

# Saturday Academies

## OVERVIEW

As part of Blach's ongoing commitment to serve the communities in which its teams live and work, the company has collaborated with local school districts to host "Saturday Academies."

The goal of Blach's Saturday Academies is to help elementary and middle school children understand the *importance of their mathematics and science studies* and connect them to careers in the fields of construction and sustainability.

## ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

This program, which began in 2009, has received widespread support from teachers, administrators, students and the community. In addition to creating a **fun and unique learning experience** for students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, Saturday Academies demonstrate some of the career paths that are available to them.

The concepts covered during Saturday Academies, such as using ratios to show how concrete is made or learning about the "Four Rs of Sustainability" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink), are taught in a dynamic environment that connects students with what they are learning in the classroom to real world experiences.

Class sizes vary from 60-90 students, with up to 120 students attending Blach's Sustainability Workshop.

## PAST ACADEMIES



# Saturday Academies

Blach works closely with teachers to ensure that the Saturday Academies and teachers' lesson plans complement each other.

## PREVIOUS SUCCESS

Past programs have resulted in hundreds of hours of volunteer and lesson-plan review time. To date, Blach volunteers have evaluated more than 120 lesson plans.

Blach's Saturday Academies started at the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. The District has "cluster" programs that focus the curriculum in a particular field of study.

Blach is currently partnered with a waste recycling provider, PG&E, Partners for Sustainability and a water utility to provide Saturday Academies to both the Alum Rock Union Elementary School and Calistoga Joint Unified School Districts.

## CONTACT

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*“I think you guys are the kind of partners every school district needs: visionary, collaborative, creative, and resourceful.”*

Dr. Hilaria Bauer,  
Former Academic Achievement Officer,  
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District