



BUFFALO STATE

The State University of New York



The Freshman Experience at Riverside Academy



The Blue Economy Program at Riverside Academy connects students to local waterways through programs focused on conservation, sustainable tourism, and health and wellness. During their freshman year, students attend a series of field trips designed to introduce three Career and Technical Education programs offered at Riverside Academy: Aquaculture and Conservation, Travel and Tourism, and Health and Wellness.

During the first of these field trips, dubbed “Introduction to a Blue Economy,” students tour Riverworks to learn the ways in which this multi-functional destination keeps patrons coming to enjoy the waterfront year-round. The field trip continues as students explored three waterfront parks, one each on the Niagara River, Lake Erie, and Buffalo River. Through a scavenger hunt, students make observations on the geography, history, aesthetics, recreation opportunities and restoration efforts in the park. Students complete the field trip by collecting water samples at each of the parks to test in Biology lab for water quality. Students come away from the field trip with a greater understanding of the ways in which the city of Buffalo is connecting citizens to the water.

Cecilia Pershyn, Buffalo State’s Education Coordinator for the Blue Economy, manages this field trip series, what has become known as “The Freshman Experience.”



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