The A+ Partners in Education initiative between Howard County Library System and the Howard County Public School System is designed to promote scholarship, eliminate student achievement gaps, and expand academic opportunities for students.

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WHY SHOULD YOUR PTA OR PTSA BOOK
AN A+ CLASS FROM HCLS?

available October 2012 - May 2013

To schedule a class for a PTA-sponsored evening or meeting, or for more
details, contact Rita Snyder three weeks in advance at 410.880.5910 or
rita.snyder@hclibrary.org.

✔ Assist your PTA/PTSA in communicating with parents.

✔ Provide classes relevant to parents of elementary, middle, and
high school students.

✔ Increase parental awareness of Howard County Library
System (HCLS) curriculum components designed to assist
students academically.

✔ Familiarize parents with HCLS’ specialized online research
tools and online homework help resources.

✔ Strengthen the connection among school, parents, students,
and HCLS.

✔ All HCLS classes are free.

✔ Classes appropriate for PTA/PTSA representatives to
schedule are marked with an asterisk (*) within this guide.

Invite HCLS instructors to teach A+ classes, and provide book displays,
library card applications, and other relevant research tools at your school’s
next special event, such as:

Reading night          Math night
Science fair orientation Back to school night
Parent/child evenings   Middle school orientation
Freshman orientation    Mid-term mania
PTA presentations       College night
FOR TEACHERS SCHEDULING A+ CLASSES FOR ANY GRADE:

Please provide the following:

1. School name
2. Grade and number of students
3. Title of A+ class
4. Preferred dates (three choices)
5. Preferred times
6. Your name and title
7. Phone number and email address
8. Any special considerations or requests

Please call with the above information or use the online form at hclibrary.org/teachers. After the A+ class, please complete an online evaluation form.

- Classes are available Monday through Thursday, from October through April.
- When scheduling summer reading promotions: high school dates are available in early May; middle and elementary promotions run from mid-May through the first full week of June.
- Request all classes at least three weeks in advance.
- A faculty member must be present for the purpose of classroom management.
- Please inform us two weeks in advance if classes need to be adapted for the needs of English Language Learners (ELL) and special education students and groups.
- Classes are intended for one pod or classroom group.
- See page 4 for whom to contact for scheduling elementary classes, and page 9 for middle and high school classes. Or, invite an HCLS instructor to a staff meeting.
**DESIGNATED A+ BRANCHES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

If you have questions or want to schedule a class, please call or email the appropriate person listed below.

### HCLS CENTRAL BRANCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Branch</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCLS Central Branch</td>
<td>Elisabeth Proffen</td>
<td>410.313.7880</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elisabeth.proffen@hclibrary.org">elisabeth.proffen@hclibrary.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant Woods</td>
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<td>Clarksville</td>
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<td>Clemens Crossing</td>
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### HCLS EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCLS East Columbia Branch</td>
<td>Irva Gabin</td>
<td>410.313.7730</td>
<td><a href="mailto:irva.gabin@hclibrary.org">irva.gabin@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Atholton</td>
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<td>Cradlerock</td>
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<td>Guilford</td>
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### HCLS ELKRIDGE BRANCH

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<th>Email Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCLS Elkridge Branch</td>
<td>Cassandra Malik</td>
<td>410.313.5083</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cassandra.malik@hclibrary.org">cassandra.malik@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellows Spring</td>
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<td>Deep Run</td>
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### HCLS GLENWOOD BRANCH

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<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCLS Glenwood Branch</td>
<td>Tanya Malveaux</td>
<td>410.313.5580</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tanya.malveaux@hclibrary.org">tanya.malveaux@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bushy Park</td>
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<td>Dayton Oaks</td>
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### HCLS MILLER BRANCH

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCLS Miller Branch</td>
<td>Stacey Freedman</td>
<td>410.313.1980</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stacey.freedman@hclibrary.org">stacey.freedman@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Centennial Lane</td>
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<td>Hollifield Station</td>
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<td>Manor Woods</td>
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### HCLS SAVAGE BRANCH

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<tr>
<td>HCLS Savage Branch</td>
<td>Amber Haslinger</td>
<td>410.880.5978</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amber.haslinger@hclibrary.org">amber.haslinger@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bollman Bridge</td>
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<td>Forest Ridge</td>
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STORIES GALORE - GUEST READERS *
(LANGUAGE ARTS)
Students learn that reading is fun as HCLS instructors read new tales and old favorites. Teachers may request a particular theme. 30 min.; grades pre-K-3.

MULTICULTURAL MEDLEY *
(LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES)
Students sample cultures of the world through stories, songs, and activities. 45 min.; grades K-5.

IT ALL ADDS UP
(MATH)
Math concept books, stories, and participatory activities inspire students to enjoy practicing math skills in everyday life. 30 - 45 min.; grades 1-2.

TELL ME A TALE
(LANGUAGE ARTS)
Students identify and discuss characteristics of both traditional and fractured fairy tales (grade 2) or tall tales (grade 3), through stories and activities. 45-60 min.

SPIRIT OF AMERICA
(SOCIAL STUDIES)
Students test their knowledge of people, places, and events as they play a game. Students also inspired with short talks on related fiction and nonfiction books. Teachers may choose Maryland, Colonial America, or the American Revolution. 60 min.; grades 4-5.

BOOKS GALORE *
(LANGUAGE ARTS)
Give your students a shot of reading inspiration with tempting talks on books, authors, and series. Emphasis placed on newly published books. 30 min.; grades 3-5.

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
FAMILY EVENT VISITS
HCLS instructors visit schools to promote books and HCLS research tools, including homework and research support. Families, grades pre-K-5.

HOMEWORK & PROJECT HELP *
(TECHNOLOGY)
Students and parents are introduced to online tools to become more savvy HCLS users, including accessing HCLS’ specialized online research tools, searching the Library’s catalog, and using AskUsNow, Online Homework Assistance, and LearningExpress. PTAs or teachers may request HCLS instructors to address how to choose credible web sites and access science fair or history day resources. 45 min.; parents, teachers, or grades 4-5.

ALL ACCESS PASS
Ensure every student has the tools to succeed. HCLS instructors can visit your class to provide students with library cards.

FIELD TRIP
Arrange to bring your students to any of HCLS’ six branches to tour research tools and receive library cards.

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
STUDENT CONTESTS
Check source, visit hclibrary.org, or call a branch for details.

BUMBLEBEE
Grades 1 - 3
BumbleBees prepare first, second, and third graders for the Howard County Library System Spelling Bee through classroom and/or school spelling bees. Students build vocabularies, learn spelling tips, and gain confidence in front of an audience. HCLS provides suggested guidelines, lists of suggested words, and book lists. Call 410.313.7750 to register by October 31.

HCLS RUBE GOLDBERG CHALLENGE
Grades 4 - 5
Teams of fourth and fifth grade students in Howard County incorporate at least three simple machines into a more complicated contraption that will squeeze an orange. Submissions include video of the machine accomplishing this task and written documentation of how the machine was developed. Call 410.313.7750 to register by November 9.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
Grade 5
Battle of the Books is a fun, innovative academic competition that engages fifth grade students. Teams of five contestants answer questions about 16 books they have read from a preselected list.
Information meeting takes place at HCLS Miller Branch on Monday, October 15 at 7 pm.
Registration occurs at hclibrary.org/battleofthebooks from Oct 22 through Nov 2.
2013 Battle of the Books:
Friday, April 19 7 pm
Coordinated by Howard County Library System and the Howard County Public School System

Coordinated by Howard County Library System and the Howard County Public School System
STUDENT CONTESTS
Check source, visit hclibrary.org, or call a branch for details.

HCLS SPELLING BEE
Grades 4 - 8
Students in grades 4 though 8 apply standard English spelling, increase vocabulary, and recognize the meaning, form, and function of words as they compete in classroom and school bees. Winners of school bees advance to HCLS’ regional bee in March 2013. The winner of the regional bee competes in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. The HCLS Spelling Bee is organized under the rules of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Call 410.313.7750 to register by September 28.
Sponsored by BB&T and Friends of Howard County Library

SHERLOCK HOLMES ESSAY CONTEST
Grade 7
Seventh grade students increase their understanding of the literary forms of mystery and suspense as they read and respond to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Adventure of the Speckled Band.” Entries due by May 31, 2013.
Sponsored by Watson’s Tin Box and HCPSS

WRITE! NOW POETRY CONTEST
Grade 6 - 12
Students in grades 6 through 12 (competing in three categories) clarify, extend, or elaborate on ideas by using vivid language such as imagery, figurative language, and sound elements to create and submit original poetry. Contest runs from December 3 through March 8, details to come at hclibrary.org/writenow.
Sponsored by Friends of Howard County Library
**DESIGNATED A\(^+\) BRANCHES FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS**

If you have questions or want to schedule a class, please call or email the appropriate person listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Manager</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HCLS CENTRAL BRANCH</strong></td>
<td>Maggie Smith</td>
<td>410.313.7870</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret.smith@hclibrary.org">margaret.smith@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Atholton HS</td>
<td>Homewood School</td>
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<td>Wilde Lake HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarksville MS</td>
<td>Lime Kiln MS</td>
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<td>Wilde Lake MS</td>
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<td>Harpers Choice MS</td>
<td>River Hill HS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCLS EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH</strong></td>
<td>Mark Bizokas</td>
<td>410.313.7711</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.bizokas@hclibrary.org">mark.bizokas@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<td>Lake Elkhorn MS</td>
<td>Oakland Mills HS</td>
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<td>Oakland Mills MS</td>
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<td>Applications &amp; Research Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCLS ELKRIDGE BRANCH</strong></td>
<td>Sarah Russo</td>
<td>410.313.5088</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.russo@hclibrary.org">sarah.russo@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnie Branch MS</td>
<td>Howard HS</td>
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<td>Mayfield Woods MS</td>
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<td>Elkridge Landing MS</td>
<td>Long Reach HS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCLS GLENWOOD BRANCH</strong></td>
<td>Allison Maricle</td>
<td>410.313.5583</td>
<td><a href="mailto:allison.maricle@hclibrary.org">allison.maricle@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Folly Quarter MS</td>
<td>Glenwood MS</td>
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<td>Mount View MS</td>
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<td>Glenelg HS</td>
<td>Marriotts Ridge HS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCLS MILLER BRANCH</strong></td>
<td>Courtney Gardinier</td>
<td>410.313.1964</td>
<td><a href="mailto:courtney.gardinier@hclibrary.org">courtney.gardinier@hclibrary.org</a></td>
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<td>Burleigh Manor MS</td>
<td>Dunloggin MS</td>
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<td>Mt. Hebron HS</td>
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<td>Centennial HS</td>
<td>Ellicott Mills MS</td>
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<td>Patapsco MS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCLS SAVAGE BRANCH</strong></td>
<td>Sarah Moore</td>
<td>410.880.5983</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.moore@hclibrary.org">sarah.moore@hclibrary.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammond MS</td>
<td>Murray Hill MS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reservoir HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammond HS</td>
<td>Patuxent Valley MS</td>
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HCLS classes for middle and high school students are designed to promote critical and selective use of sources, including the Library’s specialized online research tools. These classes expose students to essential 21st century skills, challenging students to consider the source and format of the information that they are using, to be thoughtful participants in the research process, and to select the most appropriate source for given assignments. Review the class descriptions that follow, and invite an instructor to visit your classroom today.

**BIG6™ INFORMATION SKILLS * (LANGUAGE ARTS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES)**
HCLS instructors & research specialists introduce students to effective research techniques and the Big6™ research process model. HCLS instructors demonstrate each stage of the process, with particular emphasis on Information Seeking Strategies and Location and Access. We can customize this class to focus on resources that support the particular assignment your students are researching. 45 min.; grades 6 and up.

**BOOK CLUB (LANGUAGE ARTS)**
Let us provide books for your book club, or facilitate the discussion for your students. Students demonstrate the ability to identify and explain an author’s use of literary devices, such as plot, setting, and characterization, as they determine the critical or central ideas of a text. Length, text selections and content determined by need. Grades 6 and up.

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
A+ CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

CAREER & COLLEGE BOUND *
(LANGUAGE ARTS, STUDENT SERVICES)
Students learn to conduct effective research about colleges and/or careers. Career presentations include details on job descriptions, salary expectations, and required educational achievement or training, as well as information about choosing a career and occupational outlook.

College presentations discuss school selection and admission requirements. Students learn to access details about colleges and financial aid, manage time during the application process, and understand the goal of an essay question in order to develop effective college essays. Grades 6 and up.

ELL EXPERIENCE
(ESOL)
Students develop listening, speaking, language, and literacy skills through exposure to high interest, English language HCLS materials. Students reinforce existing skills using HCLS materials in their home languages. Materials can be borrowed from the classroom, or you can arrange a tour of your designated A+ branch. Length determined by need; grades 6 and up.

THE GAME IS AFOOT!
(LANGUAGE ARTS)
Students become familiar with the literary forms of mystery and suspense as they explore a Sherlock Homes mystery. Students also receive an introduction to the Sherlock Holmes Essay Contest (see page 8). 45 min.; grades 6 & up.

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
A+ CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

HISTORY DAY PROJECT PREPARATION
(SOCIAL STUDIES)
Students identify resources to formulate historical questions; access historical data including primary source material, secondary source material, and graphic organizers; and learn to identify the author or source of an historical document or narrative. Includes introduction to HCLS specialized online research tools. 45 min.; grades 6 & up.

LITERARY CRITICISM:
SUPPORTING YOUR ARGUMENT
Students learn to conduct effective research related to the critical study of published authors and their work. Includes introduction to HCLS specialized online research tools. 15 min.; grades 6 & up.

LIVE HOMEWORK HELP
(LANGUAGE ARTS, MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, STUDENT SERVICES)
Students learn to access free homework support from trained educators via hclibrary.org. May be combined with another class. 45 min.; grades 6 and up.

RAISING READERS:
MORE THAN JUST READING THE WORDS
(EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION)
HCLS children’s instructors teach secondary students how to motivate emerging readers through the use of props and music. Students also learn about HCLS resources for children and educators. Learn how to engage a young audience from professionals who do it every day. 50 min.; grades 9 and up.

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
RECOMMENDED READS
(LANGUAGE ARTS)
Students develop a positive reading attitude and cultivate a personal interest in a variety of genres, as HCLS instructors promote the subject area of your choice. Length determined by need. Grade 6 and up. Suggest a theme, or ask us to feature:

- BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR
- BLACK EYED SUSAN NOMINEES
- FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION
- GREAT SUMMER READS
- HIGH-INTEREST TITLES FOR RELUCTANT READERS
- HISTORICAL NOVELS
- MATERIALS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
- MULTICULTURAL TITLES
- MYSTERY FICTION
- NEW BOOKS
- REALISTIC FICTION

RELIABLE RESEARCH
(LANGUAGE ARTS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, STUDENT SERVICES)
Students become familiar with methods for conducting reliable research as they develop skills to evaluate the quality and authority of sources and determine the most appropriate resources to meet an identified need. Includes an introduction to Howard County Library System’s specialized online research tools. May be tailored to a specific class assignment. 45 min.; grades 6 and up.

SCIENCE FAIR STARTERS
(SCIENCE)
Students identify appropriate books, periodicals, and specialized online research tools to generate meaningful scientific questions, design experimental approaches, and compare new data with previously discovered results. 45 min.; grades 6 and up.

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
A+ CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

STANDARDIZED TEST PREPARATION
(LANGUAGE ARTS, MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, STUDENT SERVICES)
Students will identify sources for strengthening academic and test-taking skills needed to improve scores on familiar standardized tests such as the HSA, SAT, AP, and ASVAB. 45 min., grades 9 and up.

TAKE THE SPENDING CHALLENGE
(SOCIAL STUDIES)
Students learn money management skills and understand how credit cards work as they practice making personal financial decisions during this interactive game. 45 min., grades 6 and up.

WRITER’S CAMP
(LANGUAGE ARTS)
Students will clarify, extend, or elaborate on ideas by using vivid language such as imagery, figurative language, and sound elements by creating original poetry. Poems may then be submitted to the Write Now! Poetry Contest (see page 8). 45 min., grades 6 and up.

TEACHER NOTES BLOG
HCLS instructors & research specialists regularly post updates of interest to teachers and students:
hclibrary.org/teachernotes.
Visit us regularly or subscribe to the RSS feed and have the blog delivered to you!

* denotes classes appropriate for PTA events.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Howard County Library System instructors can teach A+ classes, and provide book displays, library cards, and other relevant resources at your school’s next special event, such as:

- Reading or Math night
- Science fair orientation
- Back to school night
- PTA presentations
- College night

ALL ACCESS PASS

Ensure every student has the tools to succeed. HCLS instructors can visit your class to provide students with library cards.

FIELD TRIP

Arrange to bring your students to any of HCLS’ six branches to tour research tools and receive library cards.
The A+ Partners in Education initiative between Howard County Library System and the Howard County Public School System is designed to promote scholarship, eliminate student achievement gaps, and expand academic opportunities for students.