

HJUHSD Medical Academy Information Night

DATE: 12/16/19
TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
LOCATION: HWHS Cafeteria

Mr. Ray opened the night at 6:01 p.m. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He introduced Mr. Peters who would be presenting. Mr. Peters explained that he used to be the principal of Hanford West High School so it is a very special place for him. He's excited that HJUHSD is offering this program for students as it will be beneficial for all. The intent of the night is to provide some general information and answer questions. He shared his [powerpoint](#).

As he talked about the people listed on the contact page he noted that students in this program will be assigned a counselor, Yecenia Madera at Hanford West, though Ms. Barnes will fill in for her while she is out on maternity leave. The academy lead teacher will be Tina Guzman. Mr. Peters stressed that he put all the contact information on the slide so that people would know who is involved and he knows anyone on the list would be happy to answer any questions though primarily the people you should reach out to with questions is himself and Ms. Ede.

He expressed that when HJUHSD announced we would be building a medical academy, we had an overwhelming response from people that wanted to help. That has never happened before in anything we have done. He mentioned the Business Finance Academy which is a successful academy and has been open for about 4-5 years in our district but when we launched it, we had no partners. We had to do it all on our own. Everyone listed on the Partners slide has committed to helping us in some way for the Medical Academy. He noted the coolest part of the list is that it will give our students real life experience. That experience is extremely important at the high school level. On a personal note, he has a son who is currently a senior in high school. They have been working on college applications, and some of the questions are different but he noticed that each application asked what has the student done besides go to school. Students who leave this Medical Academy will have a lot to write about in that area, putting students ahead when applying for college. We are extremely excited to be partnered with so many to offer numerous opportunities for students.

Mr. Peters explained linked learning implies we are linking real world experience to what students are learning. An academy is an approach to education that transforms the traditional high school experience by bringing together strong academics, demanding technical education, and real-world experience to help students gain an advantage in high school, postsecondary education and careers.

He shared the four key components to the academy:

1. *Rigorous Academics* - If you are planning on pursuing a career in a medical related field you have got to be top notch when it comes to your academics. It is not easy, but it's not intended to be easy. We want to set our students up so that when they apply for college, they get into college.
2. *Real-World Technical Skills* - This will happen through the help of our teachers and outside partners and involves students being exposed to real world employable skills related to medical careers.
3. *Work-Based Learning* - Part of this opportunity involves freshmen and sophomores (who typically can't leave campus for work experience) experience guest speakers in the classroom related to medical careers.

4. *Personalized Supports* - Students will receive personalised systems of support in all classes as it relates to the academy.

The program of study shows what it would look like for a student who comes in as a freshman for all four years of his/her high school career in the medical academy. The medical academy includes four areas that will be focused on:

- Pre-Med/Sports Medicine
- Medical Assistant
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Healthcare Administration

In the freshman year, everyone will be together no matter what focus the students plan on pursuing. So all students will take Biology and Intro to Medical Careers because both are foundational courses. He noted in the pre-med/sports medicine it stated English 1 - Adv and Integrated Math 2 - H as recommended, this is because those are the most rigorous courses offered at the level. If students truly wish to be a doctor it is recommended to take the most rigorous courses available. It doesn't mean you can't get there with English 1, it just means English 1 - Adv. is more rigorous. He emphasized that there are few elective options. PE is mandatory for all freshmen and sophomores and while Spanish 1 is not necessarily required it is highly encouraged as colleges require a foreign language (and it will make the student more marketable in the industry). He wanted to make it very clear that when students choose to be apart of the medical academy, students are also choosing the CTE course to take the place of an elective.

Sophomore year is where it really starts to tighten up leaving little to no room for electives such as band, ASB, etc. He realizes that can be a dealbreaker for people which is why he wants everyone to understand up front. That is why he laid out the program of study in this way to show that there is not a whole lot of room for choice up until the junior year. The junior year is when students have made a decision on which area to focus on as the CTE course becomes specific to the focus. He reiterated that those who plan on going directly to a four year college after high school should take at least three years of spanish which is a requirement for universities. He added that universities require three years of math but recommend four years. He believes that by the time our incoming freshmen are seniors the requirement will be changed to four years of math. Everyone in the medical academy will absolutely need to take four years of math and four years of science.

A parent asked if students would be allowed to get ahead by taking courses over the summer at summer school? Mr. Peters explained that our summer school program right now is not necessarily set up for advancement but is primarily used as make up. That's not to say it couldn't change, it's just not current practice. We do allow for students to take classes at COS or West Hills (it's free for high school students to do this), students just need to approved by the high school beforehand. The choices are limited though, but it is an option.

Another parent asked specifically about biology. Could her student take a biology college course and have it meet her biology requirement in the academy. Mr. Peters answered that we would need to talk to a counselor about that. The parent asks because her student didn't take biology in her freshman year. Mr. Peters stated that we could probably catch the student up.

Ms. Ede asked Mr. Peters to speak about the requirements for junior colleges as well. Mr. Peters explained that during the senior year students probably start making decisions on what they want to do as a career. He doesn't want to make it sound like everyone needs to go to a four year college straight after high school because that is not the case at all. Our goal is that everyone does something after high school. There are a tone of great programs in our community colleges that set up you within the four focuses of the medical

academy. That is why the Intro to Medical Careers course is so important because it helps students look at the next step in their life and what they can do.

A parent asked if a student would be able to participate in athletics while in the medical academy. Mr. Peters said he doesn't see athletics being an issue, though he will say that students in the junior and senior year participating in the academy might have to sacrifice opportunities such as industry tours or internships. It is rare that we see a student is a three sport season student though so it's likely an athlete will be able to find an internship opportunity at some point in the school year. We also try to set up a lot of opportunities over the summer as well when the students have more free time. Mr. Peters would encourage students to participate in athletics.

A parent asked if students will receive priority in the classes necessary for the medical academy if placed in the academy. Mr. Peters answered yes and went on to say that all courses highlighted in blue are considered a priority for med academy students meaning those students will be placed first in those courses. He said that our only experience right now is the Business Finance academy offered at Sierra Pacific, which is a much smaller school. They don't have as many course offerings as Hanford West but we will still make it work so he's confident we will be able to make it work for this academy as well.

A parent asked about students who attend Hanford High or Sierra Pacific and also want to be in the Medical Academy. Mr. Peters explained that students (incoming juniors and seniors) who are currently participating in the program at Hanford High and Sierra Pacific will be given the choice to transfer to Hanford West or will be shuttled to Hanford West during the school day for the courses needed. If you are an incoming freshman or sophomore, you will have to transfer to Hanford West. So if you live in the attendance boundary of another school and are accepted to the medical academy, you will need to put in for a transfer as well.

A parent asked if younger students will be given the option to travel to HW during the school day to participate in the medical academy. Mr. Peters said no, we will accommodate the older students who are already in the program but the way the schedule is set up, students really need to transfer to HW to make schedule work.

A parent asked how does a student get into the academy? Mr. Peters explained that students will need to apply. The [application](#) can be found on our [website](#) by going to www.hjuhsd.k12.ca.us. You will need to click on the Educational Resources tab in the top menu, then the Enrollment/Registration button and then the Medical Academy button. The application will be open to incoming freshmen and incoming sophomores from January 20th through January 31st. Typically we allow a certain set amount of students into an academy and then if we get above and beyond that we have to go to a lottery. He doesn't anticipate that being a problem this year. The biggest thing will be for parents to fill out the application within the timeline. In the Business Finance Academy we only have space for 70 students but the Medical Academy is much bigger so we have over 100 spots available for students. You can be the first person to put in the application during the window or the last person, it doesn't matter because if it we have too many that apply a lottery will be conducted.

A parent asked if students need any certain qualifications in order to get into the academy. Mr. Peters said no but did share that everyone saw the course loads so everyone knows the academy will be academically challenging. He gets all the test scores from the feeder schools. Test scores along with other measures are used to help place students where they will be the most successful. Sometimes, he sees students that apply for academies who have not performed very well in the past. He calls parents in those situations and explains his concern and allows the parent to discuss the concern with the student and make the call. He reiterated that we don't want to keep students out but we also don't want students to drown in a course load they cannot handle. While students are in the academy they will be held to a higher standard, academically, socially and

behaviorally. This is because there are students that get in and there are students that don't get in so if you are in, you need to take advantage of the opportunity and not waste it because there's another kid right behind you that wants to get in. We have over the course of time removed students from the academy. Some were because students realized the academy wasn't for them and so left and some because they couldn't keep up with the rigor of it. That doesn't just happen though. There would be multiple meetings to discuss concerns and figure out systems of support before that step was taken.

A parent stated that her daughter is already taking all of the classes needed for the pathway except for the CTE course, is there a reason why the district is not allowing students to travel for just the one class? Why do they have to transfer? Mr. Peters answered because that is how the academy designed, it's the way it is set up. We want to cohort students into one group at a school for a true academy experience and we can't guarantee traveling will work in the schedule (for those students not currently in the program at other schools). For example, let's say we have an incoming freshman who would like to attend the academy and lives in the Hanford High boundary. The student gets into the academy and transfers to Hanford West. After the student's freshman year s/he decides s/he doesn't want to be in the academy anymore. The student would then go back to Hanford High which is the student's home school. It's a commitment.

A parent commented that Mr. Peters had said no band but Mr. Peters stated he did not say no band, just that band would be difficult to make work in the schedule. The parent asked if jazz band would be good for the performing arts section? Mr. Peters said yes, absolutely that would work. It would be difficult in the sophomore year to make that happen but maybe junior year. It would be very difficult to make band work all four years of high school, there simply isn't room but you could take band one year.

A parent asked when students would start in the academy? Mr. Peters answered that students accepted into the academy would start next school year. Parents and students will be notified by February 7th on status of acceptance for the medical academy. We are accepting incoming freshmen, sophomores (and juniors to get the program going).

Mr. Peters explained that if you are an incoming junior going into the academy, he would stress not to worry about the academy so much just to choose a focus.

A parent asked is if pre-med is specifically geared towards sports medicine? Mr. Peters said yes, it is specifically geared towards sports medicine. Another parent asked if her student would be able to participate in ASB while in the academy. Mr. Peters said no. Ms. Ede added that there is a student organization club within the academy available to students. It is called HOSA which will involve competitive events, leadership organization, etc.

A student asked since she is already taking medical terminology will she be allowed to participate in the academy. Mr. Peters said yes. If you are already in medical terminology you can continue in the medical academy, you'll just need to choose a focus area.

A parent said some of the courses in the academy are currently offered at Hanford High and Sierra Pacific, so could students simply continue taking those courses at those schools without officially being in the academy? Mr. Peters said all of the courses would be moving to Hanford West so next school year, Hanford West will be the only school offering the specific needed CTE courses.

Mr. Peters stressed that if anything pops up in regards to questions, please reach out to him or Ms. Ede.

A parent asked if the district knows what internship opportunities will be offered within the academy? Dr. Rosa shared that in talking with Adventist Health the plan is to make it individualized for the students needs and interests. They can't handle a bunch of kids at once so they want it to be individualized for students so if students are interested in medical billing, they would take a few students to see what that looks like, if students were interested in physical therapy they would take a few kids to see what that entails. So the answer is we don't have specific set internships set right now because they will be individualized for the students needs and interests. Dr. Rosa also shared that those interested in sports medicine have a good opportunity because of HJUHS athletic trainers right on campus.

Mr. Peters thanked everyone for attending and again emphasized to reach out with any questions.