Signature Programs

Signature Programs are unique, four-year high school programs tailored to reflect each school's identity and culture. These themed programs integrate academic studies with technical career skills, providing students with the knowledge and experience needed for both college and career success. The rigorous curriculum allows students to earn honors and college credits, obtain industry certifications, and develop skills that bridge the gap between school and the professional world. With various focus areas available, Signature Programs offer students a head start on their futures. Signature Programs are offered in the following career paths below.

Agricultural Science & Natural Resources Areas of focus include - veterinary science, plant science, greenhouse and environmental management, and engineering. Schools: _Debbie Smith, North Valleys HS_	**Business & Marketing** Areas of focus include - project management, entrepreneurial development, marketing, and public relations. Schools: _AACT, Debbie Smith_
Engineering, Construction & Manufacturing Areas of focus include - civil, environmental, mechanical, agricultural, manufacturing, energy technologies and pre- engineering preparation with a focus on science, technology, and math. Schools: _Debbie Smith, Galena HS, North Valleys HS, Reed HS, Reno HS, Sparks HS_	**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, Debbie Smith, Reno HS, Spanish Springs HS_
Health Sciences Areas of focus include - pre-medicine, biomedical research, sports injuries, kinesiology, and emergency medicine. Schools: _AACT, Debbie Smith, Hug HS, Reed HS, Reno HS, Spanish Springs HS_	**Human Services, Hospitality & Tourism** Areas of focus include - education, culinary/baking & nutrition, and human development. Schools: _AACT, Debbie Smith, Hug HS, McQueen HS, Reed HS_
International Baccalaureate Areas of focus include - critical thinking, intercultural understanding and global engagement through a broad range of academics, and experiences. Schools: _Wooster HS_	**Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security** Areas of focus include - fire science, forensic science, and law enforcement. Schools: _AACT_
Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Areas of focus include - aviation technology, and diesel technology. Schools: _AACT, North Valleys HS_	**Performing Arts** Areas of focus include - dance, instrumental music, choir, and theater. Schools: _Damonte Ranch HS_

How Do You Enroll in Signature Programs?

Eighth grade students wishing to participate in a Signature Program apply for admission in the fall of their 8th grade year. Current 9th and 10th grade students may apply for a Signature Program during the annual School-of-Choice application window. For Signature programs where qualified applicants outnumber available spaces, a random lottery process will be used for enrolling students. Applications will be available from each high school.

Qualifications for Signature Program Eligibility

Eligibility for enrollment in a Signature Program 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 school they are applying to attend. Because of the rigorous coursework of our Signature Programs, it is recommended that students meet the following expectations to be successful:

- 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 or Exceeds Standards" on standardized tests taken in 7th and 8th grades
- Attendance: Regular school attendance (a minimum of 90% is encouraged)
- Self-Management: Demonstration of appropriate self-management abilities while in middle school is recommended
- Major documented behaviors in Infinite Campus will be screened prior to admission

Transportation

Bussing is available for three WCSD Signature Schools – AACT (Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology), Debbie Smith CTE Academy, and Wooster High School. Students accepted to these schools can access a school bus near their zoned high school or other school, and should check with AACT, Debbie Smith, and Wooster for details. Parents must provide transportation to the bus pick up and drop off location, as schedules will not allow for door-to-door service. Students who are accepted at all other WCSD Signature Programs are responsible for their own transportation to/from the school. No transportation will be provided.

Athletics Participation

Students accepted at AACT (Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology) or Debbie Smith CTE Academy are eligible to participate in athletics at their zoned HS, if the sport is not offered. Students accepted in Signature Programs at all other schools are eligible to participate in athletics at the school they will attend. Non-zoned students in a Signature Program may participate in any NIAA sanctioned sport offered at that school at any level other than varsity for the first year.

WCSD Signature Programs and Career & Technical Education Guide

Signature Programs and/or Career & Technical Education pathways are offered in all WCSD high schools. Visit www.washoeschools.net/sacte for more information.

High School	Signature Programs	Other Career & Technical Education Programs
Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology High School (AACT)	• **Aviation Technology** • **Business** • **Communication Arts and Media (Graphic Design, Video Production)** • **Culinary Arts** • **Fire Science** • **Forensic Science** • **Law Enforcement** • **Medical (Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Assisting)**	
Damonte Ranch High School	**Band, Choir, Dance, Orchestra, Theatre Tech**	**Advanced Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Forensic Science, Military Science**
Debbie Smith CTE Academy	• **Biomedical** • **Building Trades in Construction Technology** • **Culinary Arts with Hospitality and Tourism** • **Engineering (Mechanical)** • **Marketing and Multimedia Communications** • **Natural Resources and Animal Sciences** • **Practical Nursing and Nursing Assistant** • **Teaching and Training** • **Welding and Metalworking**	
Galena High School	• **Engineering (Aerospace)**	**Culinary Arts, Metalworking, Military Science**
Hug High School	• **Human Services (Human & Social Services, Culinary Arts)** • **Sports Medicine**	**Advanced Computer Science, Advanced Manufacturing, Military Science**
Incline High School		**Advanced Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Engineering (Aerospace), Military Science**
McQueen High School	**Culinary Arts**	**Advanced Computer Science, Building Trades in Construction Technology, Military Science**
North Valleys High School	• **Agricultural Mechanics (Welding, Diesel Technology)** • **Agriculture Resource Management (Animal & Plant Systems)**	**Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Military Science, Multimedia Communications**
Reed High School	• **Biomedical** • **Civil & Environmental Engineering (Energy Technologies, Advanced Manufacturing, Metalworking)** • **Human & Social Services**	**Advanced Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Military Science**
Reno High School	• **Civil Engineering** • **Advanced Computer Science** • **Graphic Design** • **Multimedia Communications** • **Sports Medicine**	**Military Science**
Spanish Springs High School	• **C3 Media (Graphic Design, Multimedia Communications, Video Production, Web Design)** • **Sports Medicine**	**Automotive Technology, Advanced Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Family & Consumer Sciences, Military Science, Teaching & Training**
Sparks High School	• **Advanced Manufacturing** • **Building Trades in Construction Technology**	**Culinary Arts, Military Science, Teaching & Training**
Wooster High School	• **IB Diploma Programme** • **IB Career-related Programme (Energy Technologies)** • **IB Middle Years Programme**	**Energy Technologies, Metalworking, Military Science, Plant Systems**