



Signature Academy

A stylized curricular approach, unique to each high school, which represents the school's identity, culture and intent; reflects local and national industry demand; integrates academic concepts with technical skill acquisition; and prepares students for college and career success.

What are Signature Academies?

Signature Academies are four-year themed high school programs that help students jump-start their future. These courses of study provide a rigorous, applied curriculum that includes opportunities to earn college credit and industry certifications, gain 21st century skills, and develop connections between school and the real world. Themed programs are offered in the following focus areas:

<p>Agricultural Science & Natural Resources Areas of focus include animal science, horticulture, wildlife management, environmental management, and engineering. Schools: AACT HS, North Valleys HS</p>	<p>Business & Marketing Areas of focus include project management, entrepreneurial development, marketing and public relations. Schools: AACT HS</p>
<p>Engineering & Manufacturing Areas of focus include civil, environmental, mechanical, agricultural, manufacturing, energy technologies and pre- engineering preparation with a focus on science, technology & math. Schools: AACT HS, Galena HS, North Valleys HS, Reed HS, Sparks HS</p>	<p>Information Technology, Media & Communications Areas of focus include technical and computer sciences, graphic communication, game development, web design, networking, journalism/public relations, and video production. Schools: AACT HS, Reno HS, Spanish Springs HS, Sparks HS</p>
<p>Global Studies Areas of focus include economics, world politics, foreign language, international diplomacy and fine arts. Schools: McQueen HS</p>	<p>Human Services Areas of focus include education, culinary/baking & nutrition, and human development. Schools: AACT HS, Hug HS, Reed HS</p>
<p>Health Sciences Areas of focus include pre-medicine, biomedical research, sports injuries, kinesiology and emergency medicine. Schools: AACT HS, Hug HS, Reed HS, Spanish Springs HS</p>	<p>International Baccalaureate Areas of focus include critical thinking, intercultural understanding and global engagement through a broad range of academics and experiences. Schools: Wooster HS</p>
<p>Performing Arts Areas of focus include the development of creativity and excellence through dance, instrumental music, choir and theater. Schools: Damonte Ranch HS</p>	<p>For more information about these programs, please visit: www.washoeschools.net/SACTE or email: SACTE@washoeschools.net</p>

Who Can Participate in Signature Academies?

Signature Academies are for HS students who have an interest in Career Technical Education and the Academy theme. Students enter the program in 9th grade and complete a four-year program of study, which may include industry tours, job shadows, and internship opportunities. In each school, 75% of the available openings are dedicated to students who live in that school zone. Up to 25% of the available openings are reserved for students who live in other school zones. The exception to this rule is AACT, which has no school zone and accepts students from all over the school district.

How Do You Get Involved in Signature Academies?

Students wishing to participate in a Signature Academy must apply for admission in the fall of their 8th grade year and should demonstrate some basic qualifications. For Signature Academies where qualified applicants outnumber available spaces, a random lottery process will be used for enrolling students. Applications will be available on-line within the application window at <http://washoeschools.net/Page/2256>. Specific dates can be found on the program insert included within this guide.

Qualifications for Signature Academy Eligibility

Eligibility for enrollment in a Signature Academy is based on qualifications set by WCSD that demonstrate a student's commitment to academic success, and these are determined by an average of performance in the 7th and 8th grade year. Information to determine eligibility will be taken from WCSD Infinite Campus records; for students not currently enrolled in WCSD, applicants must provide 7th and 8th grade transcripts, behavior records, attendance records, and their most recent standardized test results in Math and Reading to the Signatures & CTE Department.

It is recommended that students are qualified in EACH of the following areas to be eligible for enrollment*:

- GPA: Recommended 2.0 overall GPA in core classes (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies); failing grades are not recommended
- Standardized Test Scores: Recommended "Meets Standard" on standardized tests taken in 7th and 8th grade
- Attendance: Regular school attendance (a minimum 90% is recommended)
- Self-Management: Demonstration of appropriate self-management abilities (no behavior incidents which involved injury to another person, distribution of drugs, or weapons)

**Students who are found ineligible based on the qualifications above may request a review of the decision by contacting the WCSD SACTE Department within 45 calendar days of the ineligibility notification mailing date. The full process for requesting this review can be found at www.washoeschools.net/Page/2256 in the Policies & Procedures document (page 4 & 5).*

Invitation to Attend a Signature Academy

Students who submit a complete application and are found to be qualified will either be invited to attend an Academy or entered into a lottery if the number of qualified applicants exceeds available space.

Signature Understandings and Variance Requirements

All students receiving an invitation to attend a Signature Academy must agree to and sign the Understandings of Acceptance and Attendance in order to confirm their acceptance of an Academy spot. Additionally, students residing outside of the zone of attendance for the Academy to which they confirm acceptance must sign the Signature Variance form, agreeing to abide by the conditions associated with the variance, and may be required to meet with school administration before Academy acceptance is finalized. All students are provisionally accepted, dependent upon their final grades, attendance, credit accrual, and behavior for the semester prior to entering a Signature Academy.

Transportation

Transportation is only available for the two WCSD Signature Schools - Wooster HS and Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (AACT). Students accepted to these schools can access busing from/to stops at the HS nearest their home, as well as Cold Springs Middle School and Pleasant Valley Elementary School. Parents must provide transportation to the bus pick up and drop off location, as schedules will not overlap to allow for door-to-door service. Students accepted at all other WCSD Signature Academies are responsible for their own transportation to/from the school. No transportation will be provided.

Athletic Participation

Students accepted at the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) are eligible to participate in athletics at their zoned HS only. Students accepted to all other schools are eligible to participate in athletics at that school. Students who do not reside in the school zone of the Signature Academy will enter on a Signature Variance which will allow them to participate in any NIAA sanctioned sport offered at that school (NAC 386.787) at any level other than varsity for the first year. In the event that the Signature Variance is revoked or a student opts to leave the Signature Academy during HS and returns to his/her zoned school, the student will lose athletic eligibility for the remainder of that school year and for an additional 180 school days (for any sport in which the student's name appeared on a varsity NIAA roster NAC 386.786).

Attendance is a Privilege

The privilege of attending a Signature Academy is revocable and is extended on a yearly basis. After the student's first year of entry, enrollment will continue from year to year at the discretion of the Signature Academy's principal, provided the student continues to meet the minimum qualifications for enrollment.

WCSD Signature Academy & CTE Guide

Signature Academies are offered in most WCSD high schools. Each school offers a different themed focus area to meet the needs of the students and community. Visit www.washoeschools.net/sacte for more information. Most high schools have CTE pathways which are available for students who attend that school.



High School	Signature Academy Name	Signature Programs (Only open for students who apply)	Other Career Programs (Open to any student)
Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology High School (AACT HS)	Business Communication Arts & Media Culinary & Hospitality Education & Training Engineering Medical Careers Natural Resources & Animal Science	High School of Business Graphic Design, Video Productions Baking & Pastry, Culinary Arts Teaching & Training Manufacturing Technologies, Welding Technologies Emergency Medical Technician Greenhouse Management, Veterinary Science, Agriculture Business	Computer Science
Damonte Ranch High School	Performing Arts Center (PAC)	Dance, Theater Tech, Instrumental Music (Orchestra & Band), Choir	Computer Science, Foods & Nutrition, Military Science
Galena High School	STEM Academy	Project Lead the Way: Aerospace & Environmental Sustainability Engineering	Computer Science, Construction Technology, Foods & Nutrition, Metalworking, Military Science
Hug High School	Health and Human Services Academy	Human Services (Human Development, Baking & Pastry) Medical Careers (Sports Medicine)	Computer Science, Military Science, Web Design
McQueen High School	Global Studies Academy	Fine Arts (Visual Art, Music) International Studies (World Languages)	Automotive Technology, Baking, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Human Development, Manufacturing, Military Science
North Valleys High School	Center for Agricultural Science & Engineering (CASE)	Agricultural Engineering (Drafting & Design, Diesel Technology, Mechanical Engineering) Agriculture Resource Management (Greenhouse Management)	Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Graphic Design, Military Science
Reed High School	Enterprise Project	Biomedical Studies Civil & Environmental Engineering (Automotive Technology, Energy Technologies, Manufacturing Technologies, Metalworking) Human Services Human Development	Foods & Nutrition, Military Science
Reno High School	Red House Project	Animation, Computer Science, Graphic Design, Video Productions	Civil Engineering, Sports Medicine, Military Science
Spanish Springs High School	Spanish Springs Academy	C3 Media (Animation, Graphic Design, Photography, Video Productions, Web Design) Sports Medicine	Automotive Technology, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Foods & Nutrition, Military Science, Teaching & Training
Sparks High School	Tech Science and Manufacturing	Manufacturing & Construction Tech (Web Design)	Computer Science, Foods & Nutrition, Military Science, Multimedia Communications
Wooster High School	International Baccalaureate	IB Diploma Programme IB Career-related Programme (Energy Technologies) IB Middle Years Programme	Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Landscape Design & Management, Metalworking, Military Science, Multimedia Communications

Application Instructions and Timeline

Applications should be completed on-line by going to www.washoeschools.net/Page/2256.

Round 1 Application Due Date: January 1, 2021

*Applications will be accepted in 3 Rounds until all spots are filled.

Round 1: November 15th – January 1st

Round 2: February 15th – March 15th

Round 3: April 1st – 2 weeks before start of new school year

*Applicants must be current 8th graders entering 9th grade in 2021-22

*Completed applications must include the following in order to be processed:

- Completed demographics information
- Understanding (by reading and checking the box) the Signature Academy Agreements
- One Signature Academy Choice (if sibling also attends same Academy, sibling name must be provided)
- Completed statement that explains why student wants to be part of a Signature Academy

***Please ensure that all portions of the application are received by January 15, 2021.**

Applications received after this date will not be processed until after the close of Round 2 of applications, which will be April 1, 2020 and qualified students could be placed at the bottom of a wait list for their Signature Academy request.

Round 1 Processing Timeline

November 15th: Applications available on-line

January 1st: Applications due by midnight

First Week of February: Letter of eligibility/ineligibility sent home

Damonte Ranch PAC Auditions – Dates to be determined

By end of February: Round 1 Letters of Acceptance sent home

Note: If you do not have access to the Internet to complete an online application, please return all forms and supplementary materials through one of the following methods:

- *Fax to 775-861-1299 OR
- *Submit to your current school counselor (must be received in the Signature Office by the deadline) OR
- *By mail to: Washoe County Signature Academy Applications
380 Edison Way, Suite 101, Reno NV 89502

If you have any questions about how to fill out the application, please call 327-3945 prior to submitting your application.