



at

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Application Packet

JUNE 6 – JUNE 28, 2009

(duplicate the entire packet as needed)

Mail completed application to:

**Student Application
Commonwealth Honors Academy
Murray State University
324 Wells Hall
Murray, KY 42071-3318**

(270-809-3166)

Application Deadline: March 1, 2009



INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Honors Academy (CHA) is a challenging three-week academic, social and personal growth program for outstanding high school students who have completed their junior year and will return to high school as a senior in the fall following the Academy. Students will be selected from the Commonwealth and surrounding region. Upon successful completion of the Academy, students will:

- receive six hours of university credit.
- have the opportunity to take six hours of tuition-free university courses at Murray State University during the subsequent year.
- be awarded a four-year, renewable \$2,000.00 housing scholarship to attend Murray State University.

The Academy differs from the traditional high school in its approach to learning and in the creation of a living-learning community. CHA offers students a chance to know and make friends with other enthusiastic, energetic students with high intellectual capacities. The interaction of students with different backgrounds is one of the most valuable aspects of the Academy.

The Academy provides students, faculty and staff with an opportunity to share the joy of discovery and to exchange ideas in a warm community atmosphere. Supportive secondary and university faculty chosen from the region work closely with the students in classes, seminars, and extracurricular activities. Outstanding college men and women serve as residential counselors to provide leadership, friendship, and encouragement to the students. Exceptional speakers, performers, films, interesting field trips, special events and recreational experiences offer students an array of stimulating activities that provide fun and enjoyment, as well as learning opportunities.

There is no cost to students except for personal articles, laundry, snacks, and incidental expenses.

MISSION

The mission of the Commonwealth Honors Academy is to challenge, educate, enlighten, and nurture the next generation of civic, academic and business leaders of the region.

THEME

“**The Ripple Effect: Intent and Impact,**” has been chosen as the theme for the 2009 Commonwealth Honors Academy.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Honors Academy is offered with the firm conviction that one of the greatest resources of this region is its academically talented young people. The Academy seeks to reward excellence, broaden horizons, and expand vision. Its academic program stresses the development of each student's critical thinking abilities, adaptability, creativity, and self-confidence. In the Academy, teachers and students deal with the conceptual, historical and philosophical tenets of human knowledge. Students have opportunities through independent effort to develop their personal and intellectual skills under expert supervision.

COMPONENTS

- All students are enrolled in an **interdisciplinary humanities and fine arts course**. This course develops the Academy's theme, drawing material from the traditional humanities (e.g., history, literature, philosophy) and the Fine and Performing Arts (e.g., music, visual arts, theatre).
- In addition, each Academy student is enrolled in an **elective course** in one of the following academic areas: Agriculture; Business; Education; Health Sciences; Mathematics; Humanities; Fine Arts; Social Sciences; Communications/Media Studies; Science; or Engineering. The Academy attempts to match students with their interests and preferences. Each elective course will address the theme of the Commonwealth Honors Academy from its own perspective.
- Each student participates in a **seminar** focused on issues related to personal and social development. In small group discussions, students explore topics relevant to their lives such as interpersonal communication, family and peer relationships, choosing a university and the relationship of the program's theme to their own lives.
- An **Academy reunion** will take place in September 2009. Students will be asked to return to the MSU campus for a reunion to renew friendships, evaluate the Academy, and receive certificates of achievement during a ceremony honoring Academy graduates. Parents are also invited to the reunion and will be given an opportunity to evaluate the program and receive information about the college application process.

STUDENT LIFE

A rich, diverse range of recreational opportunities, cultural and artistic events, field experiences, distinguished speakers and classroom guests will enhance the academic curriculum. Faculty members and residential counselors participate in enrichment activities with students.

Commonwealth Honors Academy students live in a residential college with separate quarters for men and women. Outstanding, experienced residential counselors provide guidance and supervision. Students learn about themselves and others as they experience what it means to become a community. They develop meaningful friendships, even in the few weeks they live and learn in the Academy.

SELECTION PROCESS

All students applying for the Commonwealth Honors Academy should have a 3.5 GPA (on a 4-point scale) and 25 Composite ACT (or the equivalent PSAT, SAT or PLAN score). High school juniors throughout Kentucky as well as the Murray State University out-of-state service region are invited to apply. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, prior to the beginning of the Academy.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

March 1, 2009: Applications must be postmarked

Mid-April 2009: All applicants notified by mail.

ACADEMY EXPECTATIONS

Since community building is central to a student's experience in the Academy, there is an overriding philosophy of freedom coupled with responsibility that permeates student daily life.

Law, safety and common concern for the total community govern the program's few regulations.

1. Willful behavior that is consistently abusive or demeaning to other members of the community, or that interferes with the academic or enrichment goals of the Academy, will not be tolerated.
2. Student automobiles or other vehicles (including bicycles and skateboards) are prohibited, as is riding in unauthorized vehicles, or leaving campus for unauthorized trips.
3. Drugs, including alcoholic beverages, are not allowed.
4. Criminal behavior, such as deliberately pulling fire alarms, activating sprinklers, or bringing firearms to campus, is not tolerated;
5. Willful behavior that is potentially harmful to the individual or community is prohibited;
6. No open flames are allowed inside buildings (e.g., candles, incense burners, lighters, matches, etc.).

All of these regulations will be firmly enforced. **A student will be dropped from the Academy and sent home for violation of any of these regulations.** The student's school will be notified and no university credit will be awarded.

IMPORTANT

Before applying, students and their parents or guardian should understand that students are expected to stay on campus for the full three weeks of the Commonwealth Honors Academy. The Academy is built around an exciting, enthusiastic community of students who need continuity to grow intellectually, creatively, and personally.

Each student must sign a contract agreeing:

1. to arrive on time and stay for the entire three weeks of the program;
2. to participate fully in classes and the life of the community, including weekends on campus.

Students who fail to meet these requirements will be in violation of their contract with the Commonwealth Honors Academy. They may be dropped from the Academy, their schools will be notified, and no university credit will be awarded. Individual exceptions for illness and family emergencies will, of course, be considered.

You may duplicate the attached application, obtain additional copies from your high school guidance counselor, or download a copy from the Murray State University website at www.murraystate.edu/cha .



Commonwealth Honors Academy

Murray State University

Student Application

Return completed application to:
Commonwealth Honors Academy
Murray State University
324 Wells Hall
Murray, KY 42071-3347
Due Date: March 1, 2009

1. Pages 1-4 should be completed by the applicant.
2. Page 5 should be signed by the student and a parent/legal guardian, and then given to the school counselor. The counselor may mail the form and student's transcript directly to the CHA Office or return the form to the applicant **in an envelope signed across the seal** to be included with the application.
3. Two recommendation forms (pages 6-9) must be completed by teachers. The teachers may mail the form directly to the CHA Office or return the form to the applicant in **an envelope signed across the seal** to be included with the application.
4. Please note: All parts of the application **must** be included for applicant to be considered for admission to the Commonwealth Honors Academy. Make certain you have enclosed the completed student application, counselor form, transcript, and **two** teacher recommendations.

Please Print Clearly – Use Ink Or Typewriter

Name _____
 First Middle Last Preferred Name

Address _____
 Street City State Zip Code

Email Address: _____ Phone() _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Name of School _____ School _____ School _____
 You Attend _____ District _____ County _____

Grade _____ Birth Date _____ Social Security No. _____

Names of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip Code

Phone() _____ Parent Email _____

Parent Cell Phone: _____

The following information is requested to insure equal admission opportunity. Completion of this section is voluntary.

<u>Gender</u>		<u>Race/Origin:</u>			
Male	_____	White	_____	Black	_____
		Asian	_____	American Indian	_____
Female	_____	Hispanic	_____	Other (specify)	_____

1. List special academic interests and activities in which you are involved and any academic awards or honors you have received.

2. Please list your own special interests, such as drama, photography, music, film, athletics, dance, etc., and describe your activities in relation to these interests.

3. List extracurricular school, civic, church, sports, or other activities in which you are involved (please include leadership roles).

4. **Interdisciplinary Humanities and Fine Arts course (required)**

This course will address the overall theme of the Academy “**The Ripple Effect: Intent and Impact**” through discussion of a series of topics that can be understood from the perspective of several academic disciplines: e.g. Art, Music, Literature, History, Philosophy, Drama. Individual class size (each taught by a specialist in one of the Humanities or Fine Arts disciplines) will vary from 15-20 students, and all sections of this course may meet together on occasion to give each class the opportunity to better understand the perspectives of the other disciplines.

5. **Elective (Read this section carefully!)**

The theme of the Commonwealth Honors Academy, “**The Ripple Effect: Intent and Impact**,” will also be addressed in the courses listed below. Please indicate your first, second, third, and fourth choices below, in order of preference, using the numerals (1), (2), (3) and (4). Every effort will be made to give you your first choice, but many students will necessarily be assigned a subsequent choice because of demand for a particular subject, demographic diversity, or teacher availability. Therefore, think very carefully about your second, third, and fourth choices.

- Topics in Agriculture (e.g. contemporary issues, concerns) _____
- Topics in Business (e.g. Marketing, Management, Economics, Finance) _____
- Topics in Education (e.g. learning, human development) _____
- Topics in Health Sciences/Human Services (e.g. Nursing, Social Work) _____
- Topics in Humanities & Fine Arts (e.g. Music, Literature, History, Art) _____
- Topics in Social Sciences (e.g. Psychology, Sociology, Government) _____
- Topics in Communications/Media Studies (e.g. Journalism, RTV) _____
- Topics in Science (e.g. Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Geosciences) _____
- Topics in Engineering (e.g. environmental engineering, design, physics) _____

Each elective course is based upon topics in one of the designated subject areas. You should choose your elective courses based on the course title, not upon the examples shown in parentheses. The material covered in the elective classes will be determined by the expertise of the instructor.

Both Academy courses will be graded using a standard collegiate grading system 90-100% = an A, 80-89% = a B, etc.



Essay

Directions: Please attach a typed essay, limited to two pages (double spaced, single side). Your essay will be evaluated for analytical thinking, clarity of thought and expression, insight, organization of material, writing ability, and originality, where appropriate. It should be prepared without assistance. Choose one of the three topics listed.

1. Describe your personal reaction to the theme chosen for this year's Academy, "The Ripple Effect: Intent and Impact."
2. What is the best book you have read in its entirety during the past year? How has it affected you?
3. What is the greatest challenge facing the United States during the next decade? What will your role be in the solution?



Commonwealth Honors Academy

Murray State University

Student and Parent/Legal Guardian Consent Statements

I hereby (a) consent to give access to confidential information (such as test scores and/or disciplinary records) to those involved in the selection process for the Commonwealth Honors Academy, and (b) indicate my commitment to remain in the program for the entire three weeks without interruption, if selected.

Print name of student

Student Signature

I hereby (a) consent to have my child participate for the full three weeks and abide by the Academy expectations, and (b) grant permission for school records to be released to support his/her application.

Print name of parent/legal guardian

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Counselor Form

Information below must be completed by high school counselor and may either be sent directly to the CHA office or given to the applicant in an envelope signed across the seal. Please attach a high school transcript.

Qualifying Tests: (Check qualifying test(s) and provide all subscores, composite scores, and percentiles.)

PLAN Date Taken _____ Composite _____ Percentile _____
English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____

ACT Date Taken _____ Composite _____ Percentile _____
English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____

PSAT Date Taken _____ Selection Index _____ Percentile _____
Verbal _____ Math _____ Writing Skills _____

SAT Date Taken _____ Percentile _____
Verbal _____ Math _____

High School Grade Point Average: Applicant's GPA is _____ and is based on a _____ scale.
Scale is: weighted or unweighted (please circle one)

High School Conduct:

Is this student on record (during the past two years) for any disciplinary infractions in violation of school policy or civil/criminal law? _____ No _____ Yes* (If yes, please provide a copy of the documentation.)

Please relate any conduct, or problematic behavior(s) that might impact this applicant's ability to handle the demands of the Commonwealth Honors Academy.

Guidance Counselor's Name : _____ Phone: _____
(Please print or type)

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail directly to CHA Office or give to student in a sealed envelope signed across the seal.



Teacher Recommendation I

DEADLINE: March 1, 2009

Please enclose the recommendation in an envelope, signed across the seal, and return it to the applicant to be mailed with the completed application packet. If preferred, mail the reference to: Commonwealth Honors Academy; 324 Wells Hall, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42071-3318.

Student's Name _____

School _____ School District _____

Teacher's Name _____

Subject(s) you have taught the applicant: _____

Grade Level(s): _____

1. Provide evidence of this applicant's . . .
 - a. Academic and intellectual achievement

 - b. Leadership qualities

 - c. Maturity and character

2. List this applicant's particular strengths and weaknesses as a student and as a person.

3. How much concentration and involvement does the applicant exhibit in the class? Is this on a sustained basis?

4. Please comment on the applicant's potential. List special talents and provide any additional information that may be helpful in the selection process.

5. Evaluate the applicant's attitude toward other students and teachers.

6. Please note if the applicant has any social or emotional problems that would impact this student's ability to handle the demands of the Commonwealth Honors Academy.

7. Please note any social or emotional problems that might impact other students' success in the Commonwealth Honors Academy.



Teacher Recommendation II

DEADLINE: March 1, 2008

Please enclose the recommendation in an envelope, signed across the seal, and return it to the applicant to be mailed with the completed application packet. If preferred, mail the reference to: Commonwealth Honors Academy, 324 Wells Hall, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42071-3318.

Student's Name _____

School _____ School District _____

Teacher's Name _____

Subject(s) you have taught the applicant: _____

Grade Level(s): _____

1. Provide evidence of this applicant's . . .
 - a. Academic and intellectual achievement

 - b. Leadership qualities

 - c. Maturity and character

2. What do you consider this applicant's particular strengths and weaknesses as a student and as a person?

3. How much concentration and involvement does the applicant exhibit in the class? Is this on a sustained basis?

4. Please comment on the applicant's potential. List special talents and provide any additional information that may be helpful in the selection process

5. Evaluate the applicant's attitude toward other students and teachers.

6. Please note any social or emotional problems that would impact this student's ability to handle the demands of the Commonwealth Honors Academy.

7. Please note if the applicant has any social or emotional problems that might impact other students' success in the Commonwealth Honors Academy.

Please estimate to what extent the applicant has demonstrated the qualities listed below. **6** represents outstanding and **1** represents below average. Circle the number most closely describing the applicant.

	<u>High</u>					<u>Low</u>
Enthusiasm for new topics/issues	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ability to grasp underlying principles/concepts	6	5	4	3	2	1
Logical reasoning ability	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ability to tolerate ambiguity	6	5	4	3	2	1
Initiative	6	5	4	3	2	1
Originality of thought/creativity	6	5	4	3	2	1
Willingness to adapt to new situations and changes in routine	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ability to work without close supervision	6	5	4	3	2	1
Emotional stability	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ability to manage stressful situations	6	5	4	3	2	1
Verbal ability	6	5	4	3	2	1
Writing ability	6	5	4	3	2	1
Organizational skills	6	5	4	3	2	1
Participation and attentiveness in class	6	5	4	3	2	1
Respect/consideration for other students	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ability to work with others/cooperation	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ability to accept and learn from failure	6	5	4	3	2	1

Imagine that you are taking a group of high school students on a field trip for a week, how eager would you be to have this student as a part of the group? (Circle the number that best reflects your response.)

6	5	4	3	2	1
Definitely Eager					Absolutely Not

Please explain your answer and make any additional comments about this applicant.