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AD FONTES ACADEMY

2015 - 2016 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

Fifteen faculty teach in the Upper School with 60% 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 2015- 2016 school year is 214, Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The Upper School enrollment is 86 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 lead the houses and 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 European and American study.

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 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 seven 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, a 15 minute oral presentation and 20 minute defense before a faculty and topic expert panel.

Sample of Recent Senior Thesis Topics

- 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
- Sex Trafficking – the Grotesque Face of Modern American Slavery
- 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
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 Latin 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	Aesthetics, Art, Drama, Music, Music Theory, Protocol/Ballroom Dancing			

Graduation Requirements

History	4.0	24 Credits
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 – 4.0
Magna cum Laude	3.70 – 3.89
Cum Laude	3.50 – 3.69

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: 39
 Total AP exams taken: 69
 % scoring 3 or higher: 70%
 % scoring 4 or higher: 41%

This represents students from 2011-2015 for a larger sample size.

SAT Scores (as of September 2015)

Classes 2011-2016	Mid-50%	Mean
Reading	550-690	619
Math	520-630	575
Writing	560-670	607
Total	1660-1970	1,801

This reflects scores from 60 students in years 2011-2016 to show a wider 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, Ensemble Choir, 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
 *Covenant College
 *Christopher Newport University
 Colby Sawyer College
 Elon University
 *Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
 *Furman University
 *Geneva College
 *George Mason University

*Gordon College
 *Grove City College
 Hollins University
 *James Madison University
 *Johns Hopkins University
 High Point University
 *Le Tourneau University
 *Liberty University
 Longwood University
 *Messiah College
 Lynchburg College
 *New Saint Andrews College
 Norwich University
 Randolph College
 Old Dominion University
 *Patrick Henry College
 Pepperdine University
 Radford University
 *Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 *San Diego Christian College (aviation school)
 *St. John's College
 * St. Thomas Aquinas College
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Sweet Briar College
 * Stevenson University
 Texas A&M University
 *The College of William and Mary
 Union University
 The Master's College
 University of California at Los Angeles
 University of California-San Diego
 University of Delaware
 * University of Colorado at Boulder
 * 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