



Oakwood Adventist Academy History



Oakwood Adventist Academy, also referred to as Oakwood Academy or OAA, is a Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) co-educational K-12 school located on the beautiful campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. Founded in 1896 as Oakwood Industrial School, Oakwood was charged with the task of training young people of African American descent. OAA is the oldest and largest Black SDA school, and one of the longest continuously operating Black private schools in the United States. OAA's holistic educational program is built to execute the mission of the school: to Develop, Nurture, and Affirm (DNA) students mentally, physically, and spiritually for a lifetime of service to God and man. In order to achieve this lofty goal, OAA employs certified teachers who implement widely researched instructional practices and classroom management strategies to deliver standards-based, data-driven instruction. The school also maintains small, intimate classroom sizes throughout the K-12 program that allow for individualized, differentiated instruction.

OAA History & Curriculum

OAA has a rich history of tailoring its programming to meet the needs of the community it serves. The high school served as a boarding school and preparatory school, operated by Oakwood University, for the majority of its existence. In 1974, the Academy became a day school operated by a local constituency of SDA churches called the Huntsville Area Seventh-day Adventist (HASDA) Churches. Today, the school is governed by the HASDA School Board and the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. OAA's programming provides several opportunities for students seeking to begin their education in college, and for students looking to gain certifications to enter the workforce. Advanced 11th and 12th graders may participate in dual enrollment between Oakwood University and OAA at no additional cost to the academy student. Through this program, students are able to earn up to 18 college credits for free and 12 additional college credits at a minimal cost. OAA also offers special vocational programs that lead to certifications: Certified Nursing Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Coding, Culinary Arts, and certifications in the Microsoft Office Suite.

OAA Buildings

The elementary school, encompassing grades K-6, is housed in the Eric C. Ward Building, which was constructed in 1993 and completely renovated in the Spring of 2013. This renovation was Phase 1 of a 3-phase building project for the school. In December of 2012, OAA began Phase 2 by breaking ground on a new 28,000-square-foot multi-educational facility that was completed by December of the following year. The Multi-Educational Complex, or MEC, houses a state-of-the-art kitchen and cafeteria, a gymnasium complete with locker rooms and showers, and a wing with four large classrooms that house grades 7 and 8. On March 30, 2018, OAA broke ground on Phase 3, which is a new high school building. The building's Grand Opening was on August 10, 2020.

Declaration of Faith

"We at Oakwood Adventist Academy, are adherents of the Biblical Seventh-day Sabbath. We thereby forgo any secular activities from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday using that time for Christian worship and fellowship."