



*Signatures* & **CTE**  
EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

**INSPIRED** and **CONNECTED**

**SIGNATURE ACADEMY  
PROGRAM GUIDE  
2023-2024**



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and develop connections between school and the real world. Themed programs are offered in the following focus areas:

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

**\*Students will start at AACT HS in School Year 2022-23 then transition to Debbie Smith Career & Technical Academy High School in School Year 2025-26.**

## 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.

# 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/signatures](http://www.washoeschools.net/signatures) 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)	<b>Animal &amp; Plant Sciences*</b>  Business  Communication Arts & Media  Culinary & Hospitality  Teaching & Training  <b>Engineering*</b>  Medical Careers  *Students will transition to Debbie Smith HS in SY 2025-26	<b>Animal &amp; Plant Systems (dual program)*</b>  High School of Business  Graphic Design, Video Production  Culinary Arts  Teaching & Training  <b>Engineering*</b>  Emergency Medical Technician	Computer Science
Damonte Ranch High School	Performing Arts Center (PAC)	Dance, Theatre Tech, Instrumental Music (Orchestra & Band), Choir	Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Military Science
Galena High School	STEM Academy	Project Lead the Way: Environmental Sustainability Engineering	Building & Construction Technology, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Metalworking, Military Science
Hug High School	Health and Human Services Academy	<b>Human Services</b> <i>(Culinary Arts, Human &amp; Social Services)</i> <b>Medical Careers</b> <i>(Sports Medicine)</i>	Computer Science, Manufacturing Technologies, Military Science
McQueen High School	Culinary Arts Academy	<b>Culinary Arts</b>	Building & Construction Technology, Community Health Science, Computer Science, Military Science
North Valleys High School	Center for Agricultural Science & Engineering (CASE)	<b>Agricultural Engineering</b> <i>(Agricultural Mechanics, Diesel Technology, Drafting &amp; Design)</i> <b>Agriculture Resource Management</b> <i>(Animal &amp; Plant Systems – double-program)</i>	Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Military Science
Reed High School	Enterprise Project	<b>Biomedical Studies</b> <b>Civil &amp; Environmental Engineering</b> <i>(Automotive Technology, Energy Technologies, Manufacturing Technologies, Metalworking)</i> <b>Human Services</b> <i>(Human &amp; Social Services)</i>	Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Military Science
Reno High School	Red House Project	<b>Computer Science, Graphic Design, Video Production</b>	Civil Engineering, Military Science, Sports Medicine
Spanish Springs High School	Spanish Springs Academy	<b>C3 Media</b> <i>(Graphic Design, Multimedia Communications, Video Production, Web Design)</i> <b>Sports Medicine</b>	Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Military Science, Teaching & Training
Sparks High School	Tech Science and Manufacturing	<b>Manufacturing, Building &amp; Construction Technology</b>	Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Military Science
Wooster High School	International Baccalaureate	<b>IB Diploma Programme</b> <b>IB Career-related Programme</b> <i>(Energy Technologies)</i> <b>IB Middle Years Programme</b>	Building & Construction Technology, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Metalworking, Military Science, Multimedia Communications, Plant Systems



## ***Application Instructions and Timeline***

Applications should be completed on-line by going to [www.washoeschools.net/signatures](http://www.washoeschools.net/signatures).

### **Application Due Date: January 15, 2023**

Application Available: November 15<sup>th</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup>

\*Late applications will be accepted in 2 additional rounds until all spots are filled. All portions of the application must be submitted to be processed.

Late Application Round 2: February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>

Late Application Round 3: April 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>

\*Applicants must be current 8<sup>th</sup> graders entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2023-24

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

- Completed demographics information
- Signature Academy Agreements (by reading and checking the box)
- Signature Academy Program choice(s) (you may choose up to 3 programs of interest)

### **Application Processing Timeline**

- *November 15<sup>th</sup>* - Applications available online
- *January 15<sup>th</sup>* - Applications due by midnight (PST)
- *By February 8<sup>th</sup> (by 5pm)* - Notification of eligibility/ineligibility sent out through email
- *By February 10<sup>th</sup> (by 5pm)* - Notification of acceptance or waitlist status sent out through email

**Note:** If you do not have access to the Internet to complete an online application, please contact your school counselor for assistance.

If you have any questions about how to fill out the application, please call 775-327-3945 OR email [SignaturePrograms@washoeschools.net](mailto:SignaturePrograms@washoeschools.net) prior to submitting your application.

## ***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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 online within the application window at [www.washoeschools.net/signatures](http://www.washoeschools.net/signatures). 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Information to determine eligibility will be taken from WCSD Infinite Campus records; for students not currently enrolled in WCSD, applicants must provide 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 date. The full process for requesting this review can be found at [www.washoeschools.net/signatures](http://www.washoeschools.net/signatures) in the Policies & Procedures document (pgs. 4 & 5).*

## ***Signature Variance Requirements***

Students who have been accepted to a Signature Academy outside of their zoned high school must complete a 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.



**Signature Academies & CTE Department**

**380 Edison Way, Suite 101**

**Reno, NV 89502**

**PH: 775-327-3945**

**Fax: 775-861-1299**

**[www.washoeschools.net/sacte](http://www.washoeschools.net/sacte)**

**[SACTE@washoeschools.net](mailto:SACTE@washoeschools.net)**

