

ACADEMIES OF NASHVILLE A-TEAM

Action Report 2020-2021

The mission of the Academies of Nashville are to ensure high school students will belong to a personalized smaller learning community engaged around interests where relationships are valued. Alignment Nashville is a Founding Partner of the Academies of Nashville! The Academies of Nashville Sustain A-Team engages a broad range of partners to build long-term buy-in and support for the Academies from every sector of the community.

PRIORITIZING EQUITY & DIVERSITY

Throughout the year, the Alignment Team engaged in many discussions about how equity and diversity is foundational to student success within the Academies model and how, by using the district's new Equity Roadmap, we can continue improving in this space.

Other sources of inspiration included *Pearl-Cohn High School's new Patient Care Technician Program*, which highlighted what's possible when schools and community partners work hand-in-hand.

Additionally the team made substantial progress on the Better Together and New Skills Ready grant, both of which will improve experiences and outcomes for students.

FRESHMAN ACADEMIES 2.0

The Freshman Academy is designed to support students as they transition from middle school into high school. This includes preparing students make an informed decision as to which of the college and career academies they will enroll in beginning their sophomore year. This year, the Academies of Nashville A-Team played a role in helping to recruit and identify leaders to serve as Freshman Academy Chairs at most of the district's high schools. This role will help to plan key events and experiences for Freshmen, while also ensuring freshmen have meaningful engagements with business partners during their first year of high school.

LEADERSHIP & SUCCESSION PLANS

The A-Team, made up of district faculty & staff as well as community partners & business leaders, brings a wealth of knowledge to understanding the inner workings of schools and staff decisions. This year, the A-Team was able to put this wisdom to use to create guidance on succession planning for key leadership roles within the Academy structure, including Academy Principals, Academy Coaches, etc.

In addition, the Academies of Nashville A-Team, also helped identify important characteristics and critical skills that are needed for a new Academies of Nashville Director! This feedback was taken into consideration throughout the hiring process for the district's new Academies Director in 2021.

REMOTE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning is a cornerstone practice within the Academies model, allowing students to see professional skills in action and get hands-on experience. As a result of COVID-19, the need to explore what experiential learning looks like in a remote environment became a top priority. Throughout the past year, the A-Team was able to work with the district and business partners to support innovative virtual experiential learning such as virtual job shadows. The A-Team also helped recruit partners for the district's first Virtual Career Fair, an important event for all Freshmen in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

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“ This school year was challenging in a number of ways for our Academies of Nashville partners. Not only were we limited by the inability to engage with students in-person but we also had a major leadership transition at the district. In true form and fashion, Academies partners stepped up in a big way! There was no shortage of initiative or enthusiasm for thinking outside of the box and exploring new opportunities to support and engage students virtually. The Academies A-Team played an enormous role in creating a foundation for learning to come to life for students even in this challenging environment. We’re going to come back better and stronger next year! If we didn’t already know it, we do now - the Academies partners are truly exceptional! ”

-Dr. Samantha Perez, Former AON A-Team Co-Chair

ALIGNMENT TEAM MEMBERS **AS OF AUGUST 2021**

Alignment Team Co-Chairs:

Jennifer Bell, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Donna Gilley, Metro Nashville Public Schools (*Previous Co-Chair*)
Samantha Perez, Nashville Area Chamber (*Previous Co-Chair*)

Alignment Team Members:

Allison Arata, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Jackie Artis, PENCIL
Leia Buchanan, Country Music Hall of Fame
Jessica Cardwell, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Carl Carter, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Heather Chalos, Nashville Hub
Demetris Chaney, Juvenile Court of Metro Nashville

Alignment Team Members, continued:

Ellen Crowley, Country Music Television
Marielle Cummings, NAZA
Shoreh Daraei, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Leslie Davis, Music City Center
Susan DeRiemer, Meharry Medical College
John Doerge, Deloitte
Rachel Dyer, Junior Achievement
Sherrie Funk, Just Cruisin'
Donna Gilley, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Ray Holloman, HCA
Claudia Humphrey, Metro Nashville Public Schools
JK Hunter, Let's Makeup Company
JR Jernigan, USCCU
Denise King, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Bob Kucher, PENCIL
Nathalie Lavine, Cheekwood
Tiffany Littlejohn, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Cheryl Mayes, My Toolbox Consulting
Darlene McClung, Davidson County Sheriff's Office
Brian Mells, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Courtney Morgan, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Dana Morrow, Stansell Electric
Jeff Parker, Brown & Caldwell
Katie Petrole, The Parthenon
Jill Pittman, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Amber Plunkett, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Sarah Roberts, Nashville State Community College
Kendrick Robinson, Cummins
Gena Shearon, Holiday Inn Nashville Vanderbilt
Chae Snorten, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Schunn Turner, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Amber Tyus, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Carrie Weir, Metro Nashville Public Schools