

Meet your 2026-2027 Bartram Trail Career Academy Team!

At Bartram Trail High School, Career Academies provide students with the opportunity to explore their interests through a specialized sequence of courses focused on a specific career field. Students gain hands-on, real-world experiences, connect with industry professionals, earn certifications, and develop skills that prepare them for college and future careers. Academies create a supportive learning community where students with shared interests can learn, grow, and discover their potential while still enjoying a full high school experience.



Mrs. Bransford-Career Academy Specialist

I am an educator and instructional leader with over 19 years of experience in the St. Johns County School District. As a Career Academy Specialist, I focus on creating student-centered opportunities that drive growth in academy enrollment, industry certifications, business partnerships, and student achievement. My experience includes teaching middle and high school science, leading professional development, coordinating large-scale programs, and supporting curriculum innovation and instructional best practices. I am passionate about empowering students and educators while expanding meaningful career and educational pathways. I am excited to be back in Bear Country, where my daughters graduated and where I spent several rewarding years teaching and serving students.



My goal is to help every student have the best possible high school experience. Please feel free to reach out if I can help in any way.

Email: Kristina.Bransford@stjohns.k12.fl.us Phone: 904-547-8380

Our Amazing Academy Teachers

The success of our academies is made possible by exceptional educators who bring industry knowledge, passion, and dedication to the classroom. We invite you to learn more about the talented teachers who inspire and prepare our students for future success.



Mrs. Ochaíta-Fashion Design

Hi! I'm Mrs. Ochaíta and this is a little bit about me. I graduated in '06 with a bachelor's degree in Fashion Design from Central America/Guatemalan and had the privilege to work for international companies where I gained experience in pre-production, production, textiles and design. In the year 2016 I was hired to help open Miami Fashion Institute for Miami Dade College as the Lab Manager where I guided and taught students to develop sketching techniques, pattern making techniques, portfolio development, etc. I worked there for 2½ years, then moved to Jacksonville to become the fashion teacher for Bartram Trail. This will be my 6th year teaching, I'm still as excited as I was on day 1 of teaching and I love sharing my knowledge and passion for fashion with all my students.



Mrs. Durnin-Interior Design



My name is Ms. Durnin, and I have been teaching at Bartram Trail High School since 2021. This will be my 5th year as the Interior Design Academy teacher, and I have one group of Fashion Design freshmen. The University of North Florida is where I attended for my bachelor's degree where I studied psychology and fine arts. I am also a Bartram Trail alumna [class of 2014] and was a student of the Design academy. Talk about full circle! Design and the arts are my life, and I am excited to share this passion with your designers. Go bears! 🐻

Mr. Flahive-Architectural Design

Patrick Flahive is a Drafting and Architectural Design teacher with more than two decades of experience in Career and Technical Education (CTE). Before returning to the classroom, he served in a variety of instructional and administrative roles supporting CTE programs, faculty, and students. He enjoys bringing that experience into the classroom and helping students develop practical skills through hands-on learning, industry certifications, and real-world projects that prepare them for college, careers, and life beyond high school.



Mr. Hurst

Mr. Eric Hurst has been teaching and helping students explore technology since 2003. He has taught at Bartram Trail High School since 2019. In the IT Academy, he teaches Web Development, Programming Principles, and IT/Cloud Principles.

Mr. Hurst's interest in technology began in second grade, when he got his first programmable computer. By the time he was a senior in high school, he had built his first computer. Today, he holds a Master of Education degree and is certified to teach Computer Science in grades K-12. He also has Information Technology Specialist certifications in HTML and CSS, JavaScript, Python, and Device Configuration and Management.

In class, Mr. Hurst enjoys helping students create, solve problems, and try new ideas. His favorite areas of IT include computer hardware, networking, and virtual computing systems. This means students get to learn about both the parts inside computers and the systems that help devices connect and work together.

Outside of school, Mr. Hurst enjoys spending time with his wife, Cassandra, and their four children. He also likes working on his Jeep and other equipment in his garage. When he is not using his computer or tools, he enjoys taking his Jeep on trails, traveling on mountain roads, camping, and spending time in cool weather.

Mr. Hurst believes every student can learn challenging ideas and achieve at a high level. He wants students to explore their interests, build useful skills, and create new solutions. His goal for students in the Bartram Trail IT Academy is to help them use the skills they learn today to succeed in the technology-filled world of tomorrow.

Mr. Moseley

For 32 years, I've had the privilege of watching students' faces light up when technology clicks for them. Whether it's a kindergartener mastering a mouse or a high schooler debugging their first Python program. That moment of discovery never gets old, and it all started with three lines of BASIC code in 1985.

My tech journey began as a junior in high school in the mid-eighties. When my 11th grade business class switched from typewriters to TRS-80 computers, my world changed forever. After writing just three lines of code in BASIC, I was hooked!

After college, where I studied Elementary Education, I began working part-time as a computer resource teacher at a small private school in Jacksonville, FL. I had no idea my journey would include teaching third grade, serving as a K-5 computer resource teacher, transferring to middle school to teach 6th-8th grade computer classes, and eventually moving to high school, where I currently teach in the Information Technology Academy at Bartram Trail High School.

Thirty-two years and four schools later, I find myself just as excited about coming to school today as I was on day one. Whether students are learning to write Python or SQL code, or discovering how to navigate their first computer, my purpose remains the same.

Regardless of grade level or classroom location, one premise rings true: technology serves as a vehicle for each student to travel through life. I have been blessed to share my tech journey with so many diverse students and inspire them on their educational journey. I look forward to working with many more students in the years to come, preparing them to embrace and integrate the many new technologies that will be developed in the future.





VyStar | **Academy
of Business**

Bartram Trail High School

Mrs. Downs-Entrepreneurship

My name is Cassie Downs, and I am excited to be a part of the VyStar Academy of Business Academy. I teach Business & Entrepreneurship, Legal Aspects of Business, and Management & Human Resources. I earned my bachelor's degree in business education from the University of Central Florida and have been teaching Business Education for 16 years.

I absolutely love teaching business because the skills students learn can be applied to everyday life, whether they pursue a career in business, become an entrepreneur, attend college, or enter the workforce. My favorite part of teaching is watching students grow, gain confidence, discover their strengths, and ultimately succeed.

Outside of school, I am a proud military spouse. My husband has served on active duty in the military for 23 years, and we have identical 11-year-old twin daughters. I love spending time with my family, and we enjoy being outdoors, especially boating, fishing, and camping.

Mr. Palacios-Finance

I'm Phil Palacios, and I'm excited to join the Bartram Trail High School community as a Business Education teacher in the VyStar Academy of Business & Finance, where I'll be teaching Accounting 1 Honors with a strong focus on preparing students for QuickBooks certification. I hold an Ed.S. in Workforce Education and an MBA and previously served as Business Education Teacher and Department Chair at Meadowcreek High School in Gwinnett County, Georgia—where I also led the Finance Pathway—as well as at Oakville Senior High School. Outside the classroom, my background includes sales, partnership development, and hands-on work in the electrical contracting industry, experiences I draw on to help students see the real-world connections between classroom learning and future careers. My wife Amy and I recently relocated to the Jacksonville area, and I'm looking forward to becoming part of the Bartram Trail family while helping students build practical skills, confidence, and a strong foundation for their futures.