

Spencerport High School Academy



2023-2024

REVISED 12/2023

The Academy Team

We encourage parents to actively participate and partner with us to support your child's education. If you have any questions, concerns, or need additional information regarding your child's education, please feel free to contact either your child's teacher or the principal.

Assistant Principal

Jessica Silsby (585) 349-5229 jsilsby@spencerportschools.org

Administrative Assistant

Mary Jean McQuilkin (585) 349-5228 mmcquilkin@spencerportschools.org

Social Worker

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School Counselor

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Teachers

Seth Adanti	Science	sadanti@spencerportschools.org
Alanna Brady	Reading	abrady@spencerportschools.org
Adam Cappelletti	English	acappelletti@spencerportschools.org
Katie Mason	Special Education	kmason@spencerportschools.org
Lia Napierala	Special Education	lnapierala@spencerportschools.org
Andrew Pacitto	Math	apacitto@spencerportschools.org
Paul Resch	Social Studies	presch@spencerportschools.org

Teaching Assistant

Jamie Wainwright jwainwright@spencerportschools.org

The Spencerport Academy handbook is designed to serve as a tool for familiarizing students, parents, and guardians with the Spencerport Academy's established policies, rules, and regulations. It is virtually impossible to cover every detail on every subject. By compiling this handbook, the Academy is attempting to provide a foundation for our framework and essential knowledge of the program. If you have any questions, please contact the Academy office for clarification.

Mission of the Academy

The Spencerport Academy is dedicated to each student's academic, physical, emotional, and social development to ensure that each student graduates and has the skills to become independent life-long learners.

Vision of the Spencerport Academy

The Spencerport Academy is a "school-within-a-school" that strives to provide the additional support these students need to succeed. It was designed to meet the individual needs of students, who have, for a variety of social, emotional, or academic reasons, not met with success within a traditional school setting. The Academy provides numerous experiences and opportunities for students to reinvest themselves into their education, experience success, and to meet New York State Learning Standards and earn the same high school Diploma as kids in the general setting.

About the Academy:

The goal of the Academy is to provide a smaller environment for students so that teachers can get to know them better, identify their unique needs, and personalize their learning experience. We do this through shorter classes, a consistent team of teachers from year to year (students will have the same ELA, math, science, and social studies teachers in grades 9-12), and maximizing our in-class time (no homework). This consistent team approach strengthens the relationships between students, staff, and their families. The Academy also benefits from access to its own full-time social worker, who can work proactively with students both in small groups and individually to build the skills they need to be successful in high school and beyond. The majority of our classes are in the same location for wrap around support for students.

Our goal is to better meet the needs of students who struggle in a more traditional setting for various reasons. Students in our program are held to the same high expectations as students in the general setting, but we can provide a higher level of supports to help students meet them. Our basic expectations are as follows:

1. Be present and on time for school and for class. This is essential to the success of this type of program.
2. Attend assigned classes, be engaged, and satisfactorily complete the assigned classwork and assessments.
3. Follow in class expectations for behavior (cell phone policy, interactions with peers, no distracting others, etc.)
4. Appropriately utilize resources and supports available to manage behavior as needed (advocate for a break at the Student Support Center, Office, etc.)

Enrollment:

Students in 8th Grade wishing to attend the Academy:

- Students/parents notify 8th grade counselor of their interest
- Qualified candidates will be invited to a shadow in March/April
- Parents of accepted candidates will be invited to an Open House in April/May

Important Note: Only up to 10 students will be accepted for this program. Larger acceptance rates defeat the purpose of smaller class sizes.

Students in Grades 9-12 wishing to attend the Academy

- Step 1: Student/parents work with current counselor/AP to obtain more information and complete application on website.
- Step 2: Academy counselor gets feedback from current teachers
- Step 3: Student's current counselor/AP meets with Academy AP, counselor, and social worker to discuss application and current student needs hoping to be met with Academy
- Step 4: Academy counselor presents student application and profile to Academy team to review and determine if they are a good fit to advance to the next step
- Step 5: Student shadows in the Academy for the day (student's current counselor will let family know if a shadow is being set up and the day of the shadow)
- Step 6: Counselor gathers feedback from student and team about the shadow
- Step 7: Determination is made about enrollment in the Academy and if applicable, the start date (student's current counselor communicates with the student/family)

Important note: Students may be accepted but put on a waiting list based on availability in cohorts/class sizes. Start dates may not be immediate.

Academy Exit Process:

At every 5-week point of the school year, the Academy and Student Support Team will review academic progress, behavior, attendance, and evidence of engagement in the program using a variety of data, including teacher gradebooks, teacher feedback and direct observation, as well as the degree to which the student was able to comply with the expectations above. There is a waitlist for students wishing to enter the Academy. If at any point the student is *consistently* not meeting any of the above expectations and taking advantage of the resources provided them, it is possible that they may lose their spot in the Academy and be placed in another academic setting to allow other students the option to join the program. Students and parents will be notified of the possibility of being exited from the program, and the criteria required to stay.

Spencerport Academy Schedule

ACADEMY SCHEDULE
Passes will not be written during first ten and last ten minutes of the class
Passing time is the 5 minute passing time between blocks

BLK.	TIME	BATHROOM PASSES: CLASS OR PASSING TIME?
1	7:25-8:50	PASSING TIME ONLY
2A	8:55-9:35	PASSING TIME ONLY
2B	9:35-10:15	CLASS
3A	10:20-11:00	PASSING TIME ONLY
3B	11:00-11:35	PASSING TIME ONLY
3C	11:35-12:15	PASSING TIME ONLY
4A	12:20-1:00	PASSING TIME ONLY
4B	1:00-1:40	CLASS
ADV	1:45-2:10	PASSING TIME ONLY

Hours

- The school day is from 7:25 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.
- If students arrive before school students may come to room 508 for a quiet space
- After school help (activity period) is from 2:20 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Detention is also during this time frame. Students may ride the after-school bus from Cosgrove at 2:50 p.m. if staying after.
- Academic Workshop is offered from 2:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. for students wanting additional academic support.

Course Offerings

Students will find Regents level courses at the Academy in English, Social Studies, Math, and Science, as well as additional electives. We do not run all classes offered in the general setting as Academy courses, however, the Academy also has the advantage of being on a High School campus and having access to the High School classes for students wishing to access them (Geometry, Chemistry, etc.). We also have the flexibility to offer classes like Leadership and SEL.

Grading

Grades are reported to indicate achievement and development in each class or subject area in which a student is enrolled. Grading will be based on student achievement and participation in classroom discussion and activities. **Classroom participation is a significant portion of the grade** in each of the Academy classes; participation, and thus student attendance, is an important factor in earning high grades. Additionally, students must be punctual to class to earn full participation points. All students are expected to complete the assigned classwork as directed. Students are also expected to participate in meaningful and appropriate class discussions and activities.

Attendance

It is each student's basic responsibility as a member of the Spencerport Academy to be on time and to attend all classes. Telephone calls will be made to parents or guardians to report all unexcused absences. Frequent unexcused absences and tardiness will be dealt with on an individual basis by the program administrator. The following reasons for student absences from schools are recognized as excused:

1. Personal illness
2. Illness or death in the family
3. Religious Observance
4. Medical appointment
5. Approved school-sponsored field trips
6. Required court appearance

Any other absence is unexcused. Please report any absences to Mrs. McQuilkin at 349-5228.

Behavioral Expectations and Consequences

Within the Academy, we attempt to provide motivation for students to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the school expectations. Students are still accountable to the same Code of Conduct as the general setting. If a student's conduct does not meet the school expectations, that student will be accountable to the Code of Conduct. This includes the cell phone policy.

- Students who want to bring headphones to school to plug into their laptop may do so (to use when given permission by the teacher).
- Phones will not be permitted in place of laptops; students should have their laptop (and charger as needed) with them for class.
- Students should put their phone in the hanging pouch on their way into class and can collect them on the way out of class.
- Students may not take their phones with them to the bathroom.
- Consequences will be issued for violating this policy, beginning with one lunch detention and increasing for every violation. If a student has an emergency and needs to access their phone, they must have teacher permission to do so prior to doing so.