

# Fact Sheet

## Charles H. Walsh Sr. Academy & Career Tech High School

### About Us

At Walsh Academy, career readiness isn't just a goal, it is the foundation of everything we do. A program of Maryville, Walsh Academy was originally opened in 2007 as Jen School in Des Plaines and has since evolved into a pioneering institution - the first of its kind in Illinois and perhaps the nation - dedicated to preparing diverse learners for high-demand careers in the trades or for success in college.

Since relocating in fall 2023 in Niles, IL, Walsh Academy has continued this vision with a comprehensive curriculum that blends academics, career technical education and social emotional learning. As the only non-public special education school in the state with a certified special education teacher, a social worker and a paraprofessional in every classroom, we provide a uniquely supportive and enriched learning environment.

 Proud recipient of the NASET School of Excellence Award 12 years in a row

 **AGE 14-22**  
Ages of students



Comprehensive high school offering:

- Academics
- Social emotional learning
- Vocational



- Open enrollment policy
- Classroom size: 10

### What We Offer

- Comprehensive academic high school curriculum
- integrated social emotional learning curriculum with a social worker or counselor in every classroom
- Career technical education program

### Why Walsh Academy

It is unique for these reasons:

- It is the first school of its kind in Illinois - and possibly the nation - specifically designed to guide students into lucrative careers in the skilled trades or onto successful college pathways.
- Students engage in hands-on learning through career technical education (CTE) programs in areas such as carpentry, computer technology, culinary arts, etc.
- It offers individualized transition planning that align with the student's strength, interests and goals.
- It builds meaningful partnerships with local businesses, municipalities and post-secondary institutions, creating bridges to the workforce and continuing education.
- It gives students direct access to professional environments before graduation through real-world experiences like internships, job shadowing and industry partnerships.



### Contact Us

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ACADEMY & CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL  
A program of Maryville