



Academy of Information Technology

at Apex High School



Apex High School

- Julie Oster
 - ✓ Coordinator, Academy of Information Technology
- Caroline McCullen,
 - ✓ Director, SAS Education Initiatives
- Samantha Heck, class of 2009
- Cameron Will, class of 2010



What Is AOIT?

- Smaller Learning Community
- Four-year program
- IT Focus
- Affiliated with the National Academy Foundation (NAF)
- Only offered at AHS in Wake County



Targeted Audience

- 75 rising 9th grade students, chosen by lottery, maximum of 300 in 9 - 12
- Students who are at grade level
- Students who enjoy working with technology
- Students who want
 - ✓ Life experiences while in high school
 - ✓ College credit while in high school



What Makes It Different?

- Interdisciplinary approach to curriculum
 - ✓ English, Social Studies, Science, Math, IT
- Field trips/Project-Based Learning
- Workplace Readiness
- Soft Skills Training
- Technology – software and hardware



AOIT at a Glance

□ Computer course sequence

✓ Applications OR Programming

9	Computer Applications I	Computer Programming I – Visual Basic .NET
10	Computer Applications II	NAF Information Technology I – C++
11	E-Commerce I (honors)	SAS Programming (honors)
12	NAF Digital Video Production	AP Computer Science - Java
Elective	Computer Programming I	Computer Applications I



- Required for AOIT graduation
- Minimum 180 hours
- Preferably in summer before senior year
- Involves the use of technology
- Paid



Advisory Board

- Made up of volunteers from local businesses
- Monthly meetings
- Assist with internship placement
- Serve as guest speakers, curriculum advisors, etc.
- Provide facilities
- Membership is open



Academy Support Team (AST)

- AOIT Booster Club
- Officers are elected
- Volunteers welcome
- Provide AOIT support
 - ✓ Fundraising
 - Equipment
 - Teacher Professional Development
 - ✓ Social events



Academy Outcomes

- 100% high school graduation
- Strong résumés & college applications
- Informed decision-making
- Technical and soft skills
- May earn up to 4 college credits through articulation agreement and AP
- 98% go on to higher education
- NAF - industry standard curriculum and national articulation agreements



Student Perspectives

- ❑ Samantha Heck, Class of 2009
 - ✓ Internship – SAS, Inc.
- ❑ Cameron Will, Class of 2010
 - ✓ Internship – Implus Footcare – IT



Corporate Outcomes

- Input into relevancy of curriculum
- Increase K12 involvement for corporate employees
- Mentoring and follow-up
- Benefit from structure: NAF, AOIT, and internship
- Connect with students who may later become employees



Needs of a Successful Program

- SLC/Cohort Group
- Teachers – key to success
 - ✓ Interdisciplinary Learning
 - ✓ Open to curricular adjustments
- Coordinator
- Advisory Board
- School & county support



More Information

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