



Aviation Academy FAQ

Poquoson City Public Schools, in partnership with Newport News Public Schools, is offering students the opportunity to take courses in the Aviation Academy program.



Q: What is the Aviation Academy?

A: The Aviation Academy (AA) is a magnet program offered to students in Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). The AA is a specialized program designed to prepare highly-motivated and successful high school students for a rewarding and well-paying career in and around the field of Aviation and STEM. Through a partnership with NNPS, Poquoson High School students will be able to participate in classes that are taught through the AA program. PHS students will remain PHS students and will travel to and from the AA for the AA classes and take the remainder of their classes at PHS.

Q: Where is the Aviation Academy?

A: The AA is located at Denbigh High School effective 2020-2021.

Q: Where can I find more information about the Aviation Academy Program?

A: On the AA website – <http://aviation.nn.k12.va.us/> or you can visit the PCPS Webpage for more information: <https://www.poquoson.k12.va.us/Page/13222>

Q: What types of courses does the AA offer?

A: A variety of courses in four different pathways: Aviation Technology, Aerospace Engineering, Flight Operations, and Aviation Security & Safety. For more information on these pathways, visit <http://aviation.nn.k12.va.us/doc/aviationcourseguide.pdf>

Q: Will I still be a Poquoson High School student if I take classes in the AA program?

A: Yes. You will remain a PHS student and travel to and from the AA daily for your class. Transportation is provided by PCPS. You are still eligible to participate in all PHS activities and athletics.

Q: Who can take classes in the AA program?

A: Any student who will be in grades 9 -12 at Poquoson High School are eligible to take classes at the AA.

Q: Are there criteria to get into the AA program?

A: Yes. The AA is academy is looking for students who:

- Are curious, not afraid to ask questions, and want to explore exciting career fields.
- Enjoy hands-on learning.
- Attend school regularly.
- Have no or limited, minor disciplinary infractions.
- Have at least an A, B, or C average in English and math.
- Have completed Algebra I with a passing grade in 8th or 9th grade.

Q: How do I sign up to get into the AA program?

A: Complete and submit an application (in the School Counseling Office), sign a letter of Intent to Participate (in the School Counseling Office), and register for a class by Friday, March 20, 2020.

Q: Does every student who registers for a class get into the AA program?

A: No. There are currently a limited number of slots available for PCPS student participation in the AA program. Students will be randomly chosen for the available slots using a lottery system.

Q: Why is there a lottery system to decide who gets into the program?

A: PCPS has a limited number of slots for students to participate in the program. The most equitable way to determine who gets a slot is through a random lottery process. All students whose completed application is accepted, who have a signed letter of intent, and who select an AA course as their 1st elective choice will be entered into the lottery. School staff will randomly select the names of the students who are guaranteed a slot to participate and several alternates. Students will be contacted by June 2020 with their status. Alternates will also be selected.

Q: What will my schedule look like if I take a class in the AA program?

A: You will take your AA program class in the morning or the afternoon and will be required to take an online class. There is no charge for the online class.

- Students will leave PHS immediately after first period for morning classes and immediately before 5th period for afternoon classes (afternoon class students may need to eat their lunch on the bus on the way to the AA).
- Students from PHS will attend their AA class every other day at the AA.
- On the day that the PHS student does not attend the AA, he or she will take an online class for two class periods at PHS in one of the computer labs.
- Transportation is provided from PHS to and from the AA.

SAMPLE MORNING AVIATION ACADEMY SCHEDULE			
A – Day		B – Day	
7:20am – 8:10am	Period 1 at PHS	7:20am – 8:00am	Period 1 at PHS
8:14am – 9:04am	Students in computer lab for online course	8:05am	Students leave PHS to travel to the Aviation Academy
9:08am – 9:58am	Students in computer lab for online course	8:30am – 9:45am	Students in class at Aviation Academy
10:02am – 2:00pm	Periods 4, 5, 6 & 7 at PHS	9:45am	Bus departs Aviation Academy to Return to PHS
		10:02am – 10:52am	4 th period at PHS (Students return to this class from Aviation Academy)
		10:56am – 2:00pm	Periods 5, 6 & 7 at PHS

Q: Why am I required to take an online class?

A: Students will take one online course at PHS to account for the travel time and difference in schedules between PCPS and NNPS. There is no charge for the online class.

- PCPS is on 7-period schedule, where classes meet every day for 50 minutes.
- NNPS is on an alternating block schedule where classes meet every other day for 90-100 minutes. One day is called an A-Day and the next day is called a B-Day.

Q: Is transportation provided?

A: Yes. PCPS will provide transportation from PHS to the AA and back to PHS (for a.m. AA classes) or PMS (for afternoon AA classes), where you will catch the bus home or to PHS if you participate in after-school activities or athletics. Buses typically leave the middle school at 2:45pm each day. Students who request to drive to the AA will work with the principal directly. Parent permission to drive to the AA will be required.

Q: Are the courses at the AA weighted?

A: Yes, some are. If NNPS weights the AA course, PCPS will honor that weighting. For example, the Air Traffic Control course at the AA is an Honors level course. In PCPS, this would be accepted as an honors level course and the weight applied to your GPA calculation.

Q: What if I want to drop my AA class?

A: Students will not be allowed to drop the AA class until the end of the first semester and will be placed into a second semester elective option based on class space availability. Students are highly encouraged to remain in the class all year because PHS cannot place another student in the allocated slot after the first day of school.

Q: What types of careers could I have if I take classes at the AA?

A: There are many different career options for you whether you take one, two or four classes through the AA program. You could be an Aerospace, Mechanical or Electrical Engineer; an Aircraft Mechanic or Electrician; a Pilot, Copilot or Flight Engineer; an Air Traffic Controller; a General Operations Manager; an NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) Investigator; an FBI Tactical Aviation Pilot (GS 15); an Air Marshal; or a TSA (Transportation Security Administration) Agent.

Q: Could I become a licensed pilot if I participate in the program?

A: Yes, it is possible. You could leave the AA having completed the Professional License: FAA Private Pilot Written test. With some additional in-the-air flight training, you can earn your full pilot's license by the time you graduate or shortly after graduating from high school.

Q: Is there a cost to participate in the AA program?

A: There is an annual fee determined at the beginning of the school year to cover basic expenses (i.e., consumables). Additional costs may arise (such as a field trip) for which information will be provided.

Q: Who do I talk to if I have questions?

A: See your school counselor.

Q: Will there be a time when I can get more information?

A: Yes. There will be several informational session with more details about the program held at PHS. See the website or the school counseling office for details.

Q: Can I visit the AA?

A: Yes. PCPS is working with the AA to schedule a visit for prospective students. Stay tuned for exact dates and times.