



Rising Stars Middle College High School Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Middle College High School?

Middle College is a structured program that offers Keyport High School Juniors and Seniors an opportunity to earn 30 college credits through Brookdale Community College. Students take the most highly transferable general education courses so that they have completed an entire year of college by the time they graduate from high school, thus saving approximately \$20,000 in college tuition compared to the average NJ state public university.

2. Who can apply to the Rising Stars Middle College Academy?

We will be accepting current 8th grade students from Keyport Central School and Union Beach into the program. While taking Algebra I in 8th grade is highly recommended, it is not required to apply.

3. If the program does not start until Junior year, what are the expectations for students in the program during 9th and 10th grade?

Students accepted to the program must enroll in KHS as 9th graders. Rising Star students will be expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA and be a student in good standing. *There may be additional requirements placed by Brookdale (college readiness placement tests, a college readiness class, etc.) but those details are still forthcoming from BCC.*

4. Will there be an opportunity for students who did not apply as 8th graders to apply later in their high school career?

Specific details about this process will be forthcoming, but any student who is accepted to the program as an 8th grader and enrolls in KHS at the start of 9th grade will be guaranteed their spot in the program. It is expected that a waitlist will be maintained.

5. Where will classes take place?

All classes will take place at Brookdale's Lincroft campus.

6. Will students receive transportation to go from Keyport High School to Brookdale Lincroft Campus?

Students and families are responsible for transportation.

7. Is there a cost to parents?

The annual district budget will include the cost of tuition for the Middle College program (30 credits). It is determined annually if the district can budget for books.

8. Is a student eligible to participate in sports/activities?

Students are eligible to participate in the KHS Athletic programs and are eligible to participate in KHS after school clubs/activities. Please note that the coursework is rigorous and dedication to their studies is paramount to their success in the program.

9. How do I submit the application?

Applications can be found online or given to you by your child's school counselor. Applications should be submitted to your child's school counselor by the due date. KHS will pick up the applications from Memorial School and Keyport Central on the date of the deadline. The due date for applications for the 2023-24 school year is TBD.

10. Does your child receive both college and high school credit for their classes?

Yes.

11. If the student's GPA falls below the expected 3.0 what is the next step?

A meeting will be held with the Keyport High School principal, the Director of Counseling, and the student and parent to discuss maintaining their spot in the program.

12. What is the actual selection criteria for current 8th grade students?

Students will be required to submit a completed application by the deadline. The Keyport High School Administrative team will review the applications and conduct interviews with each applicant. 7th and 8th grade grades, 7th grade standardized test scores, attendance, a student essay, a student interview, and teacher recommendations will all be evaluated by the administrative team to determine admission to the program.

13. How many students are accepted to the program?

Approximately 10-15 students will be accepted in total.

14. Who can I contact with questions about the Middle College program?

Specific questions for Brookdale, including their reasoning for making the shift to Middle College, can be directed at: Cara Novak - Associate Director of Early College and Educational Programs at Brookdale (cnovak@brookdaleecc.edu).

Questions about the implementation of the program at Keyport High School can be directed to: Jennifer Peirson - Director of School Counseling (jpeirson@kpsdschools.org).

We are continuing to work with Brookdale to finalize the details of the Middle College program. Additional information sessions will be held to keep the Keyport and Union Beach communities up to date on new information.