



Incubating Innovation



Design Thinking Academy's mission is to empower all students to be tomorrow's innovators and lifelong learners who question, imagine create and share every day.



Design Thinking Academy is a tuition-free public charter high school in Delaware with comprehensive standards-aligned academics infused with creative project-based learning experiences grounded in design thinking.

Our graduates are prepared for college, career and life and enter a new post-secondary socio-economic class, referred to as the "creative class," improving the economic trajectory of their lives.

Graduates of Design Thinking Academy will develop a solid foundation in fundamental literacies necessary to succeed in college, career and in life. Students will activate and harness the power of their creative and critical capacities, develop agile and imaginative thinking, and clarify their sense of personal purpose.

Pathways Program

Media

Our students explore diverse forms of visual communication. From news to print, to film and video, students employ their creative skills to conceive and execute various media. Students on the Media Pathway are challenged with the rich visual world that creative media brings – exploring ideas, conceptualizing theories, overcoming obstacles, and final production of their project. Students hone their problem solving skills through both imaginative and analytical methods, expanding creative abilities into other classes.

Art & Design

The Art & Design Pathway expands students spatial and visual thinking skills while developing a distinctive personal voice. Students gain experience in a wide range of media and materials including graphic design, fashion design, architecture, drawing, painting, installation and mixed media. Students develop strong communication and presentation skills along with their creative and critical thinking abilities throughout the Art & Design Pathway. Under the expert guidance of talented teachers, students prepare a fine art and design portfolio for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, college and scholarship opportunities. Art & Design Pathway students have the opportunity to showcase their creative accomplishments in a culminating community exhibition in the spring.

Entrepreneurship

Our Entrepreneurship Pathway is one in which students ideate, design, launch, and run new businesses. Students develop a mindset that enables them to recognize opportunity, take initiative, and innovate in the face of challenges. This pathway offers a curriculum that combines business acumen, strategy, finance, marketing, and management in pursuit of successful new venture creation. Being

an entrepreneur means being able to take action and having the courage to commit and persevere through all of the challenges and failures – traits that are applicable in every endeavour of life.

Architecture + Engineering

The Architectural Engineering Technology program of study is a three course Career & Technical Education instructional program of study that engages students in the world of construction and architecture. Students utilize strategies to solve open-ended problems and learn how to apply technical skills, knowledge, documentation techniques using modern, industry-leading technology and software. Work-based learning experiences and industry-mentored projects will introduce students to a wide array of careers such as architects, civil engineers, construction management, and more. The AET program of study leads students to earning industry certifications, college credits from Delaware Technical and Community College, and advanced skills in product data management and building information modeling.

Computer Science

Our Computer Science program is the state-approved Career and Technical Education Pathway. It consists of three courses – Exploring Computer Science; AP Computer Science Principles; AP Computer Science A. In all courses, students delve into topics such as interface design, limits of computers, as well as societal and ethical issues. Students explore a range of careers in information technology and computer science as they learn to connect their informal knowledge, technology skills, and beliefs about computing to the theoretical and foundational tenets of computer science. Students engage in a wide variety of creative projects to explore the real-world applications of computing, including App Design, Virtual and Augmented Reality, and coding.

5 Creative Pathways:

1. ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING DESIGN

- Foundations of Technology
- Processes of Architecture and Construction
- Architectural CAD Applications

2. ART & DESIGN

- Foundations of Art & Design
- Integrated Art & Design
- Art & Design Portfolio
- AP Studio Art Drawing
- AP Studio Art 2D Design
- AP Studio Art 3D Design* Fall 2019

3. COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Exploring Computer Science (ESC)
- AP Computer Science Principles (CSP)
- AP Computer Science A (CSA)

4. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Business, Finance, and Marketing
- Entrepreneurship I
- Entrepreneurship II

5. MEDIA

- Introduction to Media
- Integrated Media
- Media Portfolio

Students in our Entrepreneurship Pathway program regularly present and pitch their original business model ideas at conferences and regional competitions such as NFTE (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship), often garnering awards and recognition for their creative business models and exceptional presentation skills.



Typical Design Thinking Academy Course Progression *(beginning Fall 2019)*

GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Integrated Mathematics 1 Physical Science Civics/Economics World Language 1 Design Thinking Seminar Physical Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 10 Integrated Mathematics 2 Biology World Language 2 World History Pathway Course Level 1 Driver's Education (.5 credit) Elective Health (.5 credit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 11 Integrated Mathematics 3 Chemistry US History World Language 3 Pathway Course: Level 2 Electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Capstone English 12 Foundations of College Mathematics Physics World Language 4 Pathway Course: Level 3 Electives

State of Delaware Requirements *(24 Total Credits)*

English – 4 credits <i>(one each year)</i>	Social Studies – 3 Credits	Health – .5 Credit
Math – 4 credits <i>(one each year)</i>	World Language – 2 Credits	Pathway – 3 Credits
Science – 3 credits	Physical Education – .5 Credit	Elective – 3.5 Credits

Senior Capstone

The Senior Capstone project is a year-long, credit bearing required course of study that provides an opportunity for students transitioning to college and career to plan and execute a long-term advanced creative project using the design thinking process. Throughout Senior Capstone, students create, ideate, synthesize and develop personal work products that showcase a complex and deep understanding of concepts, content and connections in a project of their own design. Senior Capstone Projects are showcased in May for the school and broader community.

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Jahod Hicks recently ran a 19.13 5K and was awarded a Medal for the Top 10 in the 2018 Middletown Invitational. In the same week, Jahod was recognized as the winner of the All School Design Challenge for his public seating concept, and won an all-inclusive trip to New York City to attend the Cooper Hewitt Teen Design Fair.

Athletics Program:

- Boys' Soccer
- Field Hockey
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball
- Indoor Track & Field
- Wrestling
- Cheerleading
- Baseball
- Softball
- Outdoor Track & Field

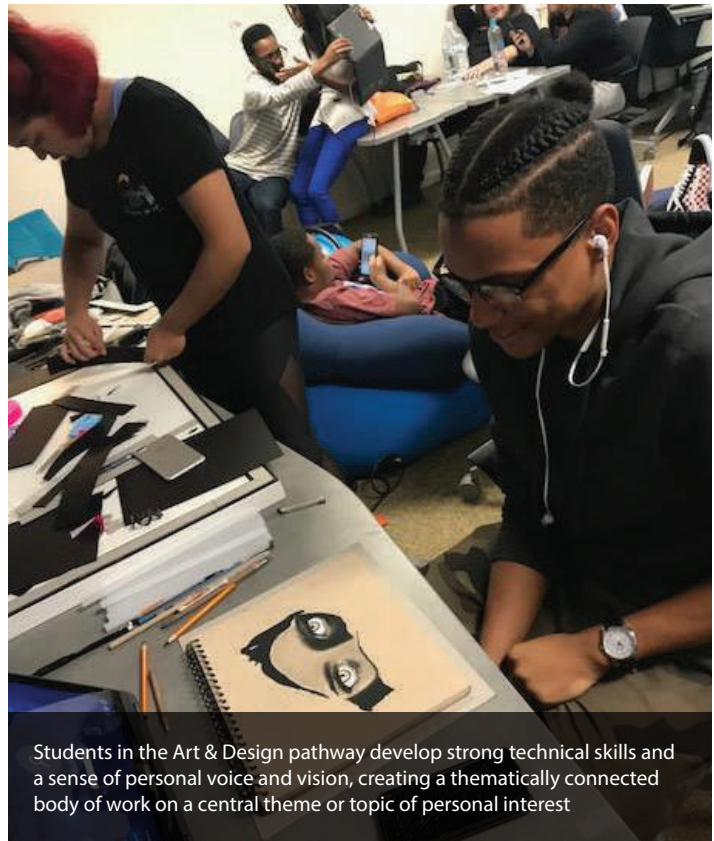
Student Awards & Special Recognitions

Students in our Entrepreneurship Pathway swept the 2018 Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Competition, winning First, Second and Third Place! Several of our Student Entrepreneurs were invited to attend the 2018 Young Women in Business Leadership at **Harvard University**.

Charissa Foreman was awarded a \$20,000 merit Scholarship to Moore College of Art & Design for her Fine Art & Design Portfolio.

Clubs & Activities

- Broadcast Journalism
- Creative Reading & Reflection
- Creative Writing
- Dual Enrollment
- English Enrichment
- Fitness for Resilience
- Health
- High School to College Readiness
- Making Change
- Chess Club
- Math Enrichment
- Music & Performing Arts
- Pride Studies
- SAT Preparation
- Science Olympiad
- Senior Capstone
- Student Government
- Study: The Journey to Manhood
- Studying Cultural Diversity
- Studying Women's Expressions
- Technology Student Association



Students in the Art & Design pathway develop strong technical skills and a sense of personal voice and vision, creating a thematically connected body of work on a central theme or topic of personal interest

Resources & Facilities:

Rapid Prototyping Studio & Materials library, Three 3D printers, Media Studio With #Macs, Adobe Creative Suite,

- Mac Media Lab running the latest version of the Adobe Creative Suite
- 1:1 Laptop Program
- Three 3D printers, one printing in metal

- New Makerspace & Rapid Prototyping Room, stocked with materials available to all students and teachers to support design thinking processes, curriculum and improved outcomes
- Collaboration with MAD Learn, a software company to help students develop their own apps. One student's app (Jayvon Brown) is currently in production.



Design Thinking Academy students have been accepted to:

1. Arcadia University
2. University of Delaware
3. University of Delaware Associate in Arts
4. Delaware State University
5. Wilmington University
6. Wesley College
7. University of Maryland-Baltimore County
8. West Virginia University
9. East Stroudsburg University
10. Champlain College
11. University of Hartford
12. La Salle University
13. George Mason University
14. Hampton University
15. Johnson & Wales University
16. Wilmington University
17. Delaware Technical and Community College
18. Drexel University
19. Savannah College of Art & Design
20. North Carolina A&T State University
21. Seton Hall University
22. Valley Forge University
23. Jefferson College
24. Mount Aloysius College
25. University of Arizona
26. University of Maryland-Eastern Shore
27. Delaware College of Art & Design
28. Philander Smith College
29. Cabrini University
30. Salem State University

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Community Partnerships

2018—We have established a strong teacher and student partnership with Cooper Hewitt, the national design museum of the Smithsonian in New York City. Students will attend the Teen Design Fair in October and have the opportunity to connect with luminaries in design and entrepreneurship.

We are establishing key, strategic partnerships that provide scholars with rich, robust learning experiences outside of the typical high school classroom- they are pursuing projects of interest, identifying their passions, building social capital, engaging professionals in all fields, and leading efforts to drive social change.

Highlights of Recent Community Partnerships and Signature Learning Opportunities:

- **University of Delaware:** 25 Design Thinking Academy scholars are taking college courses on college campuses the fall 2018 semester. Twenty-one of these students were selected to take courses at UD. Design Thinking Academy has more students taking classes on UD's campus than any other high school. Design Thinking Academy is covering all costs.
- **Brandywine Zoo (September 2018):** Our Students and faculty have partnered with the Brandywine Zoo to solve enhanced visitor engagement. The zoo has asked our students to apply their design thinking creative problem solving abilities to address their institutional need.
- Our students were recently commissioned by the **Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ)** to design and create an interactive Educational Exhibition addressing the Criminalization of Poverty in Delaware's Justice System. Students will also conduct field work and partner with local installation artists to learn about conception and implementation of large scale public works. This partnership was forged by Noelle Picara, English Teacher, Performance Artist, and Public Activist-a new faculty member at DTA.
- Emerging partnership with **Delaware College of Art & Design** for dual credit opportunities



College & Career Readiness

On average, our incoming Seniors increased their SAT score by 100 points from the previous year's PSAT 10 administration, which is almost double the expected growth per year, according to College Board Benchmarks.

DTA scholars are being presented with more out-of-school opportunities than any other DE public high school. No other DE public high school is so actively working with its students to open doors to college.

We are establishing key, strategic partnerships that provide scholars with rich, robust learning experiences outside of the typical high school classroom- they are pursuing projects of interest, identifying their passions, building social capital, engaging professionals in all fields, and leading efforts to drive social change

- **7** Design Thinking Academy scholars participated in **Dual School**, an out-of-school Design Thinking program that allows students to work on projects of interest/passion this summer (2018). Design Thinking Academy covered all costs. More Design Thinking Academy students were selected to participate than any other high school.
- **3** Design Thinking Academy sophomores were selected to participate in the highly-selective **Delaware Scholars Academy**, a three-summer pre-college program that has seen amazing outcomes (100% of participants enrolled in four-year colleges).
- **2** ninth graders have been accepted to the very competitive Give Something Back Foundation program. These students receive pre-college mentoring through high school and are eligible for a full four-year scholarship award to the University of Delaware
- **16** Design Thinking Academy scholars have been accepted to the six-week Upward Bound program— FAR MORE participants than any other high school. This life-changing program provides academic, social, and cultural supports to students from traditionally underrepresented groups. Design Thinking Academy is covering all costs.
- **25** Design Thinking Academy scholars are taking college courses on college campuses this semester. Twenty-one of these students were selected to take courses at **University of Delaware**. Design Thinking Academy has more students taking classes on UD's campus than any other high school. Design Thinking Academy is covering all costs.
- **5** Design Thinking Academy students attended **University of Delaware's College Readiness Scholars Institute**, a pre-college program that addresses the key barriers to college success: academics, social, and residential. Design Thinking Academy will cover all costs associated with the program.
- Design Thinking Academy students have been accepted to **University of Delaware's** competitive **Summer Edge** program.
- Design Thinking Academy students are participating in the **Delaware Youth Leadership Network, TeenSHARP, the Delaware Youth Advocacy Council, Delaware Goes to College Academy**, and many other college-going programs. Design Thinking Academy is covering all costs.

Faculty Highlights

- Teachers at DTA hold teaching licenses and special certifications in virtually every subject and specialty. Our credentialed faculty—most of whom hold masters and advanced degrees—hold degrees from some of the most reputable post-secondary institutions in the U.S. including Harvard, RISD, University of Pennsylvania, and other prestigious institutions.
- Our teachers and staff bring a wealth of career experience, diverse backgrounds and experiences (including teaching around the world and in other cultures) and expertise to our students each and every day. Our **award-winning faculty**, staff and students value diversity and multiple perspectives, recognizing the inherent potential of multiple differing points of view as opportunities to better understand the full complexity of a problem. Our graduates learn how to systematically and successfully apply Design Thinking as a process and creative problem solving strategy in all aspects of life, college and career.

Our Faculty & Staff collectively have the following impressive credentials and recognitions:

38 Subject & Specialty Certifications

27 Bachelors Degrees

16 Masters Degrees

3 PhD Candidates

4 “Teacher of the Year” Award Winners

1 National Board Certified Teacher

Additionally, 8 DTA Teachers and Administrators were recently nominated for recognition with a 2018 **IDEA Award** from the Delaware Charter School Network for innovative teaching practices, community contributions, and trailblazing initiatives in the landscape of Delaware Public Education



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Stephanie Silverman—PRINCIPAL

Stephanie is an award-winning artist and designer and a National Board Certified Art & Design Educator who brings extensive experience and a proven track record of creative administrative leadership

and innovative curriculum development to Design Thinking Academy. She regularly presents and publishes on a variety of art and design education topics and Stephanie was named the Delaware Secondary Art Educator of the Year in 2013 and the National Eastern Region Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association for her and passionate leadership at both the regional and national level. She holds degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of the Arts, and has continued her studies at Harvard, Brown, and other noteworthy institutions of higher education. Stephanie is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships and maintains an ongoing research interest in creativity, motivation, and advancing social equity through educational access and opportunity.



Damien Burke—DEAN OF COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Damien is a recognized expert in College and Career Readiness. He works with scholars to help them take advantage of every high school opportunity in preparation for

life after graduation. His role is to expand options and raise the expectations of every student. His purpose is to dramatically increase the equity in college selection/admission/graduation processes. Damien received a chemical engineering degree from the University of Virginia and an Executive MBA from the University of Delaware. He participated in the highly selective Broad Residency in Urban Education program and earned a certificate from Columbia University's College Advising Program. He is a frequent presenter at college preparation and financial aid events. Damien has managed large chemical plants, announced for the US High Diving Team, and worked for the Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia.



Durrel Harris—ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Durrell earned a Master's Degree in School Leadership from Wilmington University and his Bachelor's from Immaculata University in History Education. Durrell has over a decade of teaching, coaching, and administrative leadership. Durrell has functioned in many

capacities at DTA, including Athletic Director, Recruitment, and Dean of Climate & Culture, Teacher, and Basketball Coach. His specialized area of focus and expertise is social emotional learning. Durrell attends numerous national institutes and workshops on School Climate & Culture, and regularly leads professional development workshops for teachers in both restorative practices and establishing a high expectations classroom culture for both behavior and academic success.



Loretta Harper-Brown—ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

Loretta has been a passionate Admissions Ambassador for Design Thinking Academy since the school's earliest days. She enjoys meeting prospective families and students and is available

to schedule a personalized tour of the school or shadow day for interested students. Please contact Loretta for any questions about Design Thinking Academy's programs and for more information and upcoming Recruitment events.



Hallie Biden—MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER

Hallie Biden (daughter-in-law of former Vice President of the United States Joseph R. Biden), joined the Design Thinking Academy Family as our Major Gifts & Fundraising Officer. Hallie brings decades of school admissions and counseling experience to us and also

has extensive connections to the Delaware community. As we look to the future of our school and expanding our academic and programmatic offerings, we will continue to connect to the Wilmington Community and beyond to secure gifts and resources to ensure a sustainable, vibrant future for our DTA students, staff and school.

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