

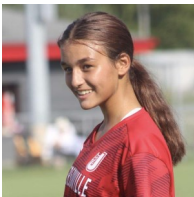
# ALL-STARS OF THE ACADEMIES

A quarterly newsletter highlighting the students & staff at the Academies of Greater Clark

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## Freshman Academy Spotlight at Jeffersonville High School



**Aubrey Cummings** is a freshman at JHS who will be joining the Health Services Academy in the upcoming school year. She valued her time in her Freshmen Seminar class because “it helped me learn life skills and helped me prepare for my college experience.” When asked about her favorite experience in the Freshman Academy, she identified the Academy Fair, where students learned about the career-themed academies they would join during their sophomore through senior years. Looking back on that experience, Aubrey said, “It taught me about so many different job possibilities that are out there and what they do. We could learn about manufacturing, culinary, engineering, medical, radio and tv, and other jobs. We got to participate in hands-on activities that helped us learn even more about each individual job and what we could do in that job.”



**Jonathan Collins** is a rising sophomore at JHS who will be joining the Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing Academy in the fall. Looking back on his time spent in his Freshmen Seminar course, he noted that it “has helped me manage my time better, as well as work harder in my classes in order to prepare for the future.” When asked to give advice to future Freshman Academy students, he responded, “During Freshmen Seminar, I’ve learned that you should always try your best during class, and everywhere, as it will greatly impact you later in life. There are no shortcuts to success.”



**Holden Henderson** is a ninth grade English teacher at JHS, who has been teaching there for the past 6 years. As a member of the Freshman Academy, he boasts that “we focus on preparing our students for successful careers during the rest of their time in high school. As teachers in the Freshman Academy, we know that we are teaching more than just our content area; we make sure to incorporate valuable life lessons into our everyday instruction!” He also notes the staff’s effort toward monitoring student data and the value it provides to students. One of the best indicators for future success is the number of credits they earn during their first year of high school.” When asked about the importance of having a Freshman Academy, he responded, “The Freshman Academy is an incredibly valuable aspect of Jeffersonville High School. We provide the extra scaffolding and support needed to help our students transfer out of middle school and integrate into high school. The Freshman Academy teachers prepare them to be successful in high school by teaching P.R.I.D.E. These characteristics, if internalized in their first year of high school, will help them be successful in high school and the rest of their lives.”

## Freshman Academy Spotlight at New Washington Middle/High School



**Aidan Chavez** is a freshman at NWMHS who will join the Public Service Academy in the fall at the start of his sophomore year. In reflection of what he learned while in his Freshmen Seminar class, Aidan said, “Freshmen Seminar helped me prepare for the future by teaching me how to finance and save my money for when I go to college. It has also helped me identify a career path that best suited me based on my skills and interests.” Aidan was asked about his favorite experience in this class, to which he responded, “The Potato Chips Project! I liked this project because it required teamwork and being hardworking.” He also appreciated that it helped prepare students who will join the Business & Entrepreneurship Academy after their freshman year.



**Danika Felker** has completed her freshman year at NWHS and chose to join the Public Service Academy for her next three years in school. She was asked how her Freshmen Seminar class prepared her for her future, and she replied, “My Freshmen Seminar class has helped me prepare for the future by introducing me to budgeting, planning for college, and how to be the most ready I can possibly be when applying for a job.” When asked a follow-up question about what she most enjoyed learning about while in the class, she shared a similar response. Danika said, “What I most enjoyed learning about while in Freshmen Seminar is how to budget with my average salary for my future job. I enjoy budgeting and being fully prepared for the future. We also learned the steps to take in preparation for college, which included: how to apply for loans, how to apply for student aid, and how to fill out college applications. Freshmen Seminar is my favorite class because it makes you feel like you’re going to be fully prepared for all the real world costs.”



**Heather Daily** is the Freshman Academy Team Lead at NWMHS who teaches English and Freshmen Seminar. She has more than two decades of teaching experience and has taught at NWMHS for the past 10 years. While she loves all the projects and activities that occur in Freshmen Seminar, her favorite is group project where students get to work as a “corporation” to design a new soda and create all the advertising for it. When asked why it is her favorite, she said, “I enjoy getting to see the creative side of each student. It is a nice culminating event for the year because by this point they’ve gotten to know each other and also learned skills needed for the future professional world that they can employ in creating something together.” Heather was then asked why Freshmen Seminar is so valuable to students, and she explained, “Freshmen Seminar is a fantastic foundational class for students entering high school. It might seem like the ideas of college and career are so far away as 9th graders, but this class allows students to start examining what they might want to do at that point and begin setting goals now to be prepared when they do graduate. The class is also a wonderful way for students to get to know one another through the individual projects that are created and then shared with one another.”

## Freshman Academy Spotlight at Charlestown High School



**Darin Marsal** is a rising sophomore who is joining the Health Services Academy at the start of the 23-24 school year. Looking back at his time in the Freshmen Seminar class, Darin stated, “The class has helped me decide what I want to do after high school. Before taking the class, I would always think about what I would want to do in the future, but never settle on one thing. The class helped show me all of the options I have available to me, which gave me a much better understanding of what I could do based on what I had in mind.” Darin was also asked if he had any advice for future students who will take Freshmen Seminar, and he replied, “It is important to take the class seriously because if you do, it can help you set yourself up for success.”



**Hannah Aaron** is a freshman at CHS and will join the Public Service Academy in the upcoming, fall semester. She is a huge proponent of the Freshmen Seminar course. In describing her experience in the class she, said, “Without this class I would be completely clueless of everything I need to do to even graduate high school. It also has informed me of things I need to know after college.” She also offered advice for future students needing help navigating their high school experience. Hannah, says “try to be informed about everything you possibly can because it’s better to know it all now than not know it until later. The later that you figure out something, the harder it will be to get it done the older you are.”



**Sarah Detenber** is a ninth grade English teacher at CHS. While she only has two years of experience working at the school, she has nearly two decades of experience in the field of education. She touts the value of having a Freshman Academy, stating that it provides a sense of belonging and security during a major transitional year. She goes on to say, “Having the Freshman Academy teachers located in one hallway allows for a sense of unity and security for both the students and teachers. Our team of freshman teachers, work together to provide consistency and to build strong relationships. Having a team of teachers working closely together within the same hall, allowed us to build positive relationships with our students and help them adjust to high school culture.” Even though Sarah does not teach Freshmen Seminar, it was easy for her to identify a favorite project of the students. While reflecting on this budgeting project, she shares, “Students really discussed the lesson on minimum wage, taxes, and debt in other classes, too. Students were asking teachers, besides the Freshmen Seminar teachers, about taxes, debt, and sharing what they learned. It was great to see the students making connections to real-world information!”