

2010–11: Our School At-a-Glance

School Administration

Head of School:	Dr. Steven Guttentag	Counseling Staff:	Kyle Pheasant
Director of School Operations:	Holly Atwell	Upper School Coordinator:	Kecia McCoy
School Administrator:	Carisa Edmund		

Community

Our History

National Connections Academy (NaCA) is an accredited, private school serving students in grades K–12 from across the country. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school was founded during the 2007–08 school year as a K–12 school. National Connections Academy’s first 12th grade class graduated in June 2009.

Our Mission

National Connections Academy will provide students across the country with a personalized online education offering a rigorous curriculum, dynamic online communities, exceptional teachers, and advanced technology in order to foster academic growth, build confidence, and motivate students to reach their highest performance potential.

Our Program

National Connections Academy has an enrollment of 230 full-time and 5,091 part-time students in grades K–12, and includes a four-year comprehensive high school program. Here are some important facts about the program:

- The school is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.
- National Connections Academy has 25 full-time and 29 part-time certified/licensed professional staff. Of those, 16 have earned advanced degrees.
- School is in session 180 days between the months of August and June.
- Students are able to earn up to eight (8) credits during the school year.

Programs of Study

National Connections Academy offers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum, with courses in a wide range of disciplines. The core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. All science courses include hands-on laboratory units. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Basic programs. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, whereby they can earn dual high school and college credit by attending post-secondary institutions.

- **AP course offerings** include Art History, Biology, Calculus, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, French, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics, Spanish, Statistics, U.S. Government, U.S. History, and World History.
- **Honors course offerings** include Algebra I and II, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English 9–12, Geometry, Physical Science, Precalculus, U.S. History, and World History.

National Connections Academy operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is six classes per semester. Please feel free to view all of our high school courses at <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/curriculum/high-school/high-school-classes.aspx>.

Graduation Requirements and Grade Reporting

Twenty-one (21) Carnegie units of credits are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

<u>Area/Subject</u>	<u># Units for Graduation</u>
Language Arts (including English)	4
Math*	3
Science *	3
Social Studies (including U.S. History)	2
Other Electives	9
Total	21

* With counselor permission, students may substitute one math course for one science course, or vice versa. Students using this option would then take four math courses and two science courses, or four science and two math courses.

Grading Scale

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses. The numerical grading scale is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Percentage</u>	<u>Non-Weighted</u>	<u>Weighted (honors)</u>	<u>Weighted (AP)</u>
A+	98-100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92-97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88-89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82-87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78-79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72-77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68-69	1.33	1.33	1.33
D	62-67	1.00	1.00	1.00
D-	60-61	0.67	0.67	0.67
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00

High School Virtual Visitation

College and university representatives are cordially invited to connect with our students through web-conferencing technology. Two weeks' notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web-conference session, please **contact Kyle Pheasant, NaCA School Counselor, at 443-529-1204.**

Class Rank Policy

National Connections Academy will calculate the class rank for each high school student two times per year, shortly after the conclusion of each semester. Students who have not yet successfully completed any high school courses for credit directly from Connections Academy will be excluded from the class rank calculation.

For the purposes of calculating the class rank, the student's cumulative Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) will be used, which may include weighted grades for Honors or Advanced Placement courses. Courses transferred in from other accredited institutions will also be included in the class rank as long as there are grades assigned for those courses.

The cumulative G.P.A. is calculated to the hundredth of a point. Students whose class rank rounds off to the same hundredth of a point will be considered tied and will receive the same class rank. The ranking will compare students within the same grade level at the same school. The class rank is *not* included on the student's official high school transcript, but is available for release upon written request.

Post-Graduation Plans for the Class of 2010

National Connections Academy graduated ten students in 2010, four of which have committed to 4-year colleges/universities (**University of Alabama, Pensacola Christian College, Columbus State University and University of Maryland, University College**). Four other graduates had tentative plans to pursue post-secondary studies through community colleges.