TRACY HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES APPLICATION
2027–2028 School Year

Thank you for your interest in the Academies at Tracy High School!. **The two-page Academies Application is located on pages 3–4 of this packet.**

Performing Arts Academy (PAM):

Complete the application and submit required supporting documents if you are **not a current TUSD student zoned for Tracy High school**. All students interested in PAM **are required to take** a performing arts course.

International Baccalaureate (IB):

Complete the application and submit required supporting documents if you are **not a current TUSD student zoned for Tracy High School**. All students interested in IB **are required to take** Advanced English, Enhanced Biology and Spanish.

AG/Science (Ag/Sci):

All students, including those who are zoned for Tracy High School, need to complete the application and submit required supporting documents. All students interested in Ag/Sci **are required to take** Ag/sci Advanced English 9, Ag/Sci Geography and Biology (Pathway Specific)

Required Supporting Documents

- **All applicants:** Completed two-page **Academies Application** (*Pages 3 & 4*)
- **All applicants:** Middle school transcript, including grades 6–8
- **IB and Ag/Sci applicants:** Middle school standardized test scores
- **IB applicants:** IB Learner Profile essay (*Instructions on Page 5*)
- **Ag/Sci applicants:** 2 Letters of Recommendation from Current Teachers
  - Review and Sign Ag-Sci **Academy Policies** (*Page 7-8)*
- **PAM applicants:** Audition video (*Audition instructions on page 6*)
- **All applicants**: 504 Plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP), if applicable: If your student has a 504 Plan or IEP, please submit the most recent copy with the application. *Please note: All students accepted into the Ag/Sci or IB Academy are required to take advanced English classes.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION- DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026, BY 4:00 p.m.

Completed applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

- **Email (recommended):** Scan and email all required materials to valvarez@tusd.net Please include the student's full name in the email subject line. A confirmation email will be sent after the application is received.
- **In person:** Deliver the completed application to the box labeled **"Academy Applications"** in the Counseling Office, located in the "A" Building, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Applications are collected daily, and a confirmation email will be sent.

If you do not receive a confirmation email, please call the Academies Office at **209-830-3360, ext. 2080** to verify receipt.

IMPORTANT: HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION:

Applying to a Tracy High School academy is **not** the same as registering for high school.

- Current TUSD students must complete and submit the ninth-grade course selection form for their zoned high school. Please follow instructions provided by your School Counselor.
- Students who are **not** currently in TUSD, must complete the Aeries Online Enrollment (https://tracyusd.aeries.net/enrollment/) and submit all required documents to appropriate high school
- Students who are accepted into an academy and require a transfer will receive their acceptance notice along with a link to complete an **intradistrict transfer form**. Failure to complete required enrollment and transfer steps by the stated deadlines may affect academy enrollment. ***(see page 2 for additional registration information)***

Additional High School Registration Information

8th grade Students at Non TUSD Schools who are Zoned for Tracy High School

Students who are zoned to attend Tracy High School but do not currently attend a TUSD school (**Jefferson, Hawkins, Traina, St. Bernard's, or New Jerusalem**) should receive enrollment information in November or December.

Please complete the Aeries online enrollment process and submit the required documents to the Counseling Office at your student's home-zone high school.

Your registration may not be fully completed by the academy application deadline, but families should begin the process as early as possible.

Please also complete the Tracy High School ninth-grade Course Request Sheet. You may include a copy of the complete sheet with your student's academy application so a Tracy High School counselor can review your students' course preferences.

TUSD Students Zoned for a High School Other Than Tracy High

While awaiting an academy decision, complete the required registration and course selection steps for your student's home-zoned high school by that school's deadlines. Do not wait for an academy acceptance notice to begin this process.

If you experience an enrollment delay, contact the Academies Office for guidance.

Students Living Outside TUSD

Students who live outside Tracy Unified School District must apply for and receive approval for an **interdistrict transfer** from their home school district before enrolling in TUSD. (Families should obtain the Interdistrict Transfer Request form from their district of residence by visiting that district's website or contacting its district office).

Once the interdistrict transfer is approved, families must complete enrollment at Tracy High School as soon as possible so students can be placed in the appropriate classes.

Academy Notifications and Next Steps

Every applicant will receive an acceptance or nonacceptance notification by email and/or mail in mid-December or shortly after winter break.

If your student decides not to attend the academy, please notify the Academies Office promptly so the seat may be offered to another eligible student.

Questions or Enrollment Delays?

For school-zone or high school enrollment questions:
TUSD Student Services
209-830-3200, ext. 1600

For academy questions:
Vanessa Alvarez
Tracy High School Academies Office
209-830-3360, ext. 2080

TRACY HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES APPLICATION

Student Information and Academy Selection

Select the program to which you are applying. **Check one box only** and submit the required supporting documents for that program.

Select One	Program	Who Needs to Apply?
☐	Agriculture/Science Academy (Ag/Sci)	All interested incoming ninth-grade students must apply, including students who live within the Tracy High School attendance zone. This program requires a four-year commitment.
☐	International Baccalaureate (IB)	Students who live outside the Tracy High School attendance zone and are requesting a transfer to attend the IB program must apply.
☐	Performing Arts Magnet (PAM)	Students who live outside the Tracy High School attendance zone and are requesting a transfer to attend PAM must apply.

Student Information

Student
Legal Name: _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name
Legal name as it appears on your birth certificate/birth record/school record

Home Address: _____
Street Address City Zip Code

Mailing Address: _____
If different than above, Street Address City Zip Code

_____
Date of Birth **Student Email Address (please print clearly)**

_____
Current Middle/K-8 School **High School Zoned to Attend**

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

_____
Parent/Guardian #1 Name Address if different from student

_____
Parent/Guardian #1 Cell Phone Parent/Guardian #1 Email address

_____
Parent/Guardian #2 Name Address if different from student

_____
Parent/Guardian #2 Cell Phone Parent/Guardian #2 Email address

Is either parent/guardian a TUSD employee, circle **YES** or **NO**; if YES, which school/site: _____

TRACY HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIES APPLICATION

Ag/Science Applicants ONLY:

The Ag/Sci Academy requires a four-year commitment, beginning in ninth grade and continuing through twelfth grade. Admission is available only to incoming ninth-grade students.

Please select your preferred freshman science course**. Select one choice only**. While every effort will be made to honor student preferences, placement in the requested course cannot be guaranteed.

☐ **Course #3362: Enhanced Biology Academy**
Taught in the Science Department. This is an enhanced biology course.

☐ **Course #3106: Agriculture Biology**
Taught in the Agriculture Department. This course includes membership and participation in FFA (Future Farmers of America

International Baccalaureate (IB) Applicants ONLY:

Students attending Tracy High School on an IB transfer must enroll in the courses required for their grade level:

- Grade 9: Advanced English, Spanish 1 or Spanish 2, and Enhanced Biology.
- Grade 10: A minimum of three advanced or enhanced courses.
- Grades 11–12: A minimum of three IB classes each year. Students may select any three IB classes.

The IB program begins in the junior year. The required freshman and sophomore courses prepare students for the IB program.

Performing Arts Magnet (PAM) Applicants ONLY:

Please Indicate your preferred freshman Performing Arts Class, **Select one choice only**

- ☐ Concert Choir
- ☐ Concert Band
- ☐ Drama 1
- ☐ Orchestra
- ☐ Piano Keyboarding



Parent/Guardian Verification:

I, _____ (print your name) verify that the information on this application is true, accurate and complete and that Tracy High School will make Academy/program decisions based on the information I have provided. I will complete the high school registration process at our home zoned high school by the high school registration deadline. I understand that if I provide inaccurate information or misrepresent anything in this application my student can be disqualified from attendance at Tracy High School Academy Program.

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

IB Essay:

IB PROGRAM ONLY

Submit by email or drop off:

Completed application, transcript, test scores, and this essay.

Essay Directions

The IB Learner Profile describes qualities that IB students work to develop. You are **not expected to be strong in every area currently.**

Write a **250–500-word essay** that:

1. Identifies one or more of your strongest qualities and explains how they connect to the IB Learner Profile.
2. Identify one or more areas you would like to improve.
3. Explain how you plan to develop those qualities while attending Tracy High School and participating in IB.

Use specific examples from your experiences. Your essay should include a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, and should use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

IB Learner Profile

IB students strive to be:

- **Inquirers** -Curious, independent, and enthusiastic learners
- **Knowledgeable** -Explore ideas and issues of local and global importance
- **Thinkers** - Use critical and creative thinking to solve problems and make ethical decisions
- **Communicators** - Express ideas confidently and listen to others
- **Principled** -Act with integrity, honesty, fairness, and responsibility
- **Open-minded** - Respect different cultures, perspectives, and experiences
- **Caring** -Show empathy, compassion, respect, and commitment to service
- **Risk-takers** - Approach challenges with courage, resilience, and determination
- **Balanced** - Value intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being
- **Reflective** - Consider personal strengths, areas for growth, and learning experiences

Performing Arts Only

Performing Arts Academy

Audition, Application, and Transcript Required for transfer students

Students who live outside the Tracy High School attendance boundary must submit a Performing Arts Academy application, middle school transcript, and audition video.

Students who live within the Tracy High School attendance boundary do not need to apply to the Performing Arts Academy. Instead, they should select a performing arts course during the regular course-selection process.

If you have questions about the audition process or application requirements, please contact the THS Academies Office at 209-830-3360, extension 2080, or email Vanessa Alvarez at valvarez@tusd.net

Audition Registration and General Information:

- To complete your Performing Arts Academy Application, submit the following:
- A Completed Academy application
- A middle school transcript for 6-8th grade
- An audition video
- For band and orchestra applicants: a readable copy of the music performed in the audition video

Email your audition video and required music to:
Vanessa Alvarez, THS Academies Secretary
valvarez@tusd.net 209-830-3360, EXT 2080

Band and Orchestra Students:

Applicants must submit an audition video that includes:

1. One prepared musical selection of the students' choice. The selection should demonstrate the student's highest level of technical and expressive musicianship and must not exceed three minutes.

2. Two scales of the student's choice. Multiple octaves, extended range, challenging key signatures, and a variety of modes—including major and minor scales are encouraged.

3. A copy of the music performed for the prepared selection. The music must be submitted with the audition video so it can be used during the audition evaluation.

Piano Students:

Applicants must submit an audition video that includes:

1. **Two major scales**, performed either hands separately or hands together:
    - One scale in a sharp key
    - One scale in a flat key
2. One piano piece that demonstrates the student's current skill level and musical ability.

Choir Students:

Applicants must submit an audition video of one musical selection of their choice. The selection should demonstrate the student's highest level of vocal technique and expressive musicianship and must not exceed **three minutes.**

Theatre Students: Submit audition video that includes one memorized monologue

1. The monologue must be acted and must not exceed **two minutes**.
2. Begin with a brief introduction that includes:
    - Your name, Your current school, Your course level, if applicable, The name of the character, The title of the play, The name of the playwright.

3. You may include one sentence of important background information about the character or scene.

4. Props and costumes are not permitted.

AG/SCIENCE ONLY

Academy Policies

Being a student at the Ag/Science Academy is a privilege which comes with associated benefits. Some of these benefits include but are not limited to field trips, job shadowing, career exploration, special guest speakers and individualized focused attention to student needs; these are benefits not available to all students on campus. Since being in this program is a privilege with direct benefit to the students, the Academy has developed expectations of our students to support those that truly want to benefit from the program.

Academic Expectations and Consequences

To remain in the Agricultural-Scientific Academy, students must earn a grade of **C or higher** in all Academy classes on each semester's report card and remain on track for graduation. Students who earn a C in any Academy class may be placed on Academic Probation. Academic Probation consists of two steps:

Step 1: Initial Probation- The length of the initial probationary period will be determined by the date of the next official grading period. During Step 1, students must raise their grade(s) to a C or higher by the end of the probationary period or demonstrate significant, consistent progress toward earning a C or higher. Significant progress will be determined by steadily increasing grade percentages and evidence of improvement in the class.

Students who do not meet the requirements of Step 1 may be removed from the Academy.

Step 2: Success Monitoring- Students who successfully meet the conditions of Step 1 will move to Step 2: Success Monitoring. Their grades will be monitored for the remainder of the current semester. Students who maintain a C or higher, or continue to show academic improvement, may be released from Academic Probation at the end of the monitoring period. Students whose grades fall below a C or who do not maintain sufficient academic progress may be removed from the Academy.

Program Enrollment Expectations:

Students are expected to remain enrolled in the Agricultural-Scientific Academy through the end of their senior year. Exceptions may be considered under the following circumstances:

- The student was incorrectly placed in an Academy course.
- The student does not meet Academy academic expectations.
- The student does not complete required Academy assignments or program requirements.
- The student is not on track to meet graduation requirements.
- Other circumstances are approved by the Ag/Science Academy Coordinator and school administration.

Students who do not meet Academy academic expectations may be removed from the program at the end of the semester associated with the applicable grading period.

Student-Initiated Withdrawal

Students who wish to withdraw from the Academy must complete the following process:

- A parent/guardian must contact the Ag/Science Academy Coordinator by email or telephone to request that the withdrawal process begin.
- The student and parent/guardian must complete the Ag/Science Academy Drop Form.
- Students will generally be removed from the Academy at the end of the academic school year, unless an earlier removal is approved due to course placement, graduation needs, disciplinary concerns, or other extenuating circumstances.
- Students are expected to complete all Academy requirements for the current school year before withdrawal, unless otherwise determined by the Academy Coordinator and school administration.
- Requests for schedule changes or class changes will follow the procedures and timelines outlined in the Tracy High School Student Handbook.
- Students remain academically responsible for all enrolled courses and Academy requirements. Failure to complete required coursework or Academy assignments may affect course grades, graduation progress, and eligibility to participate in school activities, consistent with the Tracy High School Student Handbook.

Ag/Science Academy Required Assignments:

Students must complete all required Academy assignments, projects, presentations, and program activities by the established deadlines. Unless otherwise specified by the teacher or Ag/Science Academy Coordinator, late work will not be accepted and required Academy assignments must receive a grade of C or higher.

The following requirements do not include a probationary period. Failure to successfully complete or pass any of these requirements may result in removal from the Ag/Science Academy:

- Sophomore Project
- Junior Zero Period requirements
- Job Shadowing Request and Job Shadowing Report
- Project Research Paper
- Senior Project Portfolio and Senior Project Presentation

Failure to Pass requirements will be automatic removal from program

Behavioral Expectations and Consequences

In addition to the behavioral expectations and consequences outlined in the Tracy High School Student Handbook, the following Academy consequences may apply:

- **First Offense:** Warning and/or referral; parent/guardian contact or meeting may be required. (**Policy continued**)

(Behavior Expectations and consequences continued)

- **Second Offense:** Referral; meeting with the student and parent/guardian; placement on Academy probation; and/or restriction from attending an Academy field trip or activity.
- **Continued or Serious Offenses:** Removal from the Ag/Science Academy may occur based on the severity or frequency of the behavior.

*Serious incidents, including violence, fighting, bullying, harassment, threats, or conduct that creates an unsafe environment, may result in immediate removal from the Academy without progressing through the steps listed above.

Field Trips: Field trips are a required co-curricular component of the Ag/Science Academy program. Students must attend the full trip and follow all school, district, and Academy expectations.

- Students may not leave the field trip early for athletic practice.
- Requests to leave early for an official athletic competition may be considered case by case.
- Students who are at school but do not attend a required field trip will receive a zero for the related assignment; no alternate assignment will be provided.
- Students absent due to illness, or another documented extenuating circumstance must provide a clear absence from the Attendance Office or a doctor's note to be eligible for an alternate assignment.
- To attend a field trip, students must earn a C or higher in their Academy classes during the most recent grading period before permission slips are due.
- Students who are academically ineligible will be assigned an alternate assignment.

Academic Honesty Expectations and Consequences

Academy students are expected to submit work that represents their own effort, understanding, and ability. All students must follow the academic-honesty expectations outlined in the Tracy High School Student Handbook.
In addition to school consequences, the following Academy consequences may apply:

- **First Offense:** The student will receive a zero for the assignment, be placed on Academic Probation within the Academy, and have their parent/guardian notified by the teacher. A conference will be scheduled with the student, parent/guardian, and Ag/Science Academy Coordinator.
- **Second Offense:** The student will receive a zero for the assignment and will be removed from the Ag/Science Academy.

NOTE* Students who are removed from the Academy and attend Tracy High School on an intra-district or inter-district transfer may be returned to their school of residence, in accordance with district transfer policies.

Academic Honesty Clarifications

Cheating includes dishonest behavior, violating assignment or testing rules, using unauthorized resources, copying another student's work, or allowing another student to copy your work.

Plagiarism is using another person's ideas, writing, research, or work without giving proper credit.

Students may work with classmates only when the teacher allows collaboration. Even when discussion or idea-sharing is permitted, each student must submit work that represents their own understanding and effort. Submitting identical or copied work may be considered cheating and/or plagiarism and may result in the consequences listed above.

These expectations also apply to artificial intelligence (AI). Students may use AI only when the teacher specifically authorizes it and must follow all directions for its use.

*These policies apply for the student's entire time in the Ag/Science Academy, from **ninth grade through senior year**, unless the student withdraws from or is removed from the program.*

*By signing below, the student and parent/guardian confirm they **have read and understand the Academy policies, expectations, and consequences.***

Student Printed Name:	Student Signature	Date
Parent Printed Name:	Parent Signature	Date