

What is a Signature?

Signature Program FAQ *For Parents*

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A **Signature** offers high school students unique thematic courses and co-curricular opportunities that are workforce relevant and may include technical, community college and/or 4-year college pathways. The **Signature** specifically relates topics and ideas to a theme that is unique to each school community. Each of the 12 comprehensive high schools in Anne Arundel County will offer a unique **Signature Program**.

How is a Signature theme selected?

An Integrated Community Stakeholder Team (ICST) examines data reflecting the interest, culture, resources and businesses in the surrounding community. The ICST then works with the school to determine and implement the school's unique **Signature Program**.

How does my child elect to enter the Signature Program?

There are multiple pathways for a student to participate in the school's **Signature Program**. There will be an application process for students who wish to be fully invested in the **Signature** cohort. Students will engage in signature-related courses, after school offerings and internship work opportunities throughout their high school years. Individual **Signature Program** offerings will be available to all students on a space-available basis during annual student scheduling or registration time.

What will my child get out of participation in the Signature?

There are many advantages for students who participate in **Signature** opportunities. Students who take full advantage of the **Signature Program** will complete high school highly qualified for both the workforce and higher education experiences. Many **Signature** students will complete high school with a technical certificate or college credit. Students who select to participate in some courses and co-curricular activities will be able to create a portfolio that will enhance their high school transcript with enhanced **Signature**-related experiences in the community and in the greater Baltimore-Washington workplace.

How will the Signature change my child's high school program?

Students who participate in the **Signature** will be able to choose from specially designed courses, co-curricular and career opportunities enhanced with the school's unique theme. These may include seminars with leaders in their field, internships, mentoring, technical and community college courses, online learning, and other real world experiences. Students may develop individual pathways and create a portfolio that demonstrates their unique skills and talents surpassing information found in a standard high school transcript.

What if my child is not interested in his/her school's Signature theme?

Students do not have to participate in their school's **Signature**. The **Signature** is a specialized program within the regular high school in which students may opt to participate. As **Signatures** are community chosen and based, students may only participate in their local high school's **Signature**.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Integrated Community Stakeholder Team (ICST)?

Five or six individuals from each of 6 community arenas - **business/industry, health, education, community services, media and communication, and government** form the leadership core of the Integrated Community Stakeholder Team. The Integrated Community Stakeholder Team designs, implements and evaluates the **Signature Program**. They identify special project and subcommittee work and secure participants for these specialized, short-term projects. After selecting the theme, the ICST works with the school to determine needs, timeline and budget, program elements, outcomes, resources, curricula and creates a detailed **Signature** plan. A **Signature** Support Team, assigned from the Board of Education, supports the ICST. There are many opportunities for community members to participate on the ICST or the team's many working subcommittees.

How can I become part of the Integrated Community Stakeholder Team or one of its subcommittees?

If you are interested in more information, please contact Kathi J. Heron, Signature Program Facilitator for Broadneck High School, at 410-757-1300, ext. 275 or email her at kheron@aacps.org.