







ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence. Ascending Together.

READY...SET...SUCCESS!

A High School Student's Guide for College and Career Readiness

Volume 2

A Message from the Superintendent



The Mission, Vision and Purpose of Ascension Public Schools are all centered around preparing students to succeed after school and in an ever-changing world. Our 3,000 employees strive to work in unison to provide daily quality experiences for students so they have every opportunity to attain high levels of academic development, discover their talents and interests for skill development, and grow in emotional maturity. This is to enable students a successful pursuit of a quality life and an opportunity to contribute to the quality of the lives of others in their community.

High school is a pivotal time when students are growing academically, socially, and emotionally. One of the most important things a student can do in high school is to prepare for life after – whether that is at a post-secondary institution or going straight into the workforce. It is our hope that we are preparing you for the future of your choice.

Use this College and Career Guide to research your options and set a course for your future success!

David Alexander
Superintendent



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Tips for Parents

Parents serve as a major influence in their children's career development and career decision making. Here are seven tips for helping your child:

1. Your encouraging attitude can boost your child's confidence and excitement about his/her future.
2. Talk with your child about his/her career dreams. No Judgements!
3. Share information about your career. Tell your child about experiences and decisions that had an impact on you.
4. Help your child pinpoint his/her interests and strengths. Talk about which skills and activities could be useful for a career.
5. Ensure that your child has explored career information using online resources.
6. Encourage your child to prepare for education after high school, whether it be through a technical institute, community college, or university.
7. Keep talking with your child. Have an open door policy for changing ideas. Planning for the future is not a one-time conversation; it is on going!

This guide was designed to help students and parents prepare for high school and what lies ahead. We hope you will take time to review this guide with your child and discuss the information contained within.

Parents and guardians play a vital role in their son's and daughter's education, as well as their career/life planning. We encourage you to be an active participant in your child's education by reviewing your child's Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) in PowerSchool, https://apsb.powerschool.com/public/home.html. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to help your child reach his or her personal goals.

For Students - Where will your track lead you?

Your future holds many choices. Narrowing down your career preferences and learning about the educational requirements needed to achieve them will help you decide your next steps during and after high school. Choosing a potential career track starts with learning about yourself, your personality, your likes and dislikes, and your abilities. It is also important to become more familiar with the many career options available to you. Your IGP is there to assist you in tracking graduation requirements, credentials, earned, test scores, and GPA.

This guide will help, so please read it carefully and complete all the self-assessments. You might just be surprised at what you learn about yourself.

Note: The self-assessments included in this guide are attributed to Collierville Schools.

A Message from The Chamber of Commerce

TOGETHER We Advance ASCENSION

ASCENSION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ascension Public Schools plays a vital role in the development of a local and regional workforce through the exceptional education and training it provides the children in this parish. By partnering with local employers and universities, Ascension Public Schools is able to ensure that our children have the knowledge, skills, and certifications necessary to transition seamlessly into the workforce or post-secondary education. With a booming industrial economy, Ascension Parish has truly become a land of opportunity.

Capitalizing on that opportunity, Ascension Public Schools works closely with employers in the parish to create a workforce pipeline that purposefully and specifically meets their workforce needs. Through these partnerships with industry and other businesses in the parish we have not only created a qualified talent pool for employers to recruit from, but more importantly, we have become more effective at keeping our homegrown talent where they need to be…in Ascension Parish.

Barker Dirmann

President/CEO

ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

A

Ascension Public School Students ASCEND TO EXCELLENCE!

S

Solution Seekers

- Think critically and ask questions in order to form creative solutions
- Collect and understand relevant information to form conclusions
- Demonstrate the ability to work with others in order to achieve a common goal

C

Creative Innovators

- Form and share ideas
- Analyze and form arguments considering a variety of perspectives
- Recognize that success in a collaborative project may require new ways of thinking and doing

E

Effective Communicators

- Communicate effectively in diverse environments
- Listen with the intent to understand
- Speak in a clear, concise and purposeful manner to inform, influence, motivate or entertain listeners
- Incorporate effective writing skills for various purposes and audiences
- Use technology and a variety of media to explore and exchange ideas
- Use feedback to recognize areas in need of improvement

N

Noble Citizens

- Surround oneself with positive and healthy relationships to promote physical and mental wellness
- Embrace diversity and stand up for oneself and others
- Participate in civic processes and obligations to be of service to others at a local, state, national and global level
- Communicate in multiple forms effectively to make meaningful connections
- Show responsibility in personal and group situations
- Display independence and self-sufficiency

D

Determined and Resilient Learners

- Can push through adversity to overcome obstacles
- Achieve goals despite any missteps, challenges, or negative feedback
- Seek and accept feedback to help in accomplishing difficult tasks
- Adjust to new conditions, different roles, unpredictable situations and shifting concepts
- Recognize that there are several paths to achieve a desired outcome

APPENDIX I: COURSE REQUIREMENTS CHART

(underlined courses are those newly approved by BESE on June 20, 2019)

SUBJECTS	TOPS UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA		CAREER DIPLOMA	
	# Units	Courses	# Units	Courses
English	1	**One of the following:** English I, English Language Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE	1	**One of the following:** English I, English Language Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE
	1	**One of the following:** English II, English Language Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE	1	**One of the following:** English II, English Language Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE
	1	**One of the following:** English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, IB Literature, IB Language and Literature, IB Literature and Performance, English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors), or Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors)	2	**The remaining units shall come from the following:** Technical Writing, Business English, English III, English IV, any AP or IB English course, any Cambridge AICE-AS course, or comparable Louisiana technical college courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by BESE
	1	**One of the following:** English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, IB Literature, IB Language and Literature, IB Literature and Performance, English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors), or Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors)		
	NOTE: If a student chooses to take the A level Cambridge course, the second unit will count as an elective credit.			
Mathematics	1	Algebra I	1	Algebra I, Applied Algebra I, or Algebra I-Part 2 *(The elective course Algebra I-Part 1 is a prerequisite.)*
	1	Geometry	3	**The remaining units shall come from the following:** Geometry, Financial Literacy (formerly Financial Math), Math Essentials, Algebra II, Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus, Business Math, Probability and Statistics, Statistical Reasoning, Additional Math: Cambridge IGCSE, Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors), Transition to College Mathematics, or comparable Louisiana technical college courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by BESE
	1	Algebra II		
	1	**One of the following:** Algebra III, Advanced Math—Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, IB Math Studies (Math Methods), Calculus, AP Calculus AB, IB Mathematics SL, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, IB Further Mathematics HL, IB Mathematics HL, Probability and Statistics, AP Computer Science A, Statistical Reasoning, Additional Math—Cambridge IGCSE, Math 1 (Probability and Statistics): Cambridge AICE (Honors), Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors), Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE—A Level (Honors), or Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE—A Level (Honors)		
	NOTE: The Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III sequence, including the Cambridge IGCSE Integrated Math sequence, may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.			
Science	1	Biology I	1	Biology I
	1	Chemistry I	1	**One of the following:** Chemistry I, Physical Science, Earth Science, Agriscience II*, Environmental Science, PLTW Principles of Engineering, any AP or IB science course, Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE, Biology II: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors), Chemistry II: AICE—AS (Honors), or Physics II: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors)
	2	**Two units chosen from the following:** (a) Earth Science; (b) **one of** Environmental Science, Environmental Awareness; (c) **one of** Physical Science, Principles of Engineering, Principles of Engineering (LSU Partnership), or PLTW Principles of Engineering; (d) Agriscience II*; (e) **one of** Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II, or Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors); (f) **one of** AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems; (g) **one of** Physics I, IB Physics I, AP Physics I, or Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE; (h) **one of** AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, AP Physics II, or Physics II: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors); (i) **one of** Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Biology II: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors), or Human Anatomy and Physiology		
	*The elective course Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II.			
Social Studies	1	**One of the following:** U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB History of the Americas I	1	**One of the following:** U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB History of the Americas I
	1	**One of the following:** Civics, American Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States	1	**One of the following:** Civics, American Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
	2	**Two units chosen from the following:** (a) **one of** European History, AP European History, Western Civilization, or History (European): Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors); (b) **one of** World Geography, AP Human Geography, IB Geography, Physical Geography, or Geography: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors); (c) **one of** World History, AP World History, IB History of the Americas II, or History (International): Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors); (d) History of Religion; (e) **one of** IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, or Economics: Cambridge AICE—AS (Honors); or (f) AP Psychology		
Health and Physical Education	0.5	Health Education	0.5	Health Education
	1.5	Physical Education I and II; Adapted Physical Education I and II for eligible students in special education; JROTC I, II, III, or IV; or Physical Education I (1 unit) and 1/2 unit of Marching Band, extracurricular sports, Cheerleading, or Dance Team	1.5	Physical Education I and one half unit from among the following: Physical Education II, Marching Band, extracurricular sports, Cheerleading, Dance Team Adapted PE for eligible students or JROTC or may be substituted
	NOTE: JROTC I and II may be used to meet the health education requirement. Refer to §2347.			
Foreign Language	2	Two units from the same language (§2345)		
Art	1	Art (§2333), Music (§2355), Dance (§2337), Theatre (§2369), Speech III and IV (one unit combined), Fine Arts Survey, Drafting, Media Arts (§2354), Photography I/II, Digital Photography, or Digital Design (§ 2338)		
Electives/ Jump Start	3	Electives	9	Jump Start course sequence, workplace experiences, and approved credentials (a minimum of one industry-based credential is required for graduation)
Total Units	**24**		**23**	

Refer to Bulletin 741 for a comprehensive list of approved courses and the most current graduation requirements. REVISED SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

Graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade in 2021-2022 and beyond will adhere to JumpStart 2.0. JumpStart 2.0 details can be found at https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/all-things-jump-start.

PATHWAYS



Find Out More About Yourself

Think of career planning as an ongoing process of self-reflection and evaluation, skill building, networking and researching opportunities. The first step in that process is to assess your interests and talents. Self-assessment includes answering questions like: What are my natural aptitudes and talents? What do I enjoy? What am I good at? What is important to me? What do I care about? What motivates me?

Use the interactive self-assessments to discover what you are good at and where you may have room for improvement. Identify the things that interest you and get some ideas about careers to explore. You can explore more online at the following websites:

- unlockmyfuture.org
- whatcareerisrightforme.com
- careerinfonet.org/skills/
- onetonline.org
- lanext.com
- Career Cruising through myapl.org/databases-7498



Did You Know?

Students who select courses that are consistent with their goals, interests, recent achievements, strengths, and preferred learning styles are more likely to be successful in all of their courses.

Career Success Skills Self-Assessment

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 in the career success skills. Ten being the highest rating, meaning the skill is a top strength of yours.

Collaboration	Collaboration is working with another person or group in order to achieve something. Are you good at working with others?	
Communication	Communication is the process of exchanging thoughts, opinions, or information through speech, writing, or graphics. Are you a good writer, speaker, and listener?	
Creativity	Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. Do you often think of several ways to approach a problem?	
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking is that mode of thinking in which the thinker analyzes, assesses, and reconstructs the content or problem. Do you have good critical thinking skills?	
Decision Making	Decision making is the thought process of selecting a logical choice from the available options. Do you consider the positives, negatives, and all of the alternatives to make a good choice?	
Initiative	Initiative is a quality where you begin work without needing to be told or encouraged to do so. Do you start tasks before your teachers, parents, or bosses tell you to?	
Interpersonal	Interpersonal skills are the skills used by a person to interact with others properly. Do you get along easily with others, both individually and in groups?	
Leadership	Leadership is the ability to guide other people toward a common purpose. Are you good at guiding people to accomplish tasks and reach goals?	
Organizational	Organizational skills in the workplace can include general organizing, planning, scheduling, coordinating resources, and meeting deadlines. Are you good at organizing your work?	
Quantitative Reasoning	Quantitative skills are objective, numerical, and measurable. Do you like using math to solve problems?	
Technology	Technology literacy is the ability to responsibly and effectively use technology tools to create and communicate information. Can you use basic computer applications and functions?	
Time Management	Time management is the ability to use your time effectively or productively, especially at work. Do you use your time well during the day, or do you procrastinate?	

What are your three best career success skills?

What are the three career success skills you want to improve?

Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications

Communication is crucial for success in all careers. Writing, working with a team, and communicating new ideas are requirements of most jobs, and artistic vision is a desirable skill in just about every field. Businesses and corporations around the world recognize the valuable assets that artists and visionaries bring to the table.

Creative students who see themselves designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, or publishing multimedia content will want to consider arts, audio/video technology, and communications.



Top Skills

Collaboration	Initiative
Communication	Interpersonal
Creativity	Technology
Critical Thinking	Time Management

Top Careers

Film Maker	Interior Designer
Graphic Designer	Writer
Television Studio Producer	Art Curator
Stage Designer	Photographer
Publisher	Reporter
Radio Broadcaster	Professional Athlete
Fashion Designer or Illustrator	Artist (Performing or Visual)

Ascension Pathways Offered in this Area

- Digital Design and Emergent Media
- Digital Media and Entertainment Technology
- Fashion Design

Industry Based Certifications Offered

- ACT National Career Readiness - Silver
- Adobe Certified Associate InDesign
- Adobe Certified Associate Photoshop
- Adobe Certified Associate Dreamweaver
- Adobe Certified Associate Illustrator
- Adobe Certified Associate Premiere Pro
- Fashion Design for Costume in Film (Pre-PAC Fashion, Textiles, and Apparel)
- Louisiana Micro-Enterprise
- ProStart National Certificate of Achievement (Including ServSafe)

"I chose to take the Multimedia Productions class because I dream of working on a set and becoming a filmmaker. The class is really interactive, and the projects are also great. It relates to real-life situations and projects which you can use to start working with a client. Each class has its own skill set, and I believe that this class will improve how I work with clients."

- Ryan Lisea, East Ascension High School

Is Audio/Video Technology & Communications for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Are you creative?		
2.	Are you talented in writing, speaking, performing, and/or designing?		
3.	Are you a visionary thinker?		
4.	Are you open to new ideas and opinions that differ from your own?		
5.	Do you sometimes daydream?		
6.	Are you innovative and original?		
7.	Are you good at expressing yourself clearly?		
8.	Do you handle feedback and criticism well?		
9.	Are you friendly?		
10.	Are you flexible?		
11.	Are you persistent? Do you stick to problems until they are solved?		
12.	Do you prefer to work independently?		
	TOTAL:		

Did You Know?

Employment of Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators is projected to grow approximately 18% over a decade.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

3.5 Million

The arts employ 3.5 million workers across the country with earnings of more than $300 billion.

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

Yes 1-3 — You are DEVELOPING in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

Yes 4-7 — You are EMERGING in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

Yes 8-12 — You are STRONG in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.

Business, Finance, & Entrepreneurship

Being an entrepreneur or going into the business field can offer numerous advantages such as being your own boss, making a living out of following your passion, doing something you love and care about, and setting your own schedule. The finance industry is a critical sector that employs millions of people with career opportunities available in every segment of the economy.

Students who enjoy interacting with others, making decisions, and getting things done should consider a career in business.



Top Skills

Collaboration	Interpersonal
Communication	Leadership
Critical Thinking	Organizational
Decision Making	Quantitative Reasoning

Top Careers

Chief Executive Officer	Sales Representative
Entrepreneur	Insurance Appraiser
Controller	Real Estate Agent
Adjuster	Office Manager
Marketing Manager	Personal Financial Advisor
Human Resources Manager	Customer Service Rep.
Executive Assistant	Bank Officer

Ascension Pathways Offered in this Area

- Business Management
- Information Technology
- Micro-Enterprise
- Technology Specialist

Industry Based Certifications Offered

- ACT National Career Readiness - Silver
- Adobe Certified Associate InDesign
- Adobe Certified Associate Photoshop
- Adobe Certified Associate Dreamweaver
- Adobe Certified Associate Illustrator
- Adobe Certified Associate Premiere Pro
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA IT Fundamentals
- Customer Service and Sales
- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Func. Program. & Web Dev. Level 1
- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Func. Program. & Web Dev. Level 2
- Louisiana Micro-Enterprise
- Microsoft Word Specialist
- Microsoft Excel Specialist
- Microsoft PowerPoint Specialist
- The Business of Retail

"My Entrepreneurship class has exposed me to the different qualities it takes to start a business. I hadn't considered the risk and mental strength it takes to run a business. I hope to use my knowledge to start a successful business that attracts customers from all over the world."

- Marco Milton, East Ascension High School

Is Business, Finance, & Entrepreneurship for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Do you like to take on a new challenge?		
2.	Are you competitive?		
3.	Do you like to take action on projects?		
4.	Do you like to interact with all kinds of people?		
5.	Do you like to think outside the box?		
6.	Do you like to figure out how to improve things?		
7.	Do you like to figure out how to improve yourself?		
8.	Are you independent?		
9.	Are you creative?		
10.	Do you bounce back quickly after you fail at something?		
11.	Do you surround yourself with people who give you good advice?		
12.	Do you like to build or create new things?		
	TOTAL:		

Did You Know?

Louisiana small businesses employ 54.5% of private-sector workers.

Source: US Small Business Administration

Sixty-nine percent of U.S. entrepreneurs start their businesses at home.

Source: http://www.smallbiztrends.com

51 Percent

Fifty-one percent of people who were asked, "What's the best way to learn more about entrepreneurship?", responded with, "Start a company."

Source: http://www.smallbiztrends.com

Yes 1-3	You are DEVELOPING in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.
Yes 4-7	You are EMERGING in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.
Yes 8-12	You are STRONG in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.

Health & Human Services

Healthcare is the largest and fastest-growing industry in the United States. Career tracks in healthcare prepare students for a career that promotes health, wellness, and diagnosis and treatment of injuries and diseases.

Career tracks in Hospitality provide opportunities to travel and explore the beauty, culture, and cuisine of the world.

The Human Services career track prepares students for jobs that relate to families and human needs.

Students who enjoy helping others might be well suited for a career in Health and Human Services.



Top Skills

Collaboration	Interpersonal
Communication	Leadership
Critical Thinking	Organizational
Initiative	Technology

Top Careers

Nurse	Pharmacist
Veterinarian	Teacher
Hospital Administrator	Psychologist
Nutritionist or Dietitian	Social Service Worker
Physical Therapist	Police Officer
Physician/Surgeon	Fireman
Hotel Manager	Minister

Ascension Pathways Offered in this Area

- Emergency Medical Tech
- Health Sciences
- Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary, and Retail
- Public Service
- ProStart

Industry Based Certifications Offered

- ACT National Career Readiness - Silver
- Basic Life Support
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant
- Certified Patient Care Technician
- Customer Service and Sales
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Emergency Telecommunicator Certificate (911 Dispatch)
- FEMA IS-00700.b
- Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED
- Louisiana Micro-Enterprise
- ProStart National Certificate of Achievement (Including ServSafe)
- PRAXIS I (Pre-Educator)
- ServSafe Food Handler
- ServSafe Food Protection Manager

"This experience has definitely made me realize that the medical field is my passion, and I belong there."

- Kristin Callaway, St. Amant High School

Is Health & Human Services for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Are you friendly and compassionate?		
2.	Can you deal with the sight of blood and other injuries?		
3.	Are you comfortable working closely with sick people?		
4.	Do you deal with a crisis well?		
5.	Are you patient with difficult people?		
6.	Are you a team player?		
7.	Are you a continual learner?		
8.	Are you a good listener?		
9.	Are you a problem solver?		
10.	Do you manage your time well?		
11.	Can you work under pressure?		
12.	Are you adaptable?		
	TOTAL:		

Did You Know?

Americans are responsible for the vast majority of all health care innovations. The top five U.S. hospitals conduct more clinical trials than all the hospitals in any other single developed country. Since the mid-1970's, the Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology has gone to American residents more often than recipients from all other countries combined. In only five of the past 34 years did a scientist living in America not win or share the prize.

Source: National Center for Policy Analysis

1 OUT OF 4

1 out of every 4 jobs created between 2014 & 2024 will be in healthcare.

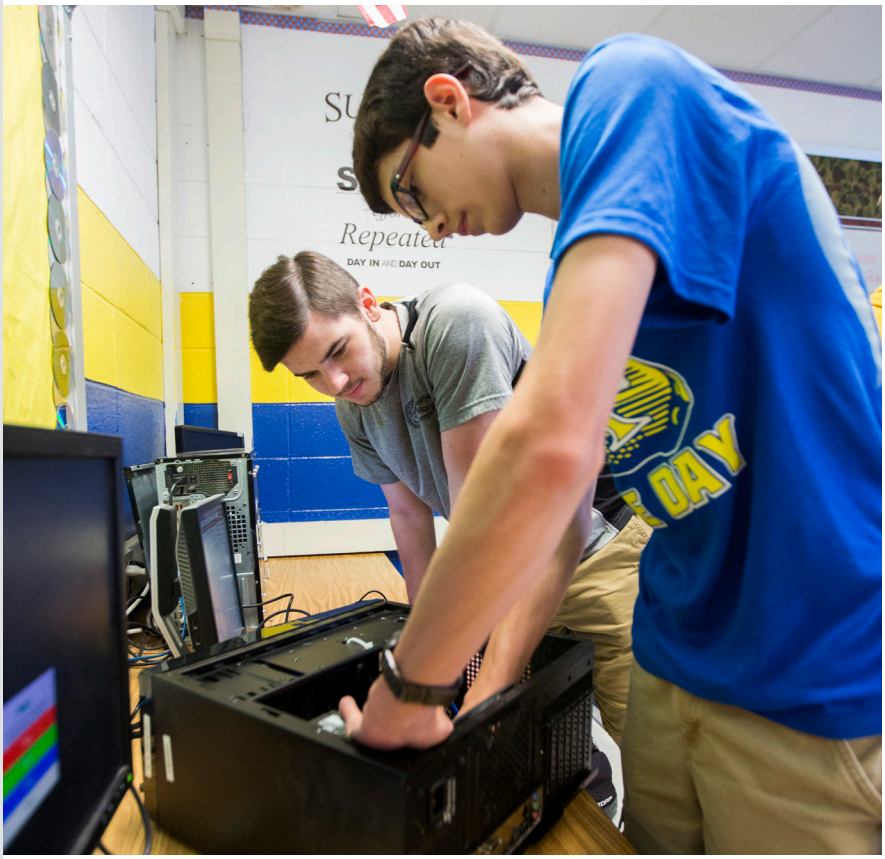
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Yes 1-3	You are DEVELOPING in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.
Yes 4-7	You are EMERGING in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.
Yes 8-12	You are STRONG in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, including Computer Science, is a curriculum based on the idea of combining education in four specific disciplines. Rather than teach the four areas as seperate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning curriculum, integrating real-life scenarios.

Students interested in STEM might be intrigued by using innovation and research to design a solution for a real-world problem.



Top Skills

Collaboration	Initiative
Communication	Organizational
Creativity	Quantitative Reasoning
Critical Thinking	Technology

Top Careers

Architect	Software Developer
Engineer	Computer Programmer
Construction Manager	Cyber Security Analyst
Electrician	Pilot
Statistician	Robotics Engineer
Auto Technician	Welder
Chemist	Research Analyst

Ascension Pathways Offered in this Area

- Agriculture Tech
- Certified Mechanical Drafter
- Cyber Engineering
- Pre-Engineering
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

Industry Based Certifications Offered

- ACT National Career Readiness - Silver
- ADDA Certified Architectural Apprentice Drafter
- ADDA Certified Mechanical Apprentice Drafter
- Autodesk AutoCAD Certified User
- Autodesk Inventor
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA IT Fundamentals
- EETC Four Stroke Gas Engine
- FAA Part 107: Small Unmanned Aircraft Operation
- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Func. Program. & Web Dev. Level 1
- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Func. Program. & Web Dev. Level 2
- S/P2 Automotive

"The Computer Electronics course, and the other courses like it, reach out to kids who really have a passion for technology and lets them really know what the different things are that they will be doing if they pursue a career in technology."

-Joseph Overstreet, Dutchtown High School

Is STEM for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Do you like to solve interesting and challenging problems?		
2.	Do you like to be creative and work with others?		
3.	Do you like to work on projects that make a difference?		
4.	Do you want to earn a good salary and enjoy job flexibility?		
5.	Do you want to help others change the world?		
6.	Are your computer skills strong?		
7.	Do you like to work through science experiments to find the results?		
8.	Are you good at video games?		
9.	Do you like to strategize?		
10.	Are you good at designing or building things?		
11.	Would you like to explore different computer languages?		
12.	When you fail at something, do you like to try again to do better?		
	TOTAL:		

Did You Know?

STEM occupations outearn non-STEM fields by 12-30% across all education levels.

Source: Smithsonian Science Education Center

9 Million

Employment in occupations related to STEM is projected to grow to more than 9 million.

Source: US Bureau of Labor and Statistics

Yes 1-3 — You are DEVELOPING in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

Yes 4-7 — You are EMERGING in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

Yes 8-12 — You are STRONG in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.

Architecture & Construction

Architecture and construction workers are an important part of the workforce because they design and fabricate the buildings we utilize daily for living, working, and relaxing. Architects and construction workers are involved in the planning, designing, building, and preserving of either old or new structures. They are directly involved in every aspect of building projects from start to finish. Their main goals focus on designing and creating buildings that are safe, efficient, long-lasting, and eye-catching.

Students who enjoy building and designing projects should explore a career in architecture and construction.



TOP SKILLS

Analytical	Strength and Stamina
Leadership/ Management	Critical Thinking
Attention to Detail	Team Building
Problem Solving	Design Talent
Communication	Visualizing

TOP CAREERS

Carpenter	Drafter
Interior Designer	Plumber/Pipefitter
Construction Manager	Electrician
Iron Worker	Surveying & Mapping Technician
Crane Operator	Industrial Designer
Landscape Architect	Surveyor

Ascension Pathways Offered in this Area

- Agriculture Tech
- Carpenter
- Certified Mechanical Drafter
- Electrician
- Helper (Carpenter, Electrician, Pipefitter, Welder)
- Manufacturing, Construction Crafts and Logistics
- Pipefitter
- Welder
- Workplace Safety

Industry Based Certifications Offered

- ABC-Pelican Level 1 AWS Welding
- ABC-Pelican Level 2 AWS Welding
- ACT National Career Readiness - Silver
- ADDA Certified Architectural Apprentice Drafter
- ADDA Certified Mechanical Apprentice Drafter
- AEST - AG Educational Service & Technology
- Autodesk AutoCAD Certified User
- Autodesk Inventor
- Basic Access Training - Scaffolding
- (CITF) Carpenter International Training Fund
- Electrical Training Alliance
- HVAC Excellence
- NCCER Carpentry Helper
- NCCER Carpentry Level 1
- NCCER Carpentry Level 2
- NCCER Core
- NCCER Electrical Helper
- NCCER Electrical Level 1
- NCCER Electrical Level 2
- NCCER Millwright Operations Level 1
- NCCER Millwright Operations Level 2
- NCCER Pipefitting Helper
- NCCER Pipefitting Level 1
- NCCER Pipefitting Level 2
- NCCER Welder's Helper
- NCCER Welding Level 1
- NCCER Welding Level 2
- OSHA 10 - Construction
- OSHA 10 - General Industry (Safety)

Is Architecture & Construction for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Do you like to draw and sketch?		
2.	Are you good at designing or building things?		
3.	Are you willing to design blueprints, drawings, and models?		
4.	Do you like to read instructions to complete projects?		
5.	Are you willing to work indoors and outdoors?		
6.	Are you willing to wear protective gear for your safety on the job?		
7.	Do you like working with hand tools?		
8.	Do you like working with heavy equipment and machinery?		
9.	Are you willing to travel to different job locations?		
10.	Do you work well on teams?		
11.	Do you possess critical thinking skills?		
12.	Do you have strong communication skills?		
	TOTAL:		

Did You Know?

The construction industry is closing the gap on equal pay. Women earn 99.1% of what men earn in construction, significantly higher than the US average of 81.

Source: www.byf.org

53%

With 53% of seasoned workers retiring in the next 15 years, the industry is facing a critical skills gap. New entrants to the field have the opportunity to quickly grow their careers.

Source: www.byf.org

Yes 1-3	You are DEVELOPING in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.
Yes 4-7	You are EMERGING in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.
Yes 8-12	You are STRONG in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.

COLLEGE BOUND



ACT Prep

The ACT test is accepted by all U.S. colleges and universities and is the most-taken college exam. The ACT test is an excellent predictor of college readiness. Schools in the district offer students multiple opportunities to prepare for the ACT. Ascension Parish has a partnership with Ascension Parish Libraries, as well as Princeton Review. These partnerships benefit students by providing in-depth test preparation and exposure to thinking and problem solving that can be utilized in multiple programs.

From ACT: The ACT test has always been about what you learn in high school core courses. Students frequently tell us that they feel more comfortable taking the ACT since it is directly related to what they learn in most of their high school courses.

ACT WorkKeys

Ascension Parish students have the opportunity to take the ACT WorkKeys assessment and earn a National Career Readiness Certificate. WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring "real-world" skills that employers believe are critical to job success. WorkKeys helps employers select, hire, and train the most qualified candidate. The assessment is based on three components:

1. Applied Math - The Applied Math assessment measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and problem-solving techniques for situations that actually occur in today's workplace.
2. Graphic Literacy - Workplace graphics come in a variety of formats, but all communicate a level of information. From charts to graphs, diagrams to floor plans, identifying what information is being presented and understanding how to use it are critical to success.
3. Workplace Documents - The Workplace Documents assessment measures the skills people use when they read and use written text such as memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, and regulations on the job.

ACT Work Ready Community

The Ascension Parish School System, along with the Ascension Economic Development Corporation and the Ascension Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to be part of a Certified ACT Work Ready Community. A Work Ready Community is a community-based framework that:

- Links workforce development to education
- Aligns with the economic development needs of communities, regions, and states
- Matches individuals to jobs based on skill levels

As an ACT Work Ready Community we are helping:

- Business and industry know exactly what foundational skills they need for a productive workforce - and to easily communicate their needs
- Individuals understand what skills are required by employers and how to prepare themselves for success
- Policy makers consistently measure the skills gap in a timely manner at the national, state and local levels
- Educators close the skills gap, via tools integrated into career pathways with stackable industry-recognized credentials
- Economic developers use an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of their workforce

Visit our Work Ready Communities page to see the growing list of Ascension Parish employers that recognize the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate. https://www.workreadycommunities.org/LA/005

FAFSA

The Financial Aid Graduation Requirement:

Louisiana's Financial Aid Access Policy adds a financial aid graduation requirement for all high school students. Families must:

1. Complete the FAFSA and submit proof of completion; or
2. Complete, sign, and submit a non-participation form

Seniors must forward the FAFSA confirmation email to their career coach. **Students who opt to complete a non-participation form are not eligible for any federal financial or TOPS/TOPS Tech awards.**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your application for the following financial programs:

1. Federal Pell Grant – This is need-based aid and does not need to be repaid. Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch are typically awarded some grant money.
2. TOPS/TOPS Tech – The Louisiana tuition assistance programs that pay for a portion of tuition at any Louisiana college or university. Students must qualify for these programs.
3. Student Loans – Money borrowed from the federal government to assist students in funding their education. Loans may be subsidized (the government pays the interest until graduation) or unsubsidized (interest accrues during school).
4. Work Study – Part-time on-campus jobs available to students. Students are paid and can use this money to assist with educational expenses. Work study is based on financial need.
5. Parent PLUS Loans – Loans available for parents who wish to assist their child with educational expenses.

When do I file the FAFSA?

The FAFSA opens on October 1st. The form can be found at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa.

What do I need to file the FAFSA?

1. FSA ID – An FSA ID is a username and password that gives you access to the Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. All students and one parent need an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA. To create your FSA ID, go to https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm.
2. The following information is needed to complete the FAFSA:
   - Student's and parents' FSA ID (username and password)
   - Student's and parents' Social Security numbers
   - Student's and parents' Federal Tax forms, including W-2 forms
   - Current bank statements for both student and parents
   - Asset information (if required)

Where can I find help or assistance?

Ascension Parish Career Coaches are on each high school campus and available to assist seniors and their parents with FAFSA completions. Each school holds multiple FAFSA nights to accommodate working parents. Additionally, the Ascension Parish Library also hosts FAFSA evenings each year. Contact your school's Career Coach for more information or to schedule an appointment for assistance.



TOPS Requirements

Opportunity Award
- 2.5 TOPS GPA
- 20* ACT Score
- 1030 SAT Score
- TOPS Tuition Amt.**
- Community College or 4-year program

Performance Award
- 3.25 TOPS GPA
- 23* ACT Score
- 1130 SAT Score
- TOPS Tuition Amt. + $400
- Community College or 4-year program

Honors Award
- 3.5 TOPS GPA
- 27* ACT Score
- 1260 SAT Score
- TOPS Tuition Amt. + $800
- Community College or 4-year program

TOPS Tech
- 2.5 TOPS Tech GPA
- 17* ACT Score or WorkKeys Silver
- 920 SAT Score
- TOPS Tech Tuition Amt.**
- 2-year technical programs only

**Required ACT score may change each year based on the State average. Actual required score is released in October.*
***TOPS and TOPS Tech tuition amounts are set each year and are subject to change. Amounts range based on college/university. TOPS Tech eligible programs are subject to change each year.*

Applying for TOPS

To apply for TOPS, students must:

1. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA – www.fafsa.gov) or the TOPS Online Application. (https://www.osfa.la.gov/AwardSystem/faces/jsf/onlineApp/onlineAppFAFSA.jspx). Please note that if you complete the TOPS application, you may NOT submit the FAFSA.
2. Send qualifying ACT (https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sendingyour-scores.html) or SAT (https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat) scores to LOSFA. The codes for sending scores to LOSFA are: 1595 (ACT) and 9019 (SAT).

Louisiana Four-Year College List

Centenary College of Louisiana
Shreveport

Dillard University
New Orleans

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University
Baton Rouge

Grambling State University
Grambling

Louisiana Baptist University and Theological Seminary
Shreveport

Louisiana College
Pineville

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge

Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Louisiana State University Shreveport

Louisiana Tech
Ruston

Loyola University New Orleans

McNeese State University
Lake Charles

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Nicholls State University
Thibodaux

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches

Notre Dame Seminary
New Orleans

Saint Joseph Seminary College
St. Benedict

Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond

Southern University
Baton Rouge

Southern University at New Orleans

Tulane University
New Orleans

University of Holy Cross
New Orleans

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

University of Louisiana at Monroe

University of New Orleans

Xavier University of Louisiana
New Orleans

Louisiana Two-Year College List

Baton Rouge Community College

Bossier Parish Community College
Bossier City

Central Louisiana Technical Community College
Alexandria

Delgado Community College
New Orleans

L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College
Schriever

Louisiana Delta Community College
Multiple Locations

Louisiana State University at Eunice

Louisiana Technical College
Multiple Locations

Northshore Technical Community College
Multiple Locations

Northwest Louisiana Technical College
Multiple Locations

Nunez Community College
Chalmette

River Parishes Community College
Gonzales

South Louisiana Community College
Multiple Locations

Southern University at Shreveport

SOWELA Technical Community College
Lake Charles

Vocational/Training Schools

Association of Builders and Contractors
Baton Rouge

AIE (Academy of Interactive Entertainment)
Lafayette

Aveda Arts & Sciences Institute
Baton Rouge

Delta College of Arts and Technology
Baton Rouge

Denham Springs Beauty College
Denham Springs

Diesel Driving Academy
Baton Rouge

Fortis College
Baton Rouge

ITI Technical College
Baton Rouge

Louisiana Culinary Institute
Baton Rouge

National EMS Academy
Multiple Locations

Vanguard College of Cosmetology
Baton Rouge

Did You Know?

The Class of 2021 was offered over $20 million in tution, fees, and expenses from scholarships earned.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE



Center of Excellence

Each high school in Ascension Parish houses a Center of Excellence. Centers of Excellence encompass a unique set of courses that focus on training students in a specific career field. Each program is equipped with labs that contain all the necessary tools, equipment, and materials required to provide exposure and certify the students in their chosen career. It is through these programs that students earn industry-based certifications, allowing them to go into the workforce upon graduation. Ascension Parish offers the following Centers of Excellence:

- Donaldsonville High School – ProStart (Culinary)
- Dutchtown High School – ProStart (Culinary)
- East Ascension High School – Technology
- St. Amant High School – Allied Health (Medical)

Because each school's Center of Excellence is career specific, students have the flexibility during their junior and senior year to travel from their home school to another high school in the parish to take classes that align with their career interest or Jump Start pathway for graduation.

Allied Health Center

Ascension Allied Health Center of Excellence

The Ascension Allied Health Center of Excellence is designed for students desiring to pursue a medical career field. Students at all high schools are given the opportunity to apply for the CPT (Patient Care Technician) program and the MA (Medical Assistant) program. These programs are each completed in one school year with instruction/theory in the fall and clinical rotations through nursing homes, hospitals and physicians' offices in the spring. Both PCT and MA courses prepare students for the state written and skills certification exams. Successful completion of state certifications will allow these students to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation. Additionally, this center offers a CTE Internship course, which provides students opportunities to job shadow medical professionals such as physical therapists, dentists/orthodontists, veterinarians, optometrists, and morticians. This combination of rich hands-on experience and hours spent immersed in the medical setting pushes the students a step ahead of most when applying for post-secondary schools or future jobs.

Technology Center

The Ascension Technology Center of Excellence envisions a prepared computer technology population while offering quality computer technology services to the community. The opportunity is available for students to take certifications as far as cybersecurity. As a CompTIA authorized academy partner, we offer industry standard test prep and certifications including IT Fundamentals, and A+. Actual computer equipment is used along with simulations for real-world projects. Students have the opportunity to acquire real world experience and make money by participating in the CTE Internship - Information Technology program. Students can troubleshoot, repair equipment, and assist schools with various types of computers and technology.



ProStart Center

The Ascension ProStart Center of Excellence was developed to prepare students for careers in the hospitality and food service industry. The program unites the food service industry and the classroom to teach high school students culinary skills and restaurant management principles. The students learn employability skills such as communication, teamwork, professionalism, and time management. The emphasis is on obtaining skills for the industry-based certification and preparing for internships in the industry. Topics of study include organization and management, use of commercial equipment, proper sanitation and safety standards for the industry, the art of service, purchasing and inventory control, food preparation, advanced planning for labs, and critical thinking. Through this work-based learning course, students gain over 400 hours of documented food service work hours. The students will also have opportunities to earn scholarships as well as ServSafe Manager certification and the National Restaurant Association ProStart Certificate of Achievement. Students can participate in the CTE Internship - Culinary program to learn real world skills in the restaurant and catering industry.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES



Career Fair

Our school system holds a district-wide career fair in which over 150 businesses send representatives to interact with our students, parents, and teachers to provide information and answer questions about future careers. Students are able to acquire first-hand knowledge of the day-to-day reality of each career from professionals currently working in the field. Participating employers also offer job shadowing and internship opportunities to select students. In addition to career information, students and parents can learn about the many programs and industry-based certifications offered at Ascension Parish High Schools. Counselors, teachers, current students, and administrators are in attendance to promote program information.

College Night

Ascension Parish Schools offers an annual College Night. During College Night, students are able to interact with representatives from colleges and universities to acquire detailed information about academic programs, admission requirements, the application process, housing, campus tours/events, and financial aid options. College Night also provides an opportunity for students to be able to compare offerings at schools in Louisiana and in neighboring states.





DE, AP, CLEP

Students in Ascension Parish Schools are afforded many opportunities to complete college level coursework to earn college credit through College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses.

CLEP tests allow students to demonstrate their mastery of introductory college-level material and earn college credit. CLEP offers 33 tests, and Ascension Parish students are afforded the convenience of taking many of these tests on their own campus.

AP classes require students to acquire and master college-level skills. Exams are given in May of each school year; most universities award credit for a score of 3-5.

Dual Enrollment classes offer both high school and college level credit simultaneously. DE courses are taught by specially trained and certified high school teachers on each high school campus. Ascension Parish currently contracts with various colleges and universities. Each contracted university sets enrollment requirements, such as minimum ACT scores. **Dual Enrollment courses are recorded on a student's permanent college transcript and cannot be removed regardless of grade earned.**

Extra-Curricular Offerings

Ascension Parish students have a wealth of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular offerings. These opportunities help to mold well-rounded individuals and help prepare the whole student for post-secondary opportunities. Extra-curricular and leadership activities provide students with real life skills to ensure college and career readiness. Each campus offers academic based clubs, such as Beta, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Honor Society, as well as specialized clubs such as Future Business Leaders of America, Chess Club, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, and Future Farmers of America.

Community Service Opportunities

Service opportunities abound in Ascension Parish. Our students are provided opportunities during both the school year and the summer to help the community by volunteering and fundraising for non-profit organizations. Various clubs and organizations on all campuses participate in activities that allow the students to develop pride in their community, a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. Some of the community service opportunities in which Ascension Parish students participate include:

- Fundraising and hosting dress down and Team Up events for St. Jude,
- Cheering on the survivors at the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life,
- Fundraising and volunteering for Ascension Parish Relay for Life for American Cancer Society,
- Hosting Special Olympics Area Games Track and Field Events,
- Volunteering for the Special Olympics Bowling Events,
- Hosting a Dress Down Day to benefit the Greater Baton Rouge Out of Darkness Walk (Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention),
- Volunteering at local nursing homes,
- Adopting local families in need,
- Collecting toys for the Christmas Crusade,
- Volunteering for the local food banks,
- Hosting blood drives at each high school,
- Participating in Sudden Impact activities with LA State Police and OLOL Trauma Nurses – Mock Crash, Mock Trials, and
- Working with feeder school students to promote school pride and self-awareness.

CTE OPPORTUNITIES



Jump Start Summer Programs

The Jump Start Summer programs provide students the opportunity to earn statewide basic or statewide advanced industry based credentials and work toward true internship opportunities. This is a great chance for students to participate in a program of study they may otherwise have not had time for during the school year.

During the summer students are able to earn:

- Carnegie Unit(s),
- Credential(s),
- Job shadowing and/or internship opportunities, and
- Stipends.

Program offerings may include NCCER Pipefitting I, Emergency Medical Responder, Adobe Certified Associate, NCCER Core, Information Technology Internship, and Medical Internship."

ABC Partnership

Ascension Public Schools and Associated Builders and Contractors, Pelican Chapter, have partnered to give students the "Jump Start" on high wage/high demand careers that are plentiful in our regional job market. The program is open to high school juniors and seniors who meet academic and disciplinary standards at their home school. Students are screened and meet with counselors before enrolling. Participating students earn Carnegie Units toward graduation and develop skill sets that ensure they will graduate ready to start their careers. Students have the opportunity to earn a quality industry based certification in high demand/high wage careers. Programs of study include NCCER Electrical, NCCER Millwright, NCCER Pipefitting, and AWS Welding.

Job Shadowing

Ascension Public high schools offer a variety of opportunities for students to spend time observing local professionals on the job. Such experiences help students explore career options, see firsthand how their high school coursework is applied in the workforce, and examine the skills and aptitudes that are necessary for success on the job. Students visit a range of workplace sites in and around Ascension Parish to observe the rigors and demands of various jobs, learn about local company culture and ask pressing questions. It is an especially beneficial partnership between public education and local business and industry leaders, providing a much needed window into the "real world" for students who are nearing completion of their high school careers. Job shadowing experiences allow students to get a behind-the-scenes look at a wide variety of local job sites, from healthcare offices and construction sites to restaurants and retail shops (and everything in between) so that they can make more informed career path decisions.

"The job shadowing experience that I participated in with my Technical Writing class was amazing and really allowed me to get a feel for what it would be like to pursue a career in construction management. During this experience, I was able to learn about different technical and communication skills necessary for the workplace, how to solve unexpected problems, and how to communicate professionally with others. I was happy to participate in the experience because it prepared me for what to expect when I start my career."

-Zack Zeringue, St. Amant High School Student

"The job shadowing experience is a great opportunity for students. Many of them do not know what career they want to pursue. The job shadowing opportunity gives them a chance to see the work and the environment and helps them solidify their college or career path. The program also gives employers an opportunity to participate in the training of future employees that may one day work at their business."

-Chad Lynch, Chief Operations Director,
Ascension Parish Schools

Co-op Programs

Ascension Parish high schools offer students the opportunity to learn technical, academic, and employability skills by combining classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Participation in these programs prepares students for their future careers while allowing



them to earn high school credit and to earn wages. Students are provided with part-time employment opportunities combined with classroom instruction in areas such as human relations, office etiquette, time management, computer operations and techniques, work ethics, customer service, entrepreneurial skills, and current marketing practices. Students can apply in the spring of their junior year.

"Participation in a co-op program has given me hands-on opportunities in a career area that interests me and provided me the opportunity to network with business leaders."

-Jaylah Richie, East Ascension High School Student

"Having employees that are in the co-op program has been a tremendous help to my business. I am grateful to the students and the schools for the invaluable opportunity they bring to the workplace."

-Cade Sheets, Owner, Cade's Frozen Custard

Internship Programs

Ascension Parish high schools offer internship courses designed to give students a chance to observe and experience firsthand some of the daily activities of professionals in the community. Students spend several days a week off campus job shadowing a professional in their career field of interest. The remaining time is spent on campus in the classroom focusing on job related skills and post-secondary educational opportunities to better prepare students for the workforce. The internship courses allow students the opportunity to develop a relationship with an adult in the field they want to pursue and to gain paid or unpaid hours to enhance a resumé or college/ specialty school entrance application. The time spent with site mentors is invaluable because students learn so much more through this experience than what can be taught in the classroom. Students can apply in the spring of their junior year.

"Working with internship students has been a great experience. They ask many questions and are eager to learn. We have even had some students interpret in Spanish for our patients."

-Taylor Mayers, Our Lady of the Lake Physician Group, Pediatrics

"My internship has taught me the importance of time management and effective communication. I understand that once I enter into the workforce it is no longer my parents' or teachers' responsibility to make sure I complete my job duties and daily tasks. It is my own!"

-Prelliana Wilson, Donaldsonville High School Student

Learn While Earning

- Hands-on Experience
- Acquire Workplace Skills
- Earn Industry Based Certifications
- Attend Classes Part of the Day and Participate in On-the-job Training Part of the Day





STUDENT SUPPORT



PBIS

PBIS is a school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program designed to establish and maintain a safe and effective school environment that maximizes academic achievement and behavioral competence.

PBIS goals include:

- increasing desirable behaviors in all school-related settings,
- helping students develop self-discipline, and
- recognizing positive contributions of students and staff.

Programs offered:

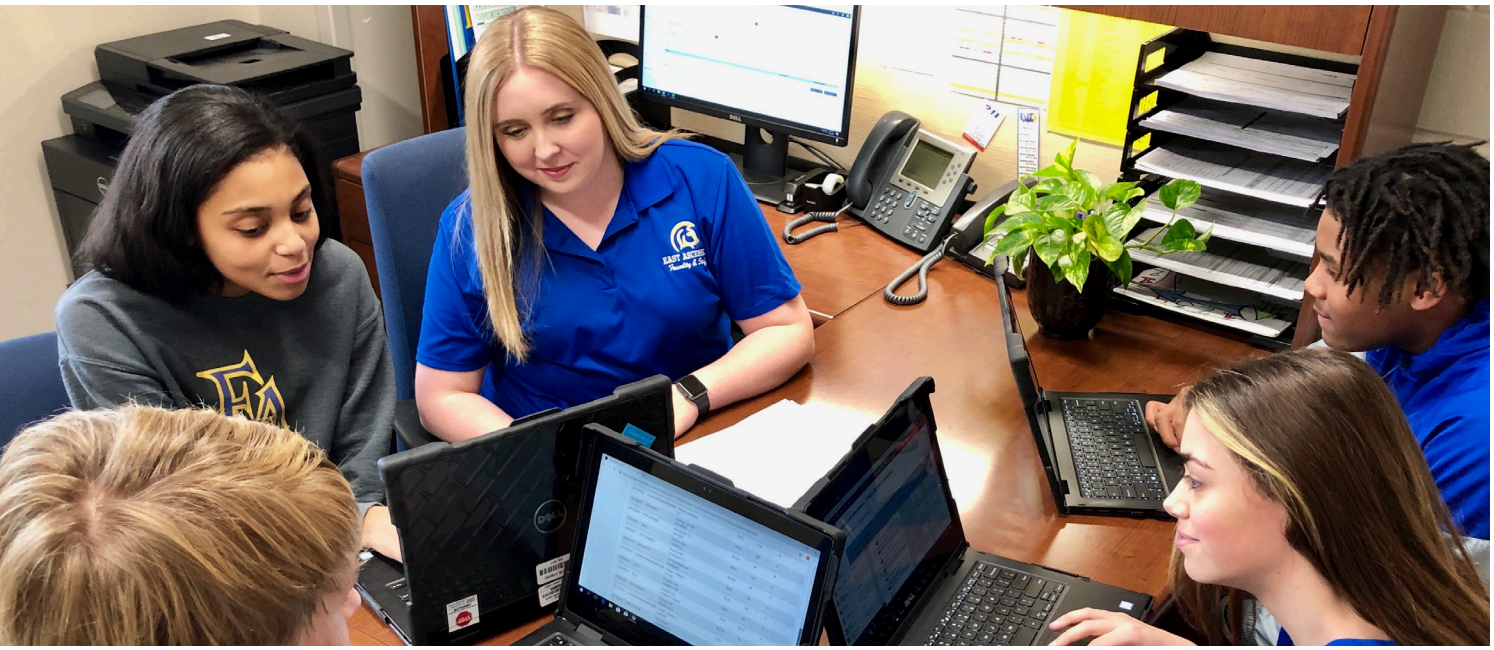
- The Mediation Program is designed to help students find equitable solutions to problems between/among peers.
- The Behavior Coaching Program is designed to help students struggling to meet classroom expectations.
- The Mentoring Program assists students who are struggling with issues outside the classroom setting.

Freshman Academy

All ninth grade students enter the Freshman Academy in high school with a five-year career plan, including a career pathway.

The Freshman Academy is designed around the concept of ensuring that transitioning students are "known, valued, and inspired." Students who complete a successful freshman year are much more likely to sucessfully graduate on time.

Ascension Public Schools understands that it is paramount that students transitioning to high school are placed on shared teacher teams and receive teaming support, additional attention, and interventions. This promotes 9th grade success and preparation for a successful high school career and readiness for college and the workplace.



Counselors

High School Counselors provide students and parents with information about services based on the students' needs, whether it is academic, social, or emotional.

Academic Counseling

Counselors guide students in scheduling courses needed to graduate on either the Jump Start diploma or TOPS University diploma.

Counselors meet with students and parents to discuss future plans and pathways for 4-year university bound students, students joining the workforce, and students attending community college or technical school.

Counselors administer and coordinate all testing on campus including LEAP2025, ACT, WorkKeys, PSAT, AP, ELPT, and LAA1 assessments.

In addition to scheduling, collaborating around college and career pathways, and administering tests, counselors also assist students in successfully navigating meaningful dual enrollment course work and AP credit translation at students' colleges of choice.

Counselors assist students in locating necessary tutoring and LEAP remediation services on campus and continually guide students through the college application and scholarship process.

Social and/or Emotional

In addition to academics, the counselors provide emotional and social support for students when the need arises. We utilize outside agencies that the district works with to recommend students. When necessary, students are referred to partnering agencies, some who are contracted to provide these services on our campuses.

We also have contact information we can provide to students and parents for social and emotional needs.

Career Coaches

Ascension Parish has assigned Career Coaches at each high school and middle school. The purpose of the career coaching staff is:

1. to facilitate a smooth transition between middle and high school;
2. to encourage and support students' career goals;
3. to assist high school students in the creation of a realistic college/career plan; and
4. to assist students with the post-secondary process.

Career Coaches are instrumental in assisting students in their career/college exploration and preparation.

Graduation Coaches

The High School Graduation Coaches provide assistance to students regarding high school graduation. This assistance includes analyzing data to identify students or subgroups with dropout risk factors, tracking Individual Graduation Plans (IGP's), identifying and removing barriers to graduation, and facilitating career pathways. The High School Graduation Coaches ensure smooth transitions of middle school students to high school and high school students to post-secondary options.

Special Education Services

Students with exceptionalities are provided with an array of support and opportunities to excel in the Ascension Parish Public School System. Students receiving support services include students with disabilities and students in the gifted and talented program. Although not within special education, students who meet section 504 criteria may also qualify for accommodations and modifications. Individualized plans are written to address these students' specific needs in an effort to increase the likelihood of their success in school and in the post-secondary setting upon graduation.

Students have access to enrollment in all course types including advanced placement classes, honors courses, and courses offering industry-based certifications.

Students are able to enroll in our dual enrollment programs at community colleges or technical schools, at local universities, or through the Early College Option program. Students may also choose to enroll in a virtual learning program that is located at a separate campus as yet another alternate instructional avenue. Industry based certifications and credentials are available to all students in our high school programs. Additionally, Ascension Parish Schools offers courses through the APP program, geared toward HiSET attainment.

Early College Option

The Ascension Parish School Board and River Parishes Community College have partnered to create the Early College Option Program. This program is based on the early college high school model, which assumes that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. Early College Option blends high school and college work in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete both a high school diploma and a college Associate Degree in Humanities. Students apply for this educational avenue in their 8th grade year.

APPLe Digital Academy

- Alternative Learning Program (ALP) - for expelled students K through 12
- Blended Learning Program (BLP) - for virtual learning students K through 12
- Ascension Pathways Program (APP) - for high school students pursuing the HiSET (formerly GED)



Technology 1 to 1

Ascension Public Schools use local, recurring funds to make computing devices available to every student. Students in grades 5-12 are able to take those devices home. Technology is an important and integral part of our everyday lives.

Ascension Parish high school students are able to use some of the most current Windows technologies. Incoming freshmen receive a 2-in-1 Windows device that functions as a notebook computer with a keyboard and as a tablet computer that allows students to write and draw on the touchscreen with a stylus. All Ascension Parish classrooms, cafeterias, and gyms are equiped with wireless technology to support these devices, and every classroom has display technologies to work with these devices. Our leaders work diligently to balance security and capability to allow students and teachers to maximize the learning experiences using technology resources. Ascension has been recognized nationally as an example of technology growth and effectiveness. Our students are constantly preparing for today and for the future.

ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence. Ascending Together.

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