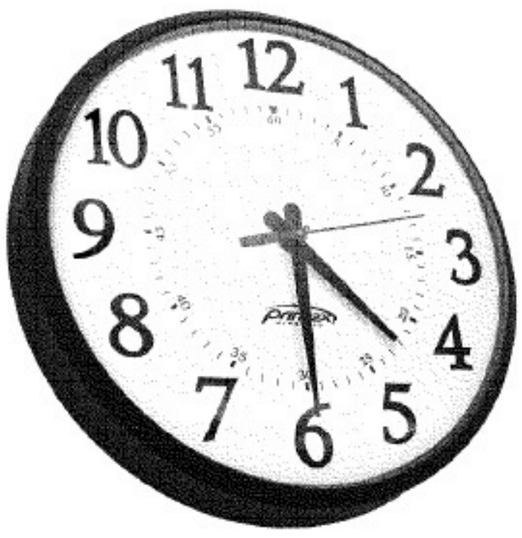

ACADEMY
After
HOURS
...thinking for the future...

Summer 2026
FULL DAY IN-PERSON
Academic Camp

Grades 6-8

July 6-17, 2026
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 Open - April 20th

Enrollment Fee
$1600

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 @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 trail.

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 used 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-Rountine 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.

The Story Lab: Crafting Meaning Through Fiction // A Creative Writing Intensive

In The Story Lab, we will develop our storytelling skills through a structured, workshop-style experience. Students will explore the core elements of effective narrative writing, including character development, plot structure, dialogue, setting, and theme. Students will move through the full writing process—brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing—while developing confidence in their individual voice. Instruction will focus on strengthening descriptive language, building believable conflict, and revising for clarity and impact.

Literary Explorers: Mapping Meaning in Texts

In Literary Explorers, students will engage deeply with texts, developing analytical skills essential to strong reading comprehension and literary interpretation. Students will practice the art of close reading: examining language, structure, tone, and figurative devices to uncover layered meaning in both classic and contemporary texts. Through guided discussion, collaborative analysis, and written reflections, students will learn to identify patterns, make textual inferences, and connect literature to broader themes and ideas, providing a strong foundation for advanced literary studies.

Stop-Motion Picture Basics

This class explores the development of motion pictures as it relates to the phenomenon known as the "persistence of vision". Humankind's quest for a visual voice to communicate ideas and entertainment gave birth to the zoetrope, the nickelodeon and the flipbook. Students will be able to manipulate still elements and animate them through optical illusion. Students can then re-create that technique on a digital timeline in iMovie of Premiere Pro

Exploring Adobe Photoshop

Adobe Photoshop is a software application for image editing and photo retouching for use on Windows or MacOS computers. Photoshop offers users the ability to create, enhance, or otherwise edit images, artwork, and illustrations. Changing backgrounds, simulating a real-life painting, or creating an alternative view of the universe are all possible with Adobe Photoshop.

Digital Cinematography

The art of digital cinematography is about more than just technology. It’s about vision. It’s about capturing moments that resonate. It is a thrilling blend of technology and storytelling. It’s a craft that invites you to see the world through a new lens - literally and figuratively. Whether you’re capturing sweeping landscapes or intimate moments, the tools and techniques at your disposal can bring your vision to life like never before. How do we use digital video cameras to create the necessary fundamental shots for telling a story?

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.

Farmers Market Kitchen

"Step into the kitchen and straight into the flavors of summer! In this course, students will transform just-picked, farm-fresh ingredients into vibrant, delicious dishes they’ll be proud to create—and eat. Imagine slicing into juicy, sun-ripened tomatoes to make a bright, zesty pico de gallo… tossing together sweet corn, lime, and herbs for a refreshing summer salsa… or rolling out dough to create handmade flatbreads topped with roasted seasonal vegetables. Students will even blend up chilled gazpacho and craft their own herb-packed dressings using fresh basil, mint, and parsley. Each day is packed with hands-on cooking, creativity, and teamwork as students learn real kitchen skills like knife techniques, flavor building, and plating. The experience builds toward exciting “market basket challenges,” where students think like chefs and turn surprise ingredients into their own unique dishes."

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.

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 amd 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 Skywaler (and others!), students will analyze heroic archetypes, discovering recurring themes, and craft their own mythological tales.

July-1st Week: 6th,7th,8th,9th,10th,

July-2nd Week: 13th,14th,15th,16th,17th

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
Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations
Mock Trial
Engineering Design for Rocketry
The Story Lab: Crafting Meaning Through Fiction // A Creative Writing Intensive
Speak Up! Crafting and Delivering Powerful TED-Style Talks
Stop-Motion Picture Basics
Intro to Java and Python
Farmers Market Kitchen

Session Two-10:40-12:40
Select One Course

Non-Routine Problem Solving
Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations
Model UN
Engineering Design and Laser Cutting
Literary Explorers: Mapping Meaning in Texts
The Hero’s Journey: Myth, Legend, and Adventure
Exploring Adobe Photoshop
Intro to Web Development
Western Cuisine

Session Three- 1:30-3:30
Select One Course

Non-Routine Problem Solving
Applied Math/ Deriving Math Equations
Mock Trial
Engineering Design for Rocketry
The Story Lab: Crafting Meaning Through Fiction // A Creative Writing Intensive
Speak Up! Crafting and Delivering Powerful TED-Style Talks
Digital Cinematography
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Baking Fundamentals

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