



Norcross High School

JA Academy FAQ



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What is the JA Academy?

The Junior Achievement Academy at Norcross is a full immersion “school within a school” that is designed to provide students with a rigorous standards-based education infused with career readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills. Students will engage in hands-on experiences in an integrated curriculum that combine core high school subjects with career and technical education that blends college and career preparation. Drawing on JA’s partnerships throughout the business community, JA Academy students will have access and connectivity to elite companies through mentors, executive guest seminars, professional advisors, case studies, project-based business challenges, site visits, and internships. Students in the program will achieve certification in up to four Career Pathways, while also gaining real-world experience through an internship during their senior year, and launching their own entrepreneurial venture through high school. Additionally, the JA Academy will provide an Entrepreneurial Incubator in the 10th-12th grade years, which leads students through the time-tested methods of JA entrepreneurship as students launch and build their businesses throughout the course of high school.

What College-Career Pathways will students complete?

Students in the JA Academy will complete up to four career pathways. These pathways will give students the option of earning a career certificate at the end of their four years in the program. Career Pathways offered will include:

- Business and Technology
- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing and Management
- Financial Services

Who are the JA Students?

The JA Academy student is any student who enjoys gaining real-world experience through visits to community businesses, job shadowing, mentoring, networking with community leaders and tackling business challenges through case studies. Eligible students should have good grades and evidence of leadership skills and self-motivation. Only a limited number of students will be accepted through the competitive application process.

Can a student be a part of the JA Academy and the International Baccalaureate program?

Yes, students are able to participate in the IB Program and in the JA Academy. While students will not be able to complete the full IB Diploma Program, students will have the option of being an IB Course Certificate student and taking many Advanced Placement courses.

How will students be selected for the program?

To be eligible students must complete an application, which includes an essay and a recommendation form from a current teacher. Students must have performed well in their academic classes in the seventh and the eighth grades to be considered for the program.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities at Norcross?

Yes. We realize that part of the unique experience of high school is the many opportunities to be involved in and explore a variety of sports and clubs. As part of the JA Academy, students will be able to participate in any club or activity offered at Norcross High School.

What courses are involved in the JA Academy?

Students will take honors level college preparation courses with the option of taking gifted, Advanced Placement, and IB Course Certificate courses within the scope of their four years in the program. Within each academic year students will be taking up to 8 classes in a semester including core classes, world languages, Junior Achievement elective classes and an additional elective. Students will have elective options that include Band or Art. Additionally students will have the opportunity to be involved in mentorships, internships, and job shadowing.

Sample Schedules

Actual courses offered will vary based on student course selection and are subject to availability

Sample A

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Honors Ninth Grade Literature and Composition	AP Language	IB Literature HL I	IB Literature HL II
Mathematics	Algebra I	Geometry	Pre-calculus	AP Calculus AB
Science	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics	Science Elective (including AP science courses)
Social Studies	AP World History	AP Economics/AP Government	AP US History	
JA Electives	<p>Financial Literacy</p> <p>Introduction to Business and Technology/ Business Technology</p>	<p>Marketing Principles</p> <p>Entrepreneurship/ Legal Environment of Business</p>	<p>Business Communication / HR Principles</p> <p>Marketing Entrepreneurship/ Marketing Management</p> <p>Work-Based Learning</p>	<p>Banking, Investing, & Insurance</p> <p>Work-Based Learning (multiple periods)</p>
Electives	World Language PE/Health or Elective	World Language Elective	World Language or Elective	Elective (optional)

Sample B

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Honors Ninth Grade Literature and Composition	Honors American Literature	British Literature	AP Language
Mathematics	Accelerated Geometry	Accelerated Pre-calculus	AP Calculus BC	AP Statistics
Science	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	AP Physics I	Science Elective (including AP science courses)
Social Studies	Honors World History	Honors Economics/Honors Political Systems	Honors US History	
JA Electives	Financial Literacy Introduction to Business and Technology/ Business Technology	Marketing Principles Entrepreneurship/ Legal Environment of Business	Business Communication / HR Principles Marketing Entrepreneurship/ Marketing Management Work-Based Learning	Banking, Investing, & Insurance Work-Based Learning (multiple periods)
Electives	Spanish II PE/Health or Elective	Spanish III Elective	IB Spanish HL I	IB Spanish HL II

Pathways that are a part of the JA Academy:

Business and Technology Pathway

- Introduction to Business and Technology
- Business Technology
- Business Communication

Entrepreneurship Pathway

- Introduction to Business and Technology
- Legal Environment of Business
- Entrepreneurship

Marketing and Management Pathway

- Marketing Principles
- Marketing Entrepreneurship
- Marketing Management

Financial Services Pathway (optional)

- Introduction to Business and Technology
- Financial Literacy
- Banking Investing and Insurance