



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions About the Academy Model at Christian County High School

Q What are the features of the academy model?

- The academy model features small learning communities (schools within schools) where teachers and students get to know each other over the course of three years. Relationships between teachers and students foster engagement, trust, and attendance.
- Students learn within a career pathway that interests them throughout their high school experience.
- Students learn in an academy along with students in the same program for 3 years (10th, 11th, 12th grades).
- Students will have opportunities to work with real-world professionals through a variety of work-based learning opportunities, like the Career Expo, industry tours, the Professionalism Fair, and co-op.
- The academy model offers rigorous coursework like Advanced Placement and dual credit to support their pathway and post-secondary goals.

Q How is this model different & beneficial for students?

- The Academy model combines most of the relevant coursework a student will need to satisfy their graduation requirements, as well as their pathway courses, in one area of the building. The core (English, math, social studies, and science) courses incorporate content from the associated Academy topics to make learning relevant.
- The A/B block schedule offers students the opportunity to dive deeper into curriculum and content, as well as take more “global” classes to explore and deepen knowledge, while keeping classes electives like Advanced Placement, music, language, the arts, PE, etc.
- Longer class periods offer opportunities for teachers and students to work cross-curricularly with other teachers and academies to implement more Project Based Learning (PBL).
- Longer class periods offer opportunities to engage with business partners, in and out of school, and to learn and experience real-world applications to curriculum and theory.
- A focus on real-world learning experiences that can not be replicated in a classroom results in all students having the opportunity to earn industry recognized credentials, and college credit that pertains to their preferred future pathway.

Q What are the four dedicated academies at CCHS?



THE ACADEMY OF
**FRESHMAN
SUCCESS**



THE ACADEMY OF
**AGRICULTURE &
SKILLED TRADES**



THE ACADEMY OF
**BUSINESS,
ENGINEERING, &
MANUFACTURING**



THE ACADEMY OF
**HEALTH &
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

FAQ

Q How is this model different & beneficial for parents?

- Each academy functions as a smaller learning community with a dedicated principal, counselor and office staff. This structure allows staff to develop meaningful relationships with students, including their goals, strengths, needs, and future plans, leading to better communications with parents and a stronger support system for students.
- Students take academy classes that are interesting and relevant. Research shows that when students are more engaged in their learning, attendance increases and discipline referrals decrease, creating a more positive school experience for students and families.
- Smaller learning communities create a more connected and supervised environment where students are known by name, concerns are identified earlier, and parents can feel confident their child is seen, supported, and supervised.

Q What is the Academy of Freshman Success purpose and benefits?

- Within this academy, four teams work together to foster teamwork, belonging and success. Teachers team to ensure no student slips through the cracks. The Academy of Freshman Success is an excellent way to introduce students to high school life and help prepare them for success.
- There is ongoing college and career exploration that eases an academy pathway choice each spring.
- This academy includes all state curriculum standards along with embedded Profile of a Graduate soft skills, as well as a Seminar class to hone interpersonal, communication, and social skills.

Q How do you expect a 14-year-old to pick what they want to do in life?

- We don't. We want them to explore and experience as much as possible in high school so they can make informed choices about their post-high school futures, and wisely allocate their (your) time and money.

Q Can a student change a pathway or academy?

- Yes, at the end of their 9th-grade year, students can elect to change their pathway one time.

Q What if my student does not want to attend college?

- While the traditional high school model has typically been designed to benefit students who want to go to college, the academy model is designed to serve ALL students through multiple opportunities to support entry into the workforce or military.

Q Does being in an academy limit my student's elective options?

- No, we encourage students to explore as many interests as possible. Student will have ample opportunity to participate in elective coursework and extracurricular activities.

Q What if my student is enrolling in CCHS as a 10th, 11th or 12th grader?

- Conversations will take place with the student, family, and CCHS counselor to identify the student's interests and passions. Using that information and existing transcripts, the student will be placed into the correct academy.