

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
ADVOCATES FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION, INC.**

2007-2008 Academic Year

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS OFFICE
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Benjamin Franklin's name belongs on the front of this school and his statue, both pensive and welcoming, belongs in its lobby. The great statesman's association with Benjamin Franklin High School is fitting not because of what he said (his sayings were often clever rewrites of older sayings) but because of who he was and what he did. Often called the first great American, Franklin's belief in the power of curiosity to fuel creativity and the power of ingenuity to mother invention has been proven by the multitudes of his inventions and the stamp of his political philosophy. The students who attend Benjamin Franklin High School are taught to imitate that same curiosity and creativity and to actualize their own power to think, to invent, and to understand. Benjamin Franklin High School is a great American institution.

What are Ben Franklin students like?



Funny and **serious**

creative and **analytical**

meat-eaters and vegetarians



Athletic

and **artistic**

FRANKLIN FACTS

- **# 1** public high school in the State of Louisiana
- **# 1** Advanced Placement testing school in the South
- A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence under *No Child Left Behind*
- Class of 2007: 28 National Merit Semifinalists
7 National Achievement Semifinalists
3 National Hispanic Scholars
- 99.5% enter college in all parts of the country
- Average ACT score: 27
- Culturally diverse
- Socio-economically diverse
- Partnered with the University of New Orleans and granted Type III charter status by New Orleans Public Schools
- Governed by private board: Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education, Inc.
- Featured in Newsweek (May, 2006) as one of the country's 21 Public Elite Schools
- Many extracurricular opportunities: athletics, art music, drama, and 30 clubs
- Active student/parent involvement
- Prior to Katrina \$18,484,771 in scholarships awarded to 186 graduates in 2005

2006-2007 STUDENT POPULATION

Grade 09	121
Grade 10	174
Grade 11	171
Grade 12	162
TOTAL	628

SAT AVERAGE

	Verbal	Math
2000-01	629	619
2001-02	628	614
2002-03	621	616
2003-04	652	635
2004-05	645	636

Grade System

- A (93-100)
- B (85-92)
- C (75-84)
- D (70-74)
- F (below 70)

Grade points ranging from 4 to 1 are assigned to the letters A to D respectively.

Academic courses are weighted:
 Honors courses, 1.1
 Gifted courses, 1.11
 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, 1.12

GPA is computed over all courses taken.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

	2004	2005	2006
National Merit Semifinalist	30	27	28
National Achievement Semifinalist	17	13	7
National Hispanic Scholars			3

ACT AVERAGE

2000-01	27.1
2001-02	26.7
2002-03	26.8
2003-04	27.3
2004-05	27.2

SAT SCORE DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2006

	<u>Critical Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>
700-800	22	13	10
600-699	32	42	13
500-599	35	38	50
400-499	9	3	5

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total Students Taking Exams	267	284	296	411	345
Total Exams Taken	472	483	528	693	564
% Receiving "3" Or Higher	83	88	87	78	72
% Receiving "5"	23	25	26	20	19

FACES OF FRANKLIN

African American, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, and Native American



tall and short



left-handed and right-handed

In other words—they're just like YOU!

WHO WE ARE

Benjamin Franklin High School is a school with a mission...

Benjamin Franklin High School, located on the University of New Orleans campus, was founded in 1957, its stated mission to promote excellence among New Orleans high school students. Benjamin Franklin High School has been named the top public high school in the State of Louisiana since the implementation of the accountability system in the state and was listed in *Newsweek* (May 8, 2006) as one of the public elite schools in the country. It has also been recognized as the top AP testing school in the Southern region. Franklin serves a population of students with high academic potential: 99.5% of each graduating class enters college, winning acceptance to the most prestigious universities in the country and collecting significant numbers of merit scholarship. Franklin has maintained its commitment to its mission statement, encouraging students "to reach their maximum potential as productive, creative citizens of a technology-rich global community." To maximize their potential, students may be enrolled in AP courses in freshman year and are, by the time they are seniors, enrolled in AP courses in core academic areas.

It is unique...

Compared to high schools across the nation, Franklin produces an outstanding number of National Merit Finalists and National Achievement Finalists. In 2006, for example, Franklin produced 28 National Merit Semifinalists, 7 National Achievement Finalists, and 3 Hispanic Scholars from a class of 162 students. ACT scores hover around a composite average of 27. Franklin students take the PSAT test in their freshman, sophomore, and junior years, and the improvement in scores as students advance through the Franklin academic program exceeds national rates. For the past seven years 100% of Franklin students have passed the Louisiana Graduate Exit Exam. On the Iowa Test of Educational Development, a norm-referenced test, the school composite has been at the 94th percentile.

Graduates from Benjamin Franklin High School extend their uniqueness into college selection, receiving scholarship offers from schools all over the nation and abroad. Each senior can then select the school that meets his/her expectations. 2006 graduates are attending such diverse schools as La. State University, University of New Orleans, Emory, Hampton, Tufts, Rhodes, Carnegie-Mellon, Xavier, Stanford, University of Chicago, Georgetown, Vassar, North Carolina State, Tulane, Southeastern, University of San Francisco, Washington University, Boston University, Indiana University, Millsaps, College of Charleston, Soka University of America, Savannah Art and Design, Wesleyan, South Alabama, Hollins, Oberlin, and Cambridge.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Academic Games

Anime

Art Club

Asian/Pacific

Athletics:

Boys: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track

Girls: basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball

Band/Orchestra

Black Culture Club

Bookstore

Cheerleaders

Chess Club

Choir

Classical League

Close-Up: Washington, D.C

Culinary Club

Dance Team

Drama Club (Produces school plays)

Environmental Club

Franklin Forum: school newspaper

FTV (Falcon Television)

French Exchange Program and French Trip

Gay/Straight Alliance

German-American Partnership Program

German Club (Delta Epsilon Phi)

Green Society

Hebrew Culture Club

Hi-Y/Tri Hi-Y

Intramural Program

Iota Sigma

Key Club

Library Media/Reading Club

Literary Rally (district and state)

Mu Alpha Theta

Mock Trial

National Honor Society

Peer Support Counselors

Outdoor and Sports Club

Pottery Club

Riverbend Review: literary magazine

S.A.D.D.

Service Learning Projects

Spanish Culture Annual Trip

Speech and Debate Team

Student Council

Student Leadership Team

SWAT (Students Working Against AIDS Together)

Yearbook

Young Democrats

Young Republicans





COURSE OF STUDY

(H) Honors (G) Gifted (AP) Advanced Placement College Level Course

GRADE 9

English I (H) (G)
World Geography (H) or Human Geography (AP)
Algebra (H) (G) or Geometry (H) (G)
Biology I (H)
Foreign Language I (H)
Health/Physical Education I
Elective*

GRADE 11

English III (AP)
U.S. History (H) (AP)
Algebra II (H) (G) or Pre-Calculus (H) (G)
Chemistry II (AP), Biology II (AP), Physics (AP) or Environmental Science (AP)
Foreign Language III (H) or Foreign Language I
2 Electives**

Electives

Art I - IV
Band I - IV (H)
Biology II AP
Calculus (AP)
Chemistry II (AP)
Choir I - IV (H)
Computer Science I, II (H)
Creative Writing (H)
Fine Arts Survey (AP)
Foreign Languages I, II, III (H) IV, V AP (French, Spanish), IV AP (German), Latin I, II (H)
Greek and Roman Civilization (H)
Journalism I, II
Newspaper, Yearbook
Orchestra I - IV (H)
Physical Education III, IV
Physics (AP)
Psychology (AP)
Russian History (H)
Speech I - III
Stagecraft
Statistics (AP)
Talented in Music (if qualified)
Talented in Theater (if qualified)
Talented in Visual Arts (if qualified)
Teaching Academy I, II
TV Communications I, II
Twentieth Century History (H)

Off Campus Programs for which Franklin students may enroll:

- (1) Students may have concurrent college or university enrollment during their senior year only. No Franklin credit is given for these courses.
- (2) New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA).

Students taking AP classes are encouraged to take the College Board AP exams.

*We recommend that freshman take a Study Hall.
**A study hall may be substituted for 1 elective.

GRADE 10

English II (H) (G)
Civics (H) or Am. Gov't (AP)/Free Enterprise (H)
Geometry (H) (G) or Algebra II (H) (G)
Chemistry I (H)
Foreign Language II (H)
Physical Education II
Elective*

GRADE 12

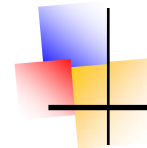
English IV (AP)
World History (AP) or European History (AP)
Pre-Calculus (H) (G) or Calculus AB/BC (AP)
Physics I/II (AP), Biology II (AP), Chemistry II (AP) or Environmental Science (AP)
3 Electives**

Graduation Requirements

English I, II, III, IV - 4 Units
Social Studies - 4 Units
World Geography, World History, American History, Free Enterprise (1/2 unit), Civics (1/2 unit)
Mathematics - 4 Units
Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calc
Science - 4 Units
Biology, Chemistry, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics NOTE: Physics is now a requirement for admission to many colleges.
Foreign Language - 3 Units
At least two years of the same foreign language. NOTE: It is highly recommended that students complete three years in the same language.
Health - .5 Units
Physical Education I - .5 Units
Physical Education II - 1 Unit
Electives - 2 Units
TOTAL - 23 Units

Both the Honors and Regents Diplomas require either one unit of Fine Arts Survey or two units of Band, Orchestra, Choir, Dance, Art or Drama.
Franklin curriculum covers TOPS requirements.

All academic courses are at the honors level or higher and must be taken at Franklin.



It is multifaceted...

Benjamin Franklin High School aims to educate the whole child. Among its most innovative programs are the Teaching and Leadership Academy and the Communications Academy. The school has many varied extra-curricular programs, and Franklin students routinely receive recognition at national, state, and local competitions, such as Tri-Hi-Y, Speech and Debate, Mu Alpha Theta, and science fairs, as well as regional and state literary rallies. Franklin writers and artists publish their works in regional publications as well as in the school's own *Riverbend Review*, a spectacular literary magazine that regularly wins silver or gold medals in national competitions. Student artists, musicians, and actors may enroll in art programs at multiple levels and, if qualified, in the Talented programs at Franklin.

The achievements of Franklin students are not limited to the classroom. The athletic and health programs provide students with an opportunity to participate in sports and health activities. The school has fielded state championship athletic teams (girls' volleyball and girls' soccer), and the school was a contender for an award to be given to the most athletic school in the state.

Over 30 clubs and organizations are available to Franklin students as well as positions on Student Council and the staffs of the literary magazine, the newspaper and the yearbook. Because of the school's strong focus on service learning, Franklin students are actively involved in community and school projects.

It is a community...

We have always believed that all of us must be committed in a real way to the health and growth of our community. This belief was dramatically tested in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The whole community came together to save this incredible school for its present students and for its future students. That was no easy task. It happened because of strong leadership, strong backs, and strong spirits. It happened because this school is loved. People gave because this school is important to children's lives. It happened because the community recognizes that what we give to children is what matters most.

The best acknowledgement Franklin can give to the community that supported us is to continue to be one of the best schools in the country; to continue to nurture some of the best minds and hearts; to continue to model selfless behavior; and to continue to stand as a symbol of hope and joy to the entire New Orleans community. Benjamin Franklin High School is and will be one of the reasons that New Orleans really matters.

Admissions Information
 Admissions Open House Sunday, October 1, 2006
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Test Dates for students without scores:
 October 7, 2006
 November 11, 2006
 January 20, 2007

The Admissions test is the Iowa test of Basic Skills for reading, language and mathematics. These scores are used to complete the matrix, along with the grade point average of the first trimester or second quarter or first semester report card. (The tests are given at Franklin by Franklin faculty.)

Applications are not accepted for senior year. Students applying for 10th grade must have 1 credit in English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language. Students applying for 11th grade must have two credits in each of the listed courses.

Applications must be brought to the Admissions Office and must include the following:

1. Copy of student's birth certificate
2. Copy of student's Social Security card
3. Three (3) proofs of residence in Orleans Parish such as:

a. Voter registration card	h. Property tax form
b. Vehicle registration	i. Welfare card
c. Driver's license	j. Payroll check stub with
d. State I.D. card	k. W-2 form home address
e. Entergy bill	l. Letter from the caseworker
f. Telephone bill	
g. Sewerage and Water Board Bill	
4. 2005-2006 IOWA or iLEAP NRTT test scores if taken during the previous school year

PLEASE NOTE:--Applications are not complete unless the following conditions are met:

- **A copy of the student's 2006-2007 midyear or first trimester report card must be received by February 1 to complete their matrix score.**
- All students who meet the criteria for entrance into 9th grade must pass the LEAP exam.
- Gifted information and 504 plans must be provided.
- Final report cards must be received NO LATER than June 15, 2007 to verify promotion.

Applications should be received by the Admissions staff no later than the end of June.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL: Camille Bullock, Re-opening Day, Jan. 17, 2005



For those of you who don't know me, my name is Camille Bullock, and I'm a senior here at Franklin. This past August, we all learned what it was like to watch in horror as the worst-case scenario unfolded before our eyes, turning the surreal into an unmistakable reality. It is against all odds that we are here together, and I am so grateful and honored to be talking to you today, a truly monumental day in the life of our school, about my experiences without Franklin and my feelings on returning.

As I was working on this speech last night, wondering how it would be possible to compress the past four months into some sort of order, I kept trying to think of what every one of us here had in common during that strange time. Was it the blue tarps covering our roofs? Was it not having a roof at all? Was it the evil brown ring where the guilt crept up and ruined so many precious souvenirs and memories? Or was it the relief and the guilt of perhaps being one of those lucky enough to live in the random areas with no mold and only a few broken windows? The more I tried to think of concrete examples of what we all shared, the more I realized that what tied us all together was this: loss. We'd all lost something significant, something important to us. We were experiencing a form of death, the death of all the comfortable and manageable and carefully planned lives we thought we'd been living together in our own community here at Franklin. We'd all been grieving, together and separately, wherever we landed, in Houston, in Lafayette, in New Orleans, for the lives we took for granted and the lives we were forced to live during those uncertain and unreal four months.

According to Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, there are five stages of grief. The first is denial, which, for me, took many forms. The first came during the new student orientation at my stand-in school, where I sat patiently and listened to the wrong principal and my unfamiliar new teachers tell me how much I would grow to love my new foreign school. I listened to them talk about the exciting opportunities, the terrific classes, the awards and prizes they had amassed over the years. I was grateful for the kindness and compassion they all showed me, and how hard they tried to make me feel welcome. I was always friendly and polite when students asked me if I liked my new school. I'd always answer, "I can see that this is a wonderful school..." but my heart was saying, "it's just not MY school." The next stage is anger. I started to resent my classmates at Lafayette High who were getting the senior year they had counted on. It just seemed so unfair that what I had expected to be the pinnacle of my high school experience had been ruined. I felt so cheated—why did this happen, anyway? I actually would get furious at friends who suggested that Franklin might not even reopen. Believe it or not... I actually told one of my friends I would kick her teeth in if she said that I wouldn't be back in New Orleans for second semester. Luckily for her, she believed me and still has all her pearly whites. I skipped over the third phase, bargaining, and went straight to depression. As the blind optimism of Franklin reopening seemed to dwindle, things became harder to deal with. News of New Orleans Public Schools choosing not to open up in January came every day, and predictions of the city not being livable made returning seem like a hopeless dream. The bleak reality of actually graduating from another school seemed closer all the time.

And then, through the hard work of our faculty, parents and staff, to whom we are all so very much indebted, the school became a school again. The board passed a motion to grant Franklin a charter, and all systems were go for a January 17th reopening.

The fifth phase of grief is acceptance. It is with so much joy and relief that I tell you that we have no need for this stage. Life, fate, destiny, diligence: they have all given us a second chance. It isn't often that something we lose returns to us. We don't have to accept that our former lives are gone forever, because we are back, we are here again. As I walk through these beautiful, familiar halls, I know that I will cherish every moment that I have spent and will spend at Franklin, and nothing, not a hurricane or a broken levee or a brown water stain will EVER be able to take that away.