

## *Zoo Academy for Millard Students*

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January 2018

Millard Public Schools will participate in a partnership with the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium to offer classes to high school juniors and seniors selected to participate in the Zoo Academy along with students from other local school districts. It is estimated that three Millard students entering 11th grade in 2018-2019 will be accepted to participate in the Zoo Academy. Students entering 12th grade in 2018-2019 may be accepted on a space available basis.

Students should consider their career interests when applying to participate in the Zoo Academy. Participants in the Zoo Academy may select either an Animal Science Pathway or a Conservation Research Pathway. Similar to the MPS Career Academies, the Zoo Academy students will take classes that are not available in the traditional high school setting. These accredited classes will be taught by certified high school teachers at the Henry Doorly Zoo. Students will attend their Millard high school half of their school day and would travel to the Zoo for the remaining half day. Participation in the Zoo Academy requires a two year commitment. Participants will earn 22.5 credits per semester toward Millard high school graduation as identified on the attached course descriptions.

The Academy will provide students with the opportunity to observe, shadow and work alongside zoo professionals and researchers. Students who are interested in pursuing a career in animal science or conservation should consider applying to the Zoo Academy.

### Eligibility:

- Be in 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2018-19 school year;
- Be on-track for graduation and enrolled in your assigned high school for the entire school year;
- Submit 3 recommendation forms completed by a teacher or administrator at their school;
- Have parental consent for participation;
- Submit an application;
- Be responsible for transportation to the Henry Doorly Zoo. Millard Public Schools will not provide transportation to the zoo.

There are a limited number of seats available for Millard students and the application process may be highly competitive. Be sure to complete all aspects of your application on time.

All district policies and procedures regarding release of student information will be followed.

Please refer to the attached application and course information.

***Applications should be submitted to your counselor by January 12, 2018.***

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## Animal Science Course Pathway

The animal science pathway has been developed to introduce students to a variety of caring for wildlife careers. Students will develop the basic skills and knowledge through a series of courses to help them pursue a professional career in caring for animals, veterinary science, veterinary technician, wildlife management, ecology and conducting research on endangered species.

### Science Courses

#### **Zoology**

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

Students will study animals, emphasizing evolutionary and ecological relationships, and aspects of animal organization that unite major animal phyla and animal adaptations. Students will also understand animal form and function using a comparative approach and includes an appropriate balance between invertebrate and vertebrate descriptions. Labs are included in each part of this course. Requires concurrent enrollment in Animal Care Work Experience.

#### **Animal Care Work Experience**

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

This course is designed to assist the students to acquire career skills in zoo keeping, animal management, ecology, horticulture, conservation, research, and other Zoo related professions by shadowing animal management professionals. Requires concurrent enrollment in Zoology.

#### **Comparative Anatomy & Physiology**

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

Comparative Anatomy and Physiology provides instruction in anatomy and physiology of domestic and exotic animals. The course focus is on skeletal, musculature, renal, ophthalmic, cardiac, and respiratory systems. Lab activities focus on skeletal identification and dissection of related body systems of animals.

#### **Veterinary Science**

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

This course deals with the role of veterinary medicine as it relates to domesticated and exotic animals. Students learn about basic vet practices and lab procedures, animal health and nutrition, and general behavioral concepts. A special focus is placed on companion animals. Career exploration is a strong component of this course and is intended to provide student with opportunities to learn about the wide variety of options in the animal care fields. Shadowing experiences are arranged at various Omaha veterinary practices. Requires concurrent enrollment in Veterinary Science Work Experience.

#### **Veterinary Science Work Experience**

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*



## Animal Science Course Pathway

### Social Studies Courses

**US Government with a focus on Environmental Policy**      *MPS US Government & Economics, 5 credits*  
This semester-long course examines the political landscape of the United States, through a specific emphasis of how the government develops and establishes policies regarding the environment. The course begins with an overview of the guiding principles of the formation of the government, before examining the role of different governmental and non-governmental agencies in formulating policies and legislation. Students will also examine how the policy of the United States contrasts to international frameworks on the environment. The varying levels of government will also be examined to see how policy is implemented at state, local, national, and international scales.

**International Relations/ Global Studies**      *MPS Social Studies Elective or  
Human Resources Elective, 5 credits*

This course exposes students to the wide range of relationship the United States has with foreign countries. Students will explore the structures of Foreign Governments, import and export laws, research techniques and the process to obtain international permits.

**Biogeography**      *MPS Social Studies Elective, 10 credits*

Biogeography deals with the spatial distribution of the planet's plants and animals over time, as well as the physical forces that impact them. Among others, biogeography draws from climatology, and ecology, to better understand the distributions and diverseness of the planet's organisms. The study of biogeography seeks to better understand distributions of species, and connections to the physical landscapes. Students will utilize local, and remote resources to better understand process such as speciation, adaptation, and the effects of change.



## Animal Science Course Pathway

### English Courses

#### English 11

*MPS English 11 Requirement, 10 credits*

This course is a general Language Arts survey course of major American writers and their contributions to the development of our literary heritage. It is designed to provide a broad base of instruction in literature, composition, speech, and research for general curriculum students. Students will explore various texts and genres, including novels, drama, poetry, short stories, letters, non-print media, and nonfiction selections. This course will examine common themes prevalent in American literature.

#### Environmental English (meets standards for 12 grade English)

*MPS English Elective, 10 credits*

This course will provide students the opportunity to survey examples of science and nature writing, ecocriticism, and the development of environmental and conservation-related themes in literature over time. Students will also explore the role of place in the development of culture, community and literature. Students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including: articles, speeches, memoirs, essays, field journals, drama and poetry. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills will be emphasized with focus on both APA and MLA-based research styles, traditional and digital formats observation, interpretation and analysis.

### Math Courses

#### Algebra 2

*MPS Algebra II Math Credit, 10 credits*

#### Algebra 3/ Pre-Calculus

*MPS Precalculus Math Credit, 10 credits*



## Animal Science Course Pathway

### Elective Courses

#### **Zoo Operations (Zoo Orientation)**

*MPS Elective, 5 credits*

This course provides an exploration of a variety of career paths and an overview of the business structure of a nonprofit organization. Students learn the Zoo's mission and core strategies. After learning, the fundamentals of the Zoo students are involved in ways to improve the Zoo. Students will present their proposed improvements to Zoo management.

#### **Conservation Service Learning (Senior Capstone)**

*MPS Elective, 5 credits*

This project-based learning course will engage students in science service experiences within the community. Service learning is the integration of service and learning where each is valued as necessary for the other. It is a way of learning that takes place through and within the performance of meaning full service to the community, and a way to enriching service through academic learning. Students will develop and commit to a sustained community service project with the approval from Zoo staff and teachers. The students will present their work to the public.

#### **Zoo Independent Study**

*MPS Elective, 5 credits*

Student directed project. The project can be career focus, animal focus, animal care focus, or project presented by the Zoo. Project-based learning fundamentals are used in this course. Students design, propose, and present their project to a panel. The panel will consist of teachers and staff from the Zoo. The final presentation of this project will be public.



## Conservation Research Course Pathway

The conservation research pathway has been developed to introduce students to a variety of conservation research careers. Students will develop the basic skills and knowledge through a series of courses to help them pursue a professional career in conservation biology, conservation geneticist, endanger species management, habitat management, ecology, and conducting research on endangered species.

### Science Courses

#### Introduction to Research

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

This course introduces students to research. Students will go through the scientific process by design animal behavior studies. The students will learn how to design a study, review literature to support research, implement the study, collect and analyze data, and present findings to zoo professionals.

#### Honors Research

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

This course consists of individualized research conducted with the business operations of the Zoo. This could include customer relations, graphics, genetics, conservation and nutrition. Students interested in Zoo research must have a good understand of biology, math, and chemistry. The students will go through an interviewing process with zoo scientist and will be placed in one of the following areas: reproductive physiology lab, aquarium research, nutrition lab, genetics lab, endangered plant species lab, or other areas of interest. Some of the activities include: analyzing endocrines, setting up eco-systems and testing the environment, working with PCR microsatellites or plant propagation.

#### Environmental Science (Ecology)

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

Students develop insights and skills needed to make decision regarding the environment. The class will provide the student basic knowledge on ecosystems and how they work. In addition, the student will learn how they affect the environment, what they can do to use the environment wisely, and preserve what is left. This course will include hands-on experience, simulations, and outside activities. In the end, the student will learn about the world they live in.

#### Genetics

*MPS Science Elective, 10 credits*

This course introduces students to the principles of genetics with application to the study of biological function at the level of molecules, cells, and multicellular organisms, including animals. The topics include: structure and function of genes, chromosomes and genomes, biological variation resulting from recombination, mutation, and selection, population genetics, use of genetic methods to analyze protein function, gene regulation, coat color chemistry, inherited disease, and biotechnology.



## Conservation Research Course Pathway

### Social Studies Courses

#### **US Government with a focus on Environmental Policy**

*MPS US Government & Economics, 5 credits*

This semester-long course examines the political landscape of the United States, through a specific emphasis of how the government develops and establishes policies regarding the environment. The course begins with an overview of the guiding principles of the formation of the government, before examining the role of different governmental and non-governmental agencies in formulating policies and legislation. Students will also examine how the policy of the United States contrasts to international frameworks on the environment. The varying levels of government will also be examined to see how policy is implemented at state, local, national, and international scales.

#### **International Relations/ Global Studies**

*MPS Social Studies Elective or Human Resources Elective,  
5 credits*

This course exposes students to the wide range of relationship the United States has with foreign countries. Students will explore the structures of Foreign Governments, import and export laws, research techniques and the process to obtain international permits.

#### **Behavioral Studies (Sociology & Psychology)**

*MPS Social Studies Elective or  
Human Resources Elective, 5 credits*

Behavioral Studies incorporates the ideas of the social sciences, specifically the principles of sociology and psychology, to better understand the ideas of group dynamics, and individual behaviors. Students will utilize scientific theory and methods to examine the principles of behavior, socialization, and the incorporation of individuals, in the context of a single individual, or as part of a larger whole. By planning and conducting studies, to be complete around the local community, students will gain a better understanding of the types of interactions and learned behaviors that take place around them, and come up with methods to improve a social experience. A large emphasis will be placed on the usage of scientific theory and methods, to design and conduct social experiments with the goal of increasing awareness of social forces, and improving an experience. In doing so, students will improve their understanding of scientific research and research methods.

First semester psychology

Second semester sociology



## Conservation Research Course Pathway

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*MPS English 11 Requirement, 10 credits*

This course is a general Language Arts survey course of major American writers and their contributions to the development of our literary heritage. It is designed to provide a broad base of instruction in literature, composition, speech, and research for general curriculum students. Students will explore various texts and genres, including novels, drama, poetry, short stories, letters, non-print media, and nonfiction selections. This course will examine common themes prevalent in American literature.

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### Math Courses

#### Math Courses Algebra 2

*MPS Algebra II Math Credit, 10 credits*

#### Algebra 3/ Pre-Calculus

*MPS Precalculus Math Credit, 10 credits*



## Conservation Research Course Pathway

### Elective Courses

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#### **Conservation Service Learning (Senior Capstone)**

**12**

MPS Elective, 5 credits

This project-based learning course will engage students in science service experiences within the community. Service learning is the integration of service and learning where each is valued as necessary for the other. It is a way of learning that takes place through and within the performance of meaning full service to the community, and a way to enriching service through academic learning. Students will develop and commit to a sustained community service project with the approval from Zoo staff and teachers. The students will present their work to the public.

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## Animal Science Pathway (AM)

(Students will select 2 courses on A Day, 2 on B Day and 1 on C Day)

	A Day		B Day		C Day (Friday)
	Block 1 7:30–8:50 am	Block 2 8:50–10:20 am	Block 1 7:30–8:50 am	Block 2 8:50–10:20 am	
Science	Zoology	Zoology	Animal Care Work Experience (Zoology Internship)	Animal Care Work Experience (Zoology Internship)	<u>Electives:</u>  *Zoo Operations (1 year)  *Conservation Service Learning (2 year)  *Zoo Independent Study
	Veterinary Science		Veterinary Science Work Experience (Internship)		
			Comparative Anatomy & Physiology		
Social Studies	US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	Biogeography (2semesters)		US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	
English	Environmental English	English 11	English 11	Environmental English	
Math	Algebra 2	Algebra 3/ Pre-Calculus			

## Animal Science Pathway (PM)

(Students will select 2 courses on A Day, 2 on B Day and 1 on C Day)

	A Day		B Day		C Day (Friday)
	Block 3 12:20-1:40 pm	Block 4 1:40-3:00 pm	Block 3 12:20-1:40 pm	Block 4 1:40-3:00 pm	
Science	Veterinary Science	Zoology	Veterinary Science Work Experience (Internship)	Animal Care Work Experience (Zoology Internship)	<u>Electives:</u>  *Zoo Operations (1 year)  *Conservation Service Learning (2 year)  *Zoo Independent Study
				Comparative Anatomy & Physiology	
Social Studies	US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)		Biogeography (2semesters)	US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	
English	Environmental English	English 11	English 11	Environmental English	
Math	Algebra 2	Algebra 3/ Pre-Calculus			

## Conservation Research Pathway (AM)

(Students will select 2 courses on A Day, 2 on B Day and 1 on C Day)

	A Day		B Day		C Day (Friday)
	Block 1 7:30–8:50 am	Block 2 8:50–10:20 am	Block 1 7:30–8:50 am	Block 2 8:50–10:20 am	7:30-10:20 am
Science		Honors Research	Introduction to Research	Introduction to Research	<u>Electives:</u>  *Zoo Operations (1 year)  *Conservation Service Learning (2 year)  *Zoo Independent Study
			Environmental Science	Environmental Science	
				Genetics	
Social Studies	US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)		<i>Behavioral Science:</i> Psychology (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Sociology (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)	US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	
English	Environmental English	English 11	English 11	Environmental English	
Math	Algebra 2	Algebra 3/ Pre-Calculus			

## Conservation Research Pathway (PM)

(Students will select 2 courses on A Day, 2 on B Day and 1 on C Day)

	A Day		B Day		C Day (Friday)
	Block 3 12:20-1:40 pm	Block 4 1:40-3:00 pm	Block 3 12:20-1:40 pm	Block 4 1:40-3:00 pm	12:20-3:00 pm
Science	Genetics	Honors Research	Genetics	Introduction to Research	<u>Electives:</u>  *Zoo Operations (1 year)  *Conservation Service Learning (2 year)  *Zoo Independent Study
			Environmental Science	Environmental Science	
			Introduction to Research		
Social Studies	US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	<i>Behavioral Science:</i> Psychology (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Sociology (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)		US Government (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)/ International Relations (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	
English	Environmental English	English 11	English 11	Environmental English	
Math	Algebra 2	Algebra 3/ Pre-Calculus			





## **Zoo Academy Application Directions**

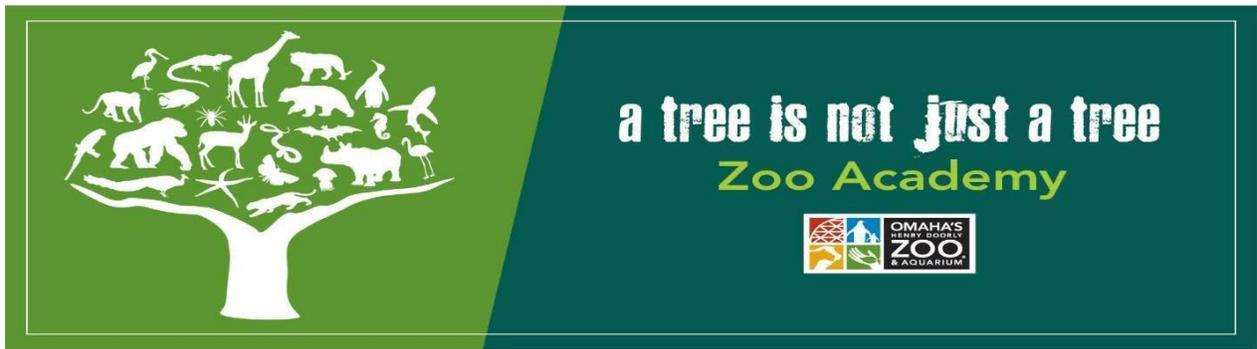
**Student:** *All documents are fillable forms, please complete electronically.*

- Complete cover sheet and application
- Request Recommendations
- Submit completed cover sheet, application and recommendations to counselor by January 12, 2018

**Counselor:**

- Complete page 2 of cover sheet
- Submit to the attention of:

Elizabeth Mulkerrin  
Henry Doorly Zoo  
3701 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68107



## Zoo Academy Cover Sheet

Please return completed packet (Cover Sheet and Application) to Elizabeth Mulkerrin by January 19, 2018

*To be completed by student*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student #: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

### Counselor/Administrator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Information:

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/ Guardian Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Completed by school counselor**

Select course pathway:

Select:

**Completed by Omaha Zoo Official**

**Negative Test Results:**

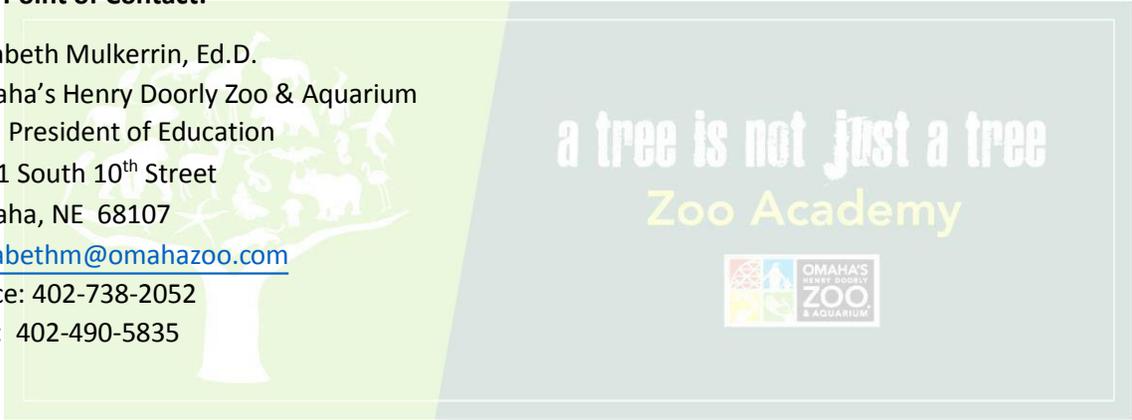
**TB Test:** Yes or No                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**10-point DOT Test:** Yes or No    Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This application is complete. Includes Cover Sheet and Student Application.

**Zoo Point of Contact:**

Elizabeth Mulkerrin, Ed.D.  
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium  
Vice President of Education  
3701 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68107  
[elizabethm@omahazoo.com](mailto:elizabethm@omahazoo.com)  
office: 402-738-2052  
Cell: 402-490-5835



# Zoo Academy Student Application

## I. APPLICANT INFORMATION (*to be completed by student*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

High School Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Career Interests 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Information (*to be completed by student*)

Please list your school activities, church/temple activities, community activities, honor received and offices held:



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any courses, volunteering or training you have completed which will aid us in evaluating your qualifications for Zoo Academy:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. APPLICATE ESSAY (*to be completed by the student*)

Please explain why

- a) You are applying for the Zoo Academy, and how participating in this program will benefit your future career plans. (You may attach an additional sheet to this application, but please do not exceed 250 words)

\_\_\_\_\_

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III. PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION (*to be completed by parent/guardian of applicant*)

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person with whom the student resides \_\_\_\_\_

If parent address is different than the student address, please list the parent address below

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain briefly why your child would be a good candidate for Zoo Academy.

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Recommendation sheets have been given to the following people:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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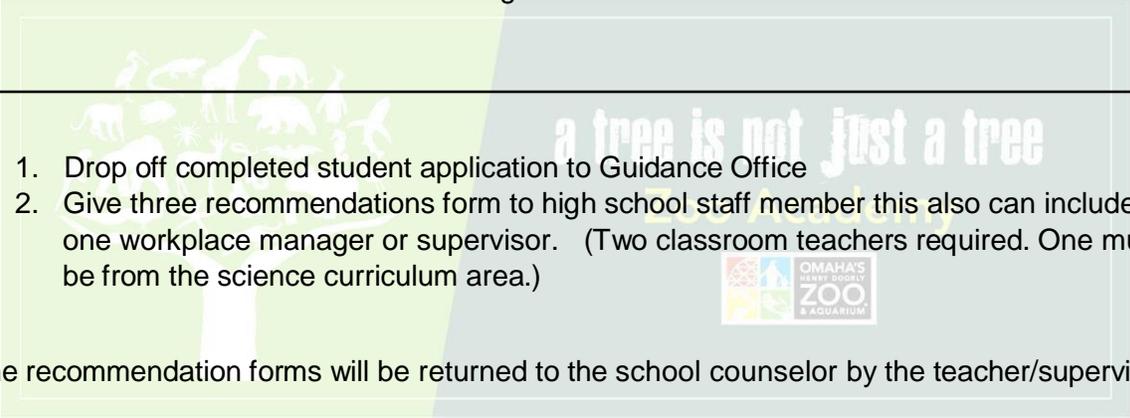
Date

Student Signature

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Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

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1. Drop off completed student application to Guidance Office
  2. Give three recommendations form to high school staff member this also can include one workplace manager or supervisor. (Two classroom teachers required. One must be from the science curriculum area.)

The recommendation forms will be returned to the school counselor by the teacher/supervisor.

Date submitted \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM #1

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

The following checklist is provided for those who know the student well enough to give an accurate assessment of him/her. We hope that it will provide a convenient method to describe the candidate in summary fashion.

No Basis for Judgement		Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent (Top 10%)
	Responsibility				
	Attitude				
	Effort				
	Interpersonal Skills				
	Personal Values and Ethics				
	Classroom Achievement				
	Absences/Tardies				

If you wish to give reasons for any of your ratings, please do so here. Often times, an explanation for the significance of ratings is helpful during the selection process.

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Please feel free to make other comments that will indicate your estimation of this student's qualifications for Zoo Academy.

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This student is on track towards graduation from this high school and is academically qualified for Zoo Academy.

- I recommend the above student be accepted into Zoo Academy.
- I do not recommend that the above student be accepted in Zoo Academy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM #2

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

The following checklist is provided for those who know the student well enough to give an accurate assessment of him/her. We hope that it will provide a convenient method to describe the candidate in summary fashion.

No Basis for Judgement		Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent (Top 10%)
	Responsibility				
	Attitude				
	Effort				
	Interpersonal Skills				
	Personal Values and Ethics				
	Classroom Achievement				
	Absences/Tardies				

If you wish to give reasons for any of your ratings, please do so here. Often times, an explanation for the significance of ratings is helpful during the selection process.

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Please feel free to make other comments that will indicate your estimation of this student's qualifications for the Zoo Academy.

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This student is on track towards graduation from this high school and is academically qualified for Zoo Academy.

- I recommend the above student be accepted into Zoo Academy.
- I do not recommend that the above student be accepted in Zoo Academy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM #3

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

The following checklist is provided for those who know the student well enough to give an accurate assessment of him/her. We hope that it will provide a convenient method to describe the candidate in summary fashion.

No Basis for Judgement		Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent (Top 10%)
	Responsibility				
	Attitude				
	Effort				
	Interpersonal Skills				
	Personal Values and Ethics				
	Classroom Achievement				
	Absences/Tardies				

If you wish to give reasons for any of your ratings, please do so here. Often times, an explanation for the significance of ratings is helpful during the selection process.

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Please feel free to make other comments that will indicate your estimation of this student's qualifications for Zoo Academy.

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This student is on track towards graduation from this high school and is academically qualified for Zoo Academy.

- I recommend the above student be accepted into Zoo Academy.
- I do not recommend that the above student be accepted in Zoo Academy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_