NAF APPROACH
NAF’s educational design focuses on connecting the classroom to the workplace by integrating career-focused curricula and authentic learning projects into the traditional high school experience and offering real-world application opportunities. With a rigorous program of study and a progressive continuum of activities designed to build career awareness, exploration, and preparation, students gain the skills and knowledge needed to make informed choices and be successful in their future careers.

INDUSTRY NEED
Employment in computer and information technology (IT) occupations is projected to grow 13 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 667,600 new jobs. Demand for IT workers will stem from greater emphasis on cloud computing, the collection and storage of big data, and information security. People of color and women are underrepresented in all IT fields.

CURRICULUM
NAF’s Future Ready Learning hosts a wide array of instructional content vetted by industry experts, post-secondary instructors, and professional organizations. The Academy of Information Technology curriculum includes:

- Courses in information technology and computer science principles, coding, graphics, web, and digital design, computer networks and systems, and programming
- Authentic learning projects address real-world issues in partnership with career experts, including Tech Expeditions, Engineering Expeditions, and Computer Science Education Week challenges
- On-demand resources from Code.org

Essential partners supporting NAF’s Academy of Information Technology curriculum include Code.org, Cyber.org, SAP, Verizon, Lenovo, World Wide Technology, Master Card, Computer Science Teacher Association (CSTA), and Dentsu.

WORK-BASED LEARNING
Business professionals play a significant role in helping students see the connections between high school and the world of work. NAF collaborates with major corporations, post-secondary institutions, and local companies to provide career readiness and work-based learning experiences throughout the academy experience.

These activities enable students to connect directly with professionals in IT to learn first-hand about careers in the industry and the skills needed to thrive in computer science and IT. Adults serve as role models and mentors to students, guiding them to grow their business acumen and technical knowledge through a continuum of interactions. Businesses that collaborate with NAF academies play an active and integral role in shaping the future workforce and building a talent pipeline.

*The Bureau of Labor Statistics
87% of students are females and/or ethnic minorities

64% Male
36% Female
<1% Gender non-conforming or unknown

Hispanic/Latino 46%
Black/African American 25%
White 19%
Asian 5%
Other/Multi-Racial 3%
Unknown 1%
Pacific Islander 1%
Native American/Alaska Native <1%

22% Seniors with internships
89% College-bound graduates

74% Eligible for free/reduced price lunch
21% English language learners

99% of seniors graduated

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