CAPITAL CITY
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Why Choose Capital City for High School?



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Small School with Personalized Instruction

Over 40 years of data show that students in smaller high schools with fewer than 400 students have higher student achievement, improved graduation rates, better attendance, increased participation in extracurricular activities and improved social behavior. At Capital City, we offer an intentionally small program where every student is well known by their teachers and peers. School structures support our approach to personalization. In our secondary model, we have a team of nine to 10 teachers for a cohort of about 90 students for an average teacher to student ratio of 1:10. Each student is assigned an advisor with whom they meet daily and who serves as the point of contact for parents. Instruction is tailored to meet the needs of individual students so that each student is challenged and supported. Capital City teachers receive training and planning time to do this effectively; in fact, Capital City has served as a model for other schools in this type of differentiated instruction.

Focus on College Preparation

We take seriously the responsibility of preparing all students for college success. We believe that college preparation involves preparing students academically, socially, and emotionally for the real demands of college and supporting students and their families in navigating the application process. We employ three full-time college counselors who work with students and their families beginning in 9th grade. One counselor works specifically with alumni. We plan trips for students to visit colleges and universities and to participate in college fairs. College readiness support is offered through advisory in 9th-12th grades, and students take a senior seminar in their 12th grade year focused on college preparation. We offer SAT/ACT and PSAT prep courses for students both in the summer and during the school year.



100% of our graduates have been accepted to college.



Rigorous and Relevant Academic Program

Capital City High School has a strong track record of success and is a Tier I High Performing School, recognized by the DC Public Charter School Board. All Capital City students engage in a rigorous program of instruction. Content standards are aligned with DC and Common Core standards and are designed to meet DC graduation requirements. The schedule maximizes instructional time. Classes are differentiated for students of different academic levels based on on-going assessments. Additionally, students can complete advanced projects to take courses with honors. Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses their junior and senior years. AP offerings include English Language & Composition, Studio Art, Literature & Composition, Calculus, Statistics, Physics, World History, and Spanish.

A tenet of our instructional approach is that students must be actively engaged in their own learning. Instead of traditional instruction centered on teacher lectures and a passive role for students, Capital City utilizes instructional models where students are actively engaged in group discussions and project work. Active participation is expected and required in all classes.

Sample 9th Grade Schedule

8:30am - 9:25am
Numeracy

9:30am - 10:25am
Spanish

10:30am - 11:25am
World History I

11:30am - 12:25pm
Algebra I

12:30pm - 12:55pm
Lunch

1:00pm - 1:25pm
Advisory

1:30pm - 2:25pm
English

2:30pm - 3:25pm
Biology

3:30pm - 5:30pm
Extracurricular Activities

To document and take ownership for their work and learning, students in all grades complete a portfolio of work. Students engage in the process of collecting and selecting pieces for their portfolio that show mastery of key learning targets. The portfolio is shared with parents during conferences. In 10th grade, students participate in a higher stakes portfolio passage process in which they present their work to a panel of educators and community members. Through this process, students demonstrate readiness for junior/ senior year where work looks increasingly similar to college.





Social Curriculum and Opportunities for Leadership

At Capital City, we believe the social curriculum is just as important as academics, which in many ways makes a rigorous academic program possible. We have an advisory model in which every student is in an advisory with 10-12 students. Advisories meet daily with a curriculum focused on our community values of compassion, contribution, courage, integrity and self-discipline. Advisory is a place for students to raise issues and concerns and celebrate successes with their peers. Advisories also focus on college preparation and community service.

There is an intentional focus on community and team-building both in advisory and academic classes. We also have an adventure program in which students engage in outdoor activities including hiking, rock-climbing, and camping trips. Additionally, there are many opportunities for student leadership in the classroom and school. We believe that leadership prepares students for success in college and beyond, and we encourage all students to take on some type of leadership role while at Capital City.

EL Education

Capital City implements the EL Education model. Through this model, students engage in learning expeditions, which are in-depth studies involving one or more subjects. Expeditions make content relevant for students and foster deeper learning. Within the context of expeditions, students engage in fieldwork, community service, and work with experts. Expeditions culminate with projects and exhibitions that demonstrate mastery of standards. During their senior year, students design their own personal expedition to further an interest or passion. They engage in this expedition the last quarter of the year and present their work to a panel prior to graduation.

Sample Expedition

Blue Crab Expedition (Biology)
In the Blue Crab Expedition, students will learn about the decline of the blue crab population in the Chesapeake Bay. The blue crab population is the lowest it has been in the past 33 years. Through fieldwork and mini-lessons, students will discuss the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, learn the anatomy of a blue crab, and discuss the issues that are facing the blue crab population. Students will also learn about the economic impact of blue crabs and human practices that can restore the blue crab population. Finally, students will produce a short video that provides a solution that humans can take to help the blue crabs. The videos will be presented to an outside audience.



Comprehensive Arts, Extracurricular Activities and Internships

We have a comprehensive program of arts, sports and extracurricular activities. Students take arts and fitness electives. Each semester, students can select from courses in music, drama, dance, visual arts, and fitness. Extracurriculars give students further opportunities to specialize and develop their interests. We offer a wide-range of after-school offerings in sports, arts and enrichment. Activities are free to all students. We participate in the Independent Small Schools Athletic Conference (I-SSAC) and the Public Charter Schools Athletic Association (PCSAA) for competitive sports. Our athletic teams are developing a reputation for excellence. Our girls' and boys' varsity soccer and basketball teams have both won their league championships.

Capital City also has an internship program to give students an opportunity to learn professional skills, network with experts and gain insights on potential career paths.





Typical After-School Offerings

Sports
Soccer, cross country, volleyball, cheerleading, swimming, basketball, tennis, track and field

Arts
Drumline, dance, band, drama, steel drums, chorus, studio art, poetry slam, screenprinting

Enrichment
Yearbook, debate, homework help, student government, writing center

"The dedicated staff at Capital City has a willingness to not give up on any kid. There is a true advocate for every student in the building and they benefit because of it."

Belicia Reaves,
High School Principal

