

NORTH CHICAGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

North Chicago Community High School Freshman Academy

Program Overview

Vision: All students in The Freshman Academy at NCCHS will experience academic and social-emotional success as well as begin to prepare for post-secondary life.

Mission: Through a nurturing, safe, and student-centered learning environment and a commitment to academic achievement, character development, and critical thinking, every student will be supported in their educational, and social emotional growth, including self-awareness, self-management, and self-advocacy.

Core Values: NCCHS is committed to District 187s core values:

1. We place students at the center.
2. We build strong relationships.
3. We do whatever it takes.
4. We see the whole child.
5. We hold high expectations.

Freshman Leadership Team: Zackary Livingston, Assistant Principal
Katie Cunningham McDonald, Dean of Freshman Students
Tiffani Scott, Freshman Counselor & Freshman Success Coordinator

Instructional Team:

The North Chicago Community High School Freshman Academy aims to develop leaders who commit to improve student outcomes, participate in the decision-making process, and foster positive relationships with and between students, parents, staff, and the larger community.

External Supporting Partners:

- North Chicago Community Partners - <http://northchicagocommunitypartners.org/>
- Umoja Student Development Corporation - <https://www.umojacorporation.org/>
- University of Chicago Network for College Success - <https://ncs.uchicago.edu/>

Goals: The goal of Freshman Academy at NCCHS is to strengthen student connectivity during this transitional experience, with an intent to decrease student absenteeism and increase student achievement. The NCCHS Freshman Academy will also help students develop essential social-emotional and executive functioning skills, which will support their success inside and outside of the classroom/school environment.

Summarized below are the primary goals for year one of Freshman Academy as well as related measures of impact:

| Goals | Impact Measurement Target |
|--|---|
| #1 Increase Freshman On Track (FOT) rate | <u>For 2019-2020, target goal of 80% FOT rate</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured through semester 1 and 2 Freshman On Track rate |
| #2 Implement Marzano's 21st century instructional strategies in the Freshman Academy | <u>Target goal of 90% of teachers implementing engagement strategies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured through submitted lesson plan listings of engagement strategies • Measured through observations of teachers |
| #3 Engage families and the broader community in the development of freshman students | <u>Target goal of 60% Parent participation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured through Parent Teacher conferences and Parent University participation |
| #4 Increase Freshman Attendance Rate | <u>Target goal of 90% Freshman Attendance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured through Freshman ADA rate |
| #5 Increased Freshman involvement and feeling of belonging | <u>Target goal of 90% Student Connectedness</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured through extracurricular activities and student survey |

Primary Components of Freshman Academy – Year 1

Community Meeting

Mondays and Fridays | 8:20-9:05 AM | Auditorium

Students will meet as a class to renew their pledge to excellence, hear announcements, be recognized positively as well as listen to special guest speakers.

Connections

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 9:10-9:56 AM | Various Classrooms

The purpose of Connections is to strengthen relationships between students and positive adult role models, develop critical social and emotional skills, and connect students to the school, the community and post-secondary opportunities. Connections take place two times per week and will be divided into four distinct content areas:

#1 - Student-to-Student Mentoring (Student Leadership Team Coordinator: Randi Kreiter)

Selected senior students will mentor freshman students and facilitate lessons that help develop skills and behaviors necessary to be successful and “on track”.

#2 - College and Careers (Director of Post-Secondary Planning: Courtney Valentine)

Freshmen will be introduced to post-secondary options, complete Naviance tasks and curriculum lessons, and develop test preparation and test-taking skills.

#3 – Service Learning (North Chicago Community Partners)

Freshmen will develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success, use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships, and demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.

#4 – Social Emotional Learning (Restorative Justice)

Freshmen will participate in a variety of hands-on activities, designed to strengthen interpersonal skills, enhance student-to-student relationships and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

| Connections Activities | Warhawks Black Cohort 1 | Warhawks Red Cohort 2 | Warhawks White Cohort 3 | Warhawks Grey Cohort 4 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Tuesday | Student-to-Student Mentoring | Service Learning | Social Emotional Learning/Restorative Justice | College & Careers |
| Thursday | College & Careers | Student-to-Student Mentoring | Service Learning | Social Emotional Learning/Restorative Justice |
| Tuesday | Social Emotional Learning/Restorative Justice | College & Careers | Student-to-Student Mentoring | Service Learning |
| Thursday | Service Learning | Social Emotional Learning/Restorative Justice | College & Careers | Student-to-Student Mentoring |