

TRUMBULL AGRISCIENCE & BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can a student begin the program after grade 9?
 - a.) Traditional requirements mandate that the program must be based on a four year sequence. Students must enter in 9th grade.
2. Upon entry, is there an agreement to be signed?
 - a.) Yes, the student and family sign an Acceptance/Consent form which outlines the obligations and expectations for the future.
3. Is admission done by lottery or by competitive application?
 - a.) There are limited available seats for our population generated from the 9 sending towns. Therefore, all applications are read and screened by the entire staff in order to prioritize our list of prospective students. The criteria include: academic standing, behavior records, letters of recommendation, a student essay, standardized test results and attendance records.
4. Are there family costs associated with the program?
 - a.) There are minimal costs involved; transportation and tuition costs are supported by the sending districts.
5. Is the program for the full day?
 - a.) Yes, students become regular members of THS and take all their “core comprehensive classes” at the high school, and spend 2 or 3 periods a day at the Center, taking science and agriscience classes. [Grades 10 – 12 require at least a 2 period per day commitment level at the Center.]
6. What is the average class size?
 - a.) Classes contain a very favorable ratio. Normally, there are not more than 15 students in a class, and many classes are smaller than that (due to state requirements and scientific safety requirements).
7. Are there specific careers, colleges, and/or professions that students have to commit to if they enter the program?

- a.) Quite the contrary; this specialized, hands-on training and mentoring prepares students for a whole host of future opportunities. While many students will seek futures in scientific areas, the Ag-Bio training allows students to have many experiences which will be profitable for their career/college readiness in any area of concentration of their choice.
8. Is it possible to achieve college credits through this program?
- a.) Yes; in fact, there are Ag-Bio ECE (Early College Experience) courses in Biotechnology, Plant Science, Animal Science and Equine, in addition to offering numerous AP (Advanced Placement) and ECE courses available for students to take within the full course program of study for THS.
9. If a student enters the program in Grade 9, must he/she stay for the full four years?
- a.) The vast majority of our students have favorable experiences for their four years; but, on occasion, students have withdrawn from the program for a number of personal reasons.
- b.) Students who leave the program are returned to their sending town.
10. What do the terms: Agriscience, FFA, CDE, and the SAE mean?

Agriscience Program: An agricultural education program made up of three integrated parts: Classroom Instruction, FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

National FFA Organization: for students enrolled in agricultural education. It's the largest of the nine Career Technical Education Organizations (CTEO) available for students.

Career Development Events (CDE): These are contests which members compete in to test their skills learned through agricultural education instruction. This experience allows students to move "beyond the classroom" and prepare for post-graduate situations (often involved with state and national competitions).

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE): is a program which offers flexibility regarding community involvement and experiential educational instances. Students with an SAE, learn by doing. With help from their agricultural teachers, students develop an SAE project, based on one or more SAE categories. An approved, ongoing SAE is a requirement of the Agriscience Program for sophomore, junior, and senior years.

