



West Allegheny School District

A Tradition of Excellence . . . a Vision for Tomorrow

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW EARLY COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

(Imperial, PA) -- West Allegheny High School becomes the first District in Allegheny County to partner with the Community College of Allegheny County to offer students the ability to earn college certificates in cybersecurity and multimedia game simulation by the time students graduate from high school. The District is excited to launch an Early College in High School Academy through a unique partnership with CCAC. The Academy will allow West Allegheny students to work toward attaining a high school diploma while completing the first one or two years of college simultaneously, earning a college certificate and/or associate degree in CCAC's accredited Computer Information Technology Program. Students will be able to earn college credit by taking and completing West Allegheny course requirements with no additional outside course work. Our courses will include CCAC requirements; thereby, students taking West Allegheny courses will complete CCAC requirements and earn graduation and college credits, simultaneously. CCAC credits are transferable to most colleges and universities.

The Early College In High School Academy will offer a Multimedia Game Simulation Certificate attainable through completing only six WAHS courses as part of the Zulama Gaming Program (27 CCAC credits) and a Cybersecurity Certificate attainable through completing only four WAHS courses (24 CCAC credits), as well as a Multimedia Programming, Simulation and Gaming Associate Degree achievable by completing 15 WAHS courses (65 CCAC credits). These areas of concentration were strategically identified due to their high demand and high priority within the job market.

The Early College in High School Academy will be taught by highly qualified West Allegheny High School teachers who are also certified as adjunct CCAC professors by either having a content certification in their respective discipline and/or completing college board level training.

This early college opportunity will tremendously benefit parents financially due to dramatically reduced or free tuition. The majority of CCAC's fees will be waived for West Allegheny students, making the out-of-pocket costs significantly lower. Instead of paying the CCAC per credit cost, which is currently \$110, students will only pay \$110 **per course** (based on 2017-2018 CCAC tuition rates). The District also plans to offer several scholarship opportunities.

Box 55 • Imperial, PA 15126

An equal opportunity school district

Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will have all credits paid for by the District as long as they meet GPA and attendance expectations. For all other families, the District is planning a 50 percent cost sharing option for the initial launch. Families would pay half and the District would pay half of the \$110 fee, \$55 for each CCAC course. Parents have the potential to save the majority of costs of their child's first two years of college.

“We are extremely excited to bring this opportunity to our students aligned to such high demand occupations and in partnership with our highest attended post-secondary college, CCAC,” said Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert, superintendent. “Our goal is to have every student connected to a viable post-secondary pathway by the time they graduate ready to persist. The ability for our students to complete the first or second year of college and earn a college certificate and/or associate degree by the time they graduate by taking WAHS courses, taught by our teachers, during the school day, without requiring additional college coursework, is a tremendous benefit to our students. It is a two for one, with students earning a high school diploma and college certificate, while putting in the same effort as they would normally to earn their diploma. Not only will students be connected to a post-secondary plan by the time they graduate, but they will be persisting on a viable career and college pathway with one or two years of college completed for little to no cost”.

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