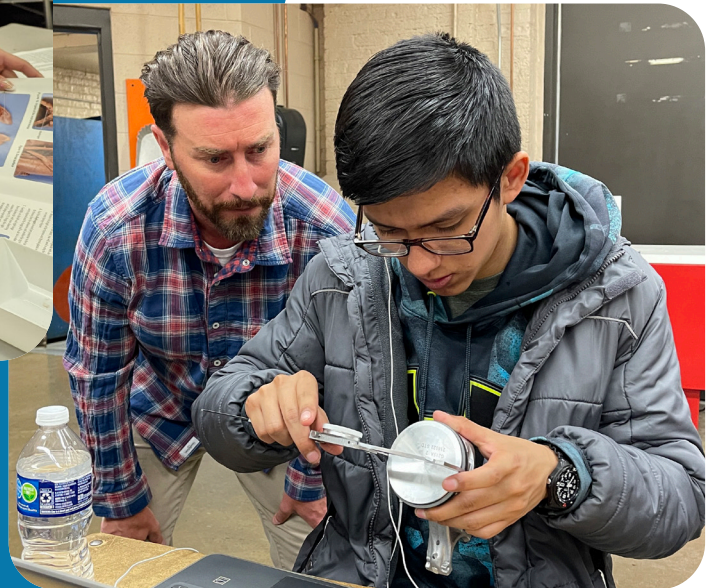




THE ACADEMIES
OF RACINE



2022-2023
Annual Report

Academies of Racine community:

What an exciting time to be part of the Racine Unified School District and the Academies of Racine! We've had so much to celebrate this year and our achievements are only expanding.

The Academies of Racine continue to be recognized locally, across the state and even nationally. This spring we learned four more of our Academies earned Model Certification through the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC). Two of them are recognized as Models with Distinction and one achieved a perfect score! It is apparent that the work being done in our schools and community is making a difference.

In addition, RUUSD is proud to be recognized as one of the leading school districts in Dual Credit, Industry Certifications and Youth Apprenticeship opportunities. This past school year we hosted multiple school districts from across the country to educate their teams on the academy model and share with them what it takes to implement and sustain the programs. It was rewarding to share our hard work with other educational leaders looking to make an impact in their communities.

This year we also rolled out the Middle School Academies at Jerstad-Agerholm, Mitchell and Gifford K-8 schools for students in grades 6-8. This middle school academy model gives our students an incredible experience to learn about themselves, their interests and how to be successful in high school. Right now we are seeking a convenor to help build bridges between our middle schools and the community. This work will be vital to the success of our students and moving our middle school academies forward. Our number one priority for the 2023-24 school year is rolling out new and updated career and technical education courses to provide our students more opportunities to engage in new technology that directly aligns to high school and in demand careers in our community.

While the academies continue to transform the 6-12 experience, we cannot stop there. In the spring of 2024 we will be writing a master plan for a K-5 Academy Experience. This model is aimed at giving our elementary students greater access to career exploration and helping break down societal stigmas that hinder some demographics from entering into certain careers.

We are full steam ahead in the Academies of Racine! So please, read on! These pages are filled with some of our successes, highlights and impressive student achievements. We are so proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to the exciting work ahead!



Daryl D. Burns, Sr.
Deputy Chief of High Schools



Alexander DeBaker
Executive Director of
Academies & Transformation

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Graduating Ahead of the Game

RUSD graduates have a number of opportunities to pay less for college, get a jump start on earning college credit and enter the workforce better prepared than their peers.

Dual Credits

More than 45 dual credit courses are embedded in the Academies of Racine. Dual credit includes a variety of programs through which high school students are enrolled simultaneously in both high school and college to earn both high school and college credit. These courses take place in our high schools and can help students prepare for the challenge of college courses as they develop technical skills for a multitude of careers. Our students have dual credit access through all three local post-secondary institutions: UW-Parkside, Carthage College and Gateway Technical College.



AP Courses

RUSD is proud to offer dozens of Advanced Placement courses to help college-bound students save time and money. AP courses are more academically challenging, move at a faster pace and require additional studying and work outside of class. Here are a few benefits to this challenging coursework:

- Ability to earn college credit, saving time and money
- Stand out to admissions departments
- Develop effective study habits for easier transition to higher education setting

The AP Capstone Diploma Program is offered at Horlick and Park High Schools and is based on two year long AP Courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Both courses help students stand out to colleges by developing students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration and presenting. This year Horlick had eight students complete AP Seminar and nine juniors and seniors complete AP Research.



Other AP course offerings include: 2D Studio Art · 3D Studio Art · Pre-AP English · Pre-AP English 10 · Language and Composition · Literature and Composition · Research · Seminar · Precalculus · Statistics · Calculus AB · Biology · Psychology · Physics 1 · Physics 2 · World History: Modern · US History · US Government and Politics · Microeconomics · Human Geography · Spanish Language and Culture · Computer Science · Calculus BC · Environmental Science · French.

Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC)

Our high schoolers earned 1,382 industry certifications this year, including Microsoft Office Associate, Tax Preparer Assistant, Intro to Mechatronics and CompTia IT Fundamentals. These credentials are all vetted by employers and recognize the skill attainment needed for recruitment, screening, hiring, retention and advancement. They also verify a student's qualification or competence in a particular skill set, setting them apart from their peers and giving them a competitive advantage.

Youth Apprenticeships

Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship (YA) Programs allow high school juniors and seniors to explore careers in their own community, gaining valuable skills and knowledge along the way. The programs integrate school-based and work-based learning to teach students employability and occupational skills.

Benefits of youth apprenticeships also include:

- Skilled mentors to train students
- Paid on-the-job work experience
- State-issued skill certificate(s)

Thanks to our partnership with Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC), during the 2022-23 school year RUSD was able to place 223 high schoolers in youth apprenticeship positions ranging from IT and marketing to manufacturing and health care.



International Baccalaureate (IB)

IB World Schools are subject to a strict accreditation process, are internationally-recognized and use research-based methods and curriculums that draw from the best educational practices around the world.



The Academies of Racine at Case offer:

- IB Middle Years Programme (freshmen and sophomores automatically enrolled)
- IB Career-related Programme
- IB Leadership Pathway for students pursuing the IB Full Diploma, higher education and community leadership.

A Call from the Community: New Criminal Justice and Fire/EMS Offerings

This school year the Academies of Racine launched the Fire/EMS and Criminal Justice pocket pathways. In partnership with Gateway Technical College, students take courses taught by Racine and Mount Pleasant police and firefighters to earn dual credit. Not only did this addition expand the offerings available to AoR students, it is also an effort to answer a call from the Racine Community.

Sparkling Interest in Fire Science

When a Park High School student found her post-high school plans fizzling out, a new opportunity was just beginning to burn.

“Originally I was going to enlist in the Army but then those plans fell through,” said Austyn Schoening. “My counselor pulled me aside and told me about this program that was opening up. It was something new and would help me get a foot in the door of my (hopefully) future career.”

It was the Fire Science Pocket Pathway, made possible thanks to the Academies of Racine partnerships with the Racine Fire Department and Gateway Technical College.

“As soon as I heard about the Academies program, I was interested in participating,” said Racine Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Brian Wolf. “I have had the unique opportunity to participate in job fairs at the schools, help teach in the academies and have students at the fire stations.”

As part of this pocket pathway, RUSD students are able to take Gateway’s emergency medical technician (EMT) class, fire inspector class and health and wellness class. Austyn took all three.

“The instructors from those classes were very knowledgeable on what they were teaching,” Austyn said. “They all had been or are in the fire service still so they were able to bring real life experiences to the class.”

In addition, Austyn was able to earn several certifications before graduating and complete an internship at the Racine Fire Department, giving her a head start in her post-high school career.

“I was able to learn so many new things and get hands-on experiences. I was able to get a deeper understanding of what they have to go through and do for our community. They treated

“It’s essential to let young students experience different careers. The students in turn can make a better decision on college or a career in the trades.”

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Wolf
Racine Fire Department

everyone with the utmost respect no matter how they were treated in return,” she said. “After getting these experiences, my heart was definitely set in this direction. My favorite part about it all is that the people in this career are like a family.”

“It’s essential to let young students experience different careers,” said Wolf. “Young students have a lot of pressure to find a job and go to college, but with the academies, the students can experience various

fields, make good connections and find a mentor. The students in turn can make a better decision on college or a career in the trades.”

As for Austyn, she is continuing her coursework at Gateway and hopes to join a fire department full time when she is done.



Careers in Criminal Justice

Lt. Walt Powell has been with the Racine Police Department for more than 17 years and has lived in the area his entire life. During his time with the Racine Police Department, one thing became abundantly clear.

“We noticed that officers who were born and raised in Racine, and went through Racine schools, did better as new officers because they hit the ground running and they have this institutional knowledge of how the city works, who’s who, who all the kids are,” Powell said.

The problem is, over the last several years, there’s been a lack of qualified candidates from the city of Racine. That’s when the Racine Police Department and Mount Pleasant Police Department thought of partnering with the Academies of Racine.

“Worst case it would encourage students to start looking at what their future is going to look like - you have to have good grades, a clean criminal record, and be financially and socially responsible to consider a career in law enforcement,” Powell said. Best case, they would start rolling in homegrown recruits.

Tory Monty, a 2023 graduate of the business and culinary arts pathway at the Academies of Racine - Case, did not have intentions of becoming a police officer, but jumped at the opportunity to take the new criminal justice course.

“I signed up to take the criminal justice class because I recently became interested in law,” Monty said. “This has been the perfect opportunity to get a feel for, and see if it is something I would want to do in my future.”

Students in the criminal justice pocket pathway not only learned about the different aspects of criminal justice in the classroom,

they also toured police departments, had a chance to meet and greet with specialized units like the K9s, swat and detective bureau, and were exposed to the court system.

“The field trip to the courthouse was phenomenal. I found being able to experience what would really happen as a mock trial was nice,” Monty said. “Being a defense attorney is something I’m extremely interested in. It was very cool to be able to see what I could potentially be doing.”

Another positive for Monty was the teachers. In her words, “they’re real people who live these jobs every day.”

“I think it was very beneficial to them. We’ve actually gotten a few applicants for our part time paid cadet program that came through the class, a few of them from the Case High School program and a few from the Park program,” Powell said.

“It’s huge and it’s hard to put a value on it, but they hit the ground running much further ahead in their training process once they get out of the academy.”

Powell said he’d love to see the program continue and Monty encourages students to sign up.

“There are so many other options in addition to being a police officer that have come to my attention and this pathway highlighted many of them,” she said. “The content is also just general law that every citizen should know. I am thankful I was exposed to the field of law in this authentic way.”



“There is a definite need for homegrown talent in all phases and aspects of government work.”

Lt. Walt Powell
Racine Police Department



Engineering the Unthinkable

The next great gadget, gizmo or gotta-have-it product just may come from one of the students in Case High School's Engineering Design classes. For their senior capstone projects, the students were tasked with coming up with a product, designing it and then building a prototype.

"A capstone experience highlights a student's academic and intellectual growth throughout their academy pathway experience," said Dan Buchholz, the engineering design class instructor. "It gives students an opportunity to demonstrate their college and/or career readiness by creating a cumulative final project that integrates their academy pathway experiential learning opportunities."

Among the ideas developed by students in this class: a windshield wiper that doubles as an ice scraper, a reusable, melted ice cream catcher and a solar-powered thermoelectric cooler.

"There are a lot of thermoelectric coolers out there but there are not a lot that use solar panels to recharge them," said senior



Brady Anders, who said they set out to design an environmentally-friendly, affordable cooler. "We want you to be able to charge your cooler right there on the spot as the sun is beaming down on it so all your drinks, food or anything you have stored in it can stay as cool as possible."

"When it came to the designing and all around thinking of the project, we had to refer back to the skills we've learned designing in CAD and solving different problems in the design matrix," said Vinlie Sisonvhanh.

In the end, the students felt they developed a marketable product.

"Some of the ideas the kids have been able to generate have, in my opinion, been really good," said Buchholz. "I think as the district continues to move forward in the academy model, exposing middle and even elementary school students to the opportunities at the high school level, the projects will get better and better."



Community Educational Experiences

Walls Up!

Students in the construction pathway once again constructed the interior walls that will go inside Habitat for Humanity homes being built in Racine.



Counting on a Refund.

Accounting students are bringing in the money - for others! This year students in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program completed 191 tax returns for a total of \$359,130 in taxpayer refunds! The school had 41 basic certified students and 8 advanced certified students.

Sold Out!

The culinary students at Case became food truck owners for a day, serving up creations ranging from a gyro smash burger to some spicy, birria ramen. No one left hungry!

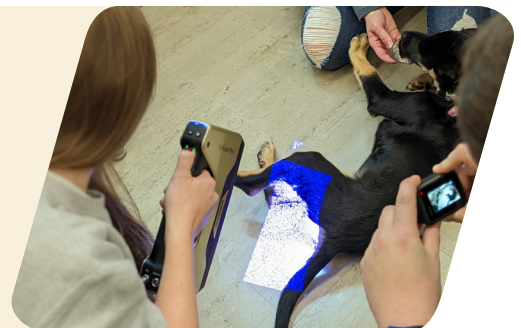


See this sign?

It was installed by some culverts near Case High School and was designed and built by students in the school's new International Baccalaureate pathway. The students worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and raSmith (the company that constructed the new culverts) on the project, which included studies of the Pike River fish passageways.

Run, Forrest, Run!

Students in the biomedical and engineering pathways teamed up to work on a prosthetic paw for an abandoned pup named Forrest Stump, later renamed "Harvey" by his adopted family.





A Taste of The Future

They may be culinary pathway students, but they're using math, marketing and a multitude of other skills learned throughout their academy experience to complete their senior capstone projects, which required them to develop a concept for a restaurant, create signature dishes for it and price out everything - down to each pinch of salt.

"A lot of people think that the culinary world is about cooking and making food, but it's about math and making money while you're cooking and creating food," said Cory Sebastian, co-owner and COO of Sebastian's in Caledonia. "Some people that have worked in restaurants for 20 years can't break down costs like some of these kids did."



Partnering with Sebastian's, Cory assisted the students every step of the way, making sure they included everything from dish towels to square footage in their business and pricing plans, picked appropriate names for their restaurants and stayed engaged.

Charles Svensson says taking this class actually inspired him to want to go to culinary school.

"It really showed me a thing I didn't look at before as a serious life option, but this pathway and projects like these really helped me," Svensson said.

"I was a cook for a year, it helped me get a job at a couple of places and it inspired my future into the food industry."

"Some people that have worked in restaurants for 20 years can't break down costs like some of these kids did."

Cory Sebastian
Co-owner and COO of Sebastian's

In fact, he says he could see himself opening his own restaurant some day.

"I love seeing them excited," Sebastian said. "Part of the Academies is helping youth figure out where they want to be and I feel that being part of that whole experience is a blessing."



Community Educational Experiences

3. 2. 1. Liftoff!

Academies of Racine - Horlick aviation pathway students visited the Academies of Racine at Mitchell K-8 to teach some 7th graders how to operate and program drones. By the way, two additional Horlick students (Jesse Stone and Scott Poltrock) earned their Drone Pilot Licenses this year!



Award Winners!

These HOSA - Future Health Professionals students took home some hardware from the state competition. Tanya Nuno earned fifth in pharmacy science, Jamillah Jallow received a HOSA service project recognition award and Yasmeeen Patrick took second place for her research poster.

Tasty Teamwork.

Horlick's Second Annual Food Truck Festival was a hit, and completely sold out! It featured 12 amazing culinary creations by teams of students from the culinary and business pathways.



For Teens, By Teens.

Marketing pathway students worked with Bear Country, Inc. (the company that owns Jellystone Park Camp-Resort) to design a marketing campaign for their new ropes course. The company is using the winning team's design to help promote the new offering!

Clean and Clear.

Students in Horlick's Chemistry in the Community classes designed and constructed portable water filtration systems to use in case of a water emergency after learning about how the Racine Water Utility treats Lake Michigan water.





Champions of Wellness

Research. Analyze. Collaborate. Problem Solve. These are the steps senior health services pathway students at the Academies of Racine - Park took this year as they developed their capstone experience called, “The PW (Personal Wellness) Olympics.”

“It all started with a lesson on the six dimensions of the Wellness Wheel: Physical, Financial, Intellectual, Emotional, Social and Spiritual,” said health services pathway teacher Magdalena Stroud. “I then challenged my students to critically think as a group about how they could use this tool to come up with an innovative solution for a community need.”



The community students picked was teachers, and they tasked them with completing the wellness wheel to help identify strengths or imbalances in their well-being. After analyzing the results, one thing really stood out to students.

“It was evident that overall physical wellness was the wellness they struggled with most,” said Grace Betker, a senior health services pathway student.

The students then partnered with family medicine specialist

Dr. Janice Litza at Ascension to determine the best way to promote physical wellness among teachers. From there the idea for the PW Olympics was born, organized and proved to be a success. Teachers loved the physical activities, challenges and the water bottle they were given at the end for participating.

“We got a lot of feedback from teachers saying they would like to continue this, and some teachers saying they realized they needed to be more physically active,” said senior health services student Shelby Jennings. “We also discovered we touched a couple other dimensions of the wellness wheel – the social and emotional wellness elements. Teachers said they felt happier to be in school and more energized for their day.”

Betker said the entire project was a great learning experience, allowing the students to learn how to overcome adversity, fundraise, use time efficiently, work as a team and more.

“I witnessed skills from each student uniquely rise to the level of professional leadership skills, Stroud said.



Community Educational Experiences

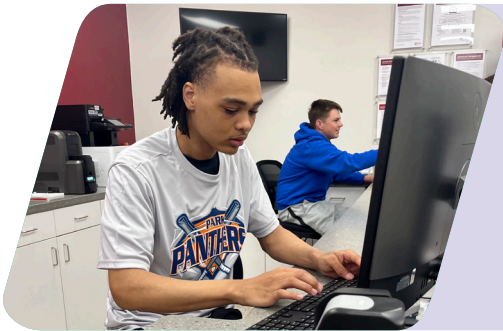
A Case for Change.

Facing the harsh reality of how many children are affected by gun violence in communities across the country, students in the arts metals class decided to do something about it. They designed rings using donated shell casings, sold them, and donated all proceeds to Voices of Black Mothers United, a group that works to create safe communities for all.



The OG ECU Goes Live!

The first Educators Credit Union ever inside an RUSD school became a full-service branch this year, offering services including opening accounts, deposits, withdrawals and even approvals for car loans! The seven students working in the branch are Educators Credit Union employees, fully trained as tellers. This branch is one of only two in all of southeastern Wisconsin chosen to pilot a live branch in a high school and the only one in RUSD to go live.



Designing a City.

You heard right! Some math studies students worked with a retired city planner and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to design an ideal city layout based on census data, plot plans, topographical maps and more.



Dining In.

JROTC and culinary pathway students partnered up to plan a formal dinner function for military members. Park High School veterans were honored at the event that truly celebrated the unique bond among military units.



Running on All Cylinders.

The next time you're having car troubles, you may want to turn to an automotive pathway student! The advanced level students researched diagnostic strategies for malfunctioning automatic transmissions, completely disassembling transmissions, inspecting them and repairing them!



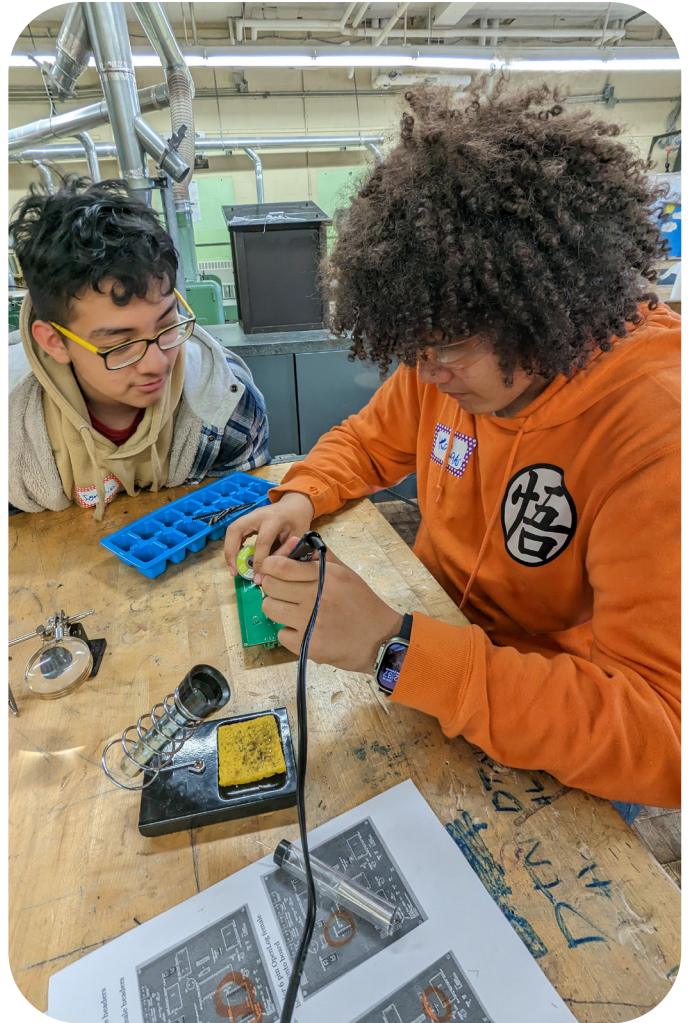
Expanding the Experience: Middle School Academies

The Middle School Academies launched this school year to help students explore their interests, learning styles and passions through the middle school experience. The goal is to have students develop real world skills to become successful citizens, explore college and career opportunities and take a full year of Career & Technical Education (CTE) coursework to prepare them for a successful transition to high school.

Learning from our Ford NGL model and the 3 Strands to Transformation, we are using a four-pronged approach through our coursework to accomplish this goal:

- Positive self-efficacy
- Career exploration
- Community-minded
- Academic growth

Students now take a 6th Grade Seminar, 7th Grade Academy Survey and 8th Grade Capstone. Our 7th and 8th grade students also have the opportunity to take Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses that are aligned with our high school pathways. Through this sequence of courses, students are learning about themselves, their interests and what it takes to be successful in our community. In addition they will have the opportunity to give back to their community through a passion project in the 8th Grade Capstone class. The 8th Grade Capstone will be implemented in the fall of 2023.



By the Numbers:

More than **60**
guest speakers
for 6th-8th grade
students this year.



3 high school
partners. **4**
college partners.
More than **100**
community partners.



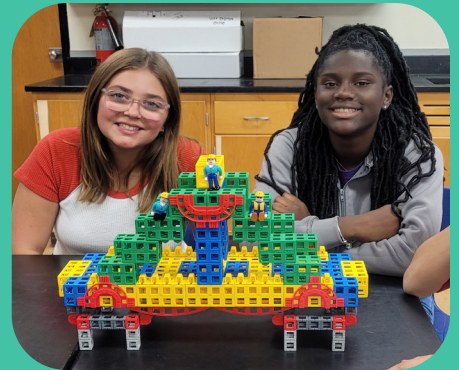
What's Coming in 2023-24

New Courses

- Intro to Business/Entrepreneurship
- Marketing
- Computer Applications/Computer Science
- Culinary
- Education
- Intro to Health Science Careers
- Construction and Fabrication
- Engineering and Prototyping
- Transportation and Automation

Additional Certifications

- Babysitting
- NC3 Dremel 3D printing
- NC3 measuring
- Cyber wellness
- Financial literacy
- First aid/CPR
- Career safe food handling



More co-curriculars to engage students in hands-on learning

- HOSA, SkillsUSA, DECA, FCCLA

Learning by Doing

Students take part in three-week units that expose them to projects related to the pathways at each high school. This year experiences included:

- Building skimmers, prosthetics and bridges (Construction, Manufacturing and Engineering pathways)
- Discovering how the human body is like a vehicle and learning to take blood pressure (Health Sciences and Automotive pathways)
- Developing a business plan for a food truck (Business, Marketing, Accounting and Culinary pathways)
- Programming video games and flying drones (IT and Aviation)
- Creating lesson plans and delivering them to 4K students and learning about leadership through the military (Leadership and Education pathways)

1,200+
industry certifications
earned in cyber
safety, 3D printing
and financial literacy.





**RACINE
UNIFIED**
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Service Campus

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The Academy Experience

Career exploration is the foundation of the Academies of Racine. From 6th - 12th grade, students are given various avenues to delve into different career fields, discover their passions and learn about the opportunities that await them after high school, including those right here in their own community. During the 2022-23 school year, AoR students were able to:

- Connect with 72 business partners at the SEE Your Future Expo with more than 150 volunteers
- Tour more than 150 local businesses
- Tour three local post-secondary institutions
- Take part in 370 job shadows
- Complete 223 youth apprenticeships

