CENTRAL ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGY & ARTS

2026-2027 School Profile

Mission Statement

The mission of Central Academy of Technology & Arts is to prepare students to be informed, capable, and compassionate global citizens by providing an environment that fosters respect, confidence, growth, curiosity, creativity, critical thought, and knowledge.

Community

Located in the Charlotte region, Union County Public Schools is the sixth-largest district in North Carolina that serves approximately 42,000 students. UCPS offers more than 44 pathways and 22 academies through Career and Technical Education. The district ranks number two in the state in overall proficiency at 69.3 percent, and boasts a 92.3 percent graduation rate.

School

Central Academy of Technology & Arts (CATA) is a comprehensive magnet high school enrolling **907** students in grades 9-12. We offer six academies: Information Systems, Pre-Engineering, Medical Science, Performing Arts, Transportation, and International Baccalaureate. Ninth and tenth graders from across the district apply for a spot in one of the academies each year through a lottery process. Once accepted, students take one to three courses in their academy subject area each year in addition to their core curriculum and graduation requirements.

Principal
Alanna Smith

Assistant Principals
Thomas Stewart
Dareion Malone

Counselors
Ashley Cole, Dept. Chair
Sarah Goodwin
Stephanie Graham

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CEEB Code: 342650

Class of 2026 Fast Facts
227 Students
77% attending 4-year school
13% attending 2-year school
6% entering the workforce
1% entering the military

ACT
99% of seniors participated
Average Composite: 24.7

OUR ACADEMIES

Information Systems

This academy has three pathways: Computer Engineering, Cyber Security, and Software Development & Game Design. In Computer Engineering students learn about building computers, configuring networks and routing. In Software & Game Design students will focus on computer programming, visualization tools, and game design. In Cyber Security students learn about ethics in technology as well as trends in the growing industry.

Performing Arts

This academy has three pathways; Dance, Music Production & Recording Arts, and Theatre. All pathways are exposed to the many facets of a successful performance, history, theory, and techniques. The MPRA pathway creates a solid foundation in musicianship and technology. Students will hone their current skills through a variety of courses that will create a well-rounded performer.

Pre-Engineering

Instruction is offered in engineering design through 3-D software, electronics, and computer integrated manufacturing. These are connected together through engineering principles connecting math, science, and technology. The majority of course are delivered through the Project Lead the Way curricula.

Medical Sciences

The goal of the Project Lead the Way program is to provide a sequence of courses all aligned with appropriate national learning standards, which follows a proven hands-on, real-world, problem-solving approach to learning. Students explore the concepts of human medicine and are introduced to topics such as physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health. The students explore the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease.

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate Programme is a global leader in international education—developing inquiring, knowledgeable, confident, and caring young people. This academy empowers school-aged students to take ownership in their own learning and help them develop future-ready skills to make a difference and thrive in a world that changes fast.

Transportation Systems

This academy has two pathways; Automotive Technology and Collision Repair. The Automotive Technology pathway provides instruction on brakes, steering, suspension, engine, and electronics. The Collision Repair pathway offers auto body reconstruction and frame straightening. The curriculum allows students to receive hands-on industry-recommended training. Strong academic background and technical application allow for a seamless transition from high school to post-secondary training or high-tech automotive careers.

ACADEMICS

AP Courses

English
AP English Language and Composition
AP English Literature and Composition

Math
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Precalculus
AP Statistics

Science
AP Biology
AP Environmental Science
AP Chemistry
AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
AP Physics C: Mechanics

Social Studies
AP Government
AP Psychology
AP US History
AP World History

Electives
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Seminar
AP Studio Art

International Baccalaureate Courses

IB Theory of Knowledge
IB Language A English HL
IB Language B French SL
IB Language B Spanish SL
IB Math Applications and Interpretations SL
IB Environmental Systems and Societies HL
IB Biology HL
IB History of the Americas HL
IB Visual Arts HL

Grading Scale	Non-Weighted Point Value
100-90 (A)	4.0
89-80 (B)	3.0
79-70 (C)	2.0
69-60 (D)	1.0
AUD, F, FF, P, WP, WF	0.0

Academic Level of Course	Additional Quality Points for Weighted GPA
College Prep	No additional points
Honors	.5 additional points
Advanced Placement (AP)	1 additional point

Curriculum

4x4 block schedule

IB courses are on a A/B day yearlong schedule

80-minute classes

Maximum 1 credit awarded per class

22 credits required for graduation

Rank is based on weighted GPA

Rank is calculated at the end of each semester