



## Signature Academies & Career Technical Education



- ***What is a Signature Academy?***
  - A Signature Academy is a specialized high school program that focuses on a career path and/or area of study.
  - Signature Academies are offered at most high schools in WCSD.
  - Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade can apply to attend a Signature Academy at any high school in the District based on their personal interests.



# Signature Academies in WCSD

- **\*Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology**
  - Business, Communication Arts & Media, Culinary & Hospitality, Education & Training, Medical Careers, Natural Resources & Animal Science
- **Damonte Ranch** – Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- **Galena** – STEM Academy (Aerospace & Environmental Engineering)
- **Hug** – Health & Human Services (Sports Medicine, Baking, Human Development)
- **McQueen** – Global Studies & Fine Arts
- **North Valleys** – Center for Agricultural Science & Engineering (CASE)
- **Reed** – Enterprise Project (Biomedical, Engineering & Human Services)
- **Reno** – Red House Project (Communication Arts & Media)
- **Spanish Springs** – C3 Media & Sports Medicine
- **Sparks** – Tech Science & Manufacturing
- **\*Wooster** – International Baccalaureate (IB)



- ***Why should students consider a Signature Academy?***
  - Most Signature Academies provide Career Technical Education (CTE) programs
  - These programs provide students the opportunity to:
    - Explore career paths
    - Develop leadership and workforce readiness skills
    - Connect with local businesses and organizations
    - Earn college credit and/or job certifications
    - Apply hands-on learning in areas such as agriculture, business, engineering, human and social services, medicine, skilled trades and technology
  - Signature Academies are a great way to study something that interests you while preparing you for life after high school!



- ***Can anyone attend a Signature Academy?***

- All interested 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to apply!
- It is recommended that students demonstrate:
  - A 2.0 GPA or above in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Grade-level performance on standardized tests (i.e. SBAC, MAPS)
  - History of generally acceptable attendance and behavior
- If students cannot demonstrate the above qualifications, they may be found ineligible for enrollment to a Signature Academy



- ***What happens if I apply but I'm found ineligible to attend a Signature Academy?***
  - You can have your parent/guardian request a second opportunity (appeal) to have your application reviewed and determine if there is good reason to make an exception, OR
  - You can ask your middle school counselor about enrolling in a Career Technical Education course / program at your zoned high school in 9<sup>th</sup> grade



• ***How can I apply to attend a Signature Academy?***

- Ask your counselor for help, OR visit
- [www.washoeschools.net/signatureacademies](http://www.washoeschools.net/signatureacademies)

There are 3 opportunities to turn in your application, but don't wait to apply! Space may run out in each of the application rounds shown below:

- Round 1: November 15<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Round 2: February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Round 3: April 1<sup>st</sup> – 2 weeks before start of the next school year





- ***How does transportation to a Signature Academy work?***
  - If you are accepted as a student to a Signature Academy, you will have to provide your own transportation, except for AACT and Wooster
  - AACT and Wooster provide busing to students who need it
- ***Can I attend a Signature Academy at the high school I'm zoned for?***
  - Absolutely. It's the same process for applying.



- ***How do sports work at a Signature Academy?***
  - Students who attend AACT can still participate in sports at their zoned high school.
  - A student attending any other Signature Academy is eligible to participate in sports at that school only.



- ***What are the programs again?***

- **AACT:** Business, Communication Arts and Media, Culinary and Hospitality, Education and Training, Engineering, Medical Careers, Natural Resources and Animal Science.
- **Damonte Ranch:** Performing Arts (Choir, Dance, Music, Theater)
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Computer Science, Foods and Nutrition, Military Science, Theater Tech
- **Galena:** STEM Academy (Aerospace and Environmental Engineering)
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Computer Science, Construction Technology, Foods and Nutrition, Metalworking
- **Hug:** Health and Human Services (Human Development, Culinary Arts, Baking, and Pastry; Sports Medicine)
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Computer Science, Military Science, Web Design

**\*You can sign up for these CTE classes / programs if you're zoned for this school. Ask your counselor for details.**



- **McQueen:** Global Studies & Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Music) International Studies (World Languages)
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Automotive Tech, Baking, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Human Development, Manufacturing, Military Science
- **North Valleys:** Center for Agricultural Science and Engineering (Drafting and Design, Diesel Technology, Mechanical Engineering), Greenhouse Management
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Military Science
- **Reed:** Enterprise Project – Biomedical Studies, Civil and Environmental Engineering (Automotive Tech, Energy Tech, Manufacturing Tech, Metalworking), Human Services & Development
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Business, Foods and Nutrition, Graphic Design, Military Science

**\*You can sign up for these CTE classes / programs if you're zoned for this school. Ask your counselor for details.**



- **Reno:** Red House Project (Animation, Computer Science, Graphic Design, Video Production)
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Military Science, Sports Medicine
- **Spanish Springs:** C3 Media (Animation, Graphic Design, Video Production, Web Design) & Sports Medicine
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Automotive Tech, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Foods and Nutrition, Teaching and Training
- **Sparks:** Tech Science and Manufacturing (Manufacturing, Construction & Web Design)
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Computer Science, Foods & Nutrition, Multimedia Communications
- **Wooster:** International Baccalaureate Program
  - *\*Also available for zoned students:* Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Landscape Design and Management, Metalworking, Military Science, Multimedia Communications

**\*You can sign up for these CTE classes / programs if you're zoned for this school. Ask your counselor for details.**



Still have questions? Go to:  
[www.washoeschools.net/signatureacademies](http://www.washoeschools.net/signatureacademies)



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