



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

January 19, 2023

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### DPS ANNOUNCES STEM & CAREER ACADEMIES

Danville Public Schools is increasing students' opportunities for STEM and career exploration through new and reimaged programming announced Thursday.

DPS' AIM STEM and Career Academies will prepare students to be career ready through increased career and technical education programs and STEM Academies for grades K-12. With occupations in the STEM field increasing in Virginia, these new programs will allow DPS students to meet the demands of the region's workforce.

"This new approach will provide all students with the knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences necessary to succeed after high school," Chief Academic Officer Takiwi Babalola said. "We are positioning our students to aim for their futures."

At the elementary level, added career exploration for all students during special classes will allow for early exposure. Exploration will begin in kindergarten and vary by grade level.

Grade Level	Academy
K & 1	Law & Leadership Hospitality & Tourism
2	International Business & Culture Health & Human Services
3	Hospitality & Tourism Health & Human Services
4	Building & Industrial Technology Environmental Science



5	Advanced Technology Manufacturing Sciences
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The addition of a STEM and Career Academy for **grades 3-5** will allow students to dive deeper into these concepts. The Activ8 Academy, located at the I.W. Taylor building, will focus on activating 21st-century global citizens to be critical-thinking problem solvers focused on improving the world around them. Students will collaborate in an engaging learning environment to make evidence-based decisions using an innovative and rigorous academic program. There will be an application process for this academy, and approximately 10 students per grade level per elementary school will be selected to attend.

At the middle school level, all students in **grades 6-8** will have the opportunity to investigate several STEM & Career pathways to serve as a bridge to foster from the elementary introduction of schools to intensive training in high school.

In addition, the Innov8 STEM & Career Academy for middle school is planned for 2025 at the renovated Langston campus with a state-of-the-art laboratory facility for middle school students. Students will have access to this academy for further STEM and Career exploration.

At the high school level, in addition to current career programs, several new offerings will be added and provide more choices to students, including skilled trades, agriscience, and more. New laboratory classrooms will meet the hands-on needs of career clusters/pathways set to be completed in 2025. As a part of this new build, the added Motiv8 Academy will focus on Environmental and Manufacturing Sciences.

“Not only does this allow more choices for our students, but it also serves an essential function to build our region’s workforce,” Superintendent Dr. Angela Hairston said. “Students will have the opportunity to earn industry certifications and credentials to prepare them for future careers or higher education.”

The following are the middle and high school academies and their associated pathways.

**International Business & Culture**

Middle School	High School
Art, Ceramics, & Photojournalism Pathway	Art Pathway
	Ceramics Pathway
	Photojournalism pathway
Band Pathway	Band Pathway

Orchestra Pathway	Orchestra Pathway
Dance Pathway	Dance Pathway
Theater Pathway	Theater Pathway
Chorus Pathway	Chorus Pathway
Economics, Personal Finance, & Marketing Pathway	Economics & Personal Finance Pathway
	Marketing Pathway*
World Languages Pathway	World Languages Pathway

### Building & Industrial Technology

Middle School	High School
Building & Industrial Technology Pathway	Plumbing Pathway*
	Automotive Pathway
	Welding Pathway*
	Industrial Electricity Pathway*
	HVAC Pathway*

### Health & Human Services

Middle School	High School
Health & Human Services Pathway	Nurse Aide Pathway
	Fashion Pathway*



	Early Childhood Education Pathway*
	Cosmetology Pathway*
	Strength & Conditioning Pathway
	Dental Careers Pathway
	Teachers for Tomorrow

**Law & Leadership**

Middle School	High School
Law & Leadership Pathway	Navy JROTC Pathway
	Criminal Justice Pathway

**Advanced Technology**

Middle School	High School
Automation & Robotics Pathway	Automation & Robotics Pathway
IT & Computer Systems Pathway	IT Pathway
	Computer Information Systems Pathway
Gaming & Multimedia Technology Pathway	Gaming & Multimedia Technology Pathway

**Environmental Science**

Middle School	High School
Agriscience Pathway	Agriscience (Ag, Food, & Natural Resources) Pathway*
	Environmental Management Pathway*

**Hospitality & Tourism**



Middle School	High School
Hospitality & Tourism Pathway	Culinary Arts Pathway
	Hospitality, Tourism, & Recreation Management Pathway*

**Manufacturing Sciences**

Middle School	High School
Manufacturing Sciences	Manufacturing Systems Pathway*
	Mechatronics Pathway*
	Precision Machinery Pathway

\*Indicates a new career program set to begin in 2025.