



Birdville ISD Fire Academy Information

Thank you for your interest in the Birdville ISD Fire Academy. You will find attached the information documents as well as a question and answer document about the program. The information documents should be filled out and **returned to your home campus counselor(s) by Friday, February 26, 2021**. Information documents received after this date will be considered on a space available basis.

The BISD Fire Academy Program enrollment process is as follows:

- 1) Review of all required documents
- 2) Student Conference
- 3) Medical Release Form and Physical Agility Assessment

Please check to be sure your information documents are complete when you turn them in to your counselor.

Documents to be returned to your counselor:

- Information Documents
- Essay

There will be a **student and parent informational meeting** at a later date **at the Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning (BCTAL) located at 7020 Mid-Cities Blvd., North Richland Hills, TX 76180**. The meeting will provide an overview of the program, expectations, and provide an opportunity for students and parents to ask questions.

Physical Agility Assessment: Physical conditioning is a required part of the firefighting profession. Students will be given a medical form which requires a doctor's signature and approval to participate in the physical agility assessment. The physical agility assessment date will be sent to you once all information documents are received. You will be mailed a letter and notified of the time.

Student Conferences: All interested candidates will attend a pre-enrollment conference, which will be conducted in May at the student's home campus. Students will be notified of the specific date and time.

All classes will be conducted by TCC instructors who are trained and licensed firefighters.

If you have questions, please call the Career and Technical Education office at (817) 547-3818. You may also email us if that is more convenient.

Elizabeth Clayton, CTE Coordinator
elizabeth.clayton@birdvilleschools.net

BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Firefighter Academy

Prerequisites for enrollment:

- Be in 11th grade in August 2021
- Willing to commit to a 2-year program
- Willing to commit to some required Saturday activities
- Good attendance
- Participate in a physical agility assessment

NOTE: This course is two (2) class periods and you will receive 2 high school credits

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ M.I. _____

SCHOOL I.D. NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE _____ GRADE _____

Transportation available to you: Your car _____ Parents _____ Other (Explain) _____

Name of school presently attending _____ Counselor's name _____

ESSAY: Attach a one-page essay telling why you want a career in public safety, including firefighting and EMT.

I understand I will be required to meet certain responsibilities, which include following the rules and regulations of the Birdville ISD, Tarrant County College, and the North Richland Hills Fire Department.

Signed: _____
Student Date

I give my content for the above named student to participate in this program.

Signed: _____
Parent or Guardian Date

Nondiscrimination Policy:

It is the policy of BISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its CTE programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. BISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and CTE programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Skip Baskerville at 6125 Belknap Street, Haltom City, Texas 76117 or 817-547-5700.

BISD Fire Academy

Introduction to Firefighting

The job of a firefighter is challenging and rewarding. Firefighting involves extremely hard, skilled physical work; firefighters must be able to handle emergency, life-or-death situations. Firefighters must also be willing learners. Continuing education provided throughout a firefighter's career keeps them up to date on the newest technologies and latest fire suppression methods. Training in the fire service encompasses many subjects such as emergency medical protocols, building construction, hazardous materials, technical rescue, public education and community relations. Firefighters must have strong social skills and the ability to think and communicate clearly in stressful situations.

A firefighter's work schedule is one day on duty and two days off duty (24 hours on/48 hours off). Firefighters must be able to respond quickly, coordinating activities as an effective unit. Under supervision, firefighters will respond to all emergencies including: structure fires, emergency medical calls, vehicle accidents, and technical rescues. Firefighters must be able to work in adverse conditions and keep calm during stressful situations.

Firefighters perform work activities in a number of areas, including, but not limited to:

- Participating in daily physical fitness training
- Maintaining continuing education requirements
- Presenting fire and life safety education programs
- Performing fire station, apparatus, and equipment maintenance tasks



**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FIRE ACADEMY**

1. What is the BISD Fire Academy?

In the Spring of 2016, the North Richland Hills Fire Department, the Birdville Independent School District, and Tarrant County College joined together in a cooperative effort to design and implement a continuing education credit firefighter and EMT certification program within the Birdville ISD. The result of this collaboration is a two-year program that will enable participants to earn a total of 4 elective high school credits, 24 hours of college credit, the Texas Commission on Fire Protection firefighter basic certification and the Texas Department of State Health Services EMT certification.

This program is open to all high school students who attend Birdville ISD schools. Classes will be conducted at Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning (BCTAL) every school day for two consecutive periods. There will also be some Saturday classes held at Tarrant County College – Northwest and at the North Richland Hills Fire Training Center facilities to complete required skills training exercises. Students will start the program at the beginning of their junior year and continue until the end of their senior year.

2. What are the benefits for students who choose to participate in the program?

- Upon graduation, students will be eligible and prepared to take the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Certification exam.
- Students will be eligible and prepared to take the Texas Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification exam.
- Students will earn 4 high school credits.
- Students will have the opportunity to earn 24 college credit hours through Tarrant County College after completion of the program. These hours may be applied toward an A.A.S. Degree in Fire Investigation or an A.A.S. Degree in Fire Protection.
- Students will be prepared to pursue a college degree in fire technology at TCC:
 - Fire Investigation A.A.S. Degree
 - Fire Protection A.A.S. Degree
- Students will be prepared to pursue a career in firefighting in Texas.
- Students will develop professional life skills in preparation for a career in firefighting.
- Students will be encouraged to embrace the ideas of personal wellness and fitness in preparation for a career in firefighting.

3. When did the program officially begin operation?

The first class of juniors began in the fall of 2016.

4. What is the official name of the firefighter program in BISD?

The Birdville Independent School District Fire Academy

5. What are the goals of the program?

- Expose students to the Fire Service while developing a pathway for future firefighters
- Focus on “Growing Our Own”
- Strengthen ties among the Fire Service, the school district, TCC, and the community

6. What is the organizational framework for the program?

The Birdville Fire Academy is a cooperative effort of the Birdville Independent School District, Tarrant County College, and the North Richland Hills Fire Department. Students will attend classes at BCTAL in the fire academy classroom. Students are taught by TCC instructors, all of whom are professional firefighters.

For both semesters of the junior year and both semester of the senior year, the content focus is on firefighting while their senior year will focus on both firefighting and EMT. After the junior year is completed, students will actively participate in a week long live fire skills training in June.

7. Are background checks required for students?

Texas state law requires students to pass a criminal background check prior to certification.

8. How are the students made aware of the BIRDVILLE Fire Academy?

The courses are listed in the high school Course Catalog, which all students can access either in print form or online. Counselors at each high school meet with students yearly to talk about elective courses available to students. BIRDVILLE Firefighter Academy information documents are available in the counseling office throughout the year.

North Richland Hills Fire Department personnel visit campuses to promote the program, visit with students, and answer questions.

9. What are the prerequisites for the program?

- Be a junior at the beginning of the fall in which you will enter the program
- Be eligible to enroll as a work force dual credit student at TCC
- Willing to commit to a 2-year program
- Willing to commit to **some required Saturday activities**
- Good attendance and discipline history
- Doctor's physical release
- Ability to participate in a physical agility assessment
- Pass a criminal background check
- Maintain an overall grade average of C or better to participate, as required by UIL regulations

10. What are the steps in the enrollment process?

- Birdville Independent School District (BISD):
 - Fire Academy Information Documents turned in to home campus counselor
 - Parent Consent
 - Essay
- Tarrant County College (TCC)
 - TCC college entrance requirements for the program area
 - TCC application - Packet is given to students
 - Course Selection Form
- North Richland Hills Fire Department (NRHFD)
 - Medical Release signed by doctor
 - Physical Agility Assessment
- Student Conference with NRHFD, TCC, and BISD personnel

11. How many students can enroll?

Fire Academy enrollment is approximately 25 junior students each year for the two year program. Student enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, provided all necessary documents and releases are returned and candidates meet the program requirements of TCC & NRHFD.

12. Is the program available to students from all Birdville ISD high schools?

Yes, an effort will be made to select students from each campus.

13. Are there physical requirements in order to be eligible for the program?

Yes, there will be physical conditioning and a Physical Agility Assessment as part of the course. Participants will be required to perform activities such as the following:

- **1.5 Mile Run** – Must be completed in 14 minutes or less.
- **Ladder Lift and Carry** (30 seconds) – Student is to lift a 20-foot ladder (approximately 61 pounds) from a height of 3-4 feet and carry it 90 feet around markers and replace it.
- **Blackout Drill** (not timed) – Student will be placed in an air mask that has had the face shield painted black. Student will follow the wall to a designated area.
- **Stairwell Climb** with 2 ½” Dry Hose Bundle (1.15 minutes) – Student will put on an air pack without the facemask. Student will then lift a bundle of 2½” hose from ground and place on his/her shoulder. Hose bundle will weigh approximately 44 pounds. The student then proceeds to entrance of drill tower and climbs stairway up to the fourth floor. Student will lay hose down and pick up another hose that is on the floor and bring it back down to the starting point.
- **Hoisting** 2½” hose to fourth floor of drill tower (30 seconds) – Students will position themselves at fourth floor window and hoist one 50’ section of bundled 2½” hose (44 pounds) from the ground level to the fourth floor window. Task ends when hose bundle touches windowsill.

****If a student is unable to perform any of the above physical activities, he/she will NOT be prevented from enrolling in the Fire Academy Program.***

14. Is the program in compliance with Texas Commission on Fire Protection and Texas Department of State Health Services requirements?

This program meets all TCFP and TDSHS requirements for firefighter and EMT certification.

15. What instructional resources are used?

Essentials of Fire Fighting and Fire Department Operations Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured BLS Skills

16. What are the policies on discipline, absences, and tardies?

The Fire Academy is a college level class and provides an opportunity for students to prepare for a serious, adult career. We make our expectations of respectful and professional behavior clear to the students from day one. Students will receive a Fire Academy Code of Conduct which will be followed at all times.

The state of Texas requires a set number of clock hours of instruction in order for students to sit for their certification exams. Students must not be absent or tardy except under the most extreme circumstances.

17. Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplied for the students?

Yes, students are provided decommissioned PPE for training. For live fire evolutions, students will be outfitted with gear that meets NFPA standards for live fire drills.

18. What are the classroom hours?

The junior class is held 1st and 2nd periods at BCTAL. The class will be expected to attend some Saturday training. A calendar showing the Saturday trainings will be given to students at the beginning of the semester. The senior class meets during 3rd and 4th periods.

19. Will students be required to wear uniforms or T-shirts?

Yes, the students are required to wear approved Fire Academy T-shirts, navy blue short sleeved button up shirt, blue pants, belt, and work boots in class and during field trips. Detailed information will be provided to the students selected for the class.