

Frequently asked questions for the 9th grade Academy

What is a Freshman ‘Success’ Academy?

A separate transitional program is provided for students in their first year of high school that places them with small interdisciplinary teams of 4 or 5 teachers who share the same 150 students and a block schedule with common planning time. This unit has its own part of the building with its own clearly labeled entrance, including the computer labs needed for ninth grade courses.

Major responsibility for finding solutions to individual student attendance, discipline, and learning problems rests with the teacher teams, where each has a Team Leader and uses regular data to set goals and monitor trends in student behavior. Good student attendance becomes a priority to set the foundation for serious student work to earn promotion on time to the next grade. Numerous activities are structured throughout the first term to prepare students to make a wise choice of program for their final three high school years, through extensive self-awareness opportunities concerning career goals and interests, and the provision of detailed information on high school choices and college alternatives. Students then select a Career Academy for the next 3 years.

Who gets to attend the Freshman Academy?

Students in the Manual attendance area have priority for openings. Students from other attendance area may choose to attend Manual and apply for a transfer.

How many students will be enrolled in the Freshman Academy?

The enrollment will be capped at 150 students.

Will the students be in classes with 10-12 grade students?

No, during their freshman year, students in the 9th grade will have classes with other 9th grade students. On some occasions, accelerated students arrangement may be made (with parents permission) to join students in 10-12 grades for classes that may better serve their skill levels.

What is the student to teacher ratio?

1 to 20 is anticipated.

How do you apply if you do not live in the Manual Attendance Area?

Application Process: Students living in the MHS area have priority for enrollment. Students that do not live in the MHS area have the choice to attend Manual High School. To apply from outside of the MHS attendance area an application form may be submitted between March 18, 2008 and May 1, 2008 for priority consideration. After May 1st enrollment will depend on space available.

Manual is a Title I school and as such 75% of the enrollment will be representative of low-income families as determined through the free and reduced lunch program guidelines.

Applications for enrollment into MHS will be available at central office, and on the district web site and at each high school.

How do you “opt out” of Manual?

Students living in MHS area who do not wish to attend MHS may obtain an **ALTERNATE ATTENDANCE TRANSFER REQUEST** from the central office or the district web site.

Request forms will be available March 18, 2008. A **limited** number of slots will be available at each of the other three high schools in District 150 (Woodruff, Richwoods, and Peoria Central). Letters must be submitted by May 1, 2008 for consideration in the lottery. Each letter will receive a random lottery number upon receipt.

A lottery selection system will be implemented after May 1 to determine where MHS students will be enrolled in alternative schools. Letters of enrollment status will be mailed to parents by May 15th.

Will my child be safe?

Part of the redesign of the building includes additional security cameras both inside and outside the building. New key locks for entry into the building and additional lighting around the outside of the building. Students will be housed in small learning communities or academies allowing greater accountability of student's whereabouts and greater more time spent with staff. Students and staff will enter designated entrances in the morning. After school starts, only one entry into the building will be allowed