

# KINGSWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



*Committed to Excellence*

## Academy Program Guide

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## Introduction to Academies

Academies within the Kingsway Regional School District prepare students for advanced college study in a particular subject. These four-year programs of academic study are offered to a qualifying group of highly motivated students who have demonstrated interests and abilities in particular fields of study. Academies include in-depth study of targeted courses on an advanced level, with many courses meeting the requirements of Advanced Placement or college-level work. Courses fall within traditional academic disciplines such as science, math, social studies, English/language arts, business, and technology. The four-year sequence combine to make an integrated and interdisciplinary academic experience for students. The Academies address the core skills, knowledge, and values that are essential to success in high school and in preparation for acceptance to a competitive four-year college or university. Students enrolled in the BLA or S.T.E.M. Academy should be prepared for challenging coursework, service learning, and participation in a variety of educational opportunities beyond the classroom.

## Standards of Excellence

Kingsway abides by the mantra, Committed to Excellence. Students enrolled in the Academy Programs represent Kingsway Regional High School and are expected to be role models as well-rounded, young scholastic professionals. Exemplary performance, leadership, kindness to others and a strong work ethic are expected of all Academy students and make it possible to serve as role models and representatives of our Dragon family inside and beyond our school walls.

The code below reflects the Standards of Excellence adopted by the District and represent an attitude of professionalism, respect, and dedication to Academy goals. These standards serve to encourage and lead self-discipline, which increases personal self-esteem and dignity through cooperation and common purpose. All those who participate in the Academy are expected to live and learn by following eight (8) Standards of Excellence.

- **We focus on the needs of those we serve.** I will seek to improve my community by contributing my efforts and my resources to worthwhile projects.
- **We choose to be the best we can be.** I will demonstrate behavior that creates a positive impression, and that contributes to the well-being and reputation of the Academy, its students, faculty, and associates.
- **We strive for continuous improvement.** I will seek to learn from my mistakes and will demonstrate a positive attitude when given suggestions and constructive criticisms directed toward the improvement of my work and myself.
- **We take ownership for what we do and do not do.** I will willingly accept responsibilities and duties.
- **We communicate effectively.** I will exercise initiative and responsibility and will respectfully communicate and cooperate with my peers, employers, and teachers.
- **We do little things well.** I will approach each task with confidence in my ability to perform my work at a high standard, with the goal of always doing my best.
- **We take pride in our work & our school.** I will dress and act in a manner that will bring respect to my school, the Academy, and myself.
- **We value & respect those who make our school extraordinary.** I will abide by the rules and regulations of my school because I value and respect those who dedicate themselves to my own self-improvement.

## Admissions Process

Each Academy program is divided into two phases: two years of interdisciplinary education requirements and two years of advanced preparation aligned with collegiate programming. Students may apply for acceptance to the program at the end of their 8th grade year. The admissions formula considers multiple measures to ensure that each accepted student is a good fit for the program. Our formula considers 7th and 8th grade academic grades in math and English, the entrance examination, teacher recommendations, state test scores, and student essays. As part of the application process for Phase II, all sophomores will be required to take the PSAT, and submit their scores to the school district.

### Phase I

Students who express an interest in college majors in one of the various areas of business or S.T.E.M. related fields and are looking to take academically rigorous courses, are excellent candidates for either academy. Students may apply for acceptance into Phase I of the program at the end of their 8th grade year. Applicants must be enrolled in Algebra I (or higher) in the 8th grade and then successfully complete the course (B or better) for admission.

### Phase II

To continue into Phase II of the Academy, students must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum GPA of 2.0 or “C” in all Academy courses, and no less than a 2.0 overall GPA during their freshman and sophomore year
- Submission of PSAT scores at the end of sophomore year
- Exemplary school conduct and behavior
- Excellent attendance in school and at required academy events (i.e. this includes DECA, Summer Seminar, and field trips for BLA students)
- Service learning requirements have been met during Phase I (i.e. this includes attendance at the required STEAM freshman year service learning project event)
- Recommendation of Academy personnel
- Submission of an approved resume and cover letter (to be kept as part of student’s portfolio)

## Academy Goals & Experiences

Kingsway Regional School District’s Academy programs aim to effectively arm their students with 21st Century Skills that prepare future leaders to tackle the complex problems and projects they will encounter in college and as professionals in the workforce. These skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, flexibility, collaboration, etc. are not only critical to a student’s success in high school but also college and career. A student’s success centers on his or her ability to not only gain advanced knowledge but also understand how to further obtain and use that knowledge to capably and confidently solve problems in the global marketplace. Successful completion of either Academy is a major academic achievement for which students, parents, and faculty should be proud. In addition to challenging academic coursework, Academy students will also engage in the following experiences:

- **21st Century Learning:** Understanding and learning within the Academy programs will center on reinforcement of concepts found within the Framework for 21st Century Learning, which highlight “...the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in work, life and citizenship, as well as the support systems necessary for 21st century learning outcomes.” Through their active participation in this program, students will be effectively prepared for college success. Collaboration, critical thinking, project-based learning, and an emphasis on 21st Century Learning are central to the Academy experience.
- **Cohort:** BLA and S.T.E.M. Academy students will travel as a cohort through identified core courses throughout Phase I and, when possible, in Phase II coursework. Learning as a cohort ensures that students will develop the essential 21st

Century skills of teamwork, collaboration, and communication in order to be highly competitive and successful in post-secondary education as well as in their chosen career paths.

- **Service Learning:** Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community interactions with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Academy students will be required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of service learning per year, but are highly encouraged to continue the process more in-depth beyond the minimum in an effort to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Freshman year service learning will take place during the respective seminar courses and will conclude with the operation of a community STEAM night for young children. All students are required to participate in the project and attend the evening event. Students who do not comply may be, at minimum, placed on probation.
- **SMART Enrichment:** Opportunities will be provided during the SMART period in which students can meet as an Academy to engage in discussion and participate in enrichment activities including guest speakers, field trips, virtual tours, etc.
- **Honors Capstone:** During their senior year, students will be required to develop, complete, present, and defend a final Capstone Project. A teacher will work closely with the students throughout the process to help them, but the students will be responsible for its completion. A final reflective portfolio will also be required during this course which captures students' overall reflections on the capstone, which will include their service learning requirement, academic coursework and any additional Academy experiences.

## Business Leadership Academy: Design

The Business Leadership Academy is a four-year program designed to afford students to various fascists of the business world. The overarching goal of the Academy is to provide students with curricular experiences relevant to the underpinnings of the business world using a collaborative student-centered approach to learning. Understanding and learning within the program will center on reinforcement of concepts found within the Framework for 21st Century Learning, which highlight "...the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in work, life and citizenship, as well as the support systems necessary for 21st century learning outcomes." (<http://www.p21.org/our-work/p21-framework>). Through their active participation in this program, students will be effectively prepared for college business programs through exposure to various foundations critical to the business world with a focus on collaboration, project-based learning, and emphasis on 21st Century Learning.



To achieve its goals, Kingsway's Business Leadership Academy (BLA) includes the following:

- A course sequence based on research of collegiate business administration programs;
- Instruction that is student-centered and focused on real-world connections that require critical and creative thinking as well as collaborative problem solving; an emphasis is placed on integration of DECA components within business courses;
- An Academy (both S.T.E.M. and BLA together) cohort model to support collaboration and interpersonal relationships among and between students and faculty; and,
- A steering committee composed of District and school-level administrators as well as teachers, counselors, parents and local business professionals

## Business Leadership Academy: Summer Seminar

Students who are accepted into Phase II are required to complete two (2) Summer Seminars as part of the Academy. One seminar will take place during the student's transition from sophomore to junior year, and the other will take place during the student's transition from junior to senior year. The Summer Seminars aim to prepare students for coursework that they will

encounter during their preceding year.

## Business Leadership Academy: Coursework

All business courses within Kingsway's Business and Leadership Academy aim to:

- Provide a strong knowledgebase related to business principals, economic understandings, and theoretical underpinnings
- Develop an understanding of business law and ethics and their application to real-world scenarios
- Cultivate leadership skills and interdependence between and among classmates
- Advance 21st century skills that support innovative and entrepreneurial thinking
- Provide a broadly based business curriculum that supports transferable skills and understanding between and among industries
- Foster a realistic understanding of professional business environments and employer expectations
- Build school and community partnerships

*\*Please visit the BLA website for the 4-year course sequence and recommended electives.*

## Business Leadership Academy: Student Responsibilities

### Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA and earn no less than a C in any of their Academy classes. In addition, Academy students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory conduct in all of their classes. It is a goal of the Academy program to help students take responsibility for their own work as well as for their decisions. We know that it is important to form good habits early, so we emphasize developing a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility in all classes.

### Probation

At the end of each semester, the Academy Counselor reviews student performance and makes recommendations if necessary. Students who fail to meet the minimum criteria including, but not limited to, academic performance, behavior, attendance and the service learning requirement, will be placed on probation and parents will be notified of their child's status. Students will be expected to establish and execute a plan to assist with rectifying the concerns by the end of the next grading period.

If the student fails to show improvement, he/she will be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year. At the end of the school year, the Academy team will meet to review the progress of those students on probation. The team will evaluate whether or not the Academy program is a good fit for each of these students. While no student will ever be dropped from the Academy simply because of poor grades, in some cases these poor grades show a lack of initiative and motivation to stay in the program.

### Career-Technical Student Organization (CTSO) - DECA

DECA is a career-technical student organization (CTSO) that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. CTSOs, such as DECA, are a valuable part of many high school business programs; participation in such programs has been proven to significantly enhance student achievement.

DECA is an extra-curricular, non-profit, local, district, state, and nationally affiliated organization for secondary students. The purpose of joining DECA is to provide opportunities to develop career supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibility. ***All students enrolled in Kingsway's Business Leadership Academy must be a member of DECA.***

In addition to an official membership card and pin, DECA members have exclusive access to all of the college and career

preparation opportunities DECA provides. These include four issues of DECA Direct magazine, participation in DECA's Competitive Events Program to demonstrate their knowledge and earn recognition, opportunities to attend conferences designed to prepare them for college and careers, access to \$300,000 in scholarships and more. DECA membership is for one school year, culminating June 30th of each year.

## Professional Attire

All Business Leadership Academy students will be expected to dress in professional business attire using DECA guidelines and/or BLA shirts when required by their business teachers and on occasions when representing the BLA. Students who do not fully comply with the dress of the day will lose points in their business class.

## Service Learning

Academy students are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of service learning per year, but are highly encouraged to continue the process more in-depth beyond the minimum in an effort to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Freshman year service learning will take place during the respective seminar courses and will conclude with the operation of a community STEAM night for young children. All students are required to participate in the project and attend the evening event. Students who do not comply with the service learning requirements may be, at minimum, placed on probation.

## S.T.E.M. Academy: Design

The S.T.E.M. Academy offers a four-year program of interdisciplinary studies for academically motivated students interested in pursuing careers in mathematics, engineering, or the sciences. The program includes courses that have a challenging, collaborative, and inquiry approach to learning that cultivates critical thinking skills and 21st Century skills that will ensure success in post-secondary education as well as S.T.E.M. career paths.



To achieve its goals, Kingsway's S.T.E.M. Academy includes the following:

- A course sequence that emphasize S.T.E.M.;
- Instruction that require critical and creative thinking as well as collaborative problem solving;
- An Academy (both S.T.E.M. and BLA together) cohort model to support collaboration and interpersonal relationships among and between students and faculty; and,
- A steering committee composed of District and school-level administrators as well as teachers, counselors, parents and local business professionals.

## S.T.E.M. Academy: Coursework

All courses within Kingsway's S.T.E.M. Academy aim to:

- Provide a strong knowledgebase related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Develop an understanding of S.T.E.M. principals and their application to real-world scenarios
- Cultivate leadership skills and interdependence between and among classmates
- Advance 21st century skills that support problem-solving and critical thinking
- Build school and community partnerships

*\*Please visit the S.T.E.M. website for the 4-year course sequence and recommended electives.*

## S.T.E.M. Academy: Student Responsibilities

### Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA and earn no less than a C in any of their

Academy classes. In addition, Academy students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory conduct in all of their classes. It is a goal of the Academy program to help students take responsibility for their own work as well as for their decisions. We know that it is important to form good habits early, so we emphasize developing a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility in all classes.

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## Academy: Faculty and Supports

### Academy Counselor

A dedicated Academy Counselor will be assigned to students in each academy to facilitate consistent communication as well as support for students' academic successes throughout the experience. The counselor is responsible for working collaboratively with the Academy Supervisor and participating teachers to ensure students are on track academically, scheduled appropriately in their cohort, and meet Academy requirements. The Academy Counselor is an integral part of forming and maintaining both community and college partnerships to assist in developing the program and providing students with valuable real-world experiences. Together with the Academy Supervisor, Counselors plan and facilitate service learning activities within the community.

### Academy Supervisor

The Academy Supervisor is the lead administrator who oversees each Academy under the direction of the Chief Academic Officer. The supervisor is responsible for working together with the Academy Counselor to approve and implement curriculum, instruction, and supplemental experiences that effectively meet the goals of the Academy. Additionally, the Academy Supervisor serves as co-chairs of the Steering Committee and facilitates meetings with articulated colleges, dual-credit agreement colleges, and respective faculty. Finally, the supervisor works with guidance to ensure that student goals are met through surveying student needs, scheduling course sequences, implementing and monitoring service learning components, and bolstering enrichment opportunities.

## College Partnerships and Dual Credit

Kingsway Regional School District has partnered with a number of colleges and universities. Through these partnerships, Academy students have the opportunity to leave high school with more than a semester's worth of college credits through Dual Credit programs, AP credits, and by taking college coursework on the college campus.

These partnerships have the potential to provide Academy students with groundbreaking opportunities, including dual-enrollment programs, participation in summer enrichment programs, the ability to take courses on the college campus during the student's senior year, early acceptance into collegiate honors programs, and, most significantly, the possibility for Academy students, who meet rigorous, pre-defined qualifying criteria, to receive automatic admission to the college.

If students take advantage of these opportunities, Academy students will engage in learning that is not only vital to postsecondary academic standards but also experience college expectations and environments. Students will have an opportunity to learn in the college classroom, interact with college professors, and experience the college campus prior to high school graduation. These invaluable opportunities create a comprehensive high school experience that prepares students for the transition into higher education and provides additional confidence needed for success in college. For more information on college credits available, please contact the Academy counselors.

## Academy FAQs

**1. How do I know an Academy is Right for me?** You should ask yourself the following questions. Your responses will help you to decide whether or not you are a good fit for one of the Academies.

- *Do my personal interests match the focus of the Academy?*
- *Do my grades in the subjects that are the academic focus of the Academy demonstrate that I am ready to accept the challenge of the program?*
- *Have I demonstrated that I can balance the demands of accelerated classes while still participating in sports, clubs, hobbies, and other extra-curricular activities?*
- *Am I taking Algebra I or higher in 8th grade?*
- *Can I identify two school faculty members in my school that will be willing to provide me with excellent recommendations for these programs?*
- *Have my scores on standardized tests been strong?*

**2. Why is Algebra I required for entrance into the Academies?** Ninth-grade coursework in the Academies assumes and depends on student proficiency in Algebra I. Therefore, middle/sending school transcripts must reflect successful completion (a grade of B or better) of Algebra I by 8th grade graduation in order for a successful applicant to be enrolled in one of these four programs. Pre-Algebra does not satisfy this requirement, nor does Algebra I taken during the summer immediately prior to 9th grade.

**3. What is included in the application and selection process?** The selection process considers many different criteria. As such, the selection process is a lengthy one. The following are part of the application process.

- *Basic student information (demographic information, name, address, academy interest, etc.)*
- *Academic records including 7th and 8th grade ELA and math*
- *State assessment scores*
- *Recommendations from teachers*
- *Entrance exam and essay results*

**4. If I'm accepted into one of the Academies, do I have a better chance of getting into competitive colleges?** The Academies

are an excellent place to start, but that's just the beginning. You will have to work hard and make a serious commitment to your learning throughout high school.

**5. What if my child doesn't want to participate in some of the activities?** The Academies are competitive programs and selected participants are expected to take part in the full complement of programming. Some of these programs may include professional speakers, career organizations, service learning, field experiences, summer workshops, research, and job shadowing.

**6. Can my child withdraw from the Academy Program once started?** Students have an opportunity to leave the Academy at the end of each academic year. It is important that students learn about the program requirements and consider their level of interest and commitment to the course of study before submitting an application.

**7. Where can I learn more about the specific Academies?** To learn more about the specific academies, please visit our website at: <https://www.krsd.org/>.

## Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy Supervisors and/or Academy Counselors noted below.

Academy	Supervisor	Counselor
Business Leadership	Mr. Balvir Singh <a href="mailto:singhb@krsd.org">singhb@krsd.org</a>	Ms. Vivian Cassidy <a href="mailto:cassidyv@krsd.org">cassidyv@krsd.org</a>
S.T.E.M.	Ms. Megan Bruder <a href="mailto:bruderm@krsd.org">bruderm@krsd.org</a>	Ms. Apryl Palazzo <a href="mailto:palazzoa@krsd.org">palazzoa@krsd.org</a>