

**A Brief Look at the Academy Model  
Minuteman High School  
April 2017**

**What are we doing?**

- Designing a building, structuring a scheduling, and implementing an education plan that intentionally allows for more integration between vocational and academic classes.
- Providing the staff team with common planning time, professional development and opportunities to lead within a more collaborative school.
- Building in common planning time to evaluate student work, create interdisciplinary projects and establish data teams to focus in on students' needs.
- Fostering stronger relationships between colleagues, between students and between staff and students.
- Creating the opportunity for students to see more relevancy between their academic and vocational courses.
- Mapping our curriculum for vocational and academic courses to be shared throughout the school.
- Planning a ninth grade-specific course that will help students transition to Minuteman and give them the skills and knowledge to succeed in their post-graduate plans.
- Modifying our senior capstone project/portfolios to include more project-based learning and showcase incremental growth throughout their high school experiences.
- Forming faculty academy teams by having our faculty align themselves to career academies.
- Developing common characteristics of a Minuteman graduate.

**How it is different from what we are already doing?**

- We not changing what we are already doing. We are enhancing it by adding elements of an academy model. Starting with common planning time, we are giving teachers the

opportunity to come together and intentionally plan for more integration with academic and other vocational teachers.

### **When does it start?**

- We are already beginning to implement elements of the academy model starting with common planning time. That began in September of 2016.
- This is an on-going effort to implement the academy model. It is the epitome of continual improvement that springs from our commitment to serving students through the lens of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).
- It will take several years to implement all we are planning; and throughout the process we re-evaluate, assess, adjust and improve.

### **How is the new building essential to support the Academy model?**

- The Academy model focuses on intentional planning by providing a flexible physical space for integration.
- The new building is designed to promote collaboration and communication by having similar curricula proximity.
- The location of the shared house (guidance, special education, library, etc.) and two career academies allows for better synergy to enhance all student learning.
- The new building meets the technology needs for all students to receive state-of-the-art, hands-on, integrated career training.
- The new building supports a 21<sup>st</sup> century education where project-based learning occurs in dedicated collaborative space.
- There is purposeful adjacency within the new building such as common teacher offices, project based areas and space for the curation and showcasing of student work.