Renaissance High FAQs

I’ve looked over the website, but I want to learn more about the school before I apply. What should I do?

You have a few options at this point:

- You can set up a tour by contacting our front office at 615-472-4670.
- You can attend an Open House. Check out our front page for upcoming dates and be sure to RSVP.
- You can attend a Shadow Day if you are currently in high school. Students who are in 8th grade will not be considered for Shadow Days. You must complete a Shadow Day Form and submit it to tami.buckley@wcs.edu in order to be considered for a Shadow Day.
- You can email our Admissions Advisor, Sarah Shrewsbury, at sarah.shrewsbury@wcs.edu with a list of specific questions.

Do we have to pay tuition to go to Renaissance High School?

No. We are a Williamson County public school.

Are you on the same schedule as other Williamson County Schools (WCS)?

Yes. We follow the Williamson County district calendar.

Do you have any clubs?

Yes! We have several clubs that students can sign up for throughout the year, including Theater Club, Beta Club, Student Council... etc. Clubs change yearly, so you will get a complete list when school starts.

Is there a bus for Renaissance High?

Unfortunately, no. We are not able to provide students with transportation since we are an out-of-zone school. However, we are incredibly lucky to have an active PTO who helps our students coordinate carpool rides with each other. If transportation is an issue for you, please let us know and we’ll do everything we can to help.

Where do your students go to college after they graduate?

We believe that each student should develop an individualized postsecondary plan that corresponds with their future career goals. Our students attend 4 year colleges and universities, 2 year colleges, and technical institutions. Many of our students apply to colleges and universities that have programs aligned with our 3 academies, including art and design, audio production and engineering, and computer science.

ADMISSIONS FAQs

How do I find out if there are any openings at Renaissance High?

Openings may vary throughout the year, which is why they are not posted on the website. You can contact sarah.shrewsbury@wcs.edu with questions about openings. Please provide her with your name, current school, and grade level.
There are 5 different student applications. Which one should I fill out?

If you are currently in 9th – 12th grade, fill out the High School Student Application. If you are currently in 8th grade, fill out one of the Middle School Applications: Middle School Arts Application, Middle School Apps Application, Middle School Audio Application, or Middle School Other/Undecided Application. Fill out the application for the program you are most interested in.

I’m in 8th grade and I’m not sure which middle school application to fill out. What do I do?

As an 8th grader, you will apply directly to one of our academies: Apps, Arts, or Audio. There is an Other/Undecided option, but we give preference to students who apply directly to an academy.

We encourage you to fill out the application for the academy you are most interested in. You will be taking classes in this academy for 4 years, so we want to make sure you are passionate about the program.

We receive the most applications for the Arts academy, so the application process may be more competitive for these students.

I’m not sure how to answer some of the questions on the application. Can I get help from my parents or a teacher?

No. The Student Application is our first introduction to you. We want to hear your original thoughts and ideas. Do your best with the application questions. We can usually tell if the questions are answered by a student or an adult.

Parents – if your child has a 504 or an IEP, we would still like them to fill out the application without your help. Please be sure to indicate on the Parent Recommendation Form if writing is a weakness that is being addressed through your child’s 504/IEP. We will certainly take this into consideration.

What if I don’t have the best GPA or test scores?

We understand that sometimes there are things outside of your control that can affect your academic success. If you feel like your grades don’t provide an accurate picture of your abilities, then be prepared to explain why in your application and your interview. We appreciate honest and open explanations.

Do you accept recommendation letters?

Recommendation letters are not required, but we will include them in your application file if a letter is submitted on your behalf. Recommendation letters can be emailed to sarah.shrewsbury@wcs.edu directly from the person who is recommending you.

Recommendation letters should be submitted from someone who knows you really well. They should be able to describe why you would be a good fit at Renaissance High School. We will not accept recommendation letters from family members.

I didn’t receive a notification that my application was received. How do I find out if you got it?

Our system does not send automatic notifications after you hit the submit button. The Student Application and the Parent Recommendation Form are sent directly to the Admissions Team. After the team has reviewed both forms, then you will be notified through email that your application was
received, along with additional information about the next steps of the application process. If you are not notified within a week, please contact sarah.shrewsbury@wcs.edu. Please keep in mind that applications are not reviewed on weekends, holidays, or scheduled WCS breaks.

**How will you contact me after I submit an application?**

We will contact you primarily through email, so make sure you provide us with an email that you check often. All emails will be sent to both the student and parent. If you are contacted for an interview, your parent will receive a phone call for scheduling purposes.

**I didn’t hear about Renaissance High until recently. What happens if I missed the deadline?**

You can still apply. We give priority admission decisions to students who meet the early application deadline. If there are any openings after these admissions decisions, then we will consider students who applied after the deadline.

**Can I still apply if I currently attend a private school or homeschool?**

Yes, as long as you live in Williamson County. Students who attend a private school or homeschool are welcome to apply. Since you are attending a non-Williamson County school, we will ask you to request your records from your current school. The Admissions Advisor will contact you about which records to request and send.

Please note that the Admissions Advisor will check the accreditation status of your private school or homeschool. The Tennessee Department of Education tracks accreditation for every school in the state. There are 5 different categories for accreditation. The state recognizes the accreditation status for schools categorized as 1, 2, or 3, which means that students who attend these schools will have credits that transfer directly to Renaissance High. The state does not recognize the accreditation status for schools categorized as 4 or 5. If you are attending a school that does not meet Tennessee’s accreditation requirements, then you will be asked to take credit tests for each credit you earned at your current school.

**I was told that I might need to take a credit test. What is that and why do I have to take it?**

You may be notified by the Admissions Advisor that you have to take a credit test. These tests are for students who earned credits at a Category 4 or 5 school (see question above). Since the state of Tennessee does not recognize the accreditation status of your current school, you will have to take a credit test for each credit that you earned there.

The credit tests are comprehensive tests that are designed by WCS curriculum specialists. If you pass the credit test, then you will receive credit for the course you took at your current school. If you do not pass, then you will need to retake the course at Renaissance High (if it will fit into your schedule), online, or through dual enrollment. These tests can be difficult for many students, and we would encourage you to study beforehand.

If you need to take any credit tests, the Admissions Advisor will notify you and set up a testing schedule.

**I'm nervous about the interview. What should I expect?**
First of all, try to relax! The interview is informal. You’ll meet with the Admissions Team. If you are chosen for an individual interview, then your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are welcome to sit with you in the interview as well if that will make you more comfortable. We love doing interviews, because it gives us a chance to get to know you. All we ask is that you be as open and honest about yourself as you can be. Spend less energy trying to impress us, and more energy on just being yourself.

**I got invited to a group interview. What does that mean?**

We typically do group interviews for our 8th graders, because we receive so many applications for this grade level. Group interviews will be lead by someone from our Admissions Team and a Renaissance High teacher. We will ask a few questions, and every student will get a chance to answer. Again, these interviews are informal. We just want to get to know you, so be yourself!

Parents are not required to be present for these group interviews, but we will provide a Q & A session and tour of the school for parents while the students are being interviewed. Many parents find this time to be informative and helpful.

**When will I find out if I got accepted?**

Students in 9th – 12th grade will be notified quickly after the interview. Students in 8th grade will be notified after all 8th grade applicants have been interviewed.

**What does it mean if I get placed on the waiting list?**

It simply means that we don’t have any openings for your grade level at the time you applied. The waiting list is more of a “waiting pool”. We don’t assign numbers to students or rank them. We seriously consider need and circumstances.

**I’ve been on the waiting list for a while. What should I do?**

Feel free to email the Admissions Advisor at sarah.shrewsbury@wcs.edu to let us know that you’re still interested. We’re looking for students who really want to be at our school, and emailing us shows that you want to be here. The Admissions Advisor will let you know if there’s anything you can do to improve your admissions status.

**I’ve been accepted! Now what?**

Congratulations!! Follow the directions you received in your acceptance email. If you have any questions about enrollment, please contact our registrar, Jan King, at jank@wcs.edu