



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard University “Escape to Mecca” Tour April 6 – 10, 2016

February 17, 2016

Dear Student/Parent/Counselor/Administrator:

We are pleased to announce the launching of the **13th Annual “Escape to Mecca” College Tour to Howard University** in Washington, DC. Chicago Public Schools has exposed over 500 juniors and seniors to the “Mecca of African-American Education,” resulting in nearly a fourth of those students enrolling and graduating from Howard University!

This year’s 5-day – 4 night college tour is scheduled for **April 6 – 10, 2016** and is open to juniors in good standing and seniors who are prospective students, already accepted, or awaiting acceptance into Howard University.

We are pleased to offer this unique “near-peer” college campus immersion experience **at a low fee of \$150!** This trip is valued at \$450 and typically cost between \$250 and \$350, but we have worked hard to obtain funding to defray costs to you. A very limited number of scholarships *may* be available for extenuating economic hardship cases. Such cases must be discussed with and approved by the College and Career Specialist for your child’s school Network Office.

Students, we are excited to introduce our electronic application through the CPS Academic Works tool. All CPS students have access to this tool using their CPS Username and CPS ID number as their password (log in instructions are enclosed.) It is imperative that students complete the online application by **11:59 pm, Friday, March 4, 2016** in order to be considered for interviews. Students who are interested in applying **MUST** be available for first round interviews **Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 12:00pm**. Please find the enclosed 2016 Guidelines Packet and apply today to be a part of one unforgettable experience! If there any questions, you can reach me at 773.841.4817 or [glpurifoy@cps.edu](mailto:glpurifoy@cps.edu), or my co-lead, Michele Howard at 773-860-4685 or [CollegeScholarships@cps.edu](mailto:CollegeScholarships@cps.edu). We look forward to engaging you in a rewarding and educational program.

*Please review the enclosed information closely.*

Respectfully,

*Gloria L. Purifoy*

Gloria L. Purifoy

Escape to Mecca Tour Coordinator

*Michele L. Howard*

Michele L. Howard

Escape to Mecca Tour Co-Coordinator

Cc: Office of School Counseling and Postsecondary Advising  
Chief of High Schools – All Networks  
College and Career Specialists – All Networks  
Chicago Public School Students and Parents



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### GUIDELINES & ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- CPS High School **Juniors AND Seniors with an unweighted GPA of at least 2.7 and an ACT score of 18 or more** are eligible to apply.
- **Seniors** must be a prospective student with proof of acceptance or confirmation receipt of application from Admissions, and proof of a submitted FAFSA.
- **Returning participants** wishing to apply for attendance again must already be accepted and may be subjected to a wait-list pending response volume and eligibility of 1st time applicants.
- Final decisions will be based on essay, grades, test scores, student’s outcomes in the Dynamic Assessment Process (DAP), etc. Slots will be fairly distributed; however, prospective Howard, and Freshman Scholarship eligible seniors, males, and GEAR UP juniors will receive priority.

#### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Students **MUST** complete the “Escape to Mecca” Electronic Application on CPS Academic Works, **NO EXCEPTIONS**

- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Teacher reference (1)
- ✓ Counselor reference (1)
- ✓ Unofficial copy of transcript
- ✓ Copy of ACT test score (Seniors ONLY)
- ✓ Teacher & Principal Authorization Form (this trip takes place during the school day, *students **MUST** be approved by their teachers, Principal **and** Parent/Guardian to attend.*)
- ✓ Copy of acceptance letter, OR receipt of application AND FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) (Seniors ONLY)
- ✓ Commit to attend a first round interview *if selected* – Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- ✓ Commit to attending a mandatory Student and-Parent Orientation – Wednesday, March 30, 2016

#### IMPORTANT PAYMENT INFORMATION:

There is a **\$150 fee for participants** which includes travel, chaperone lodging and *some* meals. A **non-refundable down payment of \$60** is **due Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** (priority accepted students) and **by March 18** for select interview candidates. Final payment for ALL is due March 23. (*Cost includes the non-refundable registration fee of \$60*)

#### SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** – Application Deadline  
**March 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>** – Application Review  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>** – Priority Acceptances and Interview Notifications  
**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – DAP Interviews & **Priority Acceptances Down Payment Due (\$60 non-refundable)**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>** – Notification of Final Accepted Students  
**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – Accepted Student DAP Team Building & Final Acceptances **Down Payment Due (\$60 non-refundable)**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Wait List students informed of slot availability

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>**  
**FINAL PAYMENT DUE (\$90)**  
**March 30<sup>th</sup>** – MANDATORY Student & Parent Orientation; Final DAP Team Building  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**  
 – ESCAPE TO MECCA TOUR

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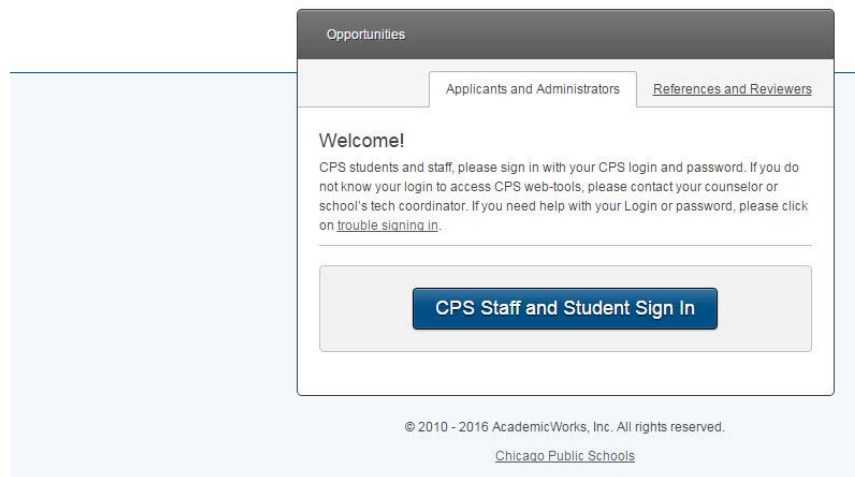
### Academic Works Student Login Instructions

**CPS Academic Works Application: <http://tinyurl.com/EscapeToMecca2016>**

1. Go to: <https://cps.academicworks.com> OR <http://tinyurl.com/EscapeToMecca2016>
2. Click "Sign In" and login with your CPS Login ID (username) and CPS ID# (password)  
**For Example:** IF, your CPS Email is MLHoward11@cps.edu and CPS ID# is: 02245875  
**Your Username:** MLHoward11 **Your Password:** 02245875 *(If you do not have your CPS Username and Password, please reach out to your school counselor or technology coordinator.)*
3. Complete the CPS Academic Works General Application *(you must answer all required questions)*
4. Once you complete the General Application, you can complete the supplemental questions within the "Escape to Mecca" opportunity. Use the above highlighted link to take you directly to the opportunity. *(Note: You cannot bypass the General Application.)*
5. You have the option of saving incomplete work when you start the application. However, **you must complete the application (including reference forms) by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 4th** the deadline. The system will lock you out of the application at midnight.
6. Sign Out of Academic Works

*If you have any questions or concerns regarding logging into CPS Academic Works, contact Scholarship Manager, Michele Howard at [CollegeScholarships@cps.edu](mailto:CollegeScholarships@cps.edu) .*

*Screen Shot of Log In Screen for CPS Academic Works*





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AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE E2M TOUR

The Escape to Mecca trip is scheduled while school is in session. Students MUST obtain authorization from teachers, their school Principal and their Parent/Guardian in order to attend the tour. Any discrepancies or incomplete forms will result in the dismissal of the application in the review process. Students are to: (1) upload the completed form to their "Escape to Mecca" application via CPS Academic Works, (2) submit hard copies of completed form to counselor and attendance clerk for attendance purposes.

TEACHER INFORMATION Teacher signatures are required for the classes that will be missed April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> (days of the tour.)

1<sup>st</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
2<sup>nd</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
3<sup>rd</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
4<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
5<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
6<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
7<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
8<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
9<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
10<sup>th</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

MY SIGNATURE VERIFIES MY APPROVAL FOR THIS STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY "ESCAPE TO MECCA" COLLEGE TOUR PROGRAM APRIL 6- 10, 2016 AND SERVES AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.

PRINCIPAL AUTHORIZATION Principal signature is required to complete/submit this form.

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE x

WRITE PRINCIPAL NAME ABOVE DATE

MY SIGNATURE VERIFIES MY AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY "ESCAPE TO MECCA" COLLEGE TOUR PROGRAM APRIL 6- 10, 2016 AND THAT ALL TEACHER SIGNATURES PROVIDED ARE AUTHENTIC.

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE x (PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME HERE) DATE

MY SIGNATURE VERIFIES THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CHILD INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY "ESCAPE TO MECCA" COLLEGE TOUR PROGRAM APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>- 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 AND THAT ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CORRECT.

\*\*\*THIS FORM IS REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION COMPLETION\*\*\*



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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Questions	Response
Who can participate?	<b>Juniors and Seniors ONLY</b> , with a minimum GPA of 2.7. Seniors must have an ACT score of 18 or higher. Students should have a strong interest in Howard or a similar institution. <b>Prospective seniors with a 26 or higher ACT are strongly encouraged to apply.</b>
How much does it cost?	There is a <b>\$150 fee</b> which includes travel, chaperone lodging and some meals. A non-refundable down <b>payment of \$60</b> is due March 12th and by March 18th for select interview candidates. Final payment for all is due March 23rd.
When is the application deadline?	The application must be completed and all required documents must be received <b>by 11:59 pm Friday, March 4, 2016 via the CPS Academic Works site</b> ( <a href="https://cps.academicworks.com">https://cps.academicworks.com</a> )
When will I know if I am accepted?	The selections committee will review applications from March 7-8. Interviews will begin March 12th. Notifications of interviews and “ <i>Priority Acceptances</i> ” will be <b>sent via email</b> by March 10th. Final acceptances will be sent by March 15th.
How many spaces are available?	We <b>MUST book 40 paid slots</b> in order to take this trip. Priority will be given to Howard accepted, prospective and Freshman Scholarship eligible seniors; Juniors from GEAR UP cohort schools and males. A waitlist will be formed in the case of capacity limitations. If we must cancel the trip due to low attendance all funds will be returned <b>minus a nominal bus cancellation fee (\$25).</b>
What are the travel, lodging, and meal arrangements?	We travel by coach bus. Student lodging and <i>some</i> meals are provided in the dormitories, courtesy of Howard University and Chicago People’s Union – our student host organization. <b>Personal spending money is an additional needed costs.</b>

*If you have further questions or concerns, please reach out to the E2M Coordinators*