



SY21-22 Benjamin Banneker High School: Admission Process Rubric

For Grades 9-12

About Benjamin Banneker Academic High School Admissions Criteria: At Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, we are looking for achievers who have a passion for learning, a commitment to community, and who work through challenges. We find that the most successful applicants are those that demonstrate tenacity through achievement on their GPA.

About Benjamin Banneker Academic High School Admissions Process: At Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, we first review all applicants report cards, essays, and recommendations. There is no minimum GPA score. These components will each be scored, with no single component used as the sole determinant of the applicant’s eligibility for the next stage in the admissions process. The applicants with the highest score are invited to participate in an interview.

Invited applicants must complete the interview component in order to be considered for eligibility. All students who receive a minimum score of 12 out of 15 points on the interview will be considered eligible for admissions. For students who scored below a 12 on the interview, Banneker will calculate a total cumulative score based on all application components, including the interview. The students with the highest cumulative application scores may also be eligible in order to identify at least 300 eligible applicants annually. All eligible students receive equal ranking.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Academic Criteria Review (GPA)	30% (15/50 points) of Threshold Criteria	Benjamin Banneker Academic High School reviews grades (GPA) as part of the report card review. There is no minimum GPA or test score required, but a report card must be submitted in order for the application to be considered for admission. Typically, students who are successful in our program have a GPA of 2.5 or higher on both reviewed report cards. However, we have also found that students with lower GPAs 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.
Essay: In MSDC application	10% (5/50 points) of Threshold Criteria	Similar to the interview, the essay in the MSDC application is used to assess student interest in our program, commitment to community, and experiences demonstrating personal perseverance. Essays will be scored, and this score will account for 10% of a student’s overall eligibility score. Students will be expected to write regularly throughout high school therefore the scoring for the essay focuses on the techniques of writing including grammar and vocabulary.
Recommendations	60% (30/50 points) of Threshold Criteria	Benjamin Banneker Academic High School uses recommendations to better understand a student’s experience at school and to provide context to their academic outcomes. Recommendations comprise the majority of the Banneker application review criteria and are viewed as a critical element to get to know a student and their experiences. Benjamin Banneker Academic High School requests three recommendations,

		each worth 10 points maximum. We strongly encourage students and families to follow up with the individuals submitting recommendations on their behalf and to check the accuracy of recommender emails to ensure we have the most complete picture of the student as possible. However, students will not be penalized for incomplete or missing recommendations and can be evaluated to move on to the interview stage based on available recommendations.
The applicants with the top scores on the threshold criteria will continue to the interview component of the admissions process.		
Interview	15 points possible	<p>Benjamin Banneker Academic High School believes strongly in identifying students with a passion for learning, commitment to the community, and the tenacity to compete globally.</p> <p>If invited to the interview, candidates must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, or by another close family member (over 18 years old) or other important figure (coach, counselor, or mentor) who regularly supports the student. Candidates should plan to bring in their most up-to-date student report card to discuss in the interview.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be conducted virtually for SY21-22.</p> <p>All students who score a 12 or higher on the interview will be considered eligible for admissions. For students who scored below a 12 on the interview, Banneker will calculate a total cumulative score based on all application components, including the interview. The students with the highest cumulative application scores may also be eligible in order to identify at least 300 eligible applicants annually. All eligible students receive equal ranking.</p>