



Bowers Academy
Application Packet 2024-2025

Greetings!

Bowers Academy is located on Bowers School Farm in Bloomfield Hills, where students and staff have the unique opportunity to engage in rigorous experiential learning in an innovative setting. With a focus on social emotional health and community involvement, Bowers Academy supports learners who seek a nontraditional environment as they earn their Bloomfield Hills High School Diploma.

As a school community, we commit to the following guiding viewpoints:

- We believe that high quality academic instruction is essential for the growth and development of all learners. *At Bowers, we learn collaboratively utilizing a responsive, flexible, and experiential curriculum.*
- We believe that relationships are at the core of a healthy school community. *At Bowers, we focus on restorative approaches to behavior and support recognizing that all people bring unique circumstances and strengths with them.*
- We believe that social emotional learning is critically important for the long term success of all students. *At the center of the Bowers experience is a research-based social emotional curriculum. Social emotional supports and community building are emphasized in each facet of the learning experience.*
- We believe in the power of place. *At Bowers, we emphasize connection to place and engage in experiential learning that includes exploration of farm, community, and self.*
- We believe that our students can best realize their strengths, interests, and independence when they are immersed in experiential learning both on and off campus. *At Bowers we work to develop strong partnerships to provide students with a variety of experiences to prepare them for their future.*

Thank you for expressing interest in Bowers Academy. If you feel you are a fit for this nontraditional learning model, please complete and return the attached application.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Julianne Umbarger
Principal of Bowers Academy
248-341-5990
jumbarger@bloomfield.org



Application Criteria:

In Accordance with State School Aid Act, Schools of Choice Section 105 (MCL 388.1705), Bowers Academy School of Choice will be open to students residing in Oakland County.

For the 2024-2025 School Year, up to 10 School of Choice Applicants will be accepted for enrollment. Applicants must be entering junior year of high school (unless applying half-way through 10th grade).

In order for an application to be considered, the following criteria must be met:

- Agree to the terms and conditions of Bowers Academy as outlined in the Student Commitment.
- Agree to meet to discuss a success plan and expectations of enrollment at the initial interview **and** orientation.
- Understand and agree to attendance commitment, attending school in person and on time each day. This will include arranging transportation as needed.
- Have **independent** daily living/grooming skills such as using the bathroom, eating and mobility.
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills as a part of the community in the experiential learning space, including effective communication with students, staff, and community members.
- Participate fully within the learning community, interacting appropriately with both animals and humans. Be able to adjust behavior as necessary.

The online Fall School of Choice application window is open from Monday, August 5, 2024 at 8:00am to Friday, August 23, 2024, at 4:00pm. The 2nd semester window is in January 2025.

If more than 10 applications are submitted, all applicants who fit the criteria will be entered into a lottery.

- The lottery will take place on Monday, August 26, 2024 at Booth Center in room ABC
- 10 applicants will be selected at random utilizing a lottery.
 - Remaining students will be maintained on a waiting list.
- Lottery selections will be notified on Monday, August 26, 2024 by phone.
- If selected to attend Bowers Academy, the applicant must attend the interview **AND** orientation in order to complete the enrollment process.
- The deadline for the enrollment process will be Friday, August 30 at 4:00pm.
 - Any student who has not completed the enrollment process will no longer be considered.
- On Tuesday, September 10, 2024 any remaining seats will be filled by the applicant(s) on the waiting list, in the order they were selected for the waiting list.



Timeline

Application Window Opens: Monday, August 5, 2024 (2 week window; closes one week before school starts)

Deadline for Applications: Friday, August 23, 2024

Lottery: Monday, August 26, 2024

Student Interviews: Completed by Monday, August 26, 2024

Initial Student Notification: Monday, August 26, 2024

Initial Orientation: Thursday, August 29, 2024

Deadline for Enrollment: Friday, August 30, 2024

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Status Update-Communication via phone to students on the Waiting List: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Wait List Orientation: Friday, September 13, 2024

Deadline for Wait List Enrollment: Monday, September 16, 2024



Checklist:

*The application must include each of the following documents in order to be considered.

- _____ **Completed Application** (see attached)
- _____ **Signed Authorization** to Release Confidential Information form (see attached)-allowing student selection committee to review student packet
- _____ **Personal Statement and Goals** (see attached)
- _____ **Signed Student Commitment** (see attached)
- _____ **Current Individual Education Program (IEP)** including Transition Goals and EDP (if applicable)
- _____ **Current Medical and Behavior Plan** (if applicable)
- _____ **Attendance Record for the past 2 years**
- _____ **Student Academic Transcript**
- _____ **Student Behavior Records and Affirmation of Discipline**



Application Details

The application committee will include: Bowers Academy Teaching Administrator, BHS Director of Secondary Education, BHS Director of Instructional Equity, BHS Director of Student Support, BHS Director of Student Services, and Bowers Academy School Representatives

Consideration for selection includes:

1. Students who desire to participate in experiential learning at Bowers Academy
2. Students who are entering their junior year of high school
3. Students who are committed to attending school daily, on time, and in person
4. Students who have not been suspended for acts of violence within the past 2 school years

Submit the completed application packet to:

Bloomfield Hills Administrative Services.
Care of: Julianne Umbarger, Bowers Academy
7273 Wing Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, Mi. 48301
248-334-5990.

Note: If accepted to attend Bowers Academy, the applicant must attend the interview **AND** orientation in order to complete the enrollment process.

For more information:

Contact Julianne Umbarger, Interim Principal of Bowers Academy
jumbarger@bloomfield.org or 248-341-5990



Application

Personal Data

Name: _____

Address: _____

District of Residence: _____

School Currently Attending: _____

DOB/Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Email: _____

Cellphone: _____

Guardian Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cellphone: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Grade:** _____ **School:** _____

Has student ever been suspended? Yes No **Has student ever been expelled?** Yes No

If you indicated your student HAS BEEN suspended or expelled from a previous school, explain the circumstances below including the school name, suspension/expulsion dates and a description of the incident that gave rise to the suspension, expulsion or conviction: _____

Name of School: _____

The undersigned affirms that the student above has or has not been in-school or out-of-school SUSPENDED or EXPELLED or CONVICTED of a crime from any public or private school in Michigan or any other state. The offense could include any Student Code of Conduct violation, any serious offense involving weapons, alcohol or drugs, the infliction of injury to another person, or for any act of violence against persons/property on school premises, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature **Date**

According to our records, the information provided above is CORRECT.

According to our records, the information provided above is NOT CORRECT.

If the student has been involved in offenses involving weapons, alcohol or drugs, the infliction of injury to another person, or for any act of violence against persons/property on school premises, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity, please forward the appropriate discipline documentation.

Administrator Signature and Title **Date**



Personal Statement

In 400-600 words, tell us about yourself!

What drew you to Bowers? What do you hope to gain from this experience? What were your greatest academic successes in the past? What were your greatest barriers to success in your previous environment? What are your academic goals? What are your personal growth goals? Anything else that we should know?



Student Commitments:

*Attendance, Collaborative Learning, Place, and Career and College Readiness are important elements when attending Bowers Academy. Please read the following statements and share your commitments.

Attendance:

Your presence is an essential part of our learning community.

Please share with us your attendance commitment (about 100 words):

Collaborative Learning:

It is our goal to support your growth and development as a learner in our community through collaborative, reflective, experiential, and cooperative learning experiences.

Please share with us your collaborative learning commitment (about 100 words):



Place:

Engagement on the farm is an essential part of experiential learning at Bowers.

Please share with us your commitment to the farm and community (about 100 words).

Career and College Readiness:

It is our goal to support you in the design of learning experiences outside of the Bowers Academy campus prior to graduating.

Please share with us your career and college readiness agreement (about 100 words):



Agreement/Signature

As a student and as a guardian, I understand that my signature on this document verifies my agreement to the terms and conditions outlined in this application. My personal commitments will directly impact my success at Bowers Academy. I understand that failure to meet any of these criteria may jeopardize my future in the program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more information:

Contact Julianne Umbarger, Interim Principal of Bowers Academy
jumbarger@bloomfield.org or 248-341-5990

