



Laser Photonics Academy

Wekiva High School

2501 N. Hiawasse Road | Apopka, FL 32703

407.297.4900 | wekiva.hs.ocps.net

MAGNET MATTERS

Name of Magnet: Laser Photonics Academy

Name of School: Wekiva High School

Magnet Focus/Theme: Designed to develop practical knowledge and skills in laser optics, fiber optics, and electro-optical devices, students prepare for successful careers in business and industry, construction, telecommunications, industrial manufacturing, medicine, entertainment, and the military. An in-depth sequence of laboratory experiences develops the hands-on skills needed for specifying, operating, and maintaining laser and photonics-based systems. A partnership with Valencia College provides the opportunity for students to take college credit courses and earn potential early admission.

Key Personnel

- Principal: Dr. Tamara Baker-Drayton
- Magnet Administrator: Mr. Eddie Foster – Eddie.Foster@ocps.net
- Magnet Coordinator: Mr. Travis Brown -- travis.brown@ocps.net

Website Link: [Laser Photonics Academy](#)

Notable Quotes:

"It applies a real-world experience to the academic classes we are taking in Math and Science" – 2020 Graduate of Wekiva High School

"Northrop Grumman has been an outstanding partner, assisting us in creating a program that prepares students for the workforce in the 21st century" – *Assistant Principal (Retired), Wekiva High School*

"With their vision, guidance and financial support, our Laser Photonics students receive hands-on, real-world applications with the use of lasers and electronics." – *Magnet Coordinator, Wekiva High School*



**Orange County
Public Schools**



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The theme of the Laser Photonics Magnet Program is “Pinpoint Your Future through Laser and Photonics.” The program is designed as a dual enrollment program in partnership with Valencia College for students showing an interest and aptitude in Science, Mathematics, and Technology. The program’s rigorous course offerings increase student awareness of the expanding job opportunities available in electrical engineering, photonics and optics, teach skills needed for the field, and foster close ties with industry and post-secondary institutions. The Laser Photonics Academy prepares students for career opportunities in the field of laser and photonics technology and gives students a chance to earn 39 college credits along with their secondary school diploma. The program provides students with exciting scientific experiences through unique teaching methods focused on understanding the application of electronic, fiber optic, photonic, and laser principles. The hands-on learning prepares students for real-world projects and practical applications. The program curriculum is supported by expertise through partnerships with Valencia College, Northrop Grumman, and University of Central Florida. Students throughout the Orange County School District may apply for this program. Participating students enter the program as freshmen and a limited number may enter as sophomores.

Please note that bus transportation is *not* provided for this program.

Specific Eligibility Requirements: Applicant’s schedule must be able to accommodate magnet classes. Successful completion of Algebra 1 and at least a 2.5 GPA is recommended.