



Washoe County School District

Signatures & CTE

INSPIRED and CONNECTED

SIGNATURE ACADEMY PROGRAM GUIDE 2020-2021



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 High School, North Valleys High School</p>	<p>Business & Marketing Areas of focus include project management, entrepreneurial development, marketing and public relations. Schools: AACT High School</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 High School, Galena High School, North Valleys High School, Reed High School, Sparks High School</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 High School, Reno High School, Spanish Springs High School, Sparks High School</p>
<p>Global Studies Areas of focus include economics, world politics, foreign language, international diplomacy and fine arts. Schools: McQueen High School</p>	<p>Human Services Areas of focus include education, culinary/baking & nutrition, and human development. Schools: AACT High School, Hug High School, Reed High School</p>
<p>Health Sciences Areas of focus include pre-medicine, biomedical research, sports injuries, kinesiology and emergency medicine. Schools: AACT High School, Hug High School, Reed High School, Spanish Springs High School</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 High School</p>
<p>Performing Arts Areas of focus include the development of creativity and excellence through dance, instrumental music, choir and theater. Schools: Damonte Ranch High School</p>	<p><i>For more information about these programs, please visit:</i> www.washoeschools.net/SACTE <i>or email:</i> SACTE@washoeschools.net</p>

Who Can Participate in Signature Academies?

Signature Academies are for high school students who have an interest in the Academy theme. Students enter the program in 9th grade and complete a four-year program of study, which may include job shadow, internship, and advanced research 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.



Application Instructions and Timeline

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

Application Due Date: January 1, 2020

*Applicants must be current 8th graders entering 9th grade in 2020-21

*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 1, 2020.**

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

Processing Timeline

November 12: Applications available on-line

January 1: Applications due by midnight—with Signature Academy choice ranking

End of January: Letter of eligibility/ineligibility sent home

****Damonte Ranch PAC Auditions – Dates to be determined****

Mid-February: 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:

*Submit to your current school counselor (must be received in the Signature Office by the deadline)

*By mail to: Washoe County Signature Academy Applications
380 Edison Way, Suite 101, Reno NV 89502

*Fax to 775-861-1299

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

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

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, meet the minimum criteria, and be selected through a lottery process for the Academy of their choice. 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.

Minimum Qualifications for Signature Academy Eligibility

Qualification is based on criteria set by WCSD and is 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 most current state standardized test results in Math and Reading to the Signatures & CTE Department).

Students must meet the criteria in EACH of the following areas to be considered eligible*:

- 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

**Students who are found ineligible based on the criteria 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).*

Invitation to Attend a Signature Academy

Students meeting the success guidelines for consideration will be entered into a lottery for available spots in the Academy of their choice. Students will be notified of the opportunity to attend and invited to accept an available spot.

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 High School and Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (AACT). Students accepted to these schools can access busing from/to stops at the high school 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 high school 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 high school 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 for one year only. 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 student qualifications.



NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: The Washoe County School District prohibits bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and/or discrimination based on an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veterans or military status, marital status, political affiliation, or the presence of any sensory, physical or mental disability in any of its educational programs/activities, employment or employment opportunities, or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The District prohibits discrimination against any youth group listed in Title 36, as a patriotic society, (i.e. Boy Scouts of America) from access to public school facilities use. The District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Washoe County
School District

Signature Academies & CTE Department

380 Edison Way, Suite 101

Reno, NV 89502

PH: 775-327-3945

Fax: 775-861-1299

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