



2017-2018 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACADEMY

- **Is the academy separate from the comprehensive high school?** *Partially. Indian Trail is one school; however the academies are smaller schools within the large school population. Academy students experience much of the day in courses with academy peers. Some courses are blended within the building regardless of programming - P.E., math, music, AP, Chinese, Spanish and some social science classes. If an honors option is available for blended courses, academy students may enroll. All academy content area courses are considered at an honor's level rigor and students entering into an academy curriculum should expect an honors level workload.*
- **Why aren't there honors sections in academy-specific (encore) courses?** *It is understood that the academy programs are geared toward college prep within the career-focused area of study. The encore classes are related directly to the academy focus and are both prescribed and required for all students in the program. When students apply to colleges or other programs after high school, a letter accompanies the transcript indicating students have chosen a college prep program, thus meaning all academy courses have the honors rigor universities value.*
- **Can I take AP courses?** *Yes, you can take Advanced Placement courses if you are in the academy and therefore have the ability to earn an Honors Distinction diploma for taking 4 credits of AP.*
- **Is there a separate academy graduation?** *No, there is one large graduation but academy students sit and receive their diplomas by academy. They also have a separate valedictorian and salutatorian from the comprehensive program.*
- **What are the terms in the contract I will sign if I accept an academy placement?** *The contract is in place to maintain the integrity of the academy program and is an agreement to take all prescribed courses for four years. Terms include stipulations for attendance, behavior, and academic progress. If the terms are not being met, interventions will be put in place for desired improvement. If violations of the contract continue, students may be removed from the academy and placed back at their boundary schools at the beginning of the next school year.*
- **If I'm in one academy and don't like it, can I switch to another academy and stay at IT?** *No, you must decide if you want to remain in the academy or return to your boundary school. You can be placed on the waiting list for another academy if you are in 9th grade; however students are not placed in the academy after 10th grade. If you wish to exit the academy, in January you may apply for a parent-initiated transfer back to your boundary school for the following school year. The request form can be found online on the KUSD website and must be returned to your child's **current** school counselor no later than January 19th for a guaranteed transfer. If a transfer request is not submitted by that date, students are automatically enrolled in the academy program for the following year and expected to attend.*
- **Can I take non-academy courses or choose electives offered in the comprehensive program?** *No, with the exception of music, Spanish and Chinese.*
- **Are there different graduation requirements for academy students?** *No. All courses in the academy apply to graduation requirements, which are the same for all KUSD students.*
- **Who eats lunch together?** *Lunch is shared with all grade levels, all programs.*
- **Where do I play sports?** *Anyone who attends Indian Trail plays sports for IT.*
- **How do I get to school if I am not in the IT boundary?** *All non-boundary academy students within a 2 mile radius receive a city bus pass to navigate to and from school.*
- **How many students are in each academy?** *We invite approximately 230 9th graders into the academy program each year through the lottery.*
- **Is there a fee to be in any of the academy programs?** *There is a minimal fee for academy students issued laptops or Ipads. KMA students pay a fee for sweatshirts and are required to maintain their uniforms, which may include a fee for dry cleaning.*

For specific information regarding the 2017-2018 choice school parent night schedule, ITHS&A open house, lottery information and a video outlining each academy program please visit the Indian Trail website under the "Academy" tab:

<http://indiantrail.kusd.edu/academy/index.html>