newspaper		

## Local Community Support for Military Families

- Military Family Support Centers, Inc.**  
 The mission of the Military Family Support Centers, Inc., a private non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is to identify and to satisfy essential morale, welfare and informational needs of

military families of service men and women of the Active Component and Reserve Component (Federal Reserves and National Guard) of the Armed Forces located in areas remote from military installations. Also Military Veterans.

The Military Family Service Center (MFSC) believes that any war fighter should be secure in the knowledge that while they are defending the nation or training to do so, whether domestically or abroad, their family is supported and provided for at home.

It is through the generous and continuing support from individuals, organizations, and sponsoring businesses that the MFSC is able to meet the daily goal of providing for the morale, welfare, and informational needs of local military families and veterans. The Military Family Support Center is a singular organization with infinite possibilities.

The Military Family Support Centers - [Military Family Support Center](#)  
1215 McNeil Dr SW  
Roanoke, VA 24015  
(540) 983-1766  
[info@milfamily.org](mailto:info@milfamily.org)

- **The National Military Family Association**

The National Military Family Association makes a difference in the lives of military families and serves as *the* voice of military families because, for 49 years, we have proven that we stand behind service members, their spouses, and their children.

[National Military Family Association](#)

- [US Department of Education – Military Families and Veterans](#)