



Frequently Asked Questions for CMCSS at TCAT Students and Parents

For which CMCSS classes will I be registered?

You will be registered for the classes you need to meet the CMCSS graduation requirements and your intended plans after high school graduation. Your classes will take place through Connections Academy, an online learning platform. We will have training on the ways to access and use Connections during our first few days of school.

What is Connections Academy?

Connections Academy combines the best online and offline resources from leading educational publishers and curriculum specialists to deliver comprehensive, high-quality K–12 online education. Students will have weekly assignments through Connections that have been created and uploaded by Connections Academy instructors. Students will use the online format of courses to explore and master the content of all required classes that may including English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and/or elective classes.

What if I need help with my Connections classes?

Each Connections course is facilitated by a Connections Academy instructor. These instructors will share contact information with you so that you may contact them when questions or misunderstandings arise. Mr. Bedell should also be made aware of concerns with the content or functionality of Connections classes as soon as they are encountered. Mr. Bedell will work to find additional individualized assistance for you as needed.

Can I work on Connections from home?

Yes. You can work on Connections from anywhere you have an internet connection and a laptop.

What happens if I finish my assigned Connections classes before the end of the semester?

Next steps for early finishers will be determined on a case by case basis. You, Mr. Bedell, your high school counselor, and your parents/guardians will all be a part of this conversation and decision making process. There may be options to begin other CMCSS classes required for graduation, attend additional hours of TCAT classes, or depending on transportation options and TCAT class schedules, apply for late arrival or early dismissal.

What happens if I fail a Connections class?

Keeping up with your assigned tasks on a weekly basis, answering emails from your instructors, and asking for help when confusions arise should prevent you from failing. You will have weekly progress check-ins with Mr. Bedell, and your parents/guardians may be notified if adequate

progress is not being made. Students who continue to struggle even with assistance will be counseled about options for next steps.

Can parents track their student’s progress in Connections?

Yes. Parents will receive their own login information that will allow them track their student’s progress.

Will my Connections’ grades show up in PowerSchool?

No. Connections grades can only be tracked through the Connections Academy platform. At the end of the semester, final grades from Connections will be uploaded into PowerSchool and recorded on student transcripts.

Will I get progress reports?

You will not receive the traditional CMCSS progress reports that other students have printed and take home. However, you will meet with Mr. Bedell on a weekly basis to discuss your progress. Mr. Bedell will contact your parents/guardians if adequate progress is not being made.

Will I get a report card at the end of the first nine weeks?

No. Connections grades can only be tracked through the Connections Academy platform. At the end of the semester, final grades from Connections will be uploaded into PowerSchool and recorded on student transcripts. Parents can track student progress at any time through Connections using their own unique log-ins.

What state tests will I have to take? Do I take those at TCAT?

In April, you will be required to take any TNReady EOCs associated with your course schedule. For most juniors, this will include Algebra II and US History. For most seniors, there are not TNReady EOCs. Any required TNReady EOCs can be taken at the TCAT.

Seniors will have the opportunity to retake the ACT in October. Juniors will be required to take the ACT in March. Students taking the ACT will need to do so at their zoned school. Transportation needs for students taking the ACT will be discussed closer to testing times.

What if I don’t like TCAT and want to return to my home school?

Share your concerns with Mr. Bedell. Together you can work to determine the best next steps.

Will I get a TCAT diploma and a CMCSS diploma?

No. You will graduate with a CMCSS diploma only. You will have the opportunity to earn industry certifications from the TCAT, but you will need to continue your enrollment at the TCAT after high school in order to earn a TCAT diploma. Graduating as a CMCSS student in good standing at the TCAT, and submitting an enrollment application by March 2019, will permit you to continue in the TCAT program upon CMCSS graduation.

If I have requested transportation, what time will my bus pick me up and where?

This information will be shared with individual students prior to the start of the school year.

How do I let the bus driver know if I plan to be absent from school?

This information will be shared with individual students prior to the start of the school year.

When will I get my books/supplies/uniform?

Books and supplies will be distributed to students within the first few weeks of school. Many of the TCAT books will be in an electronic format and accessible to students on their CMCSS laptops. You will be sized for uniforms as part of the TCAT orientation on August 13. Uniforms usually take about a month to arrive.

Do I have to wear my uniform every day?

Once uniforms have been distributed, students will be expected to wear their uniforms as follows:

Diesel Powered Equipment students: Every day

HVAC and Pharmacy Tech: Monday through Thursday

Industrial Electrical Maintenance/Mechatronics: No uniform requirement

What is the attendance policy for this program?

CMCSS attendance policies apply to Early Technical College students. Attendance in TCAT classes is required with little tolerance for truancy.

Which calendar do I follow?

Students will follow the traditional CMCSS calendar of days (please refer to the TCAT Early Technical Program calendar included in your packet), but the expected hours of attendance will be 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

What happens on snow days?

Students will be notified of the schedule by School Messenger if CMCSS schools have a delayed opening for weather. These will be addressed on an individual basis dependent on the length of delay and weather conditions.

Students will be dismissed and transportation provided for those students using CMCSS transportation if CMCSS schools have an early dismissal for weather.

If CMCSS schools are cancelled students will not report to the TCAT.

Do I come to school on CMCSS half days?

No. Students will not report to TCAT on CMCSS half days (Aug 6, Dec 20, and May 22). Attendance at the TCAT orientation and full days in place of early release days will account for these hours.

Do I come to school on CMCSS early release days?

Yes. Students attending the TCAT will attend a full day of TCAT classes (10:30-5:30) on CMCSS early release days (Aug 31, Dec 7, and March 1).

What if I need to leave campus early or arrive late?

Communicate with Mr. Bedell and let him know what your situation is if you will be arriving late or leaving early. For early dismissals, provide a written note from a parent or guardian to Mr. Bedell

who will follow up with a phone call to verify the information. Provide documentation for all absences to Mr. Bedell to qualify for an excused absence. Attendance is extremely important.

Will there be an open house or parent-teacher conferences that follow the CMCSS calendar?

The initial open house will take place on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 6:00PM on the TCAT campus. No other formal parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled. However, anytime a parent has a concern about his or her child's CMCSS at TCAT experience, the parent should contact Mr. Bedell, by emailing hal.bedell@cmcss.net.

What does my daily schedule look like?

10:30-11:00	Class meeting, ACT Prep, counseling, Naviance, etc
11:00-11:30	Lunch
11:30-2:30	HVAC, Pharmacy Tech, Industrial Electrical Maintenance/Mechatronics TCAT classes CMCSS/Connections online for Diesel Powered Equipment Tech students
2:30-5:30	Diesel Powered Equipment Tech TCAT classes CMCSS/Connections online for HVAC, Pharmacy Tech, Industrial Electrical Maintenance/Mechatronics students

Will lunch be provided for me if I qualify for free/reduced lunch?

Lunch can be provided for free/reduced lunch students.

Can I purchase a school lunch if I do not qualify for free/reduced lunch?

Any student can purchase school-made lunch. However, students will be required to order and pay for school-made lunch a day in advance. Mr. Bedell will share further information about how to order and pay for lunch closer to the start of the

Can I leave campus for lunch?

No. Students are only allotted 30 minutes for lunch. As such, there is not enough time for students to leave campus and safely return before the start of their classes.

Is there a refrigerator? Is there a microwave?

Both a refrigerator and a microwave are available for student use.