Henderson High School's

P.R.I.D.E. Academy

(Producing Responsible Individuals and Developing Excellence)

Handbook 2026-27

Montgomery Achievement Center ~ 308 Smith Street, Henderson, TX 75652 ~ 903-655-5552 **Holly Wilson, Principal**

Prospective Students and Parents:

The Information & Application for PRIDE Academy Packet is a companion piece to the Henderson High School Student and Parent Handbook. The information in this packet is subject to change by the Henderson Independent School District administrative officials at any time. The information contained in this packet is the primary explanation on areas connected to/with the PRIDE Academy program of Henderson High School.

Program Vision "***Empowering all students to achieve their dreams.***"

Program Mission "***To educate and prepare students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners who value excellence and integrity.***"

Program Overview:

PRIDE Academy is a non-disciplinary, academic alternative school providing a self-paced base curriculum for students enrolled in the Henderson Independent School District/Henderson High School that primarily uses computer-generated lessons. The academy is an accelerated learning environment for non-traditional students. PRIDE Academy teachers facilitate the coursework and provide tutoring to enhance the computer-based instructional platform. Courses passed with a 70% or better final grade will be posted to the student's permanent high school academic transcript.

Entry Requirements:

Application approval will only be given to applicants who:

- Are 18 years of age, and
- have successfully completed all state exams per district policy, or
- are faced with extenuating circumstances that prohibit graduation through a traditional educational setting. Explain

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Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Admission to PRIDE Academy is through application and by committee selection only. Students will be assigned to the PRIDE Academy program in accordance with program guidelines.

Applications for the program are available through the HISD Website. The student must be enrolled at Henderson High School and must complete an application online. This ***does not*** mean that the student is accepted, simply that he/she will be ***considered*** for the program.

PRIDE Academy enrollment will be during the first and third nine weeks of school only. A selection committee will review applications on file and placement(s) in the program. The PRIDE Academy principal will contact the parent and make an appointment for a brief conference before a final decision is made. This conference is **mandatory** before a student's admission.

Students must be cleared by the HHS office for fines, books and outstanding obligations before enrollment in PRIDE Academy can begin. Schedule changes will take place at that time as authorized by the HHS principal. PRIDE students may participate in Prom if they are enrolled and attending school when Prom is held and do not have any major disciplinary referrals which remove them from the regular classroom setting (Ex: ISS, DAEP). All PRIDE students may participate in the Senior Walk. PRIDE students will **not** participate in *on-campus* activities such as Senior Field Day and Pass the Torch Pep Rally.

Graduation: **PRIDE Academy is not intended as a program for students seeking early graduation.** It is best for one to graduate with his or her original graduation cohort/group from high school entry into in grade 9. However, extenuating circumstances may call for a different plan.

There are only two (2) options for students enrolled in PRIDE graduation & diploma presentation:

1. **FIRST SEMESTER ONLY:** Receive a Henderson High School diploma that will be individually awarded upon completion of all approved coursework and passing all required state testing and 90% attendance rate while enrolled in PRIDE Academy. This ceremony will take place in the evening at Henderson Middle School Cafetorium, January 2027.
2. **SECOND SEMESTER ONLY:** Receive a Henderson High School diploma that will be awarded May 2027, **at the traditional HHS commencement exercises** upon completion of all approved coursework (no later than 5 days prior to the last day of classes for the spring semester) and passed all required state testing and must have a 90% attendance rate while enrolled in PRIDE Academy.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Expectations: Due to the unique configuration of the program, PRIDE Academy students are expected to:

- Respect themselves & others with attention to lessons & minimal disruptions.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

- Be on time and attend school a minimum of 90% of the school year.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

- Remain in class for four (4) hours daily.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

- Demonstrate acceptable behavior at school, including that outlined in the HISD Student Code of Conduct.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

- Once enrolled, remain in PRIDE Academy until graduation.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Attendance:

Excellent attendance at PRIDE Academy is imperative. Only excused absences, including tardies, (see HHS Student Handbook and HISD Student Code of Conduct) are allowed. Parents will be contacted if their students are having an issue with their attendance.

Excessive absences or tardies may be grounds for dismissal from the program. State law requires that students in programs such as PRIDE Academy spend a minimum of four hours per day in school. Failure to do so will result in a referral to truancy court.

****PRIDE students may be required to complete full day classes for excessive absences.**

Transportation:

Transportation is not provided to PRIDE Academy. Students must provide their own daily transportation to/from the Montgomery Achievement Center and the PRIDE Academy program.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Drug Testing:

Henderson High School conducts random drug testing of students involved in extracurricular activities and who desire to park on campus. Details concerning drug testing can be found at HISD Board Policy FNF (LOCAL).

This applies to students in the PRIDE Academy.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Special NOTE #1: In accordance with state law, the district prohibits the use of personal communication devices (such as cell phones, tablets and smartwatches) while on school property during the school day. For more information about permitted use in certain circumstances and disciplinary measures that apply to this prohibition, see the Student Code of Conduct and policy FNCE(LOCAL)

If a student enters the building with any personal communication device it will be taken up and placed in a bag with the student's name on it. This bag will be locked in the office until the student is finished with school for the day. At the end of the day the personal communication device will be returned to the student. If the student does not voluntarily turn in their personal communication device during the arrival period then regular disciplinary measures will apply as listed in the HISD Student Handbook.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Use of the computer is limited to academic lessons only as provided through Edgenuity. Misuse of the computer could result in possible dismissal from PRIDE Academy.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Special NOTE #2: All work must be done <u>at school</u> to count toward credit for the course.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Special NOTE #3: Tutorials are <u>mandatory</u> based on EOC testing results. Seniors that have not passed an EOC <u>may be required to</u> attend special tutorial sessions in addition to the daily sessions provided.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Special NOTE #4: Appropriate attire each day at PRIDE Academy is as if it is for a job-related activity/school appropriate wear. *<u>Sleep attire is never allowed as proper attire for school.</u>* **PRIDE Academy will observe the current adopted HHS dress code**. There are **<u>no</u>** exceptions.

The principal of PRIDE Academy is the final authority on what student attire is/not allowed at PRIDE Academy & will refer to the HHS dress code approved for specific guidelines & regulations regarding student dress.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

<u>Extra-Curricular Activities:</u>

Students enrolled in the PRIDE Academy program are allowed to attend **<u>with the exception of events during the normal academic school day.</u>** No student enrolled in PRIDE Academy is to be on the HHS main campus between the hours of 7:15 am – 3:45 pm without prior approval from administration. Administrators of the main campus may assign disciplinary action if a PRIDE student is found in violation of this regulation.

Due to UIL Eligibility Standards, PRIDE students are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities because they are not a full-time (8 periods a day) student. PRIDE students also complete classes for a final grade not a 6 weeks or 9 weeks grade.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Tuition and Fees**:** There are no fees or tuition required to be in the PRIDE Academy. Students should take care of any library fines and turn in all books, Chromebook, chargers, etc. belonging to HHS before starting PRIDE Academy. Students that drive must park in the student parking lot on the MAC campus.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Faculty and Staff: The faculty and staff at PRIDE Academy consist of highly motivated, certified teachers and educational support personnel who are trained in the most effective teaching methods and learning strategies. Academic support and special tutorial sessions for students needing intervention assistance will be provided on an "as needed" basis. Students with special needs will have access to support staff and special tutorial sessions.

While most of the PRIDE students' work is done on computers using the Edgenuity program, and Texas College Bridge, the electronic curricula **may** involve supplemental assignments and direct instruction as needed.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

Grades:

Due to the computerized lesson format used in PRIDE Academy, traditional report cards or progress reports are not a reliable source of grades or progress. We will provide Progress Reports every 6 weeks to be signed by a parent. Parents are welcome to call the principal to check on their student's progress or attendance at any time throughout the semester.

Grades for courses that are 100% completed are posted to the student's official (academic) transcript at Henderson High School by the HHS counseling center personnel. An official transcript may be requested by the parents or a student at any time by contacting the HHS counseling center at Henderson High School.

Student initial_____ Parent initial_____

HHS Student Handbook/ Student Code of Conduct/ Acceptable Use Statements

My signature indicates that I have read and will abide by the district's expectations for student behavior as indicated in the current Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use policies for computers, electronic mail, and Internet use. Parent/ guardian's signature provides permission for student participation in prevention program surveys during the year and acknowledgement of agreement for student conduct. I understand that breaking the regulations concerning the Acceptable Use policies for computers, electronic mail, and Internet use will result in disciplinary actions. Additionally, the student may be dismissed from the PRIDE Academy program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/ Guardian
Signature: _____Date: _____