

# NORTH CAROLINA A&T AGGIE ACADEMY

Grades 3–5 | Public [Lab School](#) | Greensboro, NC



Aggie Academy is a part of the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical (N.C. A&T) State University and opened its doors in August 2022. Students and faculty at Aggie Academy benefit from the proximity to doctoral research at N.C. A&T State's College of Education and seek to act as a laboratory for the latest innovations and best practices for students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Aggie Academy's educational philosophy is rooted in culturally responsive teaching practices and strong parent-school partnerships. It seeks to foster a nurturing environment while providing hands-on learning opportunities that ensure learning is relevant and rigorous for every student.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Serves 70 students
- 94% Black student body
- 6% multi-racial student body
- 10% of students have IEPs

*Informed by conversations with N.C. A&T Aggie Academy leadership.*

## AGGIE ACADEMY'S MISSION

"Aggie Academy will engage students in culturally sustaining and experiential learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) to foster innovators, collaborative problem solvers, effective communicators and proactive 21st century global citizens."



[Scan or click to watch a video about Aggie Academy](#)



## COMMITMENTS

"Aggie Academy is committed to:

- Culturally responsive and sustainable teaching and learning practices
- Holistic child development through building social-emotional learning (SEL) skills and restorative practices (RP)
- Developing critical and creative thinking skills through integrated STEAM curriculum and Inquiry-based and experiential learning opportunities
- Intentional and purposeful family and community engagement."

Lastly, Aggie Academy is committed to serving students who are not performing at grade level or are assigned to a low-performing school in the county. [Read more about their admissions practices.](#)



## HBCU ETHOS IN ACTION

### Nurturing, High-Touch Environment

Through an intentionally small learning community, students at Aggie Academy experience a family-like and nurturing atmosphere as well as individualized attention and support.

### High Expectations with Rigorous Learning

At Aggie Academy, all students are held to high expectations and are supported to build skills for collegiate success. They are regularly exposed to HBCU communities, traditions, and events, igniting their excitement to attend college in the future.

### Focus on Black History, Identity, and Community

Jr. Aggie Scholars have diverse opportunities to learn about Black history, explore aspects of their identity, and connect with Black leaders in the community, helping them to develop a positive sense of self and respect for the identities of others.

### Integrity, Leadership, and Civic Engagement

Integrity and leadership are important values at Aggie Academy. Restorative practices are used on site and students have opportunities to lead their peers and engage with leaders across different fields.



These are just a few of the many practices that bring an HBCU-like ethos to life at Aggie Academy.

## Nurturing, High-Touch Environment

### Small Class Size



The **small school size** and **class size** at Aggie Academy create increased opportunities for students to engage with teachers and receive one-on-one attention. This design decision also enables students to receive supplemental instruction from N.C A&T's faculty and teacher candidates, helping ensure students who are struggling receive the support they need.



### Formal Mentorship



In the future, Aggie Academy plans to develop a **mentoring program** with N.C. A&T State University students. Here, the goal is to support students' transition to middle school, as they may not experience the same support system that they have while at Aggie Academy.

### Differentiation & Remediation



Time for **enrichment** and **remediation** is intentionally built into students' schedules. During small group instruction, students are retaught content and skills they have not yet mastered in previous grades. Teachers use every minute of the school day to reinforce, reteach, remediate, and enrich learning so that students graduate from Aggie Academy on grade level.



## High Expectations with Rigorous Learning

### Expectations for Community Membership



High standards are set through clear definitions of what it means to be a student at Aggie Academy, holding the **N.C. A&T State University name**, and the firm belief that *all* students are capable. At Aggie Academy, students are not allowed to get by with not completing their work to the best of their abilities. Additionally, students are expected to engage in **productive struggle**, problem solve, test out theories, try out new things, and even “fail” as part of the learning process.



### Exposure to HBCU Communities & Events



Through a partnership with a top-tier doctoral research university, students at Aggie Academy have ample opportunities to visit the University's research labs, access university resources, and attend university events. The **University welcomes Aggie Academy students** onto their campus, making them feel part of the college community and experience. Additionally, different service organizations on campus come to work with the students. Together these practices help spark students' excitement around going to college.



### Collegiate Success Skill Building



Through an integrated STEAM curriculum and experiential learning opportunities, students build a wide range of **critical and creative thinking skills**—essential skills for collegiate and professional success. Additionally, staff teach skills needed to attend, persist in, and graduate from a four-year university.



## Celebrations of Student Success

At Aggie Academy, the whole community comes together to celebrate student success.



## Access to Trailblazers in the Black Community

Students are regularly exposed to **living legends** and positive role models in the Black community. Through these conversations and experiences, students learn that their history didn't die out at a certain time and isn't just defined by pop culture. Rather they learn about Black history and contributions firsthand, allowing them to make deeper connections between the past and present and begin to see themselves as trailblazers too.



## Focus on Black History, Identity, and Community

## All Studies are Black Studies

In alignment with their commitment to culturally responsive and sustainable teaching and learning practices, Aggie Academy leadership is very **careful in their selection of curriculum** and what instructional tools they use with students. Students learn about Black history, often making close historical connections to the **civil rights movement** in Greensboro. Additionally, through the curricula students learn about the diversity of the Black diaspora.



Chancellor Martin and Provost Smith-Jackson share their knowledge of integration and the role N.C. A&T State played in the Civil Rights Movement.

## Discussions of Identity & Experiences



Jr. Aggie Scholars have regular discussions facilitated by school counselors around **identity**. Through these conversations students discover more about themselves, what it means to be kind or a good citizen, and more. Additionally, through **Seminar** students learn how to debate, have a difference of opinion, and grow their awareness of different cultures and their own identity.



## Staff as Mirrors



Faculty and staff at Aggie Academy are predominately Black, reflecting the student body. Many parents choose to send their students to Aggie Academy for this very reason, so that students see Black leadership and excellence in education.



Recently, N.C. A&T State University's Women's Basketball Team visited Aggie Academy to teach students basic basketball skills!

## Intergenerational Experiences



Aggie Academy is purposeful around **family and community engagement**. Throughout the year, they hold a variety of cultural celebrations, bringing together students, their families, and broader community. Additionally, student groups and other community members are regularly welcomed into the building to interact with the students, strengthening intergenerational bonds.



### Restorative Justice



Aggie Academy makes sure that they use **restorative practices**. When community expectations are breached, students are provided with the opportunity to have conversations around and reflect upon what they did wrong and how it impacts the community.



### Student Leadership Opportunities



Jr. Aggie Scholars also have opportunities to be **leaders when working in small, flexible groups**. This time allows them to practice their leadership skills and collaborate with their peers.



A focus on leadership is an important part of the Aggie Academy experience. For example, in September 2022, Aggie Academy students had the opportunity to meet First Lady Jill Biden and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.