

## OUR PHILOSOPHY: THE 3R'S

### RELATIONSHIPS

We believe the quality of the relationships in our school has a tremendous effect on the quality of the learning that happens here. At Camden Big Picture Learning Academy, we respect each student, maintain open communication with the administration and build strong relationships with educators. Additionally, the family is involved in the educational process and connections are established between responsible adults from the community.

### RELEVANCE

We believe the projects and work students do at school must be relevant to their lives, their needs and their passions. Learning must hold meaning for each student. However, without first establishing strong relationships with our students, we cannot know what will be relevant to each student.

### RIGOR

We provide challenging in-depth opportunities for students to engage in meaningful learning. Camden Big Picture Learning Academy's students pursue knowledge because they are genuinely interested in learning about the topic. Seeing a student stay up late working on a project he developed himself—that is rigor.



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Camden Big Picture Learning Academy is to rigorously challenge the diverse Camden City student population as they forge relationships with the community and pursue their passions in the real world through internships and experiential learning opportunities.

### THE LEARNING THROUGH INTEREST (LTI) EXPERIENCE

The Learning Through Interests (L.T.I.) component is the primary vehicle for each student to pursue their passions. Our L.T.I. system allows students to personalize their education and provide a practical avenue to gain problem-solving skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in college and in the real world.

### FLOW OF THE WEEK

Camden Big Picture Learning Academy students, focus on advisory and core academics four days a week, which is focused on the school's learning goals. On Wednesdays, students select a mentor and are engaged in internships (LTI), where they become skilled in real world situations or they explore their career interest in our school's Makerspace. We do not prepare students for particular careers, rather we are training our students how to think and function in the real world

## OUR CURRICULUM

### ONE-ON-ONE

Students meet one-on-one with their Advisors at least once a week. Advisors get to know their students deeply and support them as they develop their sense of purpose. Advisors also help students set daily long-term and short-term goals and coach them through their progress.

### PROJECTS

Students spend a bulk of their time working on projects that allow them to apply knowledge, skills, and habits to real-world scenarios. Students engage in project development that empowers them to set goals and explore their personal interests. Students complete both independent and whole group projects.

### SELF-DIRECTION

In advisory, students are guided through a learning cycle that fosters self-direction. They learn to set goals, select strategies, implement their plans, and reflect on the outcome to see if their plan worked.

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

All students will take a sequence of courses to expose them to the elements of entrepreneurship. This will nurture their self-direction and expose them to the autonomy and financial freedom possible if they own their own business.

### AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT

Quarterly, students publicly exhibit their work and write personal narratives. A student's advisor, parents, mentor, and peers comprise the exhibition panel and offer feedback and recommendations for the following quarter.



## Camden City School District

Wasim Muhammad - Advisory Board President

Nam Nelson - Advisory Board VP

Falio Leyba-Martinez - Member

Nyemah Gillespie - Member

Cameron Hudson - Member

Karen Merricks - Member

Clayton Gonzalez - Member

Elton Custis - Member

Jeanette Alvarez - Member

**Q: What type of school is Camden Big Picture Learning Academy?**

**A: Interest and Career Exploration is the school's focus. Upon enrollment, students identify their interest and pursue them by engaging in rigorous work in the surrounding community.**

**Q: What kind of curriculum does the school utilize?**

**A: Each Camden Big Picture Learning Academy student has a personalized curriculum that is tailored to meet his or her academic, social, and personal needs. New Jersey's content standards are used as a guide for the student, his or her family, and the student's advisor to work collaboratively to define the curriculum.**

**Q: What is the class size?**

**A: Camden Big Picture Learning Academy offers a small learning environment, where the teacher to student ratio is approx. 1:15.**

**Q: How are students evaluated?**

**A: Camden Big Picture Learning Academy students receive traditional grades and they are authentically assessed using exhibitions and narratives**



## Central Administration

Katrina T. McCombs,  
State District Superintendent

Dr. Marilyn Martinez  
Chief Schools Officer

Camden Big Picture Learning Academy is a diverse and innovative public high school that emphasizes personalized learning and project based academics



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