

## Did You Know?

# Law and Criminal Justice Academy Creekview High School



Director: Alicia Dunson

---

### **Mission**

The mission of the Law and Criminal Justice Academy is to provide an in-depth learning experience for students interested in pursuing careers in the areas of civil and criminal law and investigation and enforcement.

### **Overview**

The Law and Criminal Justice Academy focuses on citizenship, the law, and legal processes. In addition to relevant curriculum, students are provided with a variety of active learning opportunities such as field-based learning, mock trials, moot courts, mock committee hearings, community service, mentor programs and internships. The program began as a law pathway program in 2000 and transitioned into a district academy in 2003.

### **Objectives**

- Enrich an understanding of the complex procedures developed in the United States to protect that which we identify as “fundamental rights.”
- Cultivate a greater sense of justice, tolerance, fairness, and freedoms the law provides.
- Instill a realization of the crucial and ever-present functioning of law as our machinery and structure to cope with the human problems in our complex society.

### **Learning Opportunities**

The curriculum includes courses such as Business Law, Correctional Systems and Practices, Criminal Investigation and Procedures, Forensic Science, Foundations to the American Legal System, Fundamentals of Criminal Law, Legal Issues Seminar, Judiciary and Court Procedures, We the People, Mock Trial, Debate and Student Congress. Students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service, and an internship through the TIP program. Suggested electives are Advanced Reading Applications, Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems, Foreign Language, Psychology, Research and Technical Writing and Sociology.

Students are exposed to real-world settings through internships in law practices and all levels of governmental service; participation in mock trial competitions; participation in the We the People program; exposure to professionals through Career Investigation Days and speakers; and field trips involving the local law schools and libraries, municipal and federal courts, police ride-alongs, police academies, and forensic laboratories.

### **Student Success**

Last year the CHS Speech and Debate Team placed fifth in the state and one of the academy students placed fourth in the state in Student Congress. Two Academy students competed in the National Forensic League tournament in Student Congress. Twenty students from the 2007-2008 Creekview team traveled to Harvard to train with the nationally recognized Harvard Mock Trial Team. Since inception, Creekview has captured three regional trophies, a state championship and a state runner-up. Creekview students have been recognized at the regional, state and national levels as high level performers.

Creekview Law Academy graduates have attended schools such as Southern Methodist University, University of Chicago, Texas A & M, University of North Texas, University of Oklahoma and Western Kentucky University. One former Law Academy student had a perfect score on the LSAT.