

2011–12: Our High School At a Glance

School Administration

Superintendent: Maurice Flurie III, CEO

Principals: Gary Madden (grade 9)

Greg Gettle (grades 10–12)

Assistant Principals: Anthony Rusnak (grades 10–12)

Karen McClarnon (grades 10–12)

Counseling Staff: Cheryl Handwerker, Manager of Pupil Services

Stacey Roman, School Counselor

Brian Comegna, School Counselor

Emily Kreiger, Advisory Teacher

Mary Cote, Advisory Teacher

Jake Ramsey, Advisory Teacher

Community

Our History

Commonwealth Connections Academy (CCA) is an accredited, public school serving students in grades K–12 across the state of Pennsylvania. CCA students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school was founded during the 2003–04 school year as a K–8 institution. CCA served 9th graders for the first time in 2005–06 and added one grade level each subsequent year until the first 12th grade class graduated in June 2009.

Our Mission

Connections Academy schools have an important mission: to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program.

Our Commonwealth Connections Academy Program

CCA has an enrollment of 5,732 students in grades K–12 and includes a four-year comprehensive high school program with an enrollment of 2,511 students. Here are some important facts about the CCA program:

- The school is fully accredited by the Middle States Association (MSA).
- As of August 2011, CCA has 195 certified/licensed professional staff. Of those, 99 have earned advanced degrees.
- School is in session 180 days between the months of September and June.
- Students are able to earn up to 8 credits during the school year.
- CCA competed against 30 teams and finished as state finalists in the Real World Design Challenge 08–09, 09–10, and 10–11. The 10–11 team won a merit award in the National STEM Competition.
- CCA offers two sessions of summer to students in a variety of subject areas for credit recovery and enrichment.
- CCA is the affiliate sponsor of the Southern Pennsylvania Scholastic Writing Awards.
- CCA offers many clubs including: American Red Cross Club, Art Club, Astronomy Club, Book Club, Broadcast Club, Chess Club, Debate Club, Environmental Club, French Club, Innovators Club, National History Day Club, National Honor Society, Peer Tutors, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, Pen Pal Club, Pens and Lens Magazine, Poetry Corner, Quiz Bowl, Real World Design Challenge Teams, Recorder Club, Robotics Club, SAT Math Prep, Science Fair Club, Spanish Club, Student Leadership and Service Club, The Monitor Newspaper, The Stock Market Game, World Drumming Club, Writing Club, and Youth & Government Club.
- CCA's mobile classroom is a high-tech classroom on wheels, complete with laptop stations, a science lab, microscopes and a wireless network with interior and exterior SMARTboard technologies. The mobile classroom travels across Pennsylvania, offering a plethora of teacher-delivered classes and labs, book fairs, art exhibitions, and more.
- Central Penn Parent Magazine named CCA the 2011 Best Charter School and the Best Public School.
- The Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania awarded the 2010–11 Educator of the Year to a CCA staff member.

Programs of Study

CCA offers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum, with courses in a wide range of disciplines. The core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. All science courses include hands-on laboratory units. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Basic programs. Through our global online curriculum, students have the opportunity to pursue advanced studies.

- **AP course offerings** include: Art History, Biology, Calculus, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, French, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, U.S. Government, U.S. History, and World History.
- **Honors course offerings** include: Algebra 1 and 2, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Earth Space Science, Marine Science, English 9–12, Geometry, Physical Science, Precalculus, U.S. History, and World History.

CCA operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is six classes per semester. Please feel free to view all of our high school courses at

<http://www.connectionsacademy.com/pennsylvania-cyber-school/curriculum/high-school/high-school-classes.aspx>.

Graduation Requirements and Grade Reporting

Twenty-four (24) Carnegie units of credit are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

Area/Subject	# Units for Graduation
Language Arts	4
Math (including Algebra and Geometry)	3
Science (including Physical Science and Biology)	3
Social Studies (including U.S. History and Government)	3
Health	1
Physical Education	1
Technology	1
Humanities and Arts	2
Other Electives	6
Total	24

Class Rank Policy

CCA will calculate the class rank for each high school student two times per year, shortly after the conclusion of each semester. Students who have not yet successfully completed any high school courses for credit directly from Connections Academy will be excluded from the class rank calculation.

For the purposes of calculating the class rank, the student's cumulative Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) will be used, which may include weighted grades for Honors or Advanced Placement courses. Courses transferred in from other accredited institutions will also be included in the class rank as long as there is a grade assigned for that course.

The cumulative G.P.A. is calculated to the thousandth of a point. Students whose class rank rounds off to the same thousandth of a point will be considered tied and will receive the same class rank. The ranking will compare students within the same grade level at the same school. The class rank is included on the student's official high school transcript.

Grading Scale

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses. The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98–100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92–97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90–91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88–89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82–87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80–81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78–79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72–77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70–71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68–69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	62–67	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60–61	0.67	1.17	1.67
F	0–59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Abbreviations on Transcripts

The following abbreviations appear on official Connections Academy transcripts:

CO – Course completed

EN – Scheduled in section

IP – Active in section

PC – Student has completed course and teacher is finishing grading

WF – Failing grade at time of withdrawal from course

WP – Passing grade at time of withdrawal from course

School Test Information State Test Scores for 2010–11

Students attending CCA will be administered the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), as required by the state of Pennsylvania. The PSSA is a standards-based criterion-referenced assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the academic standards while also determining the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of the standards. Every 11th grade Pennsylvania student is assessed in reading, writing, math, and science.

State Testing for 2010–11

In 2010–11, CCA made AYP in 27 out of the 29 categories defined by the state.

In 2009–10, CCA made AYP in 22 out of the 25 categories defined by the state.

In 2008–09, CCA made AYP in 26 out of the 29 categories defined by the state.

In 2007–08, CCA made AYP in **all** categories defined by the state.

College Testing for 2010–11

ACT school average: 18 (6 students tested)

SAT school average: 1499

Advanced Placement Testing for 2010–11

Commonwealth Connections Academy had 19 students take AP exams in 14 subject areas, resulting in 73% scoring a 3 or better.

5 Score – 6 4 Score – 7 3 Score – 9 2 Score – 6 1 Score – 2

Post-Graduation Plans for Class of 2011

<u>Plans</u>	<u>% of Students</u>
Four-year colleges	28%
Two-year colleges	40%
State colleges	38%
Out-of-state colleges	6%
Military	5%
Employment	17%
Undecided	10%

College Matriculation for Class of 2011

Students in the **Class of 2011** have been accepted to the following colleges: Albright College, Arcadia University, Art Institute of York, Bethany College, Bloomfield College, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Bucks County Community College, Butler County Community College, California University of Pennsylvania, Carnegie Mellon University, Catholic University of America/Honors Program, Cedar Crest College, Central Pennsylvania College, Central Virginia Community College, Christopher Newport University, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Columbia Southern University, Community College of Allegheny County, Community College of Baltimore County, Community College of Philadelphia, Cornell University, Delaware Valley College, Drexel University/Pennoni Honors College, Duquesne University, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Gannon University, Geneva College, Grove City College, Guilford College, Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg University of Science & Technology, Hofstra University, Houghton College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Jamestown Community College, Keystone College, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Lebanon Valley College, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Liberty University, Lincoln Technical Institute, Lincoln University, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Luzerne County Community College, Lycoming College, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, Mary Baldwin College, Mercyhurst College, Messiah College/Honors Program, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Montgomery County Community College, Moore College of Art and Design, Moravian College, Neumann University, Northampton Community College, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Pace University, Park University, Pennco Tech Bristol, Penn Foster College, Penn State Abington, Penn State Berks, Penn State DuBois, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College/Honors Program, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Penn State Schuylkill, Penn State University Park, Penn State York, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Philadelphia Biblical University, Point Park University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rider University/Honors Program, Robert Morris University, Saint Joseph University, Saint Vincent College, Salisbury University, Seton Hill University, Sewanee: The University of the South, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Southeastern University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Susquehanna University/Honors Program, Temple University/Honors Program, The College of New Jersey, Thiel College, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of the Arts, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, University of Scranton, University of Virginia College at Wise, Vet Tech, Ursinus College, Westmoreland County Community College, West Virginia University, Wilkes University, Word of Life Bible Institute, and York College of Pennsylvania.

High School Virtual Visitation

College and university representatives are cordially invited to connect with our students through web conferencing technology. A two-week advanced notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web conference session, please **contact Cheryl Handwerker at chandwerker@connectionseducation.com**.