



President and Upper School Principal
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AD FONTES ACADEMY

2017 - 2018 SCHOOL PROFILE

Overview

Ad Fontes Academy (AFA) is a coed, independent, liberal arts, K-12 day school founded in 1996 upon classical Christian educational methods. Ad Fontes is accredited by the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS) which is a member of the Virginia Council of Private Education (VCPE).

Admissions Criteria

Selective admission is based on academic records, third-party academic testing, and a personal interview. Ad Fontes Academy does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national or ethnic origin in the admission of students, financial aid or employment policies, or in any of its educational programs.

Faculty

Thirteen faculty teach in the Upper School with 46% holding academic degrees at the Masters level or above. All teachers must model oral and academic excellence and demonstrate a passion for their subjects and for teaching students. The student/faculty ratio is 9:1.

Enrollment

The total enrollment for the 2017- 2018 school year is 201, kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Upper School enrollment is 67 students, of whom 7 are seniors.

House system

All Upper School students participate in one of four houses (Athens, Atlantis, Ilium, Rome) to establish strong, supportive relationships and camaraderie between the grade levels, to develop student leadership skills, and to shape school culture. House Heads are Juniors or Seniors nominated and selected by students to work closely with school leadership to lead the Upper School.

Activities include weekly house meetings, house competitions, service projects, and social and fundraising events.

High School Curriculum

The Ad Fontes Academy curriculum is a rigorous college preparatory, liberal arts and sciences program. All courses are taught at the honors or above level. AFA students are equipped to articulate clearly and persuasively the knowledge they acquire across the curriculum.

Ad Fontes students engage great books and original source documents in classrooms of active discussion and debate, using the Harkness Method, that require skills in research, close reading, critical writing and historical analysis. The Ad Fontes humanities sequence consists of a chronological study of western literature and history from antiquity to modern Europe and America.

Major texts include *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Sophocles *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Augustine's *Confessions*, *Beowulf*, *Dante's Inferno*, Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, a Kempis *The Imitation of Christ*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, More's *Utopia*, multiple Shakespeare plays, John Donne poetry, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Romantic poetry, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Shelly's *Frankenstein*, Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

Ad Fontes provides students with rigorous preparation in critical thinking, mathematics and the sciences. As a foundation, all students complete a full-year course in Logic. They are then equipped for advanced math and science study by virtue of courses that emphasize mastery of concepts and skills in addition to content.

Ad Fontes students study Latin to strengthen their language, learning and thinking skills through a rigorous grammar program that provides a strong foundation for reading Latin literature and for further language study.

Junior and Senior Thesis

In every field and endeavor, the most effective communicators rise to leadership. Thus, we emphasize writing and speaking throughout the Ad Fontes experience, including four years in high school. Junior year, students study the five canons of Rhetoric and the six parts of discourse, develop research and formal writing skills, and deliver multiple speeches. The capstone of an AFA education is the Senior Thesis, wherein each senior writes an original, relevant, and debatable 15-20 page thesis and presents an oral defense, consisting of a 15 minute oral presentation and 20 minute defense before a faculty and topic expert panel.

Sample of Recent Senior Thesis Topics

- The Internet of Things: Is it Worth the Risk?
- Fake Glory: Why Odysseus is Not a Hero
- Huxley and Orwell: Totalitarianism and Comfort in Western Society
- Staged Combustion Cycles are Better Engines than Gas Generator Cycles
- The Colonization of Mars: The Next Giant Leap for Mankind
- Stuff and Nonsense: Tenniel's and Rackham's Illustrations for Alice in Wonderland
- Sweet Intoxication: The Effects of Music on the Brain and the Soul
- The Bread of Life: A Challenge to Modern Pre-Suppositions of the War on Poverty
- Facing the Flaws of the Foster Care System
- When Our Bodies Are Not Enough: Market-Based Solution for Organ and Tissue Procurement

AD FONTES ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Area of Study	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Literature	Honors or Advanced Medieval and European/Early Modern		Honors or Advanced American/Modern and Great Books	
History/Government	Honors or Advanced Medieval and European/Early Modern		Modern or Advanced American/Modern and Government	
English: Composition and Oratory (Rhetoric)	English: Composition and Oratory I	English: Composition and Oratory II	English: Composition and Oratory III (Junior Thesis)	English: Composition and Oratory IV (Senior Thesis)
Science	Physical Science (Logic in 8th Grade)	Biology	Chemistry and/or Physics	
Math	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Advanced Calculus I Advanced Calculus II
Latin	Latin III *Latin I or II	Latin IV *Latin I, II or III	Latin V *Latin II, III, or IV	Latin VI *Latin, III, IV or V
Theology/Philosophy	Biblical Theology III	Biblical Theology IV	Apologetics and Worldview	Theology Seminar
Art	Drama/Music, Film Appreciation, Photography			

Graduation Requirements

24 Credits	
History	4.0
Literature	4.0
Rhetoric	4.0
Latin	3.0
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0
Theology/Philosophy	3.0
Arts	8 trimesters required
Logic	required

***An Advanced Diploma is available to students who take the most rigorous high school course load including 4 credits of Science and 4 credits of Math or Latin.*

Grading Scale

A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
F	69 or below	0

A one-half quality point is assigned to "Advanced" courses geared to encourage students with academic aptitude and motivation to seek the most rigorous course of study. Advanced courses were offered in 2017-18 for Calculus, History/Government, and Literature.

Cumulative GPA does not reflect classes taken before 9th grade or outside of Ad Fontes.

Academic Honors

Summa cum Laude	3.90 and above
Magna cum Laude	3.70 and above
Cum Laude	3.50 and above

SAT Scores (as of June 2017)

Classes 2014-2018	Mid-50%	Mean
Reading	550-690	625
Math	530-620	562
Total	1080-1310	1,187

This reflects scores from 44 students from the classes of 2014-2018 to show a larger sample size.

Fine Arts, Clubs and Athletics

Ad Fontes offers a variety of clubs with active student leadership including Art, Community Outreach, Drama, Debate, Foreign Missions (Peru trip), Latin, Mock Trial, Techne Society (creative student projects in science and tech), and Yearbook.

Students participate in Fine Arts electives each high school year in Drama, Film or Photography. The Drama club performs a full Shakespeare play each Spring.

Ad Fontes is a member of VISAA and the the NVIAC Conference. Students compete in five sports. Ad Fontes has three student-athletes recruited to play college athletics in basketball and soccer.

College Admission and Placement

*Matriculated

- * Air Force Academy
- * Appalachian State University
- * Baylor University
- * Boston University
- * College of Charleston
- * Christopher Newport University
- Colby Sawyer College
- * Covenant College
- Elon University
- * Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- * Furman University
- * Geneva College
- * George Mason University
- * Gordon College
- * Grove City College
- * Hampden Sydney
- * High Point University
- Hollins University

- * James Madison University
- * Johns Hopkins University
- Lehigh University
- * Le Tourneau University
- * Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Lynchburg College
- * Messiah College
- Middlebury College
- * New Saint Andrews College
- Norwich University
- Randolph College
- Ohio State University
- * Old Dominion University
- * Palm Beach Atlantic
- * Patrick Henry College
- Pepperdine University
- * Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- * San Diego Christian College (aviation school)
- * St. John's College
- * St. Thomas Aquinas College
- * Stevenson University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Sweet Briar College
- Texas A&M University
- Union University
- University of California at Los Angeles
- University of California-San Diego
- * University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Delaware
- * University of Mary Washington
- University of Maryland
- * University of Memphis
- * University of Richmond
- * University of Tennessee
- * University of Virginia
- * Villanova University
- * Virginia Commonwealth University
- * Virginia Military Institute
- * Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Virginia Wesleyan College
- Wake Forest University
- * Wheaton College
- * The College of William and Mary