



ACADEMY
After
HOURS
...thinking for the future...

Summer 2025

FULL DAY IN-PERSON

Academic Camp

Grades 6-8

July 7-18, 2025

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Select three classes for a total of six instructional hours per day. Full Day required.

@ Bergen County Academies
200 Hackensack Ave, Hackensack NJ

www.bergen.org/aah

**Registration
opening soon!**

**Enrollment Fee
\$1400**

About Us

The Academy After Hours program is an outreach initiative geared toward students in Bergen County and beyond seeking to pursue advanced work in the sciences, humanities, mathematics, technology, visual, performing and culinary arts. Our AAH courses are available to all students with skills and abilities that fall within the middle school range (grades 6-8) and are taught by our accomplished faculty members. Each course is designed for an optimal student-to-teacher ratio, and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

JOIN Academy After Hours TODAY!

To Register —→ www.bergen.org/aah

 aah@bergen.org

 [@aahours](https://www.facebook.com/aahours)

 [@academyafterhours](https://www.instagram.com/academyafterhours)

Mock Trial

Do you love legal dramas? Gain a better understanding and appreciation of the American legal system by engaging in a simulation of either a criminal or civil law case in the Mock Trial course. Students will develop and refine listening, speaking, reasoning, and analytical skills by preparing both the defense and prosecution positions of an assigned case, assuming the roles of witnesses and lawyers, and enacting a mock trial.

Intro to Java and Python

Students learn programming basics via the Java/Python programming language. The topics of this course include data types, conditionals, and loops.

Intro to Web Development

This course is an introduction to the concepts and practices of developing static websites. Students will learn basic HTML and CSS.

Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations

This course will be based on conducting experiments every time we meet and explore, derive and understand the origin of any formula that is related to the situation. They are all going to be formulas that are or will be encountered in Mathematics or Physics. In the right hands a spreadsheet can be an extremely powerful tool. We will use spreadsheets both on computer and from TI 84 and TI NSpire calculators. Studying science and mathematical models on computers will dramatically benefit students giving them an advantage in college and in their future careers. If students encounter enough experiences modeling on spreadsheets they will be able to solve an immense range of design type problems. They will be better able to analyze and understand data. Gaining experience now will lessen any future learning hurdles that spreadsheets will produce for them in college when they will need to use spreadsheets to study more difficult content. We will explore the following topics and others that are not listed as some of the activities are easier to perform outdoor, we will adjust our plan based on the weather or the condition outside the building.

Non-Routine Problem Solving

In this course students will work together in small, collaborative teams on solving problems in a variety of mathematical topics, including Number Theory, Algebra and Geometry. Students will learn how techniques such as drawing pictures/diagrams, looking for patterns, solving similar problems or working backwards can be helpful as they solve problems. Each class will cover a topic in mathematics approached from different non-routine problem solving techniques. Students' work will primarily be done collaboratively in breakout rooms, which allows the teacher to easily monitor students' work and progress. Approximately once every two weeks, students will put their skills to the test through a collaborative mathematics competition. This course aims to improve students' problem-solving abilities by tackling challenges that involve creative thinking.

Formal Essay Writing MLA/Research

This course is designed to prepare middle school students for high-school level formal essay writing, using proper MLA formatting and good research practices. Students will be exposed to different types of formal essays such as persuasive, informative, compare/contrast essays, and research papers. They will learn MLA formatting and templates, as well as creating a proper Works Cited. Finally, students will improve their research skills and learn tips to prevent falling victim to media bias and misinformation.

3D Printing

Come explore the world of 3D Printing and learn how to create something truly original. This class will introduce students to the technology of 3D Printing, as well as 3D computer aided drafting (CAD) skills through Tinkercad. Students will learn how to design and print their own designs, how to access open source models online, and how to utilize this technology for competitions and science fairs. No experience necessary.

Watercolor

Dive into the vibrant world of watercolors with our exhilarating AAH summer course designed specifically for middle school students! Embark on an exciting journey of exploration as you uncover the secrets of this versatile medium. With engaging and fun prompts, you'll unleash your creativity while mastering various technical aspects. Join us for a memorable experience where you'll discover the magic of watercolors and unveil your artistic talents!

Sketching

Designed to spark creativity and exploration, you'll dive into exciting new methods and mediums, including speed drawing with markers, gel pens, and/or digitally on an iPad. Unleash your imagination as you tackle fun and engaging prompts, discovering your unique artistic style along the way. Join us for a journey filled with discoveries and experimentation, and boundless creativity!

BizKids Bootcamp: From Concept to Pitch

In this course, middle school students will embark on an immersive journey into the world of entrepreneurship. Throughout this course, students will embark on a hands-on journey to develop their entrepreneurial skills and turn their business ideas into reality. The course covers essential topics such as idea generation, market research, financial planning, and pitch preparation. Through a series of interactive sessions, group activities, and real-world projects, students will learn how to identify opportunities, validate business ideas, and create business models. One of the highlights of the bootcamp is the culminating pitch competition, where students will have the opportunity to present their business idea to a panel of judges or their peers. This competition not only provides students with a platform to showcase their entrepreneurial ventures but also allows them to receive valuable feedback and celebrate their accomplishments. By the end of the course, students will have gained valuable skills in creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication, empowering them to become confident and innovative entrepreneurs. Whether they aspire to start their own businesses or pursue entrepreneurial opportunities in the future, the course provides them with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to succeed in the ever-evolving world of entrepreneurship.

Marketing Explorers: Navigating the World of Brands

This is an engaging and interactive introductory course to introduce middle school students to the fascinating world of marketing and branding. Over the span of two weeks, students will embark on a journey to discover the fundamental concepts of marketing, explore significance of branding in today's market, and learn how to navigate through various marketing strategies and techniques. Throughout the course, students will delve into topics such as understanding target audiences, the power of advertising, product development, pricing strategies, distribution channels, and the role of social media in modern marketing. Hands-on activities, group discussions, and projects will provide students with opportunities to apply their knowledge and creativity to real-world marketing scenarios. By the end of the course, students will have gained a solid foundation into introductory marketing principles, developed critical thinking skills, and honed their creativity as they navigate through the dynamic landscape of brands and marketing strategies. Whether they aspire to be future entrepreneurs, advertisers, or simply informed consumers, this course will equip students with the essential tools and insights to navigate the exciting world of brands with confidence and curiosity.

Model UN

Model UN is an activity where you represent the views of different countries and debate international issues. Through the course of the class, students will have the opportunity to develop their critical thinking skills and confidence in public speaking. If you are interested in international affairs, politics, and debate, Model UN is a great fit for you.

Asian Cuisine

This course offers an immersive exploration of Asian cuisine, focusing on diverse flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques. Through hands-on labs, demonstrations, and tastings, students will learn essential skills such as stir-frying, dumpling making, and balancing flavors using key ingredients like aromatic spices, sauces, and fresh herbs. The course also covers the cultural significance of various dishes, ingredient sourcing, and practical adaptations for home cooking. By the end, students will have mastered a selection of traditional recipes, gained confidence in new techniques, and developed a deeper appreciation for the rich culinary traditions of Asia.

Western Cuisine

This summer course delves into the rich culinary traditions of Western cuisine, with a focus on classic techniques and flavors inspired by European gastronomy. Students will develop essential skills such as pasta-making, sauce preparation, baking, and mastering fundamental cooking methods like sautéing, roasting, and braising. Through hands-on labs, tastings, and demonstrations, they will explore the balance of flavors, the art of presentation, and the cultural significance behind traditional dishes. By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundation in timeless recipes, refined cooking techniques, and a deeper appreciation for the elegance and craftsmanship of Western cuisine.

Baking Fundamentals

This summer course introduces the fundamentals of baking, focusing on essential techniques, ingredients, and methods to create a variety of baked goods. Students will learn the science behind baking, including proper mixing methods, dough handling, leavening agents, and temperature control. Through hands-on practice, they will master key recipes such as breads, pastries, cookies, and cakes while exploring flavor pairings and decorative techniques. Emphasizing precision and creativity, this course provides a strong foundation for both beginner and aspiring bakers to build confidence in the kitchen and develop a deeper understanding of the art of baking.

Engineering Design for Rocketry

Calling all rocket scientists! Learn how to design and fabricate water rockets using Autodesk's Fusion CAD(Computer Aided Design) software. Next learn how to simulate rocket performance using OpenRocket simulation software. Then get ready for the countdown to launch. Your rockets will be launched in the school field. No prior CAD or rocketry experience required.

Engineering Design and Laser Cutting

Do you want to learn how engineers create mechanical designs and employ various manufacturing techniques? It often starts with CAD (Computer Aided Design) software before the design then moves to manufacturing equipment. You will learn the basics of Autodesk's Fusion software, which is used in some high schools, colleges, and in industry. Your designs will be fabricated on our Epilog 60W CO2 laser cutter and engraver. No prior CAD experience required.

Fashion Design and Sewing

In this super fun, Project Runway Style class, students will be working in a fully equipped fashion and sewing studio! They will learn basic sewing techniques, basic draping and a bit of fashion history. Best of all, working in teams, they will be given "challenges". In a non-competitive, nurturing environment, young designers will upcycle all sorts of wacky materials into wearable, fabulous fashion!

Theatre Improv, Stage Make-Up and Stage Combat

In this exciting summer course, students will explore three super fun skills: improvisation, stage-make up and stage combat in a safe, collaborative space culminating in an original short film made with their classmates!

Speak Up! Crafting and Creating Powerful TED-Style Talks

Do you believe you have an idea worth sharing? In this engaging course, students will learn how to craft and deliver compelling TED-style talks on topics they are passionate about. Through a combination of speechwriting, storytelling, and public speaking techniques, students will develop confidence in expressing their ideas while learning how to captivate an audience.

The Hero's Journey: Myth, Legend and Adventure

Embark on an epic adventure through the world of mythology, legend, and storytelling as we explore the hero's journey—a timeless narrative structure found in myths, books, and movies. From the ancient trials and tribulations of Odysseus and Perseus to the quests of modern heroes like Luke Skywalker (and others!), students will analyze heroic archetypes, discovering recurring themes, and craft their own mythological tales.

Generative Storytelling with Artificial Intelligence

Step into the future of storytelling! In this innovative course, students will explore how AI can be a creative partner in writing and storytelling. Through interactive projects, students will experiment with AI-powered tools to generate story ideas, develop characters, and craft engaging narratives.

Make a Comic

Join the dynamic two-week course, 'Make a Comic,' where participants immerse themselves in a hands-on, creative journey. Guided by enthusiastic instructors, you'll explore the art of storytelling through captivating prompts and a supportive environment. Unleash your imagination as you craft your unique comic narrative, culminating in a fun and engaging product that reflects your creative vision. Get ready to bring your characters to life and embark on an unforgettable artistic adventure!

July-1st Week: 7th,8th,9th,10th,11th,

July-2nd Week: 14th,15th,16th,17th,18h

Academy After Hours

Full Day Camp

Please select one course from each session. No repeat courses.

Session One 8:30-10:30

Select One Course

Non-Routine Problem Solving
Watercolor
Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations
Mock Trial
Intro to Java and Python
Asian Cuisine
3D printing
BizKids Bootcamp: From Concept to Pitch
Fashion Design and Sewing
Engineering Design for Rocketry
Generative Storytelling with Artificial Intelligence
Speak Up! Crafting and Delivering Powerful TED-Style Talks

Session Two-10:40-12:40

Select One Course

Non-Routine Problem Solving
Sketching
Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations
Model UN
Intro to Web Development
Western Cuisine
3D Printing
Marketing Explorers: Navigating the World of Brands
Theatre Improv, Stage Make-Up and Stage Combat
Engineering Design and Laser Cutting
Formal Essay Writing MLA/Research
The Hero's Journey: Myth, Legend, and Adventure

Session Three- 1:30-3:30

Select One Course

Non-Routine Problem Solving
Make a Comic
Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations
Mock Trial
Intro to Java and Python
Baking Fundamentals
3D Printing
BizKids Bootcamp: From Concept to Pitch
Fashion Design and Sewing
Engineering Design for Rocketry
Generative Storytelling with Artificial Intelligence
Speak Up! Crafting and Delivering Powerful TED-Style Talks

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