

ALL-STARS OF THE ACADEMIES

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

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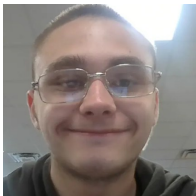
Freshmen Academy Spotlight at the Academies of Greater Clark



Aikam Mann will be a sophomore at JHS and a member of the Business & Entrepreneurship Academy this upcoming school year. Aikam said that his Freshmen Seminar class has helped him prepare for the future. He stated, “Class prepared me for the future by teaching me many valuable life skills and helping me figure out what I want to do and where I want to go in the future. Personal finance taught me how to save money, how to spend money, marketing skills, and how to succeed as a team. Setting financial goals was also a very important skill I learned.” When asked about his favorite experience or assignment from this class, he said, “My favorite assignment was the Coca-Cola PBL project. This was a group project where we designed and marketed an entirely new drink and flavor. During this project we had an opportunity to meet with an employee from Coca-Cola. This project taught me skills about marketing and design and the importance of research. This project really showed how small details can make a huge impact.”



David Kummer is a member of the Freshmen Academy Team at JHS who teaches English 9. He inspires students in his class through engaging experiences, such as acting out the scenes they read in a book. He says, “All of this helps students understand the material, relate to the characters, and hopefully remember the story.” While Freshman Academy is invaluable to students, he believes that the Freshman Academy provides tremendous value to teachers, too. “We are able to align our lesson plans across different classes and even across subjects. It also allows us to support each other, since teaching 9th graders can definitely be challenging, and it helps to communicate with other teachers who are also taking on this unique challenge.



Kolton Goforth is a rising sophomore at CHS who will be in the Public Service Academy in the fall. Looking back at the past school year, Kolton stated, “Freshman Seminar has taught me a lot of skills that I originally didn't know. I really enjoyed the mock interview and how it modeled a real interview. It seriously gave me a real idea on how it could go. Learning about different ways I could invest and build my credit also really helped me get a better perspective on how I want to start saving and investing.” He also wanted to pass on the following wisdom to future freshman: “ In Freshman Seminar, I learned that it won't always go your way. When the academy speakers came, they often weren't doing the things they thought they would as a child. I also learned that the job world is unpredictable, and that just because you have a certain job doesn't mean you'll be in that job forever. In the grand scheme of things, you might end up in an entirely different field that you never even learned about. I would definitely pass this advice on to the next freshman, as they need to know that the world is full of opportunities and things might not always go how you expected or wanted. Another thing I would like to point out is that it's not as hard as it seems. For example, before the mock interview in my College & Careers class, I was full of stress and scared I would do bad. However, as soon as I did it, everything went great. Finally, I want the freshmen to know they have to start early. Building your credit, acquiring job experience, building your resume, and looking out for colleges that seem interesting are all things that freshman should try to do while in high school so they can get an early head start!”



Harlow Iglesias is a soon-to-be sophomore at Charlestown High School and will join the Health Services Academy. She said the her Freshman Seminar class helped her start to think about college in a more serious manner, as well as exposed her to careers that she had not previously considered. When asked about her favorite assignment or activity in the class, she said “My favorite experiences in my Freshman Seminar class were the ones that were college-based. Each one had me thinking of my future & creating a goal to work towards after high school. I took valuable information from each experience, and it expanded my future opportunities.



Landon Ziehm will be a sophomore at NWMHS and a member of the Public Service Academy in the fall. He loved taking Freshman Seminar and emphasized, “It is an amazing class to take and find out what field was right for me and all the other projects we did. Plus, it was nice to learn about personal finance in the 2nd semester and build a budget.” Of all of his great experiences, his favorite was visiting IU Southeast. He recalls, “It was a great time touring around campus and seeing everything. I personally can't wait to go there!”



Maci Frazier is a rising sophomore at NWMHS and will join the Health Services Academy in the fall. She believes the Freshman Seminar course prepared her for her future. “ It taught me how to earn college credit, the importance of preparation, and it also helped me understand how to manage money.” Her favorite assignment involved comparing in-state colleges to out-of-state colleges. She said, “I liked this assignment the most because it helped me understand how much money I need to save in order to afford what college I want to attend.”



Sandra Schurr is a member of the Freshmen Academy Team at NWMHS who will be in her 25th year of education in the fall—14 of which will have been at NWMHS. She believes the Academy Novel PBL is an important activity for students because “ This really allows the student to research and view the lives of extraordinary people and how the events in their lives reflect the importance of all of our academy channels.” She also emphasized how important guest speakers are. She shares, “The many guest speakers we have are EXTREMELY valuable for hard and soft skills. Students learn how to talk to professionals, how to interview and ask questions, as well as information on various careers. Our rural kids are being given opportunities that they may never have had outside the small town life.”