

## **Piscataway High School Academies Frequently Asked General Questions**

### **1. Where are the Academies?**

- All of the Academies are held at Piscataway High School. Students have full high school schedules and move throughout the building as all other high school students.

### **2. Do all 8<sup>th</sup> graders have to apply to an Academy?**

- No. The Academies are an option for students who have an interest in a specific field of study and may be interested in following that field after high school.

### **3. Can I apply for more than one Academy?**

- Yes. Due to the competitive nature of the Academies students may apply to more than one Academy to increase their opportunities for participation. A student may also have a strong interest in more than one of the Academies we offer.

### **4. Can I be accepted and enroll in more than one Academy?**

- No. As you will see in the specific Academy brochures, the course sequence of each area combined with the other New Jersey State Graduation requirements does not leave room in a student's schedule to belong to more than one Academy.

### **5. Can I participate in clubs/activities/sports?**

- Yes. A major advantage of the Academies at PHS is the ability to have the FULL high school experience. A smaller magnet school cannot offer a range of options for students to take advantage of the entire high school experience inside and outside the classroom.

### **6. Can I withdraw from an Academy?**

- Yes. If you apply, get accepted, and enroll in an Academy and you find out that it is not what you had hoped you can withdraw from the offerings and replace them with other elective courses the high school offers.

**7. Do I have to be in an Academy to take some of the courses listed in the brochures?**

- No. These courses are, and have been, offered to all students enrolled in Piscataway High School. Many of them are honors level courses.

**8. How many Academy courses will I take per year?**

- At least one. There are some years that you will be enrolled in more than one Academy class.

**9. Will I be in all my classes with only other Academy students?**

- No. The rest of your schedule, including English, Math, Social Studies, lunch, and PE/Health will be mixed classes consisting of members from entire student population. Depending on enrollment there also may be some Academy course that will be mixed with other non-academy students.

**10. Do all current 8<sup>th</sup> graders have the same opportunity for acceptance?**

- Yes. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to apply to any of our Academies. Information on the admission/application requirements is part of the various curricula delivered through our middle school instruction. As previously stated, many of these courses are honors level classes.

**11. If I don't apply to an Academy for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, can I apply for 10<sup>th</sup> grade?**

- Yes. As long as one of your ninth grade electives were in the academy area you wish to apply.

**12. If I don't get accepted into an Academy for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, can I apply for 10<sup>th</sup> grade?**

- Yes. With the same elective answer and question #12.

**13. Will my GPA get extra points/weight because I am in an Academy?**

- Yes, for all the courses within that Academy that are honors or AP level courses.

**14. How do I apply to an Academy?**

- January 31, 2018 (6:30 PM – PHS Performing Arts Center) will be an informational session specifically for students and families interested in applying to an academy. Applications and more information/timelines will be distributed at this event. If you cannot attend that evening, this application/information will also be available in all three middle school offices (as of February 1, 2018) and will be placed on the PHS and all middle school websites.