



### OUR PROGRAM

**Established:** August 2015

**Serving:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade students

**Co-Leaders:**

Tyler Cote, Principal  
Elijah Heckstall, Managing Dean of Students

**Staff size:** 91

**Number of instructional staff:** 66

**% of staff who identify as persons of color:** 45%

**% of staff who are Spanish-speaking:** 36%

### OUR STUDENTS

**Current enrollment:** 657

**% of special education students:** 19.3%

**% of English language learners:** 34.2%

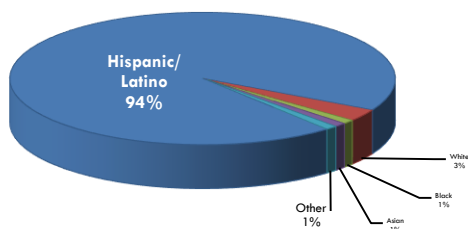
**Average class size:** 22

**Middle schools attended:** Community Day, Lawrence Catholic, Lawrence Family Development Charter, LPS (Frost, Guilmette, UP Academy Leonard, UP Academy Oliver, Arlington, Bruce, Parthum, South Lawrence East)

**Specialized programs for 9<sup>th</sup> graders within 9GA:**

- ENLACE: Newcomer English language learners
- RISE: At-risk

**Student Race:**



## Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy at Lawrence High School!

The 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy (9GA), a part of Lawrence High School, was founded in the fall of 2015 by co-leaders Tyler Cote and Elijah Heckstall, with an incoming class of 657 students. The high school's transformation is a critical element in Superintendent Jeff Riley's open architecture plan to empower school leaders and educators to use their autonomies to effect change for the betterment of all children in the Lawrence community.

Here at the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy, we seek to prepare our students to succeed in colleges and careers of their choice by embodying our core values:

- **Courage:** We act morally, justly, and in accordance with our personal code, no matter what.
- **Professionalism:** We take pride in who we are, what we look like, and the things we do.
- **Perseverance:** We are tenacious and overcome obstacles to pursue our dreams.
- **Vision:** We think before we act and make decisions with the end in mind.
- **Responsibility:** We show compassion for others and are accountable for our own actions.

All students at the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy take a set of core subjects: English, Algebra I, Biology, and World Studies and have their choice from ten diverse electives offerings: art, dance, band, CrossFit, JROTC, photography, mindfulness and meditation, Spanish, El Sistema Orchestra, and theater (ENLACE only).

We thank you for coming and invite you into our classrooms to learn more about the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy. While visiting, we ask that you please be sure your phones are on silent, refrain from taking pictures of our students, and speak at a whisper in our classrooms so as not to interrupt the school day.

Welcome!

Sincerely,  
Tyler Cote, Principal  
Elijah Heckstall, Managing Dean of Students



## OUR MODEL

Here at 9GA, students are in smaller learning communities called cohorts for maximum personalization. Each cohort consists of four homerooms of up to 25 students and 5-6 instructional staff member who work exclusively within that cohort. This promotes a sense of community, allowing students and teachers to make meaningful connections.

To that end, all core classes and electives meet every day throughout the week and students benefit from daily Intervention Blocks and Academic Labs.

Start	End	Period	Homeroom A	Homeroom B	Homeroom C	Homeroom D
7:45 AM	8:05 AM	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival
8:05 AM	9:02 AM	Period 1	English	World Studies	Biology	Algebra
9:02 AM	9:07 AM	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
9:10 AM	10:07 AM	Period 2	Biology	Elective	Algebra	World Studies
10:10 AM	11:07 AM	Period 3	World studies	Algebra	Elective	English
11:10 AM	11:40 AM	Flex A	Intervention	Academic lab	Intervention	Academic lab
11:43 AM	12:12 PM	Flex B	Academic lab	Intervention	Academic lab	Intervention
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	Flex C	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:48 PM	1:45 PM	Period 4	Algebra	Biology	English	Elective
1:48 PM	2:45 PM	Period 5	Elective	English	World Studies	Biology

## OUR CLASS OFFERINGS

### Core:

- Algebra 1
- World Studies
- Biology
- English

### Electives:

- Art
- Dance
- Band
- El Sistema Orchestra
- Photography
- Meditation and Mindfulness
- Spanish
- CrossFit
- JROTC
- Theater (ENLACE only)

## OUR EXTRACURRICULARS

As a part of the Lawrence High School community, students at 9GA have access to the wide variety of extracurricular offerings. Some of these include:

- Freshman, JV, and varsity sports teams
- Clubs:
  - Dance
  - Robotics
  - Meditation
  - Yearbook
  - Art
  - Chess
  - Gay-Straight Alliance
  - Lawrencian Newspaper
  - Literary magazine
  - Mock trial
  - Writers' club
- Drill Team
- Performing arts groups
- Student government
- Student activities committee (9GA only)

