



CONNECTIONS ACADEMY



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West Michigan is home to some of the most innovative companies and organizations in the nation and the [Connections Academy](#) is an opportunity to experience what these companies do first hand. The program will allow students to see and experience several different career opportunities within various businesses/ organizations and gain useful skills that can be applied to whatever path they may choose to pursue in the future. Participating businesses during the 2013/2014 school year include:

- Haworth, Inc.
- Gentex
- Holland/Zeeland City Government
- Metal Flow
- Herman Miller, Inc.
- Johnson Controls Inc.
- Primera Plastics

Students participating in the program will earn elective High School credit along with 4 college credits from Grand Rapids Community College.

ORIENTATION

*August 22nd & 23rd
9:00 - 2:30*

Get to know your teachers, companies, and other students that you will be working with throughout the program.

SESSION I

*September 9th - November 22nd
2 Days a Week, 3:30 - 5:30*

Work with and learn about the company/organization that you will be partnered with and experience what other organizations in the area do.

SESSION 2

*January 6th - April 4th
2 Days a Week, 3:30 - 5:30*

Work on an in-depth, real-world issue in an area of interest at the company organization that you are partnered with and develop a plan for your future.

THE APPLICATION

*APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS THAT WILL BE A JUNIOR IN THE 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR.
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION PACKET.*

The [Connections Academy](#) is a career preparation program for local high school student entering their Junior year. The program will allow students to see and experience several different career opportunities in businesses/ organizations within the area and gain skills that will help prepare them for whatever career they may choose to pursue.

During the program students will be partnered with a company/organization based upon their interests and potential areas of future study. During the summer on August 22nd and 23rd from 9:00 - 2:30, there will be an orientation to introduce students to one another, their teachers, and their partnering companies/organizations. From September 9th through November 22nd, students will meet twice a week for two hours (3:30 - 5:30) to learn about their partnering company and other businesses and organizations within the area through real-life, engaging project-based work. Afterward, from January 6th through April 4th, students will have the opportunity to explore and develop solutions to real-life issues at the partnering company in areas of interest to them. Along with this, students will be guided through the creation of a plan for the future of their education and eventual career.

Participation in all three parts of this nine-month program is required. Students who successfully complete the program will be able to earn elective High School credit and 4 college credits from Grand Rapids Community College.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Does not exceed school's attendance policy
- Able to participate in after-school program (NOTE: Participation in this program will limit involvement in extra-curricular/after-school activities.)

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Application
- Student & Parent/Guardian Agreement
- Teacher Recommendation (2)
- Transcript & Attendance Record Release/Counselor Recommendation Form

IMPORTANT DATES

- Applications Due: June 5th
- Interviews: Week of June 10th
- Final Selection and Notification: Week of June 24th