

## Academy Concept

Zachary High School's Freshman Academy implements a smaller learning community environment designed to create a community of learners and leaders. The unique environment serves to ensure a smooth transition from middle school into a large, comprehensive high school setting.

Core subject classes for 9th graders take place in a designated area of Zachary High School, presently the two wings in the front of the school building. Here students are taught by teachers who implement rigorous, relevant curriculum and instruction tailored to meet the educational and social needs of 14 and 15-year old students. A two-story Freshman Academy building is currently under construction on the east side of campus.

The smaller environment of the Academy allows for more individualized and personalized attention for all 9th graders. Academy teachers use daily teaming time to get to know their students and to prepare instruction aimed to challenge and excite them. A wide range of elective courses offered throughout the campus allows students to further pursue their career interests. The support network provided by the Freshman Academy gives students needed attention while introducing them to the expectations, possibilities, and responsibilities of high school.



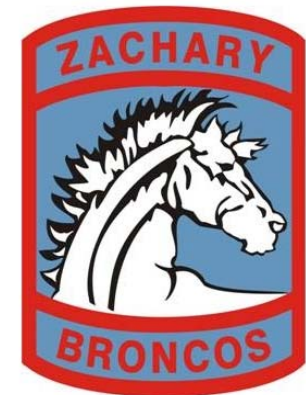
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**ZHS**

## FRESHMAN ACADEMY

*...where rigor and  
care must be braided  
together...*



**Principal: Wes Watts**

**Donna Kline: Academy Coordinator**

## Mission Statement

The mission of Zachary High School's Freshman Academy is to create a positive, supportive learning environment in which all 9th grade students will successfully transition into the high school setting...experiencing academic success, developing meaningful relationships, and being actively involved in the school community.

## Freshman Academy Goals

- Increase the number of first-time 9th graders who successfully complete freshman year
- Raise student achievement levels
- Increase daily attendance rate
- Decrease number of discipline referrals
- Increase the number of students participating in ZHS extracurricular activities
- Promote students' awareness of post-secondary and/or vocational options in planning for their high school careers

FRESHMAN  
ACADEMY... Where  
excellence IS the  
expectation!

## Strategies for Success

- Rigorous and relevant curriculum
- Instructional "best practices" in all classrooms
- Integration of technology throughout instruction
- Focus on reading and writing across the curriculum
- Additional ELA and Math instruction, if needed
- Positive Behavior Support strategies
- Teacher teaming daily at 5th period
- Enhanced communication between school and home
- Enhanced guidance support
- Early, targeted interventions for struggling learners
- H.E.L.P. After-school tutoring M-Th in library
- HEAT daily
- Freshman Orientation/Parent University classes
- Freshman Only Day

## H.E.A.T (Help Eliminate Academic Tardiness)

HEAT is a daily lunchtime detention for 9th graders who miss a homework assignment in a core subject class. Students assigned to HEAT report to room A131 during their lunch shift to complete the missed assignment and to eat a bag lunch. Completed assignments are then turned in to teachers for partial credit. Zeroes are not an option for 9th graders!

## Freshman Academy Team

**Coordinator of Freshman Academy**  
Donna Kline

**Freshman Counselor**  
Donna Grice

**504 Coordinator/Testing Coordinator**  
Erica Henry

### Team Leaders

Nicole Harvey  
Lindsey Spence  
Justin Thompson

### H.E.A.T Moderator

David Murray

### Blue Team

Byrd	Algebra I
Harvey	Physical Science
Musso	English I
Smothers	Math
Ward	World Geography

### Red Team

Anderson	English I
Falgout	Physical Science
Moreau	Algebra I
Thompson	World Geography

### White Team

Chaves	Algebra I-H, Geometry-H
Devall	World Geography-H
Spence	Physical Science-H
Thomas	English I-H