



Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science - 2026 Information Packet





Note to students interested in attending the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

Academy applications are made available to students attending the academy admission information sessions only.

The academy admission information session is designed to help students and their families make informed decisions regarding an educational pathway that is in the best interest of each student.

The academy approach to learning is different from the traditional high school setting and the decision to apply should be made after review and discussion of the material presented during the information session.





APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. You may apply to only one academy. You may attend as many information sessions as you like to help you decide which school is right for you.
2. Academy applications and admission materials can be accessed by attending one of the information sessions.
3. Complete the required application online. 7th grade final report card and 8th grade first marking period report card will be requested from your home school.
4. All applications **MUST** be submitted online by midnight on ***December 11, 2026***.
5. Take the admissions test on ***January 16, 2027***.

Acceptance Criteria

Applicants will be ranked using the following criteria:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| A) Academic grades | 7th grade
8th grade (first marking period) |
| B) Admissions Exam | |



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What must be included with my application?

A. The application must be completely filled out. Grade transcripts compiled from 7th grade and the first marking period of 8th grade will be requested from the students' home school. The deadline for applications will be December 11, 2026. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that the application is submitted on or before the deadline. Late applications WILL NOT be accepted.

Q. How competitive is the admissions process?

A. In general, there will be more applicants than available space. We assign scores to all applicants based on academic records and performance on our entrance exam.

Q. What happens if I am not accepted?

A. If you are not accepted but you meet the minimum criteria, your application will remain on file. Should an opening occur, your application may be reconsidered.

Q. What is on the entrance exam?

A. The exam contains three sections: mathematics, science and language arts literacy. Questions are multiple-choice.

Q. What if I am sick and miss the exam?

A. A make-up date will be available for the exam, based on the circumstances of the individual.

Q. How and when will I be notified of acceptance?

A. It will take approximately four weeks for all processing to be completed after the audition date. All applicants who have completed the admissions process will be notified by mail whether they have been accepted or not.

Q. Can I apply to more than one Career Academy?

A. No, you may only apply to one school. The Career Academies offer very specialized curricula. The Career Academies admissions process attempts to match students to the most appropriate program for that student. One of the first steps in that process is for you to choose the school that most fulfills your interests and abilities.

Q. How will I make arrangements for transportation and other costs?

A. The Ocean County Vocational Technical School District is a public school district. If you have been accepted, your resident school district will be notified and transportation will be provided by that district. You can expect to incur the same kinds of costs that you would in your resident school. Notebooks, pens, pencils, etc. are your responsibility to provide.



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science is a public high school administered by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School district. MATES is designed to give its students a rigorous academic curriculum with concentration in the areas of math, science, engineering and technology. The school exists within the community to provide a challenging, unique, hands-on learning experience for students interested in pursuing a math or science related career. The academy opened in September 2001 for students entering the ninth grade.

STUDENT SELECTION AND ADMISSION

Students are selected through a competitive application process and enter at the ninth grade level. Applicants must reside in Ocean County to be eligible for admission. All school districts in Ocean County are eligible to participate in sending applications to the program.

ADMISSION

To be eligible for admission the student should be enrolled in and successfully complete an eighth grade program that includes: English, math (Algebra I preferred), science, social studies and physical education.

NINTH GRADE COURSES OF STUDIES

Algebra I /Data Analysis	5 credits
Geometry	5 credits
English I	5 credits
Biology	5 credits
Chemistry I	5 credits
Spanish I or II	5 credits
World History	5 credits
Physical Education/Health	5 credits
Independent Research Study	5 credits

TRANSPORTATION

The student's resident district will be responsible for transporting the student to MATES.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The school day runs from 7:30AM until 1:43PM. Classes are offered in a block time similar to a typical college program. Each semester students receive a different schedule. The course of study meets and exceeds the New Jersey Student Learning standards.



Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES)

The mission of the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) is to provide an opportunity to students in Ocean County to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. Students of this academy will participate in an intimate, integrated, and challenging curriculum with a focus on marine and environmental science. MATES will empower its students with skills important to post-secondary study and employment in a global community.

BACKGROUND

The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science is one of the career academies administered by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District. Opened in September 2001, the school exists within the community to provide a unique, nurturing, and challenging hands-on learning experience for college bound and career-oriented students interested in pursuing a math or science-related field. MATES has been designed to give its students a rigorous academic curriculum with concentration in the areas of math, science, engineering and technology.

Located in Manahawkin, New Jersey, MATES is centrally located to the south of New York City, north of Atlantic City, and east of Philadelphia.

The Ocean County Vocational Technical School District is responsible for recruitment, admissions, and the instructional program. There are over 21,000 high school students enrolled in Ocean County Public Schools. MATES is a competitive, specialized high school that selects its students from applicants found within the public and private schools of Ocean County.

QUICK FACTS:

Type of School: Public

Grades Included: 9-12

Total Enrollment: 301 (as of September 2026)

CEEB Code: 311473



Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

COURSE OF STUDY

All courses are instructed utilizing a block scheduling format ~ Classes are 80 minutes. All students are accepted via a competitive application process and follow the same rigorous course of study. Students must successfully complete 161.25 high school credits or their college equivalent to graduate. All high school courses are taught at an honors/advanced level.

FRESHMAN YEAR	CREDIT(S)	JUNIOR YEAR	CREDIT(S)
English I	5	English III	5
Algebra I/ Data Analysis	5	Pre-Calculus	5
Geometry	5	Biotechnology (BIOL 1200)	5
Chemistry I	5	Physics (PHYS 2110/2120)	5
Biology	5	*Fall Elective	5
Physical Education I/Health I	5	*Spring Elective	5
World History	5	US History I	5
Spanish I or II	5	Physical Education III/Health III	3.75
Independent Research Study*		Financial Literacy	2.5
*Part of science program requirement		TOTAL:	41.25
TOTAL:	40		
SOPHOMORE YEAR	CREDIT(S)	SENIOR YEAR	CREDIT(S)
English II	5	English IV (LIT1100/1110)	5
Intro to Computer Science	5	Calculus I (MATH 2215)	5
Algebra II/Trigonometry	5	US History II	5
Chemistry II	5	Oceanography (MARS 1300) or	
Aquatic Ecology or		Adv. Oceanographic Research (MARS 1300)	5
Research Method/Field Ecology	5	Environmental Science (ENVL 1100) or	
Spanish II or III	5	Senior CS Capstone	5
Spanish III or IV (LANG 2142) or		Data Visualization with Python or	
Intro to Art (required or Option II Art)	5	Data Science	5
Health II/Driver's Education	1.25	*Elective	5
Physical Education II	3.75	Physical Education IV/ Health IV	5
TOTAL:	40	Total:	40

*Electives: Geographic Information Systems (GNM 1242); Geo/Astrophysics (GEOL 2120); Art History/Basic Drawing (GAH 2243/GAH 1261); Introduction to Art; 2D Art; Spanish IV (LANG 2142); Spanish V (LANG 2143); Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 1260); Data Visualization with Python; BioStatistics (CIST 1206); Public Speaking (GEN 2105); Intro to Engineering Design; Principles of Engineering

ALL COURSES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

MATES CLASS OF 2026 SAT RESULTS

Math: 687	State%(2026): 518	National%(2026): 545
Reading & Writing: 682	State%(2026): 523	National%(2026): 559





Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

Graduates of MATES have been offered acceptances to the following institutions:

American University	Franklin and Marshall College	University of Pittsburgh
Boston College	The George Washington University	Princeton University
Boston University	Georgetown University	Purdue University
Bowdoin College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Quinnipiac University
Brown University	Harvard University	Rensselaer Polytechnic University
Bucknell University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	University of Rhode Island
University of California at Berkeley	Johns Hopkins University	Rice University
California Institute of Technology	The Julliard School	University of Richmond
Carnegie Mellon University	Lafayette College	Rider University
Case Western Reserve University	Lehigh University	Rochester Institute of Technology
The Catholic University of America	Loyola Marymount University	University of Rochester
University of Chicago	University of Maryland	Rowan University
The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Rutgers University
Clemson University	University of Massachusetts	Seton Hall University
The College of New Jersey	University of Miami	Stanford University
The College of William & Mary	Monmouth University	Stevens Institute of Technology
Columbia University	Montclair State University	Stockton University
University of Connecticut	Muhlenberg University	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Cornell University	New Jersey Institute of Technology	SUNY Maritime College
University of Delaware	New York University	Swarthmore College
Dartmouth College	University of North Carolina	Syracuse University
Drew University	North Carolina State University	Temple University
Drexel University	Northeastern University	Texas A&M University
Duke University	Northwestern University	Tufts University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	University of Notre Dame	United States Naval Academy
Emory University	The Ohio State University	United States Air Force Academy United States
Florida Institute of Technology	University of Pennsylvania	United States Coast Guard Academy
Florida State University	Pennsylvania State University	The United States Military Academy at West Point
Fordham University		University of Virginia
		Vanderbilt University
		Villanova University
		Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
		Wake Forest University
		Webb Institute
		Worcester Polytechnic Institute
		Yale University





Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

MATES Calendar of Events (some examples of events and experiences in a given school year)

September	- Island Beach State Park Beach Plum Festival - Freshmen field experience week at Sedge Island, Barnegat Bay
October	- Fall Coffee House - PSAT/NMSQT - Clean Ocean Action Fall Beach Sweeps, Seaside Heights - Annual Student Summit at Island Beach State Park - Mole Day Activities (sophomores)
November	- Math League Competitions begin (competition schedule continues through Spring) - Robotics Team Competitions begin (competition schedule continues through Spring)
January	- After-School Educational Winter Outreach (students in grades 5-8) begins (January - March)
December	- Winter Semi-Formal - Jenkinson's Aquarium
February	- MATES Research Expo - Winter Coffee House
March	- Jersey Shore Science Fair
April	- New Jersey Academy of Science, Annual Meeting, Junior Academy Program - Environmental Educator's Roundtable - Lighthouse Camp, Waretown - Delaware Valley Science Fair - Terrapin Appreciation Week in Jenkinson's Aquarium + (other partners)
May	- Chemistry Olympics - Annual New Jersey Envirothon Competition - Junior/Senior Prom - National Honor Society Inductions - Ocean Fun Day - New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium
June	- Hatchling Release @ Island Beach State Park - Marine Conservation Zone Day Island Beach State Park



Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Art Club
Birding/Environmental Club(BEAK)
Book Club
Business/Finance Club
Chemistry Olympics
Envirothon
Extra-Curricular Athletics Club
Fishing Club
Focus on the Drive
Games Club
Gender and Sexualities Alliance
Independent Research
Interact Club
Literary Magazine
Math League
Mock Trial
Model UN
National Honor Society
Project Terrapin
Robotics
SkillsUSA
Spanish Club
Spanish National Honor Society
Student Government
Yearbook

2025 - 2026 MATES HIGHLIGHTS

- 9 National Merit Commended Scholars
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medalist
- Regeneron Talent Search Top 300 Award Winner
- Jersey Shore Science Fair - 39 Award Winners
- Delaware Valley Science Fair - 22 Award Winners
- New Jersey Academy of Science - 10 Award Winners
- American Junior Academy of Science - 8 NJ Delegates
- Envirothon - Teams placed 1st and 4th Overall; Category Wins in Aquatics, Wildlife, Current Issues and Forestry
- NCF Envirothon - Team placed 13th nationally
- NJ DEP Mapping Contest - 2 Award-Winning Projects
- SkillsUSA - 1st and 3rd Place Winner in NJ State Competition, 1 Qualifying Student for National Competition
- Mock Trial - Ocean County Champions, Southern Regional Champions, 3rd place in NJ State Competition



Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

Ocean County Vocational Technical School District

Paul DeFrancesco, Principal

John Wnek, Supervisor

Art

Melissa Hood

English

Mia Dill

Jennifer Hudak

Maryann Minnier

Health/Physical Education

Christine Capoano

Brian Coen

Melissa Galea

Mathematics

Lindsay Amendola

Michael Bixler

Michele Colon

Viktoria D'Agostino

Paul Fennimore

Laura Kinlin

Science/Technology

Brian Jones

Jason Kelsey

Kelly Kelsey

Juliana Perello

Adam Sprague

David Werner

Amy Williams

Social Studies

Nikki Ferrigno

Christopher Holland

Spanish

Patty Pachas-Araya

Ruth Wolf

Guidance

Kate Beacham

Julia Giglio-Stork

School Nurse

Marissa Laffan

Administrative Secretary

Christine Gemignani

Kathy Wixted

Custodians

Robert Carella

Joe Hojewski

Dave Morgan

Danny Napolitano

Michael Rozek

Cafeteria

Francine Brookover

Naomi Estrada



The mission of Ocean County Vocational Technical School is to provide an intensive and immersive educational experience aligned with the current and emerging demands of business, industry, and advanced education. We instill the knowledge, skills, and competencies required for students to experience success in entering the workforce, advancing along a career pathway, and achieving career aspirations.

It is the policy of the Board of Education of Ocean County Vocational Technical School not to discriminate in its technical programs, vocational opportunities, activities, employment practices or admission policies and practices on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, affectional and sexual orientation, disability or social or economic status. Lack of English language skills will not be a deterrent to admission to any program at Ocean County Vocational Technical School.

Inquiries regarding affirmative action, discrimination (including Federal Title IX requirements), sexual harassment or equity should be directed to: James Barbieri/Melanie Patterson, Title IX/Affirmative Action Office, 732-240-6414 (ext. 3318) or 732-473-3100 (ext. 3123) Melanie Patterson, Federal Section 504 Officer, 732-473-3100 (ext. 3123) Melanie Patterson, Americans with Disabilities Officer, 732-473-3100 (ext. 3123)

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator who fully and actively supports equal access for all people regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, veterans status, disability, genetic information or testing, family and medical leave, sexual orientation and gender identification and expression. We prohibit retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or practice in the investigation of any complaint, or otherwise oppose discrimination.



Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Frank Sadeghi.....Director/OCVTS Liaison
Commissioner Jennifer BacchioneDeputy Director
Commissioner Robert S. AraceMember/OCVTS Liaison
Commissioner Sam Ellenbogen.....Member
Commissioner Ray GormleyMember

Board of Education

Stephen Scaturro.....President
Maureen C. Stankowitz.....Vice President
Michael DonahueMember
Susan R. Naples.....Interim Executive County Superintendent/Member
Ronald L. Rosetto.....Member

OCVTS Central Administration

Gary L. MacDonald, Jr.....Superintendent
R. James Barbieri.....Assistant Superintendent
Stephen J. Brennan, CPA.....Business Administrator

OCVTS Administration

John Biscardi.....Principal, Waretown
Paul DeFrancesco.....Principal, MATES
Jeremy Dusza.....Principal, Adult Education
Jennifer Etzkorn.....Vice Principal, Jackson
Lauren Mattei.....Vice Principal, Brick
Christopher Mazur.....Vice Principal, GPAA
Thomas McInerney.....Principal, Jackson
Tierney Meeker.....Principal, GPAA
Melanie Patterson.....Principal, Student/Special Services
Jenna Rosenfeld.....Vice Principal, Toms River
Christine Santasieri.....Principal, Toms River/LPN
Lynn Sauer.....Principal, Brick
Tiffany Seeley.....Principal, ALPS
Dr. Michael Tash.....Principal, Technology
Dr. John Wnek.....Supervisor, MATES