

The Academy At Westinghouse

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Welcome!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you as an incoming student to The Academy at Westinghouse. Opening in the fall of 2011, The Academy provides families an opportunity to participate in a rigorous, tuition-free, college preparatory school. Built on the latest research on how adolescents learn with a 21st century approach to curriculum, teaching practices and social issues, The Academy celebrates our students while challenging them to prepare for the leadership roles of tomorrow.

Built on the idea that today's students will play a crucial role in the transformation of our communities, both local and national, The Academy at Westinghouse holds at its center the belief that our students will be the catalysts for real change. Thus infused into our curriculum is both the study and practical application of leadership and social justice. In addition, The Academy organizes its upper level program of studies into several key areas. Identified both as areas of interest for students, as well as significant areas of importance for community organizing and social change, our goals are to provide focus for students' learning while creating high value coursework. Upon graduation students will have gained valuable insight into a specific focus area while preparing for acceptance into competitive colleges and universities.

Research shows that adolescents naturally make connections between different subject matter, cultures and time periods. At The Academy, we build upon that strength by engaging students in cross-curricular projects and interdisciplinary courses. The Academy will also have a strong focus on the five literacies (verbal, written, comprehension, auditory, cultural literacy and competency); our scholars will be asked to read, write, speak and listen in all of our courses. In addition, they will be pushed to develop their analytical skills in both the study of high level mathematics and science course work.

Finally, as The Academy at Westinghouse was built upon the hopes and dreams of both our families and our communities, their continued and active participation is crucial to our success. The Academy resides at the heart of the Homewood Children's Village, and it is our privilege to join them in their mission to "simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood's children and to reweave the fabric of the community in which they live." All students who attend The Academy will be members of the "Village" and able to access the Wellness Center as well as many other support services.

We are excited to get to know each and every one of our students and their families and hope that this school year will be transformative!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kellie Abbott and Mr. Shawn McNeil
Principals, The Academy at Westinghouse

School Calendar

The Academy at Westinghouse operates off of the District's ALA calendar. Students will begin their experience at The Academy with an overnight camping trip. As the trips are part of our academic calendar, they are considered school days and missing the trip will count as an absence.

6th, 7th and 8th graders

Students will leave The Academy the morning of August 17th and return the afternoon of the 18th.

9th and 10th graders

Students will leave The Academy the morning of August 18th and return the afternoon of the 19th.

11th and 12th graders

Students will leave The Academy the morning of August 19th and return the afternoon of the 20th.

All students will report to The Academy on August 22nd at 8:00.

Student Day

The Academy is designed to provide students with extended learning opportunities. Students are to arrive at school and be seated in their Morning Meeting by 8:00 AM. Students will be dismissed from The Academy at 3:45 PM.

Student Dress

Students attending The Academy at Westinghouse will wear uniforms. Information about uniforms, including details about our School Fashion Show, will be mailed home in July.

Parent / Family Information

The Academy at Westinghouse was designed as a Full Service Community School. In other words, we see The Academy as the center of the community. It will provide students and families with the tools and services they need to be successful. We are working with the Homewood Children's Village to provide a full range of health services to our students and, in time, our families as well.

Creating a great school is a lot of work and we are counting on your support and participation. Adult volunteers are needed in all aspects of our school: greeting visitors, answering phones, serving as a mentor or tutor, and assisting in classrooms. In addition, we are also looking for family members to serve on school leadership teams and committees. We hope that each family finds at least one opportunity to serve their child's school this year!

Yet as we are often reminded, parents and families often need assistance in understanding young adults and how school works too! To help with this need, The Academy has created a Family Resource Center within the school. Designed and staffed by parents and family members, the Resource Center will provide space for family members to meet and chat as well as hold support groups and information sessions.

We realize that for many children, the academic and behavioral expectations at The Academy will be new. It is our goal to work with families to ease this transition. However, even working together we know that the change is going to be difficult. We ask that you continually encourage your child to put forth their best effort and to work hard and remind them that we believe in them!

A complete Student / Parent Handbook will be given to students at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

The principals can be reached at 412-665-3940.

