Indian Trail Academy Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is the academy separate from the comprehensive high school?** Partially. Even though IT is one school, the academies are a niche where smaller schools exist within one large school. Students experience much of their day in courses where only their particular academy peers are enrolled, creating a great sense of belonging while participating in unique thematic-based courses. Some courses are blended within the building regardless of programming - P.E., math, music, AP, Chinese and Spanish. If an honors option is available for these blended courses, academy students may take an honors section and receive the honors weight.

- **Is there a separate academy graduation?** No, there is one large graduation but academy students sit and receive their diplomas by academy. They also have a separate valedictorian and salutatorian from the comprehensive program.

- **Can I take AP courses?** Yes, you can take AP courses if you are in the academy and have the ability to earn an Honors Distinction diploma for taking 4 credits of AP.

- **What are the terms in the contract I will sign if I accept an academy placement?** The contract is in place to maintain the integrity of the academy program and is an agreement to take all prescribed courses for four years. Terms include stipulations for attendance, behavior, and academic progress. If the terms are not being met, interventions will be put in place for desired improvement. If violations of the contract continue, students may be removed from the academy and placed back at their boundary schools.

- **Can I take non academy courses or choose electives offered in the comprehensive program?** No, except for the blended courses mentioned above, but not in place of the academy program requirements.

- **What are encore courses?** They are courses that would be electives but are prescribed courses in the academy related directly to the theme of the particular academy. Encore courses make each academy a unique program and must be taken by all students enrolled.

- **Why aren’t there honors sections in academy-specific courses?** It is understood that the academy program is geared toward college prep within the area of study you chose per academy. When your college transcript is sent, a letter goes with it indicating you have chosen a college prep program, thus meaning all academy courses have the rigor universities value.

- **Are there different graduation requirements for academy students?** No. All courses in the academy apply to graduation requirements, which are the same for all KUSD students.

- **Who eats lunch together?** Lunch is shared with all grade levels, all programs.

- **Where do I play sports?** Anyone who attends Indian Trail plays sports for IT.

- **How do I get to school if I am not in the IT boundary?** All non-boundary academy students get a city bus pass to navigate to school.

- **If I’m in one academy and don’t like it, can I switch to another academy and stay at IT?** No, you must decide if you want to remain in the academy or be placed back at your boundary school.

- **How many students are in each academy?** We invite approximately 230 9th graders into the academy program each year through the lottery.

- **Is there a fee to be in any of the academy programs?** There is a minimal fee of approximately $30 for Academy students issued laptops or iPads each year. KMA students pay a $25-$35 range fee for sweatshirts and are required to maintain their uniforms, which may include a fee for dry cleaning.

**School choice forms are due back to current school counselors by January 22nd. The academy lottery will take place the first week in February. All students in the lottery will be notified by the middle of March via mail regarding academy placement.**