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AD FONTES ACADEMY

2016 - 2017 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

Fourteen faculty teach in the Upper School with 50% 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 2016- 2017 school year is 210, Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The Upper School enrollment is 79 students, of whom 10 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 *The Great Gatsby*.

Ad Fontes provides students with rigorous preparation in critical thinking, in mathematics and in 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. In Junior year, students study the five canons of Rhetoric and the six parts of discourse, developing research and formal writing skills, and delivering 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

- Intergenerational Narcissism: Why Other People are Responsible for Your Narcissistic Tendencies
- Fake Glory: Why Odysseus is Not a Hero
- Huxley and Orwell: Totalitarianism and Comfort in Western Society
- No One Can Embargo the Sun: How Solar Energy Can Create Energy Independence
- Vanity of Vanities, All is Vanity: Why Christians Should Embrace Existentialism
- 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
- Understanding America's Role in Caring for the Mentally Ill
- When Our Bodies Are Not Enough: Market-Based Solution for Organ and Tissue Procurement

AD FONTES ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Subject	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Literature	Medieval (Ancient in 8th)	European / Early Modern	American / Modern	Great Books
History	Medieval (Ancient in 8th)	European / Early Modern	American / Modern	Government
Science	Physical Science (Logic in 8th Grade)	Biology	Chemistry	Physics or Advanced Physics
Math	Algebra I or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra II	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus, Calculus AB or Calculus BC
Latin	Latin I or II	Latin II or III	Latin III or IV	Latin IV or V
Theology/Philosophy	Hermeneutics	Church History	Apologetics and Worldview	Theology Seminar
Rhetoric	Classical Composition I	Classical Composition II	Rhetoric I	Rhetoric II/Sr. Thesis
Arts	Art, Drama, Film Appreciation, Music, Music Theory, Protocol/Ballroom Dancing			

Graduation Requirements

History	24 Credits	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

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

AP Summary

Ad Fontes does not offer AP courses. Students regularly take AP exams in Calculus, English Language, English Literature, and Latin.

Students taking AP exams: 42
 Total AP exams taken: 72
 % scoring 3 or higher: 71%
 % scoring 4 or higher: 41%

This represents students from the classes of 2012-2016 for a larger sample size.

SAT Scores (as of September 2016)

Classes 2012-2016	Mid-50%	Mean
Reading	550-680	618
Math	530-620	571
Total	1080-1300	1,189

This reflects scores from 56 students from the classes of 2012-2016 to show a larger sample size.

National Merit Recognition

3 students in the class of 2014 received National Merit Recognition.

Clubs and Athletics

Our co-curricular programs have netted regional and state awards. Ad Fontes' Mock Trial team won the Virginia State Championships from 2009-2011 and was state runner-up in 2008 and 2012-14.

The Odyssey of the Mind team won regional championships each year from 2012-2015.

Ad Fontes offers a wide variety of clubs including Art, Classics (Greek), Drama, Missions/Peru, Techne Society, and Yearbook. Students lead a ten day Missions trip each June to the Refuge of Hope in Peru.

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

- *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
- *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