

THE ACADEMIES OF NASHVILLE

OUR FUTURE. OUR STORY.

THE STORYBOOK

THE FACES AND PLACES THAT HAVE MADE THE ACADEMIES OF NASHVILLE AND METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS A TEN-YEAR SUCCESS STORY

This Storybook is dedicated to the 12,258 additional Academies of Nashville graduates from 2006-2016.

You are the reason for the countless hours of work and dedication by thousands of people.

You make us proud.

WE ARE THE STORYTELLERS

Whether it is a student, a teacher, or a business partner, there are thousands of stories of how the Academies of Nashville have impacted lives.









WHAT IS OUR STORY

FROM STATE TAKE-OVER TO NATIONAL MODEL

RECOGNIZING TEN YEARS OF WORK AND EFFORT

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Academies of Nashville was only a dream—an ambitious, high school transformation effort that would bring together families, educators, and the community to improve our schools.

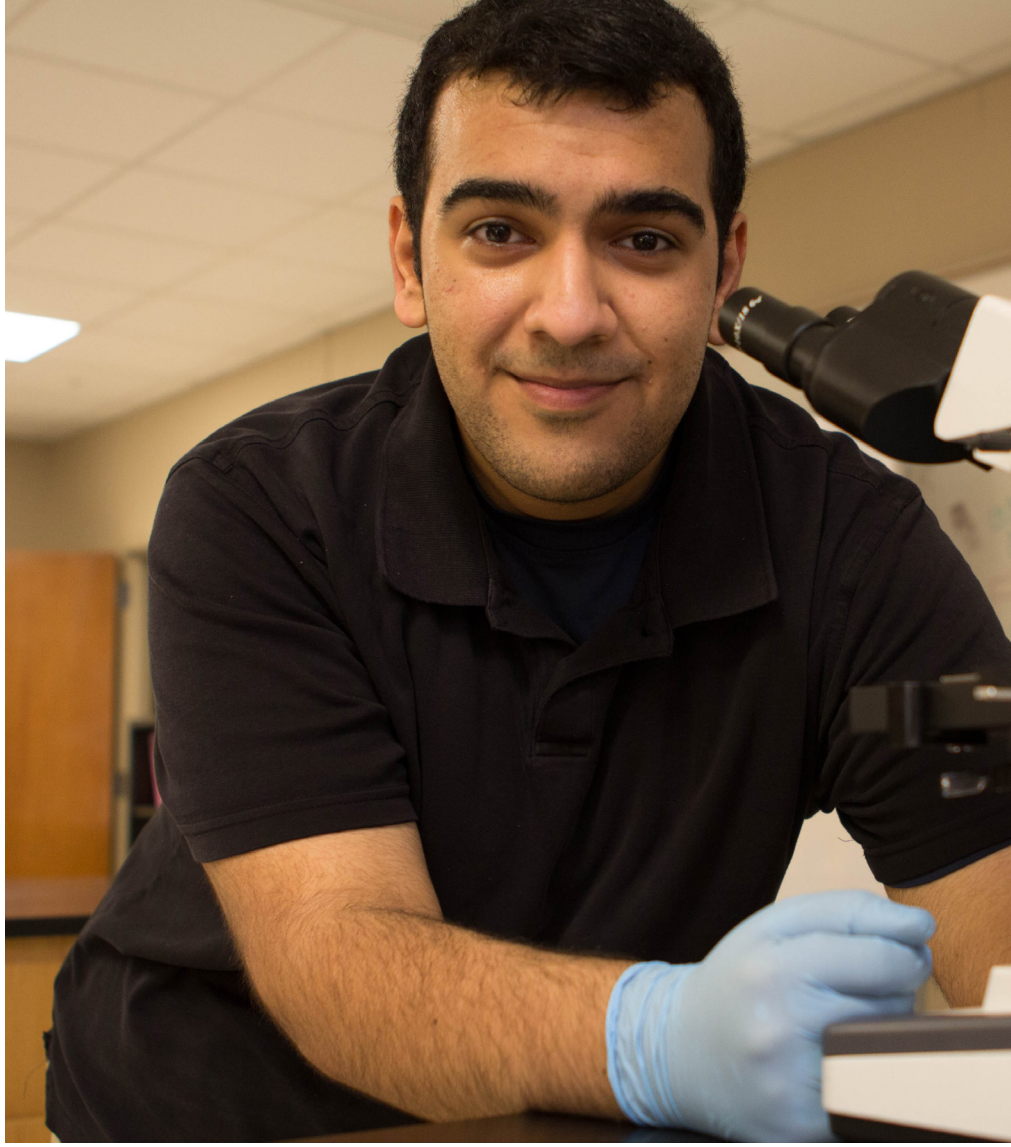
Ten years later, that dream has come to fruition. Graduation rates have increased. Student attendance is at an all-time high. Discipline referrals have significantly dropped. Business engagement in the school system has never been stronger and more powerful.

But, there is much more to this success than the statistics alone. It is the stories that touch our hearts. While this Storybook only captures a snapshot of the work and accomplishments of the past decade, it is a reflection of the lives that have been touched and changed because of the Academies of Nashville and Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

We would like to thank our graduates, teachers, administrators, business partners, legislators, families and all of our stakeholders for supporting this effort and the work that is yet to come.

WHAT DO REBEL FIGHTERS, WACO, TEXAS, & SCIENCE HAVE IN COMMON?

What brought Sharo Hawrami to Nashville is quite harrowing and nothing short of an action adventure novel. His father and mother are Kurdistan refugees. His father was captured as a rebel fighter when he was trying to defend his village during the Kurdish genocide. This was the very beginning of the Gulf War. Mr. Hawrami was told if he did not join, he would be killed as would his family. So Mr. Hawrami was sent



“ Dr. Mulligan was particular and hard on us which shaped us to make us successful in science... She was like another mom to us.”

to fight in the Kuwait area. The night before the fighting started, he and four other men stole an Iraqi Army Jeep and drove down to the U.S. Army to surrender. They then spent a year in a POW camp, eventually making their way to the U.S. via the Red Cross. But Mr. Hawrami's translator made a mistake and didn't realize he was married and had been married for 10 years at that point. For that reason, Sharo's mother stayed behind for three years before eventually joining her husband. Fast forward to five years ago when it was time for Sharo to decide on a high school. He choose Stratford over his zoned high school because it is a STEM school with an academy has an Interdisciplinary Science and Research component.

Upon graduation, Sharo was accepted to Belmont University on a full scholarship. He is a double major in computer science and biology. When he thinks back to those teachers who meant the most to him, the names that come quickly to mind are Dr. Mulligan, Mr. Ammen, Mr. Gross, and last but not least Coach Harrell. A consistent theme runs through why these teachers come to mind. They are all tough, unrelenting in their expectations, but also inspiring and make learning meaningful.

On the flip side, Bayleigh Clark has lived in Nashville her entire life. She learned about Stratford after completing an Art 2 STEM program at her middle school. The director of the program encouraged her to look for a school with a STEM focus. Enter Stratford.

Fast forward four years and Bayleigh was being named salutatorian of her graduating class and making plans for college. Bayleigh chose to follow in the footsteps of her mentor Emily and pursue a science degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.





Written by Tracy Utley, a Stratford STEM Magnet School parent and Stratford PTSO member.



ACADEMY AMBASSADORS

The Academy of Architecture and Construction at Cane Ridge is the first thing that comes to mind when I look back at my high school experience. During my time at Cane Ridge, I became an ambassador for the Academy and was highly involved with our business partners, administrators, and an excellent team of teachers.

Ambassadors are able to sit in Advisory Board meetings and bring ideas to the table. The meetings were run as if we were in the business world. Upon graduating, I felt like I was really given insight into the business world from my many interactions with our partners.

Many leave high school without ever being put in those business oriented situations. I'm very thankful for the time spent in my academy and the opportunities I was given for scholarships, internships, and networking. The academies give students the ability to dive into what they plan on pursuing after graduation. By the time you enter college, students can either hone in on that concentration or they can decide that path is not what they want. Either way, I think the academies have had a positive impact.

I spent my time in drafting classes and learning how to design complex floor plans, but I ended up pursuing Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice. The academies can work as a process of elimination. For me, it was just that.

Shannon O'Brien
Class of 2014
Academy of Architecture & Construction



CCMA & MTSU

While some students enter an academy unsure of their future career goals, Ilija Zecevic has always wanted to be a surgeon. He completed the Diagnostic Medicine pathway at Hillwood High School, but he took a number of additional courses including Emergency Medical Services. During his senior year, Ilija earned his Certified Clinical Medical Assistant license, which he has used to gain a part-time job while pursuing a degree from MTSU. After graduating, he plans to attend medical school in order to pursue his goal of becoming a surgeon.

- Ilija Zecevic, Class of 2014, Academy of Health Science



TRADITIONAL IRAN MEETS AMERICA

Farzin Deghan arrived in the United States as a refugee from Iran. Upon his arrival, he enrolled in the Academy of Musical Performance at Overton High School because of his love of music and his ability to play the kamanche and daf, traditional Iranian instruments. While enrolled in the academy, he had many opportunities to build upon his love of music including an internship at the Nashville Symphony and a local Ted Talk for MNPS students. These experiences, along with the mentorship of many adults, helped secure him a scholarship to the prestigious Berklee School of Music in Boston where he is currently pursuing Music Entrepreneurship.

- Farzin Deghan, Class of 2015, Academy of Musical Performance

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT GLENCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL

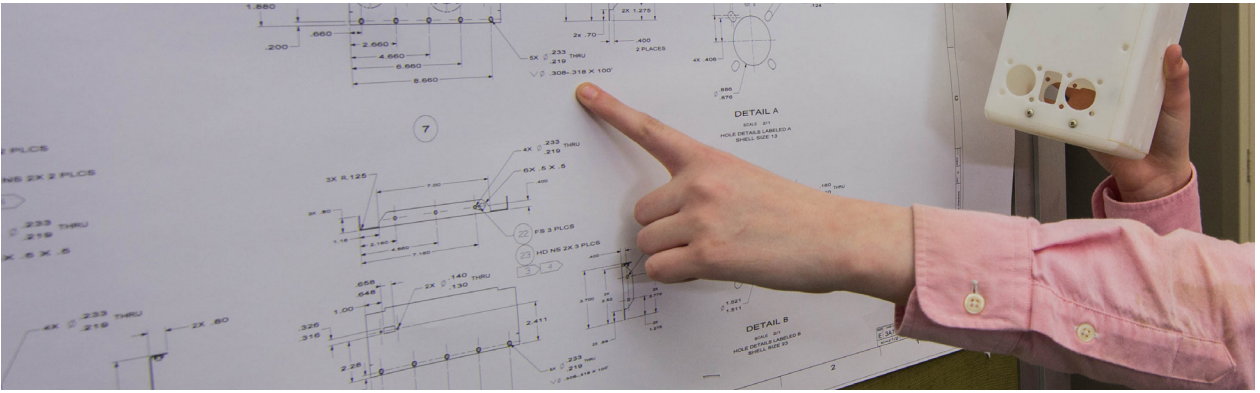
The Academies came to Glencliff High School my junior year of high school. I was thrilled to learn that I would be able to pick a path and have classes designed to help me explore careers and enhance my education. I decided to be a part of, what was at that time, the Academy of Marketing and Hospitality. My classes in marketing, my teachers, and the opportunities I was given influenced my life in great ways. I was able to participate in marketing competitions in DECA, write real-world plans, and gain experience through internships. Upon graduating from Glencliff in 2012, I continued my education at Trevecca Nazarene University where I majored in Marketing, a decision I made thanks to my experience in my academy and the classes and projects I was a part of. I now serve as the Program Director for the YMCA Latino Achievers. YMCA Latino Achievers (YLA) promotes academic excellence in high school, provides access to higher education opportunities and scholarship opportunities, helps students identify career opportunities, provides motivation and leadership development, and financial literacy education.

I am thankful for the things I learned while at Glencliff, in the Academy of Marketing and Hospitality, and thanks to Ms. Jackson.

Katerine Hernandez
Class of 2012
Academy of Marketing & Hospitality



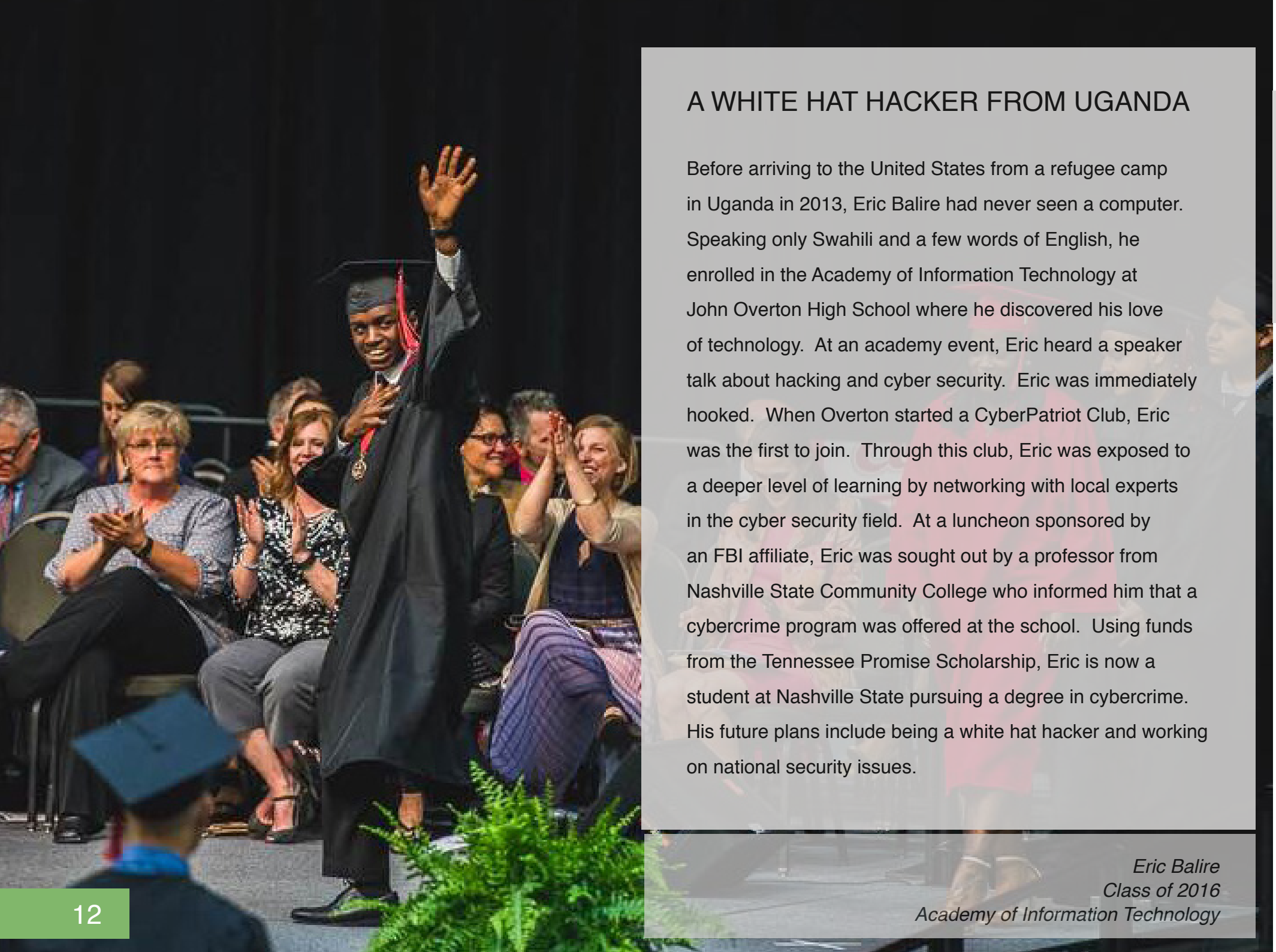




AVIATION & AQUACULTURE

Sara Hampton grew up in the heart of rural Tennessee before attending McGavock High School in urban Nashville. During high school, Sara took courses in the Engineering by Design pathway within the Academy of Aviation and Transportation, discovering a passion for connecting technology with agriculture practices. Her Senior Capstone project was all about methods of irrigation and aquaculture through history, and it was exceptionally well-received by our community business partners. Upon graduation, Sara enrolled at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee, majoring in Agriculture Engineering with a minor in Environmental Sciences. As a junior at TTU, her dream is to teach and design agriculture systems in impoverished and under served communities overseas with the Peace Corps.

Sara Hampton
Class of 2013
Academy of Aviation & Transportation



A WHITE HAT HACKER FROM UGANDA

Before arriving to the United States from a refugee camp in Uganda in 2013, Eric Balire had never seen a computer. Speaking only Swahili and a few words of English, he enrolled in the Academy of Information Technology at John Overton High School where he discovered his love of technology. At an academy event, Eric heard a speaker talk about hacking and cyber security. Eric was immediately hooked. When Overton started a CyberPatriot Club, Eric was the first to join. Through this club, Eric was exposed to a deeper level of learning by networking with local experts in the cyber security field. At a luncheon sponsored by an FBI affiliate, Eric was sought out by a professor from Nashville State Community College who informed him that a cybercrime program was offered at the school. Using funds from the Tennessee Promise Scholarship, Eric is now a student at Nashville State pursuing a degree in cybercrime. His future plans include being a white hat hacker and working on national security issues.

Eric Balire
Class of 2016
Academy of Information Technology

COLLEGE & CAREER BOUND

I quickly realized after completing a couple months of college, that my time as a student in the Academy of Marketing and Business really prepared me for the road ahead.

As a result of spending time at Bohan advertising agency, participating in a year-long job shadow at the Music City Center, and meeting professionals in the athletic department at Lipscomb University, I found my direction and passion for Marketing and Finance. In fact, I have chosen to double major in those fields at Lipscomb University. The Academy of Marketing and Business at Hunters Lane played a crucial role in exposing me to career opportunities, and as a result, I have found what I truly love to do.

> "Being a part of an academy prepared me for college classes. I am leaps and bounds ahead of my current classmates."

J. Jackson
Class of 2016
Academy of Marketing & Business



GIVING STUDENTS AN EDGE

The Academies of Nashville have given me an edge over kids at other schools because of the connections the program has allowed me to make and the skills I have acquired through the curriculum. I have friends in other states who didn't have something like Freshman Seminar that allowed them to adjust to the high school experience, but were instead thrown in with no resources. Friends of mine that are also seniors are about to enter the real world, having no clue on how to conduct themselves in a professional setting, or having no idea what they want to do after their education is complete. Through the US Community Credit Union Academy of International Business and Communication, I have gotten the chance to explore a variety of careers that I wouldn't have been exposed to had I not attended Hillsboro. The Academies of Nashville also give us a balance between academics and interpersonal skills that are necessary for success in adult life. I am so grateful that I've had a chance to attend a school that offers this program because without it, I wouldn't be prepared or comfortable moving on into the professional world.

Olivia Zavitson
Class of 2017
US Community Credit Union Academy of International Business & Communications



" FRIENDS OF MINE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE REAL WORLD WITH NO CLUE HOW TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS PROFESSIONALS."

COLLEGE, CAREER, AND LIFE READY

The Academies at Whites Creek have helped me with so many things. It is easier to talk to professors at my college because of all of the important people we presented to while giving tours of the school. Meeting new people and adapting to different behaviors is also easier due to the diversity of people we worked with in my academy. There are classes I took in my academy that have helped me with my college level Anatomy and Physiology courses at Tennessee State University. My academy has truly made me college and career ready.

-Kelesha Drew
Class of 2014
Academy of Community Health





FOLLOWING LITTLE STEPS

During the fall of 2010, my journey at Cane Ridge began as a freshman. Initially the idea of choosing an academy and having it essentially structure your whole high school career seemed a little daunting. For me, I thoroughly enjoyed creating things; tinkering around with the inner workings of machines to see what made them tick, and naturally these interests pushed me more towards the Academy of Architecture and Construction more than any other.

Once my sophomore year started in 2011, I began my class in Autodesk CAD, which stands for Computer Aided Drafting. At first this class seemed somewhat monotonous, because it focused on the repetition of steps, through various angles of the project. However, after a while the importance of following these little steps to design a much more complicated work up of the project grew on me. I started to excel more independently within the class, which allowed some confidence to grow that I had picked my proper niche.

Jumping to mid-way through my junior year in 2012, I had started to get deeply involved within a program called ACE that was offered within the academy. ACE allows professionals within the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering to act as mentors to help us gain insight within the their fields, as well as show us how the projects we were working







on within the class reflected situations we would face in the real world. As my time in high school was starting to come to an end, I found myself completely immersed within the academy once more by doing work as one of only a few ambassadors that each academy select as representatives; but also by continuing my work in ACE. We began taking in clients for us to perform real life projects that we could place within a portfolio that we could use once we graduated.

Now almost three years later, I am writing this as a junior in college. The Academies have allowed for a much deeper reflection of how these courses and programs were able to prepare me for my life outside of high school even though that life I had once envisioned sitting in a freshman seminar class has changed quite dramatically as time has progressed. From wanting to be an engineer and building huge man-made marvels, to going into biochemistry and medicine which could have more aptly been reinforced in the Academy of Health, there were still huge take-aways that I feel I may not have been able to experience had I not been a part of the small concentrated cohort of students within the Academy of Architecture and Construction. For instance, being grouped with people who in some shape or form have similar interests created a very functional bond within a lot of the group projects we would have to undertake. I've taken this concept to heart now when being grouped with strangers whose names I barely know and just trying to form an overall interest we can all work from. Then there was ACE which propelled my knowledge of professionalism within a work place, time management, communications and presentations have fundamentally been the most useful in my post high school life thus far. The ability to eloquently express my thoughts and ideas about any given topic will carry me through no matter which path I decide to go in life. As a result, I feel that Academies presented a unique opportunity for students within high school to surround themselves with like-minded individuals they might otherwise not come into contact with, as well as presenting them with unique programs that can challenge and force them to grow into a more well-rounded version of themselves.

- Andrew McAllister
Class of 2014
Academy of Architecture & Construction





VIRTUALLY GRADUATED

Transferring to MNPS Virtual School was the best decision I ever made. I attended three high schools in four years, and I guess the third time's the charm, because Virtual School was exactly where I needed to be while wrapping up my high school career. I was able to participate in dual enrollment, work, volunteer, and go to school.

I could do my coursework wherever and whenever I needed to. I knew the moment I started that Virtual would be the right environment for me. I never did well in brick-and-mortar schools because I need to be motivated by myself, not by others, and that was the exact dynamic that Virtual had to offer. All of my teachers at Virtual were so wonderful and welcoming, and Mrs. McNew helped me with my college search from start to finish. I was able to take classes that I wouldn't have normally gotten the opportunity to take, like web design and information technology, and psychology at Nashville State. I am now pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in forensic psychology and will soon be working on my Master's in cybersecurity. I got a chance to work at Starbucks while I was in school as well. Little did I know at my time of application, Starbucks has a partnership with Arizona State University, through which I am now doing my undergraduate studies completely online. This trend is why one of the characteristics of an MNPS graduate is to enroll in an online or blended class. Since I had already worked in an online environment, I felt totally comfortable going into an online degree program, so I was able to take advantage of an incredible opportunity with no hesitation. I am now seventeen, a sophomore at ASU, and I plan on going into the FBI as a behavioral analyst with a specialty in cybercrime after I finish my Master's. I loved my time at MNPS Virtual School, and I will never forget it because I would not be where I am today without them!

Sky Carpenter
Class of 2015
Academy of Business & Marketing



MORE THAN A PIECE OF PAPER

When DeMauri Mumphrey entered high school it was with only one goal: to graduate. Grades, honors, being involved, etc, none of that was on her radar, she just wanted to do four years, and get out with “that piece of paper”. But by the end of her freshman year and during her sophomore year, things began to change. She chose the Academy of Environmental and Urban Planning at Glencliff High School because a group of women engineers and architects did a presentation to freshmen girls encouraging them to explore and consider careers in STEM fields. She has been accepted to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she will be majoring in Architecture. DeMauri is a perfect example of how the lives of MNPS students are being changed daily because of their involvement in the Academies of Nashville.

- DeMauri Mumphrey, Class of 2014, Academy of Environmental & Urban Planning



A PASSION FOR THE CULINARY ARTS

Luis Olvera gained a passion for restaurant management and cooking while completing the Culinary Arts pathway at Hillwood High School. He is currently a student at Nashville State Community College studying Culinary Arts. Luis plans to continue his education at The Art Institute to continue his program and obtain a four-year degree in Culinary Arts. Through high school and college, he has worked at J Alexanders, Johnathan’s, and several other restaurants. He is currently employed at a Greek restaurant in Brentwood.

- Luis Olvera, Class of 2015, Academy of Business & Hospitality

ROOTING FOR THE UNDERDOG: STRATFORD STUDENTS BATTLES AND BEATS CANCER



Why do we always cheer when the unranked team defeats the reigning champion? Or when the homeless man rises up to become the CEO of a success business? Even in the age-old tale of David versus Goliath, don't we still root for the boy to beat the giant? When it comes to defeating something greater or better or larger, the underdog gives us all hope and inspiration. Logan Ashworth's story is one example in the Academies of Nashville that inspires and encourages.

The Stratford High School senior is kind of unassuming: dressed in standard school attire of a pair of khakis and a polo, polite, but sort of quiet. Logan isn't really the kind of student to stand out in a crowd.
Those who know him, however, know he's accomplished something amazing: at only 14 years old, Logan Ashworth beat cancer.
"On January 21, 2011, I was told by the doctors that I had T-cell Lymphoma," Logan says. "I spent 16 days in critical care with a collapsed lung and nearly two liters of fluid in my other lung. Things weren't exactly promising for me."

For the next few months, the Ashworth family spent endless hours in the hospital as Logan underwent countless treatments: six surgeries, months of chemotherapy, numerous doses of radiation, and finally, physical and respiratory therapy. During the time, Logan received a lot of support from his "school family" back at Stratford.

"I told my school I didn't want to fall behind and have to drop out of Stratford," Logan says "So, Metro Schools sent teachers to my house twice a week so I could keep up. My studies helped keep me entertained since I couldn't go outside of our home or see people beyond immediate family for a long time because of the risk of infection."

"Working on my own, I finished my engineering class ahead of time, so then they gave me projects I could do at home," Logan jokes. "That kept me sharp and even helped me work ahead, so when I came back to school for my sophomore year, I was actually a little bit ahead of my classmates. Because I was studying something I was interested in, it kept me focused and motivated to get back to school on time."

Logan was able to return to Stratford for his sophomore year while still receiving chemotherapy treatment. Like many cancer

patients undergoing this care, Logan experienced physical changes in his body and lost his hair.“I was really self-conscious coming back to school because I looked so different from when I left a semester earlier,” Logan says. “Our principal, Mr. Steele, allowed me to wear a hat around the building even though it violated our school dress code. He has no idea how much that meant to me.”

But Logan had one goal once he got back to Stratford.

“I was determined to get more involved in my school,” Logan says. “I was still undergoing chemotherapy, but I got involved in cross country and tennis, and became an Academy Ambassador.”

But perhaps the biggest activity Logan has been involved in since returning to Stratford has been becoming the student leader for the Sparta Bots, a robotics teams in the Academy of Science and Engineering. “By the time I got really involved in the Sparta Bots, I had started to recover a little and my hair has begun growing back,” Logan says. “In fact, I think some of the hair that grew back came in gray because of how involved I was getting!”

However, the story doesn’t end there. The Sparta Bots Robotics Team began to reflect the David versus Goliath tale as well. “We were a rookie team competing against schools that have had years of experience and practice,” Logan says. “We were really proud of the work we did, but going into competition was another story.”

Ten engineering students met after school for six weeks to build their Frisbee throwing robot. After their masterpiece was complete, the Sparta Bots shipped their creation off to Knoxville to be entered into the FIRST Smokey Mountain Regional Competition. In the first round, the launcher arm malfunctioned, but with great driving skills, they showed the other teams this bot could defend. In the second round, the launcher arm worked and received high marks for accuracy. In the third round, other bots took notice of the Frisbee shooting robot, and the Sparta Bots became the primary bot to block. Despite defensive efforts by the other bots, the Sparta Bots took home the highest score and were named the Rookie of the Year.

Once again, the underdog had won. Logan hopes to take his experiences at Stratford and continue his education. He graduated on time with his Academy class and now attends the University of Tennessee and studies engineering.

“I couldn’t have done any of this without the support of my school and my academy,” Logan says. “I don’t know if I would have gotten back to school on time, or stayed focused on my studies, or gotten involved in the Sparta Bots, if it hadn’t been for the family I have in my academy.”

One thing is for certain though; Logan is no longer the underdog. However, he is someone we can all cheer for.

- Logan Ashworth
Class of 2016
Academy of Science & Engineering



SHE'S GOT A "FIRENATION" IN HER HEART

Cherese Johnson came to Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School as a quiet freshman that quickly developed into a natural leader within the Academy of Entertainment Management. Cherese chose the marketing pathway where she led the school-based enterprise, FireNation, a marketing firm, in various projects over the last three years. As a versatile student leader and academy ambassador, Cherese had opportunities to exemplify leadership skills that go far beyond the classroom.

A 2016 graduate, Cherese ranked in the top 10 percent of her class. She qualified for the Hope Scholarship and was a recipient of the Sponsors Scholarship. She was a member of DECA, an association of marketing students, a student representative for the PTSO and school leadership team, and a member of the Pearl-Cohn Marching Band.

Because of her many experiences in the marketing pathway, Cherese has a clear plan for her future. She is currently attending Xavier University and majoring in Marketing.

Cherese Johnson
Class of 2016
Academy of Entertainment Management

HIGHER EDUCATION MEETS HIGH FASHION

Katie Williams is a Hillwood graduate of the Academy of Art, Design and Communication who went on to study Business Marketing at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. After graduating from UTC, she decided to combine her degree with her passion for photography, which was cultivated through her high school Academy courses.. She is currently the Lead Photographer for RAW: Nashville. In that role, she photographs many events, especially those involving high end fashion.

Katie Williams
Class of 2013
Academy of Arts, Design, & Communication





GIVING BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL

Aaron Haddix graduated McGavock High School after completing a three-year sequence in the Banking and Finance pathway. During his senior year and while being a star baseball player, he earned an internship at the US Community Credit Union—one of the Academy of Hospitality and Finance's business partners—in Donelson. That same year, US Community Credit Union broke ground on a brand new branch of the credit union within McGavock High School!

Aaron didn't know what his future had in store for him after graduating high school, but US Community Credit Union did; they hired him full-time as a Marketing Assistant, and he now spends a portion of every day teaching and supervising student interns in the McGavock branch of the US Community Credit Union. Also, when he is not working, he is pursuing a degree in Marketing and Business Administration. .

Aaron Haddix
Class of 2013
US Community Credit Union Academy of Business & Finance



PILLS, BILLS, AND 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

While attending Overton High School, Shahristan Rashid enrolled in the Academy of Health Science and the pharmacological science class. While enrolled in the class, Shahristan was offered a job at a local pharmacy. Her senior year, she passed the pharmacy technician industry certification exam and became a certified pharmacy technician. Today, she is enrolled in college to become a pharmacist while working her way through college as a pharmacy technician. Had it not been for the pharmacological science class, Shahristan may not have discovered her aptitude and interest in pharmacy.

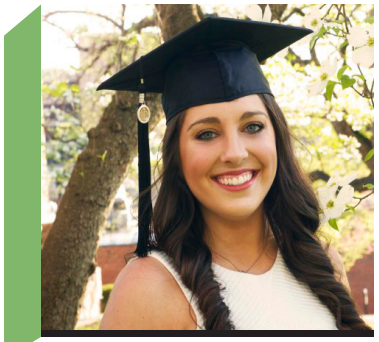
- Shahristan Rashid
Class of 2016
Academy of Health Science





Caroline Knight graduated from Hillwood High School as a part of the Audio/Visual Communication (Broadcasting) pathway. Her experiences at Hillwood helped solidify her interest in this area, and she has gone on to major in Cinema Studies and Journalism at the University of Tennessee. After graduating, she completed an internship in New York City with HealthiNation, a producer of health and lifestyle video programming. She is now back in Nashville working on Independent Film projects.

- Caroline Knight, Class of 2016, Academy of Art, Design, & Communication



Escarlet Escobar is a familiar face in courtrooms around Tennessee. She competed on mock trial teams during her junior and senior years of high school, throughout her four years at Belmont University while studying Communications, English, and Political Science, and now she intends to continue her mock trial career while she attends the University of Memphis School of Law. She is currently in her first year of college and intends to study corporate contract law. “The Law pathway at McGavock High School turned my hope of becoming a lawyer one day into a realization that it could actually happen.”

- Escarlet Escobar, Class of 2016, Aegis Sciences Corporation Academy of Life Science & Law



After four years of high school, many students contract senioritis. Motivation is low. Procrastination ensues. Assignments mysteriously disappear. For Jorge Carriedo, this was not the case. Jorge became the first students from Stratford STEM Magnet School to graduate with an Honors Degree and a Diploma Distinction, by achieving on the ACT, maintaining a “B” average, and earning the AutoDesk Inventor Certification. He is currently working on his Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering at Lipscomb University.

- Jorge Carriedo Class of 2015, Academy of Science & Engineering



MAKING ART INTO ARCHITECTURE

As an incoming freshman at Cane Ridge High School I had no idea that I wanted to become an Architect. At the time I thought I wanted to be a weatherman. The best academy that fit that description of becoming a meteorologist was the Academy of Arts and Communications. As a sophomore I learned a lot about the different career opportunities. I thought about what it would be like working for the local news, ESPN or even CNN. With the broadcasting skills that I would learn I could pursue a similar major in college if I choose to do so. Later in my sophomore year I heard about the Academy Ambassador opportunity. I was interested in the position and filled out the application. After review, I was selected for a face to face interview. With the position of being an Academy Ambassador came responsibility. I was the chosen student to represent my academy and school. I had to lead by example with my actions in and outside of class. Most people wouldn't expect a football player to want to become an Academy Ambassador. However, it helped me become more professional by the ethics I was taught through it. Speaking professionally, wearing business attire and showing up early to events were some of the many standards that were expected of me.

As I was going through the fall of my junior year in high school I had a realization that I wanted to become an architect, rather than pursue broadcasting.

The search for the right college for architecture school was difficult. At first I wanted to go to the University of Miami after being chosen to have a meeting with an undergraduate admissions recruiter. However, private out of state universities are expensive. I applied to a number of universities from the summer to fall 2013. The top three that accepted me and that I showed interest in was the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Memphis, University of Cincinnati. I chose the University of Tennessee mainly due to a great financial aid package and that they were the best in the state for pursuing an architecture degree. Three years later I am still continuing my journey in the school of architecture at the University of Tennessee. I thank the Academies of Nashville for giving me an opportunity to see what I was truly interested in.

- Major Morgan
Class of 2012
Academy of Arts and Communication



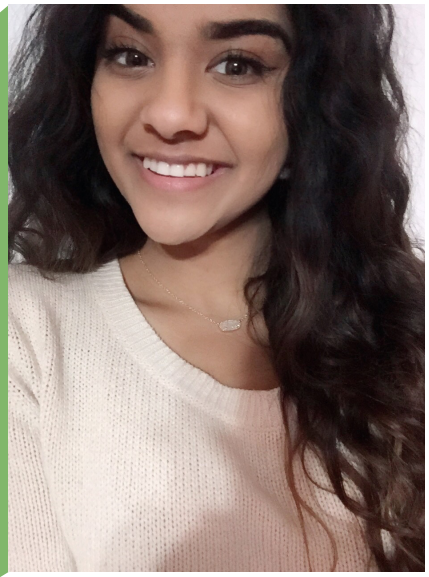
EXPONENTIAL LEARNING

Kevin Martin is a well-rounded graduate from Antioch High School in the Academy of Hospitality and Marketing. He was an academy ambassador, DECA member, school mascot, Ford NGL Student Advisor, and the story manager for "The Cave," which is a school-based enterprise.

Kevin has experienced the benefit of participating in real-world experiences aligned to his future aspirations. According to Kevin, "Experiential learning is exponential learning."

He was an AVID and Leadership Program student. He assisted in organizing the Antioch DECA Monster Fest, which is an experiential learning experience for students that was held in Orlando, Florida. Kevin was a part of the team that received the National Gold Level certification at the 2015 DECA International Career Development Conference for Antioch's school-based enterprise. Kevin Martin was the only student in the state of Tennessee to attend the Ford Next Generation Learning National Conference in both 2015 and 2016. Kevin has been accepted to Middle Tennessee State University and studies in the College of Mass Communications. Kevin is also currently an associate producer at MT10 News, the university news program.

- Kevin Martin
Class of 2016
Academy of Hospitality & Marketing



I KNEW WHERE I BELONGED

Michael McMillian once said, "You can't start a new chapter of your life, if you keep rereading the last one." My name is Kajol Patel and I am currently a senior at Hillsboro High School. When I first came to Hillsboro, I had no idea what my future looked like, but all I knew was that I was interested in the medical field. I was introduced to all of the academies when I was a freshman. As soon as my counselor mentioned the Academy of Global Health and Science, I knew that was where I belonged. Now, I am finally a senior and this year my academy has given me the opportunity to earn the CCMA Industry Certification with Saint Thomas Health. I have decided I want to be a neonatal nurse or a pediatrician and minor in psychology. Like Kobi Yamada once said, "She turned her cant's into cans, and her dreams into plans."

- Kajol Patel, Class of 2017, Academy of Global Health and Science



MAKING EDUCATION A LIFE-LONG CAREER

Alaina Solis thought she wanted to be a veterinarian when she selected the Veterinary Science pathway at McGavock High School at the end of her freshman year. But, then she saw an actual animal surgery during one of her tours of a veterinarian's office, and she quickly changed her mind. Fortunately, her pathway and teacher—Ms. Lumpkins—offered so many more opportunities within the field of veterinary science that Alaina quickly found new direction. She received exposure to industry partners, post-secondary institutions, and—best of all—FFA. For Alaina, joining McGavock's Future Farmers of America chapter changed her entire perspective; she competed in all sorts of regional and state contests, even winning 2nd place in the state-level Ag Issues competition. Alaina has started her first year at Tennessee Technological University, and she intends to study Agriculture Education so she can make participating in FFA a part of her lifelong career goals.

- Alaina Solis, Class of 2016, Aegis Sciences Corporation Academy of Life Science & Law



A POSITIVE MARK

The academy program has impacted my future for the better and I am happy to be a product of it. As a sophomore at Cane Ridge High School, I became a member of the Interactive Multimedia Pathway and began to learn more about the actual softwares used in the field today. My high school was actually giving me tools I could use after I graduated and that separated me from my competition. One of the coolest skills I learned was how to create and develop our own website so we could market ourselves or a business. As I matriculated through the academy I became an Academy Ambassador because I was proud of what my academy had taught me and I wanted to show that to my fellow students. During my senior year, my academic excellence within my academy led me to a full ride scholarship to college as well as a summer intern position in the technical department of Hospital Corporation of America. The skills I learned in my academy set me apart to get the intern position but they also kept me interested in my school so I continued to excel. The academies have made a positive mark on myself and my future.

Mazi Byrd
Class of 2013
Academy of Arts & Communication

WALKING THE RED CARPET

Imagine walking the red carpet with celebrities. What if you could attend the grand opening for a major motion picture? What if you were the director of that blockbuster? Barrett Depies enrolled in the Audio/Video Production pathway in the CMT Academy of Digital Design and Communication at McGavock High School during his sophomore year after realizing his interest in stage lighting. Barclay Randall, the A/V Production teacher, taught Barrett so much more than just the technical skills to be successful in an incredibly competitive industry; he taught him how to network, thereby earning Barrett an internship at a local grip and lighting studio during his senior year. Once Barrett graduated, he went on to earn a degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Electronic Media Communication and Production with a minor in Entrepreneurship and Strategic Marketing Management. Barrett's work has been featured in the last two Cannes Film Festivals as Special Exhibitions, and he recently won an award for best cinematography at a film festival in Los Angeles.

Barrett Depies
Class of 2012
CMT Academy of Digital Design & Communication



GOVERNORS, CEO'S, AND AMBASSADORS

Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

My academy experience allowed me some great opportunities. From taking dual credit classes to earning an industry certification, my academy experience helped me to be more prepared than most students when I left high school. Having the opportunity to serve as an academy ambassador and represent my school in front of people from all over the world was one of my biggest highlights. As part of my role as ambassador, I was lucky enough to give Governor Bill Haslam and the CEO of Shoney's, David Davoudpour, a tour of the new Music City Center. In fact, I am now serving in a similar role as a student mentor at Western Kentucky University. My transition into college has been smooth because of all of the preparation and experience I gained in my time at Hunters Lane.

I really do believe that the academy model better prepared me for my near future. Now at Western Kentucky University, I am continuing my studies in the area of Hospitality Management, a career I grew to love in my time as a student and ambassador in the Academy of Hospitality. Having the chance to be able to gain such invaluable experience has made me the person I am today.

Kendra Rankins
Class of 2016
Academy of Hospitality







OVERCOMING & ACHIEVING

In every sense of the word, Sajad Al-Timimi is the epitome of an "overcomer." Sajad is the oldest of two children in his household and became the first person in his immediate family to go to college.

Sajad raised the bar at Maplewood High School in 2014 by earning a 31 on his ACT the very first time, far surpassing the MNPS characteristic of a graduate goal of a 21. Sajad's success on the ACT has become an inspiration to other students who desire to follow in his footsteps.

Sajad graduated in the top 20 percent of his graduating class and was a four-year participant in the Maplewood AFJROTC program as well. Despite numerous offers and opportunities from across the country, Sajad choose to proudly serve his country by enlisting for service in the United States Marine Corps

Sajad Al-Timimi
Class of 2016
Academy of Energy & Power

CONNECTIONS CREATE OPPORTUNITY

Roland Bituli excelled in multiple business classes at Hillwood High School while completing the Business Leadership pathway. In his senior year, he participated in a job shadow at Hillwood Country Club. On that day, he had the opportunity to impress many employees, including the General Manager, Three Carpenter.

After graduating, Roland contacted Three and was hired as part of the Hillwood Country Club banquet staff. Over the past three years, Roland has balanced his work as a student at Nashville State Community College with a full time job at the country club. He worked his way up to Banquet Captain, while maintaining excellent grades.

This semester, he enrolled at the University of Tennessee to complete a four-year degree in Business Administration.



Roland Bituli
Class of 2013
Academy of Business & Hospitality

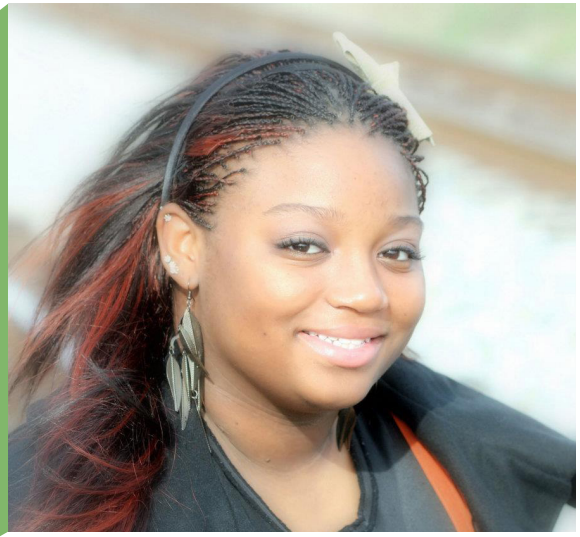
WHEN HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Niles Nailer may be one of the most motivated and committed students that McGavock High School ever had. While at McGavock, he worked full-time to help provide for his family and himself and took almost all Honors-level coursework while also participating with the Vex Robotics Team through his Engineering by Design pathway. Now in his sophomore year at Middle Tennessee State University, his tradition of hard work and excellence continues as he pursues his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management while working two jobs: one as an Assistant Manager at Valvoline and another at the Nissan factory. When asked about his favorite activities at McGavock, he says, "I loved all of the hands-on learning and all of the teamwork when working on projects. It taught me so many leadership and communications skills, and that has been invaluable in my college and work life."

- Niles Nailer
Class of 2015
Academy of Aviation & Transportation



DELIVERING BABIES AND DEGREES



Clarise Key was one of the first graduates of the Academy of Health and Emergency Services at Maplewood High School. She was a junior volunteer at Saint Thomas Health while in high school. During her time as a junior volunteer, Clarise assisted in delivering two babies while on a job shadow. She is currently in her senior year at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she studies medical science. She plans to move back to Nashville to work as a phlebotomist while traveling to see other parts of the world before heading to medical school.

- Clarise Key, Class of 2012, Academy of Health & Emergency Services

PASSION FOR DIPLOMACY



When you look up “well-rounded” in the dictionary, you might very well see a picture of Erin Chafatelli. Now in her senior year of undergraduate studies at Sarah Lawrence University and completing her degree in International Relations and Russian while also serving as captain of her school’s softball team, Erin sees doors opening wide for her future. She is pursuing several options, including careers with the U.S. Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. But, her passion for politics and diplomacy started back in high school with exposure through the Law pathway at McGavock High School to careers and leaders across a broad industry. Because of her high school experience, she earned a summer experience at the Bill of Rights Institute in Washington, D.C., through Ford, 3rd place in the national SkillsUSA competition in Crime Scene Investigation, and an internship with the Mayor’s Youth Court in 2012 and 2013. All of these experiences helped guide her toward her passion for diplomacy.

- Erin Chafatelli, Class of 2013, Aegis Sciences Corporation Academy of Life Science & Law

WHAT ISR HAS GIVEN ME

Going into high school, I had an idea of exactly what I wanted to be. I had written a paper on it in 8th grade. In my paper I described the steps needed to enter the field of immunology and work as an allergist. I really like a challenge, so when I was choosing classes in middle school, I applied to Interdisciplinary Science and Research, or ISR program at Hillsboro. The application was daunting because I had to write two essays, but I tried really hard to write the best essays possible. It was so worth the effort. Immediately, I loved the class. I loved the challenge, the knowledge, and the feeling that what I was learning was important.

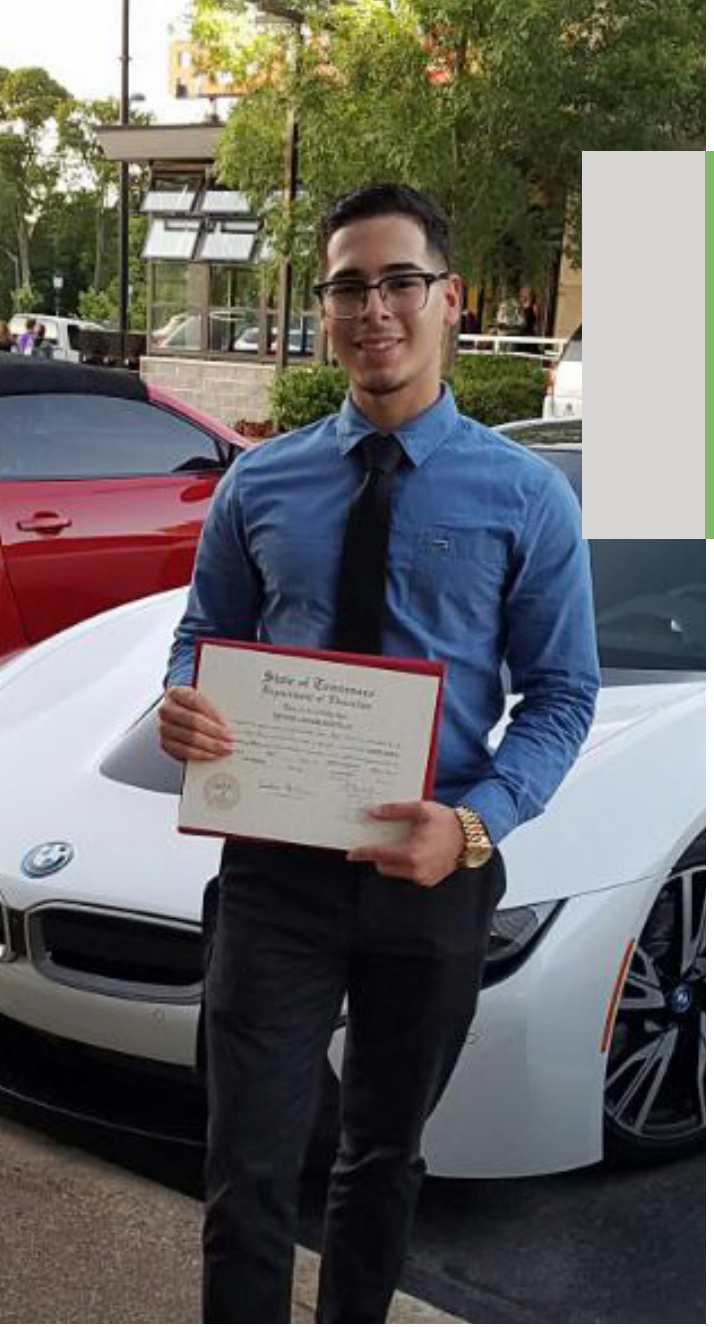
The way I see it, ISR is a sample course for STEM careers. It has units in basically every science subject of which you could think. If you don't like one, you know you shouldn't go into it for a career, but with that, I can really explore all of the things which interest me. Through that class, I found that I had a love for psychology, chemistry, and microbiology.

All of this knowledge of science affected my daily life also. I subconsciously use the scientific method to solve almost every problem I have. Also, if someone was asking a question about a science concept, I had enough background to give a basic explanation. If someone was asking why someone was acting a certain way, I could try to explain using a bit of my psychology knowledge. In many ways, this class has shaped me into the person I am.



I am currently working on a Cancer research project in ISR and am hoping to get it published in a journal. My plan for college is to go to the University of Tennessee for chemical engineering with a concentration in biomolecular engineering.

- Connor High
Class of 2017
Academy of Global Health & Science



OPENING CLOSED DOORS

After graduating from the Academy of Information Technology at Overton High School, Victor Bustillo knew there were limited options as an undocumented student. After fully supporting himself during his senior year of high school, a counselor took notice and introduced him to a current business partner, the Iron Yard.

"After one meeting, Iron Yard recognized the potential Victor has because of his previous experience in his Academy."

After one meeting, Iron Yard recognized the potential Victor has because of his previous experience in his Academy through experiential learning and his information technology courses. Victor has since earned a full scholarship to cover the costs of his post-secondary education and is on his way to becoming a web developer.

- Victor Bustillo

Class of 2016

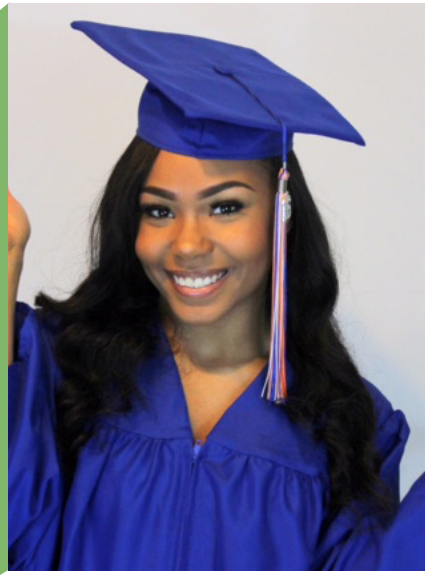
Academy of Information Technology



CRUSHING OBSTACLES

When it comes to crushing obstacles in your path, there is no better example than De'Eriko McCord. De'Eriko was born with Blount's Disease, a bone disorder which causes his legs to "bow" inward. He then experienced a stroke following a surgery to correct the effects of Blount's Disease and had to be home schooled during his freshman year of high school. On top of battling his diagnosis, De'Eriko has diabetes and has even experienced a period of homelessness. Despite the many challenges he has faced, De'Eriko graduated in the Top 10 of his class at Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School in the Academy of Entertainment Communication. He is currently attending the University of Memphis and studying Broadcasting.

- De'Eriko McCord, Class of 2016, Academy of Entertainment Communication



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

One of the most common questions visitors ask about the Academies of Nashville, is 'Where are your exceptional education students?'. The answer: They are as involved in the academy as any other student. Jordan Alexander was an Academy Ambassador in the Academy of Hospitality at Hunters Lane High School, served on her academy advisory board, acted as the captain of the majorettes dance team, and was a member of DECA and the National Technical Honor Society.

Jordan was recently accepted to Tennessee State University where she plans to study Liberal Arts with a minor in Education. She has risen above the hurdles of being an exceptional education student and has taken advantage of everything her academy has to offer.

- Jordan Alexander, Class of 2016, Academy of Hospitality

MORE THAN A SURVIVOR

When you hear stories of young children who are abused in this country, there is usually not a good ending. Matthew Madlock is one of the amazing exceptions. Through unspeakable difficulties in his childhood, Matthew was able to find an inner strength and drive to overcome. When Matthew came into foster care for the second time in his life, his grades were suffering and he was transitioning to high school.

His various placements with the Department of Children Services did not allow for stability in his high school career. He spent a little over two years at Maplewood High School taking classes in the Academy of Health and Emergency Service before switching over to the Academy of Energy and Power. It was during this time when he started his first business, Unshatter, a cell phone and tablet screen repair company.

In the middle of his junior year in 2012, DCS moved him to Antioch, where he studied Technology and Communication, as well as Automotive Technology. Before the end of 2012, Matthew was moved again; this time ending up zoned for Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School where he studied in the Academy of Entertainment Management.

By now, his amazing personality, talents and motivation had touched the lives of teachers in three high schools and his technological skills were brought to the attention of the MNPS District Office and the Executive Director of Learning Technology. As a high school senior, Matthew became a consultant for the district and built the Learning Technology website and designed strategies to collect valid data to gauge student use of 21st century technology.

Data shows most students who transfer schools as often as Matthew had to, generally begin to fall behind in school with severe gaps in their learning, but not Matthew. He graduated at the top of his class. After high school, he was named one of the mid-state's top entrepreneurs as the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Youth Entrepreneur of the Year. Matthew continued with the development of a second company

with Co-Founder, Hal Cato. He also maintained his freelance design and technology consultation while majoring in Business Management at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

His quality of work and his drive for success have given him the opportunity to be mentored by and/or work with the best, including Hal Cato, Dr. Michael Burcham, and Richard Branson.

After graduating from UTK, he will lead an ambassador program for a Silicon Valley startup company in California.

- Matthew Madlock
Class of 2013,
Pearl Cohn, Maplewood, & Antioch High Schools



CLEAR VISION

After graduating from Antioch High School, I enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University. I pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and graduated December 2015. Now, I have returned to MTSU to earn my MBA and I hope to graduate the summer of 2017. I have also returned to The Tennessee Credit Union where I interned during my time in the Academy of Business and Finance. I can honestly say the Academies of Nashville were a major influence in my success today.

The academies gave me the direction I needed to choose the correct field for my interests and abilities. I was offered hands-on experience where I could see the functionality of day-to-day operations of a company in my major. The academies actually made me think about where I was headed and what I planned to do. Without the guidance of the academies I cannot say that I would have had a clear vision of what I wanted to accomplish in my life.

Diamond Grimes
Class of 2011
The Tennessee Credit Union Academy of Business & Finance



SAVING LIVES, LITERALLY

When a fellow classmate suffered a severe asthma attack during a rehearsal for the school play *Romeo and Juliet*, Chelstin Wildun knew exactly what to do. Chelstin performed CPR on her unresponsive classmate for 12 minutes until the Emergency Medical Team arrived at the school to take her to the hospital.

Doctors at the hospital confirmed that without Chelstin's immediate reaction and training, her classmate would have died. Chelstin has been a member of the Academy of Health Sciences at Overton High School and plans to pursue a career in the medical field after graduation.

Chelstin Wildun
Class of 2017
Academy of Health Sciences



FINDING YOUR SPARK

A very shy Shakarah Nelson wanted to attend the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math school, but it was too far from home. Instead, she enrolled in Whites Creek High School in Whites Creek, Tenn.

"I really did not want to go there," she said. The school, part of the Academies of Nashville, has a distinct program. Rather than choosing random electives to accompany customary courses, students after their freshman year choose career-specific programs. With the guidance from Ford Next Generation Learning and partnerships with companies including UPS Inc., Piedmont Natural Gas and Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Whites Creek offers four career academies: Education and Law; Community Health; and Alternative Energy, Sustainability, and Logistics along with corresponding Community Health, Entrepreneurship, Law, Teaching as a Profession K-12 and Automotive Technology. Because Nelson wanted to be an engineer, she chose the automotive path. One course, though, wasn't what she expected.

"I got my schedule and saw Alternative Energy Production, and I was like, 'I don't want that." The class was small with only six other students, none of whom knew what the course was about and none of whom wanted to stay. But the teacher, Dr. Garry Gibson, was persuasive.

"He talked about solar panels and all that they did and all the money that went into that business. At the end of the week, we went to this conference for the Future Farmers of America, which is based on career leadership and career success through agriculture. Kids got up and taught us," she said. "They were only two years older but had these great leadership abilities. We wanted to know how to become part of the club." Gibson offered to pay the students' way, as long as they stayed in his classroom.

The overall experience was more than anyone expected. Beyond classroom lectures and FFA meetings, they participated in hands-on, pragmatic projects. Using soybeans and an FFA-donated machine, the class created a mobile ethanol and biodiesel lab by bonding soybean oil with methanol and converting that into fuel. They then tested the fuel in go-carts to make sure it was safe for the road. The

Alternative Energy class was on the road showing off their work by the end of their sophomore year.

“My teacher thought the program was really neat and that others should know about it,” Nelson said. So, they traveled across the state and shared their knowledge.

But Nelson says she hid in the shadows. “I was really, really shy. I didn’t want to be in front of the cameras.”

The next year? Nelson said she was ready. In her junior year, she became president and ambassador of her academy and president of the FFA at her school. “It had become my passion.”

The 19-year-old credits academy learning for her growth. “We increased our soft skills and ability to communicate with people at all different levels,” she said. “While we were talking to some students, we were talking a lot to teachers because they were going to communicate back to their students what we were doing.”

Nelson graduated high school this past spring. Her involvement in Whites Creek’s Alternative Energy, Sustainability and Logistics academy helped drive her thirst for learning and her future not just as a college student but as an entrepreneur. The Tennessee State University student is now majoring in environmental science, and she’s not alone. The four people who helped start the FFA club at Whites Creek also are attending TSU. And they have big plans.

“We’ve decided we want to start our own sustainability company when we graduate. And we’re majoring in different aspects of agriculture to make it work.”

If for some reason that doesn’t pan out? Nelson isn’t worried. She has learned enough to know there are plenty of career options. “I can always get a degree in teaching,” she said. “At the very least, I can do what my teacher did for us with other kids.”

Shakarah Nelson
Class of 2016
Academy of Alternative Energy, Sustainability, & Logistics











TRUE PARTNERSHIPS

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

The stories in this book would not be possible without the dedication and support of the Academies of Nashville Partners. Hundreds of businesses, organizations, and faith-based entities have changed the lives of countless students in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

Academy Partners come in all shapes and sizes. They can focus on one kind of engagement of many different types of activities. Whether it involves participating in the annual My Future. My Way Career Exploration Fair, acting as a guest speaker in a class, or serving on a school and academy advisory board, the work done by these great volunteers is changing the future of Nashville.

We would like to give a very special thank you to those we consider our pivotal partners.

Thank you Alignment Nashville for helping us get the ball rolling ten years ago and keeping us on course.

Thank you Ford Next Generation Learning for giving us the structure and framework for transformational success.

Thank you to the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce for rallying the troops and holding us accountable.

Thank you to PENCIL for your tireless effort in recruiting partners that truly make learning relevant for our students.

We could not have done this without you.

10 YEARS

06-07 Our Future. Our Story. 16-17

THE academies OF NASHVILLE

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