Why focus on agriculture?

Agriculture was chosen as the focus for the career academy for several reasons:

- Alignment with current district offerings at Walton Rural Life Center
- Currently offer 14 ag-related courses at Newton High School
- Ag supports 229,934 jobs in Kansas or 12% of the workforce
- KS ag economic contribution is approximately $62.8 billion
- 22 million Americans work in ag-related careers
- Many opportunities for partnerships in our local community

Careers in agriculture

Agriculture is much more than farming! Careers include communication, economics, education, engineering, agronomy, food science, animal science and more!

Who We Are

Philosophy Statement

We believe in the power of experiential education through agriculture to produce effective and global citizens, making a unique difference in the local community.

Contact Us

Teachers in the Ag Career Academy include:

- Lacie Fair, Science
- Elizabeth Gunn, Social Studies
- Amber Janzen, Agriculture
- Ryan Kopper, English
- Nancy Edwards, Support Services
- Kim Powell, Special Education
What is a career academy?

A career academy is a personalized small learning community within a high school, selecting a subset of students and teachers for a two-, three-, or four-year span. Students enter through a voluntary process; they must apply and be accepted, with parental knowledge and support. While academies vary in size, they usually have from one to three sections of students at each grade level.

A career academy involves teachers from different subjects working together as a team. Teams usually participate in professional development, particularly in implementing the key features of the model and gaining exposure to the career field. Team members have shared planning time. The joining of a group of students for several periods each day with teachers who they come to know well provides a family-like atmosphere, nurturing close student-teacher ties. An academy functions within the larger high school and requires administrator and counselor support. Academy students may also participate in required and elective classes outside the academy, as well as other activities such as clubs and sports.

How the academy works at NHS

All courses in the academy meet graduation requirements and are taught using the same standards as traditional courses. Instruction will focus on agriculture as it relates to the content as much as possible. The academy begins with a cohort of students in the 10th grade and progresses through the senior year.

Instruction in the academy is done with a focus on careers in agriculture and skills needed for these careers

Benefits of the academy model

Students in a career academy have a mixture of agriculture and academic classes at the same time. They show students how their subjects relate to each other and the career field. Field trips, career shadows and internships are integrated into the academy and provide real-world experiences and hands-on learning.

Becoming a member

Enrollment is open to all 10th grade students beginning in the 2018-19 school year. Applications will be available during the enrollment period. The academy is a voluntary program and students are encouraged to follow a suggested course progression. Modifications can be made to accommodate advanced coursework outside the academy.

FFA membership

Academy students will be involved in FFA. As an FFA member students can compete in various competitions, attend state and national conventions and qualify for scholarships. FFA members participate in community service projects including the state FFA food drive, community plant sale and Day at the Farm events for elementary students.