

The “Lab” Experience Agreements: A Decidedly Different School for Students in Grades 3-12

The Kent Laboratory Academy (formerly Kent Mountain View and Phoenix Academies) is an innovative school providing families with an option in public education. In partnership with local universities, our academy provides a more richly staffed and resourced school to actualize a personalized learning environment by enriching our curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

It is important to keep in mind that our unique school structure and size also makes us decidedly different than the traditional boundary school experience in other ways. If you are considering if the Laboratory Academy is right for you, here are other key requirements in the “Lab” experience:

Laboratory Academy students are enrolled full time. Students who qualify for Running Start may participate their junior and senior year.

Laboratory Academy students participate in all district and state mandated assessments within the state or district designated testing windows to ensure we have Academy data that accurately reflects our student learning. Assessment data allows us to plan appropriate instruction and ensures we are able to monitor our student achievement and growth.

Laboratory Academy students are excited to share common spaces or events with students across grade levels because our campus has ten grade levels (3rd - 12th grades) serving students ages 8 to 18. This means our older students agree to serve as positive role models for our younger students.

Laboratory Academy students and families are open to working with our university partners to further our mission to improve teaching practices as a research-based school. Part of our mission is to learn together.

Laboratory Academy students know that our campus is closed at all times, even during lunch. Students may not leave campus during school hours. We care about our students’ safety and building community during lunchtime and throughout the day.

Laboratory Academy students are eligible and encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities like athletics and clubs and the KSD resident boundary school or the student’s public school of record.

Laboratory Academy parents and guardians are aware that we don’t have a traditional PTA, but they can access other opportunities such as cultural fairs, student-led conferences, and volunteering on field trips, support, and contributing to the Laboratory Academy community.

Laboratory Academy families acknowledge that limited KSD transportation is provided for in-district students only, and families transporting their students to/from the academy agree to the designated drop-off and pick-up times and location before and after school.

Laboratory Academy Connect students are at least 16 years old and behind in high school credits. The intent of the Connect program is to assist students with credit retrieval to get them back on track for on-time graduation. Students may apply to the Connect program year-round. Twelfth grade students receive priority admission.

Laboratory Academy New View and Rise high school students entering grades 10, 11, or 12 may be no more than 2 - 6 credits behind depending on their respective grade levels in order to build a schedule in a small school with limited course offerings.

Laboratory Academy students in grades 7 – 12 are enrolled in eight classes each semester in a block schedule (four periods each day) which includes a required class for instructional and social-emotional support. Eight classes increase our students’ access to elective offerings and credit opportunities.