



## Coolidge High School Frequently Asked Questions from Parents and Families

### Overview

Coolidge HS is currently under construction and expected completion is August 2019. During this period of renovation, DCPS is taking the time to redesign the school’s offerings, with the goals of increasing rigor, aligning to the interests of the community, and bolstering enrollment. In addition to opening a new Middle School, the High School will open in 2019 with a Health Science Academy, a Mass Media Academy, and an Early College Academy.

### Overview of The Academies at Coolidge High School

Academy Name	Description	Enrollment Criteria
Health Sciences Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Courses:</b> Biomedical Science courses + rigorous core classes</li> <li>● <b>College partnerships:</b> Faculty/Teacher Partnerships, Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>● <b>Career Partnership:</b> Industry Board supports guest speakers, site visits, paid Career Ready Internships</li> <li>● <b>Certifications:</b> Certified Nursing Assistant, First Aid</li> </ul>	In-boundary and feeder school students will have a right to attend
Mass Media Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Courses:</b> Journalism and production electives + rigorous core classes</li> <li>● <b>College partnerships:</b> Faculty/Teacher Partnerships, Dual Enrollment Courses</li> <li>● <b>Career Partnership:</b> Industry Board supports guest speakers, site visits, paid Career Ready Internships</li> <li>● <b>Certifications:</b> Adobe Premier Pro &amp; After Effects</li> </ul>	In-boundary and feeder school students will have a right to attend



Academy Name	Description	Enrollment Criteria
Early College Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses:</b> Courses in Grades 9 and 10 are taken at the high school, with an emphasis on Advanced Placement and college prep coursework.</li><li>• <b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses:</b> These ideally are taken on a partnering college campus, affording students the opportunity to earn up to 60 college credits by the time they graduate.</li></ul>	Citywide application program via My School DC lottery

#### What kind of modernization is happening at Coolidge?

Coolidge High School is currently under construction and modernization with an expected completion in August 2019. The existing building will receive a complete gut-renovation to right-size and modernize the classrooms. The rear courtyards will be enclosed and covered with atriums, and a small addition will be built on the south side to house part of the new middle school and the daycare.



#### What will be the leadership structure of Coolidge High School and Coolidge Middle School?

- **High School:** One High School Principal will oversee a cohesive, inclusive, and aligned school community across the three Academies (Early College, Health Sciences, and Mass Media). Each Academy will have a Director to support students and staff.
- **Middle School:** The middle school will have its own Principal, who will work collaboratively with the High School Principal to ensure students are prepared to successfully transition into the High School.

**When will Coolidge High School students of other academies get to collaborate?**

All students will be able to take arts, music, physical education and some electives together. In addition, all students will be able to participate in both sports and extracurriculars together including before and after school clubs.

**How will the middle school students come prepared for these Coolidge High School academies?**

- The Coolidge High School leadership team, which includes the Principal and Academy Directors, will collaborate closely with the Middle School Principal and her/his leadership team to ensure middle school students are prepared to succeed at Coolidge High School.
- Opportunities for student collaboration and mentorship between the Middle and High Schools will be encouraged, as well teacher collaboration.

**How have the staff and community been engaged in this process?**

DCPS engaged hundreds of stakeholders through student focus groups, parent and staff meetings, the Coolidge Working Group, community meetings, and an online survey. We recently also presented at the Ward 4 Ed Alliance November meeting.

**Are English Learners able to apply and take courses in any of the three academies? If so, how will there be language support?**

English Learners (ELs) are eligible to apply to and participate in the Academy courses. All English Learners (ELs) are entitled to receive English as a Second Language (ESL) services until they reach a level of 5.0 on the ACCESS 2.0 Assessment which indicates English Proficiency. ESL services may take the form of stand alone language development classes, sheltered content/elective classes in which language and content instruction are integrated and native language instruction. ESL course identification and scheduling will be carried out through a collaborative effort between Coolidge leadership and the Language Acquisition Division to ensure that appropriate supports are in place. For additional information, contact [Rosanna.demammos@dc.gov](mailto:Rosanna.demammos@dc.gov).

**Why is DCPS adding an Early College Program to Coolidge High School?**

DCPS' vision is to significantly expand our Early College offerings across the city. Currently, the only Early College program is at School Without Walls. The Coolidge community has expressed interest in bringing more rigor to Coolidge's offerings; moreover hundreds of students who are in-boundary for Coolidge are attending selective high schools outside of Ward 4. We believe Coolidge is a great candidate to expand access to this program for different parts of the city.

**When would families have to apply through the lottery to enter the Early College Academy?**

Families apply to the Early College Academy through the My School DC Lottery. The school will enroll its first class of 9<sup>th</sup> grade in SY19-20, meaning that families of current (SY17-18) 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be the first to enter the Early College Academy. Interested families will need to submit an application through the My School DC Lottery by February 1, 2019 to enter the Early College Academy prior to the Academy's opening in Fall 2019.



**Is it possible for a student to transfer from one academy to another? When is this allowed? mid-year or at the start of a new grade?**

Over the coming year we will determine the transfer policies within the Academies and we are happy to hear your thoughts and feedback as we make the final decision.

**Have more questions?**

If you have more questions about how this impacts your family or would like more details, please contact the School Planning Team: [DCPS.Planning@dc.gov](mailto:DCPS.Planning@dc.gov).

- You can also visit our blog at <https://dcpsplanning.wordpress.com/category/coolidge/>
- You are also welcome to follow us on twitter @DCPSPlanining