NECA

NORWALK EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

Admissions Application

Norwalk Early College Academy is a collaboration between Norwalk Public Schools, Norwalk Community College, and IBM.

Scholars who graduate from NECA will earn both a high school diploma and an associate in applied science degree in Mobile Programming or Software Engineering. **NECA is part of the Norwalk Public School system, open to all Norwalk students, at no cost to students and their families.** Students must be in good academic standing with no failing grades.

NECA Entrance Requirements
- *Norwalk Residency*
- *Completed application with all supporting documents*
- *Teacher Recommendations submitted by teachers*
  - *English Teacher Recommendation Form from English Teacher*
  - *Math Teacher Recommendation Form from Math Teacher*
- *School Counselor Recommendation and Report Cards*
  - *School Counselor Recommendation Form*
  - *Current 7th and 8th Grade Report Cards*

**The Norwalk Early College Academy will increase its enrollment for the upcoming school year. Students must be entering grade 9 in September 2017 and be in good academic standing. Students should have a strong interest in STEM and aptitude for studying Computer Science at NCC.
We invite you to apply!**

NECA Mission Statement

Through a transformative educational program, NECA scholars are equipped with the essential skills, mindsets, and workplace experiences to excel in their academic, personal, and professional endeavors.

What is the Norwalk Early College Academy (NECA)?
NECA is a school-within-a-school based on the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) model. NECA partners with Norwalk Community College and IBM to combine the best of high school, college and the professional world.

NECA encompasses grades 9 to 14 (high school grades 9 – 12 and college grades 13 – 14). All scholars earn a diploma from Norwalk High School in four years. They can also earn an applied associates of science degree in Mobile Programming or Software Engineering within this time frame, but have up to six years to complete the degree requirements. Upon graduation, NECA scholars are prepared to join the work force, are first in line for interviews with IBM, or may transfer to a four-year institution to complete their undergraduate degree.

How Does NECA Work?
Before starting high school, **freshman** participate in a **3-week summer academy** at Norwalk Community College. Scholars enroll in courses in English, math, workplace learning, and high school prep; they also participate in field trips to enhance their learning. A unique component of the summer program is the high school prep course where students complete the NCC application; NECA scholars are enrolled in college prior to starting high school!

The student schedule includes eight courses. Four of the eight periods are with NECA teachers - English, math, workplace learning, and exploring computer science. History/social studies, science, and electives are taught by NHS teachers. This model affords scholars the opportunity to have an integrated high school experience. Irrespective of the teacher, every course meets a graduation requirement and prepares the scholar for upper level courses.

During the first three years of high school, scholars participate in **Workplace Learning** (WPL) courses which emphasize the professional skills of presentation, self-marketing, and communication critical to success in the workplace. Part of the workplace learning experience includes matching scholars with IBM mentors. Additionally, scholars participate in project-based learning activities and IBM workplace visits, and over time, tackle skills-based, real-world projects through internships and apprenticeships.

To determine eligibility for **college courses**, NECA uses the Accuplacer (NCC placement test) and other data (course placement, teacher recommendation, grades, gpa, etc.). When a scholar successfully completes a college course, the course may be used to fulfill a high school requirement (ex. English 101 in lieu of English 3). This determination is made as part of the student's major declaration and academic planning.

Who Can Attend?
NECA is open to all Norwalk scholars at no cost to scholars and their families. Students must...
1) **be in good academic standing (no grades of D or F)**
2) **have attended school regularly (no chronic absenteeism or tardiness)**
3) **be interested in studying computer science at NCC; degree offerings include Mobile Programming and Software Engineering**
4) **have ability in math (degrees require college algebra, college pre-calculus and college calculus)**
5) **agree to participate in IBM-related events and site visits**
6) **must be entering 9th grade in September 2017 and be a Norwalk resident**

Where Do I Return My Completed Application?
Applications can be **mailed** to NECA Admissions, Norwalk Early College Academy, 23 Calvin Murphy Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851, **emailed** to NECA@norwalkps.org, or **faxed** to 203-682-4305.

Norwalk Early College Academy
Application for Admission

Thank you for your interest in the Norwalk Early College Academy. Students must…

1) be in good academic standing (no failing grades)
2) have attended school regularly (no chronic absenteeism or tardiness)
3) be interested in studying computer science at NCC; degree offerings include Mobile Programming and Software Engineering
4) have interest in and ability in math (degrees require college-level algebra, pre-calculus and calculus)
5) agree to participate in IBM-related events and site visits
6) be entering 9th grade in September 2017 and be a Norwalk resident

A completed application consists of the following:
1. **The signed application including (completed parent information section with signature)**
2. **The scholar questionnaire which includes why the scholar wants to attend NECA**
3. **School Counselor Recommendation Form and Report Cards (submitted by school counselor)**
4. **English Teacher Recommendation (submitted by English teacher)**
5. **Math Teacher Recommendation (submitted by Math teacher)**

Scholar Information

_____   _____   _____
Last Name   First Name   Middle Initial

_____ /_____ /20____   _____Female   _____Male   _____
Birth Date   Gender (check one)   NPS Scholar ID Number (if known)

_____   Norwalk, CT _____
Mailing Address   Zip Code

Current School (check one)

_____ All Saints   _____ Nathan Hale   _____ Ponus Ridge   _____ Roton

_____ Side by Side   _____ West Rocks   _____ NHS   _____ BMHS

Parent/Guardian Information 1 (please print legibly)

_____   _____
Last Name   First Name

My contact number is _____   _____
                                                                                                                Email address

Parent/Guardian Information 2 (please print legibly)

_____   _____
Last Name   First Name

My contact number is _____   _____
                                                                                                                Email address

Scholar Questionnaire
The questionnaire must be answered by the scholar and is necessary for the application to be considered complete. The answers will be reviewed by NECA teachers and staff as a way to get to know the scholar. Please make sure to answer in complete sentences and print legibly.

1. Why do you want to become a NECA Scholar?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. NECA Scholars become skilled at <u>critical thinking</u> and <u>creative problem solving</u>. Briefly describe a time when you utilized these skills to ensure a successful outcome.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. What is your interest in Computer Science?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. What do you want to be when you grow up and how will attending NECA help you to achieve that goal?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Scholar Agreement
As a NECA scholar, you agree to
- fully participate in the life of the school
- complete agree homework and all academic assignments
- attend school regularly and only take vacations during scheduled school breaks/holidays
- freshmen participate in 3-week summer academy (June 26 – July 14) at NECA
- complete summer coursework as required for acceleration or remediation

Scholar Signature _____**Date** _____

Parent Agreement
As a parent of a NECA scholar, you:
- approve this application and are eager for your child to attend NECA
- understand that punctual and regular attendance is required and will reinforce that requirement
- agree to ensure that your child completes homework and all academic assignments
- will encourage your child to participate fully in the life of the school
- agree to become involved in some aspect of NECA since strong parental participation encourages high academic success.

Parent Signature _____**Date** _____

Thank you for completing the NECA admissions application.
Use the checklist below to review your completed application.

- ✓ **Scholar information section completed**
- ✓ **Current school checked**
- ✓ **Parent/guardian name, contact number and email address included**
- ✓ **Scholar questionnaire (all four questions) completed, printed legibly**
- ✓ **Scholar signature**
- ✓ **Parent signature**
- ✓ **Teacher Recommendation issued to your English or Math Teacher**
- ✓ **School Counselor Recommendation issued to your School Counselor**

Norwalk Early College Academy
2017 – 2018 Application

English Teacher Confidential Recommendation Form
Mail to NECA Admissions or email to NECA@norwalkps.org

Student Name: _____

Current School: ASCS   NHMS   PRMS   RMS   SBS   WRMS   NHS   BMHS

Please write a brief paragraph and fill in the form below stating why you feel this student is suitable for the Norwalk Early College Academy. If you have any reservations about the suitability of this student for our program, please indicate this as well. If you prefer, you can attach a separate, typed response.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Social and Academic Qualities	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Acts respectfully towards other students				
Acts respectfully towards adults				
Is highly motivated to achieve				
Displays disciplined work habits				
Displays independence and initiative				
Communicates effectively				
Shows caring and compassion towards others				

This applicant is:

____ Highly Recommended   ____ Recommended   ____ Recommended with Qualification   ___ Not Recommended

Teacher Name _____   Signature: _____
                                (Please Print Name)   **(Please Sign)**

Phone Number: _____   Email: _____   Date: _____

Norwalk Early College Academy
2017 – 2018 Application

Math Teacher Confidential Recommendation Form
Mail to NECA Admissions or email to NECA@norwalkps.org

Student Name: _____

Current School: ASCS   NHMS   PRMS   RMS   SBS   WRMS   NHS   BMHS

Please write a brief paragraph and fill in the form below stating why you feel this student is suitable for the Norwalk Early College Academy. If you have any reservations about the suitability of this student for our program, please indicate this as well. If you prefer, you can attach a separate, typed response.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Social and Academic Qualities	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Acts respectfully towards other students				
Acts respectfully towards adults				
Is highly motivated to achieve				
Displays disciplined work habits				
Displays independence and initiative				
Communicates effectively				
Shows caring and compassion towards others				

This applicant is:

____ Highly Recommended   ____ Recommended   ____ Recommended with Qualification   ___ Not Recommended

Teacher Name _____   Signature: _____
              (Please Print Name)   **(Please Sign)**

Phone Number: _____   Email: _____   Date: _____

Return To
NECA Admissions
23 Calvin Murphy Drive
Norwalk, CT 06851 or
Email form to NECA@norwalkps.org

Norwalk Early College Academy
2017 - 2018 Application

School Counselor Confidential Recommendation Form
Mail to NECA Admissions or send to NECA@norwalkps.org

Student Name: _____

Current School: ASCS   NHMS   PRMS   RMS   SBS   WRMS   NHS   BMHS

Please attach the following student records, including:

Current 8th Grade Applicants
- ☐ 7th Grade Final Report Card (if currently in 8th grade)
- ☐ Current 8th Grade Report Card for Q2 (if currently in 8th grade)

Current 9th Grade Applicants
- ☐ Current 9th Grade Report Card for Q2

Please write a brief paragraph and fill in the form below stating why you feel this student is suitable for the Norwalk Early College Academy. If you have any reservations about the suitability of this student for our program, please indicate this as well. If you prefer, you can attach a separate typed response.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Social and Academic Qualities	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Acts respectfully towards other students				
Acts respectfully towards adults				
Is highly motivated to achieve				
Displays disciplined work habits				
Displays independence and initiative				
Communicates effectively				
Shows caring and compassion towards others				

This applicant is:

____ Highly Recommended   ____ Recommended   ____ Recommended with Qualification   ___ Not Recommended

Counselor: _____   Signature: _____
                    (**Please Print Name**)   (**Please Sign**)

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____ Date: _____