

# Birdville ISD Fire Academy Information

Thank you for your interest in the Birdville ISD Fire Academy. You will find attached the application documents as well as a question and answer document about the program. The application documents should be filled out and **returned to your home campus counselor(s) by Friday, March 31, 2017.** Applications received after this date will be considered on a space available basis.

Since this program has a limited number of spaces, there will be a selection process as follows:

- 1) Screening of all applications
- 2) Physical Agility test
- 3) Interviews of those selected from the paper applications and have met the physical agility requirements
- 4) Notification of selection for program

Please check to be sure your application is complete when you turn it in to your counselor.

## **Documents to be returned to your counselor:**

- Application
- 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 Test:** Physical conditioning is a required part of the firefighting profession. Students who are selected from the paper applications will be given a form to take to obtain a doctor's release for physical conditioning and a physical agility test. The physical agility test date will be sent to you once all applications are received. You will be mailed a letter and notified of the time.

**Interviews:** This program has a limited number of spaces. All applications will be screened by a committee, and students who are selected from the paper applications and have met the physical agility requirements will be notified of an interview time. Interviews will be conducted in May. You 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) 547-5798. You may also email us if that is more convenient.

Marcus Canonico, CTE Coordinator  
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**BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**Firefighter Academy**

Prerequisites for application:

- Be in 11<sup>th</sup> grade in August 2017
- Eligible to enroll as a dual credit student at TCC
- Willing to commit to a 2-year program
- Willing to commit to some required Saturday activities
- Good attendance
- Ability to pass a physical fitness screening

**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 to include firefighting and EMT and why you think you should be selected for participation in this program.**

**TRANSCRIPT: (The Career and Technical Education office will run this for you. You do not need to attach a copy.)**

The program has a limited number of spaces; all applications will be screened for grades, attendance, and discipline. A committee of North Richland Hills Fire Department personnel, Tarrant County College Fire Technology personnel, and Birdville Independent School District personnel will review the remaining applications and select those to be interviewed. The committee will then make its final selections from those interviewed.

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 support the above named student's application to participate in this program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Date

Nondiscrimination Policy: The Birdville Independent School District shall comply fully with the nondiscrimination provisions of all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations by assuring that no person shall be excluded from consideration for recruitment, selection, appointment, training, promotion, retention or any other personnel action, or be denied any benefits or participation in any educational programs or activities which it operates, on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or veteran status (except in those certain instances where such characteristic(s) constitute a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to proper and efficient administration).

# 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.

Applications will be accepted from students from all Birdville high 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. Selected 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?

Students will have to pass a criminal background check prior to certification.

## 8. How are the students made aware of the BISD 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. BISD Firefighter Academy applications 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
  - Overall high school ACA Weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher on a 12.0 scale
- 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 pass a physical fitness screening test
- Pass a criminal background check
- Maintain an overall grade average of C or better

## 10. What are the steps in the application process?

- BISD Application:
  - Will be screened for grades, attendance, and discipline
  - Includes an essay
  - Includes meeting TSI college entrance requirements for the program area
- TCC Enrollment
  - TCC application - Packet is given to students
    - TCC Early High School application
    - Course Selection Form
    - Early High School Enrollment Form
- Interview by panel of NRHFD, TCC, and BISD personnel

## 11. How many students are selected?

We will select approximately 25 junior students each year for the two year program.

## 12. Is the program available to students from all Birdville 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 Ability Test 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.

## 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 current plan is for the first junior class to be held 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> period 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.

**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.