

## **Frequently Asked Questions about CMCSS College and Career Academies**

### ***Is the academy for college preparation only?***

The academy supports career and college-ready experiences. Integrated experiences within each academy will foster the critical thinking skills necessary for future success.

### ***How does graduating from an academy improve a student's quality of life?***

Research findings indicate that eight years after high school graduation, academy graduates produce sustained earning gains that average 11 percent higher in comparison to students who didn't graduate from an academy.

### ***What other benefits do students receive when joining an academy?***

Research shows that academy students in grades 10-12 have better attendance, earn more credits, and are more likely to graduate than comparison groups. Also, 55 percent of academy graduates compared to 22 percent of non-academy graduates are expected to complete their bachelor's degree or higher.

### ***Who can apply for an academy?***

Any zoned CMCSS 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who is scheduled to be a freshman in 2017-2018 or any out of zone 8<sup>th</sup> grade student with documentation stating he or she will be moving into zone for the 2017-2018 school year.

### ***How does a student apply for an academy?***

Attendance at an Academy Parent Information Night is highly recommended. Please contact your child's 8<sup>th</sup> grade school counselor for information. Information about CMCSS College and Career Academies will be presented at the meetings; opportunities to interact with current academy teachers and students will follow after information session. Applications will be available at the Academy Parent Information Night, the guidance office of all CMCSS middle and high schools, and on the CMCSS website. Applicants must turn applications in to their middle school counselor by February 3, 2017.

### ***What is the application criterion for academies?***

The application criterion for an academy is purely based on student interest. However, due to the mathematical demands of the standards in the Computer Information Technology Academy (CITA), students applying to CITA should have demonstrated strong mathematical skills in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be successful.

### ***Once a student has applied, what process is followed for selection?***

Each academy has a maximum capacity of 75 students, 50 seats are reserved for the zoned feeder school and the remaining 25 seats are reserved for out of zone applicants. If an academy has more than 75 applicants, a lottery will be held to determine the selection of students. Students and parents will be notified of their selection status between February 8-10, 2017 and orientation/registration sessions for the academy will be begin soon after.

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### ***If a student is not selected for the academy will he or she still have a chance to attend?***

Each academy will maintain a wait list until at least April 14, 2017. If other students who were selected choose not to register, the academy will contact students on the wait list.

### ***What is the withdrawal policy if a student changes his or her mind about attending the academy?***

It is critical that a student who applies for an academy does so based on his or her interest in the college and career theme of the academy. The only time a student can withdraw from an academy is at the end of a semester. If a student withdraws from an academy, he or she must return to his or her zoned high school.

### ***What if a student is admitted to the academy but decides he or she no longer wants to take the academy pathway classes?***

If students are attending the academy out of zone, they must be enrolled in academy pathway classes to remain at the school of choice. If the student at the end of a semester decides to enroll in classes that are not aligned with the academy pathway, he or she will be withdrawn from the academy and asked to return to his or her zoned high school.

### ***If a student decides to withdraw from an academy, will his or her graduation status be affected?***

Each student must earn a minimum of 3 credits in the specific focused elective group he or she has chosen. Since elective courses and programs vary from school to school, a student may not be able to complete his original focused elective requirements when changing schools. In such instances, the student would be asked to select a new focused elective group and would be required to complete 3 credits from that new group.

### ***If a student didn't belong to an academy as a freshman, can he or she apply to an academy as a sophomore?***

If the total number of seats for an academy is not full, a student may apply to an academy to start his or her sophomore year. The student may be required to complete a co-requisite class in order to complete the academy pathway. He or she would also need to confer with a school counselor to confirm that all graduation requirements could be met within the three remaining years of high school if he or she joined the academy.

### ***If a student decides to withdraw from an academy, will that affect his or her ability to compete in sports?***

Once a student has been accepted to an academy he or she is now considered a member of that school. If a student chooses to practice or play on a school sports team and then leave the Academy, the student should speak with the Athletic Director about eligibility rules for transfer students before withdrawing as he or she must follow the existing transfer or hardship policies established by the TSSAA. See the TSSAA website <http://www.tssaa.org/> for further clarification.



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### ***What transportation options are available if a student chooses an academy not offered at his/her zoned school?***

Parents are responsible for transportation to the Academy if it is located outside of the student's zoned school. In an effort to provide limited, sustainable transportation options, we have established bus transportation partnerships as follows: students may travel between KHS and WCHS, MCHS and CHS, NEHS and RHS, NWHS and WCHS, and NWHS and KHS. If interested in the partnered bus transportation option, a parent or guardian would fill out a transportation form during Academy orientation/registration process. Bus routes will be discontinued at the end of the 2018-2019 school year between NWHS and WCHS.

### ***How will a student's schedule be affected if he or she opts to utilize the out-of-zone bus transportation?***

Due to the timing of bus transportation for students attending out of zone Academies, students riding the bus back to their zoned school cannot attend a full 7<sup>th</sup> period class. Because students only need to earn 22 credit hours to complete their high school diploma, a six-period schedule will suffice for graduation requirements. However, most college admission requirements expect more than 22 credits. As a result, students utilizing out-of-zone bus transportation will have the option to complete one online course per year. When completing the out-of-zone transportation form, please review the online options with Academy counselor.

### ***If a student is currently homeschooled or attending a private school in Clarksville, can he or she apply to a CMCSS Academy?***

A student who is not currently enrolled in a CMCSS school, but lives in Clarksville may apply to an Academy if he or she submits the CMCSS registration paperwork at the same time as completing the Academy application.

### ***If a student is a military dependent currently living outside of Clarksville with orders to be stationed in Clarksville for the coming school year, can he or she apply to a CMCSS Academy?***

A student who is a military dependent living out of zone can apply to a CMCSS Academy if he or she submits, with the application, official documentation stating that the student's parent will be making a PCS move to Ft. Campbell.