



Academy Program FAQs

1. How do I know an Academy is right for me?

Your responses to the following questions will help you to decide whether you are a good fit for one of the Academies.

- *Do my interests match the focus of the Academy?*
- *Do my grades in the subjects that are the academic focus of the Academy demonstrate that I am ready to accept the challenge of the program?*
- *Have I demonstrated that I could balance the demands of accelerated classes while still participating in sports, clubs, hobbies, and other extracurricular activities?*
- *Am I taking Algebra I or higher in 8th grade?*
- *Can I identify two faculty members in my school who are willing to provide me with excellent recommendations for these programs?*
- *Does my discipline record reflect an ability to know right from wrong in situations with my peers, my teachers, my use of social media, etc.?*
- *Have my scores on standardized/local assessments (i.e. NJSLA, Course benchmarks) been strong?*

2. What is included in the application and selection process? (See online [application form](#))

The selection process considers many different criteria. As such, the selection process is a lengthy one.

The following are part of the application process.

- *Basic student information (demographic information, name, address, academy interest, etc.)*
- *Academic records including 7th and 8th grade ELA and math*
- *State and/or local assessment scores*
- *Recommendations from teachers*
- *Disciplinary Record*

3. If I am accepted into one of the Academies, do I have a better chance of getting into competitive colleges?

The Academies are an excellent place to start, but it is just the beginning. You will have to work hard and make a serious commitment to your learning throughout high school.

4. How do Academy programs help my child earn college credit?

Many Academy courses align with our Dual Credit partnership with Camden County College, which means that students can apply for college credit for only \$150 per eligible high school course. The college credits are documented on the students' transcript from Camden County College, which can then be presented to other colleges and universities for evaluation of transferable credit. For the list of courses eligible for Dual Credit, see the [District Program of Studies](#).



5. What is the advantage of being a member of an Academy program vs. taking the courses as a non-Academy student?

Students enrolled in an Academy program will have opportunities for field experience and benefit from active membership in Academy clubs (DECA, STEAM Capstone, and/or Green Team). Completion of pathway coursework will be noted on students' transcripts. Academy students will receive customized attire to wear for special field experiences and presentations. They will be celebrated at Board of Education ceremonies and graduation programs.

6. What if my child needs accommodations or modifications to successfully learn?

Academy Program applications are available for all students. Teachers are legally bound to follow individualized plans that accommodate learning needs according to IEP or 504 plans, and to differentiate per status as an English Language Learner or as a Gifted & Talented student.

7. What if my child does not want to participate in some of the activities?

The Academies are competitive programs, and selected participants are expected to take part in the full complement of programming. Some of these programs may include professional speakers, career organizations, service learning, field experiences, summer workshops, research, and job shadowing.

8. What if my child wants to participate in other activities or sports beyond what's required for Academies?

The expectations for Academy students to participate in required clubs does not preclude students from also joining other clubs or sports teams. Each school hosts meetings for activities after school as well as during the Common Time lunch. Club meetings are scheduled monthly to avoid conflicts, and athletic coaches can accommodate athletes who have Academy commitments.

9. What are the requirements to remain enrolled in an Academy pathway?

All Academy students and parents will be asked to sign an [Academy Agreement](#) that holds them accountable for their conduct, academics, and attendance.

Academically, students are expected to maintain a minimum of a C average in Academy courses.

10. What if my child wants to switch Academy pathways?

Changing enrollment to a new pathway is allowed. A switch is easier to make at the end of 9th grade, but, depending on what coursework the student has completed, a switch is still possible at the end of 10th grade. The student would need to work with his/her counselor to determine a plan for fulfilling the new pathway's requirements within the time remaining in their high school career.

11. Can my child withdraw from the Academy Program once started?

Students have an opportunity to leave the Academy at the end of each academic year. They are not penalized for withdrawing from Academy enrollment. It is important that students learn about the program requirements and consider their level of interest and commitment to the course of study before applying.



12. Where can I learn more about the specific Academies?

To learn more about the specific academies, please visit our website at <https://www.bhprsd.org/departments/curriculum-instruction/academies>, or visit the “Academics & Experiences” tab of any school’s website to find the link entitled “New Academies.” You may also check our course descriptions in our [2026-2027 Program of Studies](#).

13. Where can I access the application? When are applications due? When will students know of their acceptance into an Academy program?

The [application](#) is available on the “New Academies” webpage of each school’s website (#12 above). Applications are due by February 27th; [Teacher Recommendation](#) form is due by March 1st. Students will be informed of acceptance by April 2, 2026.

Contact Information

If you have additional questions, please the student’s counselor, the content-area supervisors, or the Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

Department/Academy	Contact
School Counseling Departments	Triton Counseling Department Highland Counseling Department Timber Creek Counseling Department
Business Leadership Academy - Finance - Marketing	Mr. Steve Arena, sarena@bhprsd.org
STEAM Academy - Architectural Design - Engineering	Mr. Steve Arena, sarena@bhprsd.org
STEAM Academy Environmental Sustainability	Ms. Jennifer Gramble, jgramble@bhprsd.org
STEAM Academy Capstone	Mrs. Lori Hunt, lhunt@bhprsd.org
Director of Curriculum & Instruction	Mrs. Marcie Geyer, mageyer@bhprsd.org