

Biotechnology Career Academy at Ballard High School Student Application Packet For 9th Grade Cohort School Year 2018-2019

Applications due to Ms. Pagels on or before Friday, May 11, 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the application due?

The attached application form and the letter of recommendation from a math or science teacher are due on or before (early is good!) **Friday, May 11, 2018 by 3:45 pm.**

Who should apply to the Freshman Cohort?

- ① Students who are ready to take Biotech Biology and, at a minimum, Geometry in their 9th grade year.
- ② Students who are interested in a college-prep program with a strong emphasis on science, writing, reading, and applied and theoretical mathematics.
- ③ Students who want to be part of a small community of learners that includes students and teachers. Students who want to take three classes together out of a six-period day.

Are there limitations to other programs at Ballard High School if a student is accepted into the Biotechnology Academy?

Students have opportunities to participate in other programs; however, they may not be able to participate in some programs in certain years of the Academy. Biotechnology Academy students are blocked in their language arts and science classes so that students and teachers can integrate curricula. The Biotechnology Academy is a consecutive, three-year commitment. Therefore, in some years of the Academy, some students may not be able to choose certain electives during specific periods of the school day. When there are scheduling conflicts, students will need to choose their preference by either opting out of a specific elective for one year or dropping out of the Academy.

Why is Geometry a focal point for decisions?

Academy students will take biotech chemistry in their second year of the program. There is a dismal success rate for passing chemistry without having FIRST successfully mastered the math skills learned in Algebra 1 and Geometry.

How does a student apply?

- ① Students must complete the attached student application form.
- ② The applicant must have a math or science teacher complete a recommendation commentary. The student must have the recommendation in a separate sealed envelope included with the application submission. Teacher e-mailed recommendations will not be accepted.

The completed application and teacher recommendation are due by 3:45 p.m., Friday, May 11, 2018. Late applications will not be considered.

How are students selected for the three-year freshman Biotechnology Career Academy?

This is a four step process:

- ① Confirmation that the student is assigned to Ballard High School:
You should be notified by the District by mid-April.
- ② Records are checked to assure that the student is eligible to take biology and, at a minimum, Geometry.
- ③ Applications are checked for completeness, which includes a teacher recommendation, and to assure that the parent(s) approves, that the student has interest in the program, and that our goals are in alignment.
- ④ Applications meeting requirements 1-3 are then selected by a lottery system; there are only 32 openings in the 2018 Freshman Cohort. This means that **NOT ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE ASSURED OF SELECTION** into the 9-cohort.

Application Check List

- Student application form received on or before Friday, May 11, 2018 (3:45 p.m.):

Penny Pagels (Rm NW200)
Ballard High School
1418 65th St NW
Seattle, WA 98117

- Student-requested math or science teacher recommendation included with application. The recommendation form is in this packet. Student applicants should provide the recommendation form and an envelope to the teacher recommender. Teacher recommendation form should be sealed with teacher's signature across the seal.

We hope to notify all applicants (to parents' email) whether or not they are accepted into the program by the end of May.

Biotechnology Career Academy at Ballard High School

Student Application Form for Freshman Cohort, 2018-2019

BE ADVISED: In recent years, the Biotech Academy has been oversubscribed. This means that **NOT ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE ASSURED OF SELECTION** into the 9th grade cohort. Admittance into the Biotech Academy does not grant any exceptions to the district assignment plan and will not be taken into consideration regarding which students are moved to Lincoln High School for the 2019-20 school year.

Printed Name of Applicant: _____ Gender: M F
Circle one

Printed Name of current Middle School: _____

Printed Parent E-mail: _____
(Notification of applicant status will be emailed to parent/guardian; If we can't read it, you won't get notified. If you don't include it, you won't qualify.)

Printed Parent Name: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (Required. Unsigned applications will not be considered.)

Request a short letter of recommendation from your math or science teacher, and use the attached form. Be certain to include the sealed and signed recommendation with your application on or before Friday, May 11, 2018 by 3:45 p.m.

Circle your Current Math Class:

Algebra I Geometry Algebra II PreCalc Other: _____

Circle the 3 aspects of the Biotechnology Career Academy that you find most interesting:

Coordinated curriculum in core classes	A college-prep science program
Hands-on science experimentation	Cutting-edge scientific advances
Discussing ethical issues in science	Mentorship with a professional scientist

Regular structured study sessions

Small-school community

In paragraph form, write two paragraphs to explain why you are interested in being a part of the Biotechnology Academy. You may refer to the three aspects you chose in the previous question. (Please attach extra pages if needed.)

Tell us about the coolest thing you have done in school.

What other classes are you planning to take this fall?

Spanish (1) or (2) World History Choir

French (1) or (2) Orchestra Band

Japanese (1) or (2) Jazz Band Video

Other: _____

Circle which type of careers might interest you:

Being a doctor, nurse or veterinarian Developing medicines Cloning replacement organs

Working with fisheries Developing food products Wildlife conservation

Working in forestry Computer programming Chemistry

Designing artificial limbs & organs Marine Biology Engineering

Using technology to solve crimes Biology Energy Conservation

Thank you for completing this application. Please return the application to Ms. Pagels in Room

NW200. Applications must be in our hands on or before Friday, May 11, 2018 by 3:45 p.m.

Biotechnology Career Academy at Ballard High School Teacher Recommendation Form

Complete the top half of this form and then give it to a teacher for a recommendation. Provide the teacher with an envelope. Include sealed and signed recommendation with the application. The student applicant is responsible for including the recommendation with his/her application.

Part 1: To be completed by the student:

Name: _____ Current School: _____

Part 2: To be completed by the teacher:

Name: _____ Relation to student: _____

The above student is applying to participate in the Biotechnology Career Academy at Ballard High School. The Biotechnology Career Academy is a specialized learning program that brings together science, mathematics, and language arts to prepare students for advanced study and a career in the biosciences. Core course work is scheduled together with specific instructors. Students are scheduled together to form a small learning community. In science, there is an emphasis on hands-on labs, working with the same high-tech equipment used by scientists. The language arts portion includes a study of reading and writing that will promote connections between science and literature. The mathematics portion entails integration and application to specified projects. There are integrated units throughout the three-year program.

Please answer the following questions concerning this student's application to the Biotechnology Career Academy:

1. Would you choose this student for a college prep science program?

(If no please explain on the back of this form)

2. Rate this student in the following areas:	weak		average		strong
Writing	1	2	3	4	5
Reading	1	2	3	4	5
Mathematics	1	2	3	4	5
Verbal communication	1	2	3	4	5
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5
Self-motivation	1	2	3	4	5
Reasoning	1	2	3	4	5

