SY27-28 and SY28-29 Bard High School Early College DC: Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9-11

Note: This rubric is in effect for SY27-28 and SY28-29 admissions cycles.

About Bard High School Early College DC Admissions Criteria: At Bard High School Early College DC (Bard DC), we are looking for scholars who demonstrate motivation, intellectual curiosity, and excitement about an academic challenge, and who are eager to dive into college coursework at an earlier age.

About Bard High School Early College DC Admissions Process: At Bard DC, our admissions process includes an essay, interview, two (2) recommendations, and a report card review for 9th and 10th grade. For 11th grade, there is a report card and transcript review. All requirements must be submitted via the My School DC lottery application GPA is calculated in accordance with the DCPS grading policy. We consider each admissions component for every applicant, and all applications are rated on a rubric. No single admissions component will be the sole determinant of eligibility. All recommendation content and scores are confidential and will not be shared with anyone including applicants, families, or staff at the student's current school, etc. Accommodations may be requested for any portion of the admissions process, and families may contact the Admissions Director/POC to discuss accommodation options.

Each component of the admissions process is scored and weighed according to the chart below. Applicants must receive a minimum total score of 12 out of 17 points to be considered eligible for admission. Applicants who score below 12 may also be deemed eligible. All applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned. **Specific details related to an applicant's admissions process and eligibility results will remain confidential.**

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Report Card Review	3/17 points	Bard DC reviews grades only as part of the report card review. Applicants must submit their final SY25-26 and SY26-27 first quarter report cards. There is no minimum GPA required, but both report cards must be submitted for the application to be considered for admission. We have found that applicants who are successful in our program usually enter with a 2.5 or higher GPA. However, we have also found that applicants with lower GPAs have been able to find success with the right support and strategies. GPA is calculated per the DCPS grading policy. Transcripts must be submitted for 11th grade applicants in addition to report cards.

		Please note that the Bard team may reach out to school counselors, deans, school leaders, etc., to receive conversion scales or context to aid in reviewing the report cards in accordance with the DCPS grading policy. The school reviews all applicants using the same process, including international students. Special requests for additional points will not be accommodated when completing the conversion to the 4.0 scale.
Student Interview	5/17 points	Bard DC believes strongly in identifying applicants with a passion for being a change agent in their community and a love for learning. We seek a student that is expressive and demonstrates joy for learning new things. All applicants, along with their parent/guardian, are invited for a 20–25-minute panel interview. The interview panel consists of faculty, staff, and current students. Applicants and parents are encouraged to do their best by being themselves. The accompanying adult's participation is not factored into scoring. Applicants for whom an accompanying adult is unable to participate will not be penalized. During the interview, the Bard team looks for students who are curious and eager to learn. We want to know what interests them about our program and how they handle challenges in school. We are also interested in how they see themselves and how they deal with conflicts or tough situations. Lastly, we like to hear about their passions, goals, and what they want to achieve in high school.
On-Site Writing Prompt (completed during the Interview)	5/17 points	Like the interview, the writing prompt is used to assess student interest in our program, commitment to community, and show critical thinking skills. This prompt will be completed on-site during the interview. Though applicants will be expected to write regularly throughout high school, the rubric for the writing prompt does not focus on technical writing skills such as grammar and vocabulary. The rubric focuses on students' ability to respond to the prompt. It evaluates the clarity, depth, and originality of the writing. Higher scores are awarded for well-crafted responses that show strong engagement, clear viewpoints, and creativity.

Recommendation Letter Review	4/17 points	Bard DC uses teacher recommendations to better understand a student's experience at school and to provide context to their report card. All recommendation content and scores are confidential and will not be shared with anyone including applicants, families, and staff at the student's current school. Applicants can log into their My School DC lottery application to check the status of their recommendation submissions at any time and send reminders to recommenders. Regular notifications are sent to recommenders and families when a recommendation is missing or incomplete. Applicants and families are strongly encouraged to follow up with the individuals submitting recommendations on their behalf and to check the accuracy of recommender emails. **Missing recommendations ultimately will receive zero points.**
All applicants who receive 12 points or higher will be eligible for admission. Applicants that score below 12, may still be deemed eligible. All applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned for determination in the My School DC Lottery.		