



Outstanding Middle/ Secondary Ag. Ed Program

The Academy for Sciences and Agriculture

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“In order to have a holistic program that affords students all of the opportunities that agricultural education has to offer, the program must provide rigorous but relevant topics and positive relationship between students and teachers.”

Overview

- AFSA is a public charter school that began in the Fall of 2001 in Vadnais Heights, MN that reaches students from Kindergarten through 12th grade
- Students come from 20 districts and covers 500 square miles
- All 250 7th-12th grade students are part of the affiliate FFA chapter
- Students are required to take 4 total credits of Agriscience throughout their High School Careers
- AFSA offers courses in all 8 pathways, College in the schools credit in Animal Science and success in the agriscience fair through their agriscience course

Experiential Learning

- Every student enrolled in an agricultural education class must complete an SAE program which accounts as one-quarter of their grade
- Students utilize the AET to complete their records and complete applications and is also used in the 12 week work based learned course
- In 2023, AFSA had 2 region proficiency winners and 3 state qualifiers
- Each student is required to complete 2 farm/community service days/year

FFA Highlights

- Students participate in the Global Youth Institute and attend the National Conference each year
- Students that have competed at the State or National Agriscience Fair serve as a mentor to younger students to assist in their project development
- Students compete in a wide variety of CDE's throughout the year
- AFSA completes the National Chapter Award Application and earning a consistent rating each year.

Partnerships

- AFSA has been able to grow and thrive over the years because of the support provided from the community partners
- A successful FFA Alumni is the most impactful partnership
- Many partnerships such as local colleges, CHS, General Mills, Culvers, Land O'Lakes the city of Vadnais Heights and Little Canada, the local school board and many more have a large impact on the FFA Chapter
- The Potato Hug is an event that allows community members to engage in agriculture commodity and organizational booths

Professional Growth

- Both Instructors have been members of MAAE, NAAE, MnACTE and ACTE and have attended professional development through all organizations
- Have participated in the TIP, IDEA's program, the germinate conference, MN Farm Bureau Discussion Meet and the CFANS mentor program
- Continued education through the MAAE summer professional development workshops and NAAE XLR8, AgI2 and the Agriscience Ambassador Program.

“Our instructors are active in MAAE, Farm Bureau and other organizations which gives them the opportunity to forge connections.”

– Becky Meyer, Executive Director– AFSA

2023 MAAE Award Winner

Banners donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union

