



Rising Star Academy School Profile 2025-2026

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RISING STAR ACADEMY

School

Rising Star Academy has been in operation since 2009, it is conveniently located in the New York Metropolitan Area of Union City, in Hudson County, approximately seven miles Northwest of New York City. Rising Star Academy is a non-public, non-profit, educational institution recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education and is a registered member of the College Board. In line with its philosophy of constantly pursuing academic excellence, Rising Star Academy is currently in the process of acquiring accreditation with the Middle States Association. The student body is currently 270 students ranging from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade with enrollment gradually increasing every school year. The high school student body consists of 78 students. The average high school classroom size is 14 students. The elementary and middle school levels also benefit from the similarly small classroom sizes.

Rising Star Academy is a college preparatory school that strives to give students the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in college and move on to the careers of their choice. Rising Star Academy aims to have a 100% college attendance rate post-graduation, with RSA seniors applying to colleges ranging from state colleges to top-tier universities.

The student population at Rising Star Academy is diverse and includes students from a variety of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. The current student body consists of approximately: 12.5% Asian American, 7.5% African American, 75% White, and 5% Hispanic. The vast majority of the students are bilingual, and some are trilingual. Over nine different ethnicities make up the student body. Diversity is an asset to the Academy as it allows students to experience a wide spectrum of cultural traditions and heritage.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, the operating budget is approximately 1.35 million dollars for the entire school, of which slightly less than 2% comes from state and federal funding and approximately 10% from donations. The school is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of professionals from various fields.

Rising Star Academy Mission Statement

Rising Star Academy strives to develop an enriched learning community by providing an inclusive and secure environment. We aim to promote student well-being in order to build and maintain a generation of leaders through faith, academic excellence, leadership, and Islamic values.

Faculty

The high school students are instructed by sixteen full-time teachers allowing for the benefits and advantages of a low student to teacher ratio. In addition to all faculty members having their bachelor's degree and certifications, five instructors have their Master's degree, and three hold a PhD. All of the foreign language teachers are native speakers of the language they teach. The high school faculty has a median of nine years of teaching experience and some have additional years of experience working in other industries.

Grading System

Grading and calculation of the Cumulative Grade Point Average are based on the following:

Letter Grade	Numeric Average	Standard	Honors	AP/DC	Graduation Requirement
A+	97-100	4.00	4.50	5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English- 4 years• Mathematics- 4 years• Science with Lab- 3 years• History- 3 years• Foreign Language (Arabic) - 4 years• Computer Studies- 2 years• Islamic Studies- 2 years• Islamic History and Law 2 years• Physical Education-4 years• Fine Arts- 1 year• Electives- 4 years
A	94-96	3.75	4.25	4.75	
A-	90-93	3.50	4.00	4.50	
B+	87-89	3.25	3.75	4.25	
B	84-86	3.00	3.50	4.00	
B-	81-83	2.75	3.25	3.75	
C+	79-80	2.50	3.00	3.50	
C	75-78	2.25	2.75	3.25	
C-	70-74	2.00	2.50	3.00	
D	60-69	1.00	1.50	2.00	
F	0-60	0.00	0.00	0.00	

❖ *School policy and small enrollment preclude the reporting of class rank.*

Curriculum

The greater number of Rising Star Academy's courses are one year long and are worth 5 credits. Enrichment courses are designated specific credits based on the number of hours a class meets per week. Physical education is a yearlong course that is worth 3.75 credits. AP courses, Honors courses and Dual Credit/College Credit courses are worth more credits and are designated with *AP*, *H*, and *CC* on the final transcript. All of the core curriculum courses are college preparatory. Honors and AP courses are based on the level of the textbook, higher level of critical thinking, and a more challenging homework and exam rate. Dual Credit/College Credit courses have been facilitated through Hudson Community College (LEAP Program) and New Jersey Institute of Technology (Options for Advanced Academic Programs, OA3)

RISING STAR ACADEMY HAS A RIGOROUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM WITH A WIDE SELECTION OF HONORS AND AP CLASSES AS WELL AS MANY DUAL CREDIT COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM. THE SCHOOL OPERATES ON A MODIFIED BLOCK SCHEDULE WITH 40 MINUTE CLASS PERIODS.

<u>HONORS</u>	<u>PHYSICS, BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, LITERATURE I, LITERATURE II, BRITISH LITERATURE, AMERICAN LITERATURE, WORLD HISTORY, AMERICAN HISTORY I AND II, ALGEBRA I AND II, GEOMETRY , PRE-CALCULUS AND CALCULUS</u>
<u>AP COURSES</u> <u>AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA</u>	<u>US HISTORY, HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, PHYSICS B, LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION, LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND CALCULUS, SEMINAR, RESEARCH</u>
<u>DUAL CREDIT / HCCC ASSOCIATE DEGREE (NJIT AND HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE)</u>	<u>PHYSICS I, PRE-CALCULUS, CALCULUS, CHEMISTRY I, SPEECH, COMPUTERS, SOCIOLOGY, AND PSYCHOLOGY, ENGLISH COMPOSITION I AND ENGLISH COMPOSITION II, HUMAN BIOLOGY</u>

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The Academy adheres to the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum State Standard (<http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>) through the use of state approved textbooks and a qualified professional staff. In addition, numerous Arabic and Islamic Studies courses must be completed prior to graduation. All state testing standards for graduation purposes must be met or surpassed as well to obtain an RSA diploma.

Student Facts

The average SAT score for this year's senior class is 1680. The Reading mean is 533 and the Mathematics mean is 560. The Writing mean is 587. 2 students received the Capstone Diploma For those who participated in the ACT exam, the mean composite score is 26. Our AP scores percentage of students who received 3 and above is 85%. Two students received the AP Scholars Award.

Community Service

Rising Star Academy does require all of its high school students to actively engage and serve their community during all four years of high school. The students must complete 200 hours of community service by the end of their senior year. All community service hours must be documented and signed by a local supervisor and approved by the school's guidance counselor.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science Olympiad
Debate
Rising Times Newspaper
Yearbook Debate
Girls Basketball

Student Government
ST. Peters Model UN
Honor Society
Boys Basketball
Girls Volleyball

RSA GRADUATES COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES ACCEPTANCES

Brown University
Barnard College
Cornell University
Rutgers University (Honors Program/ Newark/ New Brunswick) NJIT (7 -year Medical Program/Honors Program/Full Scholarship) Montclair State University (6-year Pharmacy Program)
Seton Hall University (Full Scholarship)
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Queens College (CUNY)
Kean University
City College of New York
William Paterson University
College of Staten Island
St. Peters University (Full Scholarship)
New York University
St. Johns University
New Jersey City University
Felician University
Fordham University (Full Scholarship)
Georgian Court University
Penn State University
Brooklyn College (CUNY; Presidential Scholarship)
St. Joseph's College (Full Scholarship)
Hunter College (CUNY)
Long Island University
Stony Brook University
Binghamton University (SUNY)