

SY21-22 McKinley Technology High School: Admissions Rubric

For Grades 9-11*

About the McKinley Technology Admissions Criteria: McKinley Technology High School is a STEM focused school with three National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academies for students to select from: Information Technology, Engineering, and Biotechnology. We are looking for scholars who have a passion for learning, take pride in their community, who can embrace challenges and find the solutions to work through them. We find the most successful applicants are those who take an active role in the learning process, are willing to try new things, are focused on their future, and have an interest in STEM-related fields. We are looking for well-rounded individuals with a commitment to their academics.

About the McKinley Technology Admissions Process: McKinley Technology High School will first review all applicants' report cards and recommendation letters. While there is no minimum requirement, successful applicants typically average close to or above a 3.0 GPA and have demonstrated success in Math, Science, and English courses in middle school. However, we do have students with lower GPAs and test scores who have been able to find success with the right support and strategies. Due to the cancellation of the SY19-20 PARCC, DCPS will not collect PARCC or other standardized test scores as part of SY21-22 admissions.

The report card and recommendation letters are all threshold criteria that are first considered in the admission process. The highest scoring applicants based on these criteria will be invited to participate in the next step of the admissions process, the group interview and writing session. From there, the students with the top cumulative scores from the application review, group interview, and writing session may be marked eligible for admission and will not be required to complete the individual interview. All other students, based on their cumulative scores, may be asked to participate in a second, individual interview before an eligibility determination is made. Students who are invited to interview are required to participate in the interview for further consideration.

There is a total of 400 possible points for the admissions process. Applicants will then be ranked in order of their point total to determine their eligibility for acceptance. Students are ranked in order based on their cumulative application points, with the students who were eligible based on the application review, group interview, and writing session only first, followed by students invited to the individual interview, ranked in total cumulative point order.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Application Review (Report card and recommendations)	25% (This section is a total of 100 points)	While McKinley Technology HS reviews grades (GPA), there is no minimum GPA required. Within the application review, grades are weighted 60% and recommendations are weighted 40%. Due to the cancellation of the SY19-20 PARCC, DCPS will not collect PARCC or other standardized test scores as part of SY21-22 admissions. The overall GPA of each applicant is considered, however grades from core classes are most heavily reviewed for acceptance.
Students applications will be ranked based on the above criteria. The top students will be invited for the group interview and writing session portion of the admissions process.		
Group Interview	25% (100 points)	McKinley Technology High School believes strongly in identifying students with a passion for S.T.E.M., a strong sense of curiosity, commitment to community and who demonstrate perseverance. The first interview will be a

		<p>group interview with other applicants.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be conducted virtually for SY21-22.</p>
Writing Session	25% (100 points)	<p>Similar to the interview, McKinley uses the writing session to assess student interest in our program, commitment to community, and experiences demonstrating personal perseverance. The writing session may be conducted virtually for SY21-22.</p> <p>While sample collected from this writing session are not evaluated specifically for vocabulary, grammar, etc., we are looking for students to respond to questions with thorough responses to gauge the student's general ability to communicate through written text.</p>
<p>Students applications will be ranked based on the above criteria. The top students will either be made eligible solely based off the cumulative application, group interview, and writing session score so far, or will be invited for the final part of the process, an individual interview.</p>		
Individual Interview	25% (100 Points)	<p>Similar to the group interview, the individual interview is an opportunity to gauge the student's interest in our school, discuss their own experiences, and allow individualized interaction for students with McKinley staff and/or students to provide more thorough responses to questions, as well as to ask questions and become familiar with the McKinley program and culture.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be conducted virtually for SY21-22.</p>

*McKinley Technology HS will review applicants entering the 11th grade as long as the applicant has sufficient credits in a similar program of study to enter on track to meet our school's graduation requirements.