



Academy of Science and Technology

Application Process for the Class of 2021



Eligibility: Eighth-grade students currently living in the Conroe Independent School District (CISD) attendance zones for The Woodlands College Park High School, The Woodlands High School or Oak Ridge High School in October 2016 and who meet qualification and course criteria are eligible to apply for admission into the Academy. (See separate statement of *Application, Selection, and Transfer Policies*.) The Academy application and selection process is competitive, involving grade and behavioral review, testing, teacher evaluations, and an interview. Invitations will be made on a space-available basis.

This will be your ONLY opportunity to apply. Late applicants for the Class of 2021 will be considered ONLY after move-ins and alternates.

Qualification Criteria: The Academy graduation requirements are rigorous. Students selected must be capable of pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) coursework. Grade and standardized test score qualification criteria are based on CISD guidelines for eligibility for these higher-level courses.

- (1) To qualify for consideration, a student must have a minimum grade of **80** in each semester of English and social studies, and **85** grades in each semester of science and mathematics for the previous two years.
- (2) A standardized test, the **PSAT 8/9**, will be given to students who attend CISD junior high schools. Those scores will become part of the application packet. We will administer the **ACT Explore** and the **QuantQ** to students on testing days. Minimum scores at the **85th percentile** in each of the mathematics, science reasoning, and reading tests will be required for further consideration. STAAR or other state/national testing results (such as SAT test scores) will also be reviewed – please provide copies for review.

Course Requirements: All students **must** have completed Algebra I prior to entry into the Academy in 9th grade. Eighth-grade students who are doing very well in transition math/pre-algebra (**above 93**) and who would be willing to complete Algebra I course in summer school (2017) are invited to apply.

Application Folder: Each student’s application packet consists of a **letter-size manila folder** that contains the required documents. Please print the Application Checklist to ensure all items are included. Incomplete folders will not be considered. The Official Application is a fillable form which can be saved to your computer and printed.

(1) **Academy Application Form**. Provide all the requested information, indicating the **names** of the math, science and language arts teachers, the course level (**Level, Honors, and Pre-AP**) and also indicating preferred dates for an interview if selected. If needed, please provide all contact information for a previous school (non-CISD) attended.

(2) **Student Application Letter**. The student **must write his or her own application letter**; it may be hand-written, but preferably typed on a computer. The letter must indicate: (a) why the student wants to attend the Academy; (b) what special qualities the student will bring to the Academy as an ethical learning community; and (c) examples of activities, projects, awards, and other things that show interest in math, science, and technology and a commitment to working hard. The student must sign the letter.

(3) **Parent/Guardian Support Letter**. The parent/guardian letter should express: (a) how the student will benefit from the Academy program; (b) why the student should be accepted; (c) how the parent/guardians will provide support for the student's involvement in the program; (d) commitment to participate in Academy parent activities; and, if necessary, (e) an explanation of any special circumstances related to eligibility to apply (for example, “I am a CISD employee at xxxx.”). The letter must be signed by a parent/guardian.

(4) **Copies of report cards.** Please include copies of the final 7th-grade and most recent 8th-grade report card/Progress Report with the application. CISD semester grades will be checked in January. Please send us non-CISD grade reports.

(5) **Copy of STAAR scores.**

(6) **Copy of the “Information About Me!” form.** The student should complete the About Me form and make copies to give each teacher of ELA, Mathematics, and Science during 7th and 8th grade. Include one copy with the application folder. Please note that we will not send this form to your teachers.

(7) **Optional:** Items that support statements in the student letter may be included in the application folder. Examples include SAT scores and other testing. Please include **copies** – items will not be returned.

The completed Application Folder must be received by 3:00 p.m. on November 1, 2016.

**The folder may be mailed or delivered to the Academy office or
may be taken to your CISD Junior High Counselor’s office.**

Academy Office (Room 3312)

The Woodlands College Park HS

3701 College Park Drive The Woodlands, TX 77384

Teacher Evaluation Forms: Upon receipt of the student’s Application Folder, the Academy secretary will send Teacher Evaluation Forms to teachers (math, science, and English) indicated. The teachers are asked to complete and return the forms to the Academy to be included in the application process. *[NOTE: Teacher Evaluation Forms will be mailed or faxed to teachers at the former schools based on contact information provided on the application. Evaluation forms must be sent directly from the teacher to the Academy.]*

Applicant Testing

Testing will require about 3.5 hours for applicants and includes reading, writing and mathematics. Students will write short essays, take a problem-solving test, and complete an interest inventory. Dates for testing are **Oct 8** and **Oct 22**. Download and complete the Test Registration Form and send it along with the **nonrefundable \$20 testing fee** to the Academy office in order to reserve a seat for testing. We cannot reserve a seat by phone. The deadline to reserve a testing seat for the **October 8 test** is **October 1** and the deadline for the **October 22 test** is **October 17**. Test registration may be done at either **AST Information Night (Sept 26th or 29th)**.

Applicant Interviews:

We expect that screening will be necessary to select students to be interviewed. This screening process will be based on the each student’s application file, grades, test scores, essay, and teacher evaluations.

Selected students will be interviewed at TWCP during the evenings of **January 17, 19, and 24, 2016**. Parents/guardians will be contacted by phone and mail to set a specific time for the interview. **Students who are not selected to be interviewed will be notified by mail at that time as well.**

A team consisting of two Academy teachers will conduct the interview. Each applicant will be interviewed for about 15 minutes. (Parents will **not** be interviewed.) The interview questions will elaborate on the application folder and will evaluate the motivation, commitment, communication skills, and poise of the student.

While students are being interviewed, the Academy Headmaster will provide detailed information on Academy graduation requirements and sample four-year plans to parents.

Notification of Status and Decisions: All interviewed students will be notified of their status in early February. Registration instructions will be given at that time.

The Conroe Independent School District (District) as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment matters. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Board policy not to discriminate in such a manner.

For information about **Title IX rights or Section 504/ADA rights**, contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ADA coordinator at 3205 W. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77304; (936) 709-7752.