



# The Bergen County Academies

Hackensack, New Jersey



## About:

A model for innovation and reform in the 21st century, the Bergen County Academies (BCA) is located in a multicultural suburban community within 5 miles of New York City. Students are accepted from across the county and commute up to twenty miles to this diverse public magnet school of choice. BCA features career-focused academies operating as a cohesive unit to provide a dynamic, specialized, student-centered environment. Applicants from seventy towns in Bergen County are selected through a rigorous admissions process that considers middle school grades, standardized test scores, interviews, as well as assessments in writing and math. BCA has an extended school day from 8:00 am until 4:10 pm. Underclassmen, grades 9–11, devote Wednesday mornings to interdisciplinary projects and independent research. The faculty has many years of experience as instructors and industry leaders.

## Key Facts and Statistics:

- BCA has approximately 1050 students and 100 teachers.
- BCA prepares students to live, work and lead in a global community.
- 100% of BCA graduates attend college.

## Best Practices: Excellence Gap:

BCA has instituted a number of programs, aimed at supporting all students including low-income, high-achieving students. Closing the Excellence Gap includes initiatives such as;

- Academy After Hours Program
  - The Academy After Hours Program is an outreach to area students interested in pursuing advanced work in pure sciences, humanities, mathematics and technology. Accomplished faculty members instruct the specialized courses. Several emphasize team/ project work. In response to student requests, we constantly create new offerings. Proper placement is highly recommended because a few selections are sequential. Each course is designed for optimum student/teacher ratio, and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Students study in state-of-the-art technology facilities.
- Math Enrichment Program

- BCA provides a Math Enrichment Program on weekends for children who have a love of math and are in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Enrollment is open to all students regardless of math ability. Scholarships are available to low income families.
- BCA Summer College Planning Workshop
  - This program is open to all high school students from throughout Bergen County. Students will have the opportunity to get a jump start on their college planning. With the guidance of an experienced College Counselor, students will learn about the college application process and receive expert attention and guidance regarding their college lists, essay topics and major interests. Each student will develop an understanding of how best to move forward with their personal college search.

Best Practices: School-to-Workforce Pipeline:

HSMSE is committed to ensuring that students graduate with marketable skills that lead to high-level careers in STEM fields. HSMSE has established several programs to better connect curriculum and students with the workforce, including:

Full Year Senior Internships

- All of our seniors devote Wednesdays to a yearlong individualized internship experience. Students receive (9) academic credits for this supervised graduation requirement. Over two hundred employers offer experiential learning opportunities in research centers, hospitals, universities, non-profit organizations, government agencies, major corporations and large and small businesses in the NY/NJ metropolitan area.

Research

- The Research programs at the Bergen County Academies operate within highly sophisticated, state-of-the-art laboratories that have been designed and equipped to allow exploration within a variety of scientific disciplines. The labs are functional, professional entities, not normally found in a high school setting. They include cell and molecular biology, nanotechnology, chemistry, materials science, microscopy and a variety of engineering programs. Many of our students have won significant national and international awards, and some have been able to publish their findings in professional journals.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- BCA offers seven specialized programs in the areas of Science, Engineering, Medical Technology, Business and Finance, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Administration, Visual and Performing Arts, and Technology and Computer Science.

To learn more about BCA's work to support the CLASS Coalition's mission and objectives, please contact Russell Davis at [BCAPrincipal@bergen.org](mailto:BCAPrincipal@bergen.org)



The Bergen County Academies is proud to be named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence