

## **U.S. News & World Report Recognizes Hampstead Hill Academy Among the 2026 Best Elementary/Middle Schools**

**Washington, D.C. – November, 2025** – Hampstead Hill Academy's Elementary School has been ranked in the 94th percentile in the State of Maryland, and the middle school is ranked in the 98th percentile in the State of Maryland and is among the 2026 Best School rankings by U.S. News & World Report.

The rankings include about 47,000 public elementary schools and more than 23,000 middle schools across the country. Schools are ranked at the state and district level, with Best Charter Schools ranked as a stand-alone category.

The [methodology](#) focuses on state assessments of students who were proficient or above proficient in mathematics and reading/language arts while accounting for student backgrounds, achievement in core subjects, and how well schools are educating their students. Student-teacher ratios are applied to break ties in the overall score.

The 2026 Best Elementary and Best Middle Schools rankings are based on publicly available data from the U.S. Department of Education. For district-level rankings, at least two of the top performing schools must rank in the top 75% of the overall elementary or middle school rankings to qualify for district-level recognition.

"Recognizing schools that consistently deliver high-quality education, U.S. News' 2026 Best Elementary and Middle Schools rankings showcase institutions that empower students from a variety of backgrounds," said LaMont Jones, Ed.D., managing editor for Education at U.S. News. "This data-rich resource helps parents choose schools that are truly making a difference in children's academic journeys."

Parents, educators and students can see how Hampstead Hill Academy compares to other institutions and how the rankings are calculated on the best [elementary](#) and [middle](#) schools on USNews.com.

## Highlights of Hampstead Hill Academy

- City Schools highest-rated MSDE elementary and middle school.
- Based on test scores and parent ratings, HHA is one of the region's top-performing public charter schools.
- 940 students in grades Prek-8.
- Tuition-free, serving an attendance area in southeast Baltimore City.
- Additional spaces are available by lottery for families living outside of the attendance area. Please note: HHA is very overenrolled and has not taken students from the waiting list for the last several years
- At HHA, we choose our own curriculum, decide who to hire when there is a need, and have the control to make all day-to-day budget decisions in the best interests of our students.
- Knowledge, rigor and mastery are key components of our instructional program.
- 100% of our kindergartners are reading. We emphasize fluency and accuracy.
- All middle school students take honors level, weighted courses in science and social studies.
- More than 2/3 of our students take Algebra I in eighth grade in order to start high school in Algebra II.
- Our students complete the 75 hours of community service required for a Maryland high school diploma by the time they finish eighth grade.
- More than 80% of our HHA eighth grade students are admitted to their first choice high school. High schools include: Baltimore City College, Western High School, Polytechnic High School, The Bard School, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, City Neighbors, Cristo Rey, The Friends School, Loyola Blakefield, and other private and public county schools.
- We offer physical education, orchestra, band, art, computer science/language exploration, nutrition class, drama, music and nature exploration as well as a quality before and after-school care program.
- We are an Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (eGATE) school recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education.
- HHA has universal testing for giftedness.
- We implement Restorative Practices, mindfulness practices, and a Leaders Go Places/Leaders Getting Ready programs designed to connect everyone and build community.
- Open Doors is our GSA student club that promotes peace and acceptance.
- We have four middle school dances each year.
- All students take at least three field trips each year and have daily outdoor recess supervised by Coppermine coaches. Students also take part in a variety of activities and field trips that provide the opportunity

to encounter and explore novel learning in an authentic setting.

- We have a full-time registered nurse two days per week and a Health Aide five days a week.
- We have an orchestra with violins, cellos and violas. We have a band with nearly 90 instruments.
- We have a vibrant array of clubs like soccer, baseball, basketball, Lego, chess, Spanish, Girl Scouts, STEAM and much more.
- We have Family Academic Nights, Student Celebration Nights, and Community Arts Nights, which are all opportunities that foster and promote parent engagement and celebrate student, family and community achievements.
- We produce a musical each year. Past shows include Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, Hairspray and Legally Blonde. Historically, these shows sell out.
- We have an active PTO that coordinates many of the fundraisers throughout the course of the school year and supports many programs, including buying all school supplies for every student and organizing a teacher wish list drive in November and December each year.

### **About U.S. News & World Report**

U.S. News & World Report is the global leader for journalism that empowers consumers, citizens, business leaders and policy officials to make confident decisions in all aspects of their lives and communities. A multifaceted media company, U.S. News provides unbiased rankings, independent reporting and analysis, and consumer advice to millions of people on [USNews.com](https://www.usnews.com) each month. A pillar in Washington for more than 90 years, U.S. News is the trusted home for in-depth and exclusive insights on education, health, politics, the economy, personal finance, travel, automobiles, real estate, careers and consumer products and services.

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