



AD FONTES ACADEMY

2020 - 2021 SCHOOL PROFILE

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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 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

Twelve faculty teach in the Upper School with 33% holding academic degrees at the Masters level or above. All teachers must model rhetorical 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 2020- 2021 school year is 218, kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Upper School enrollment is 87 students, 10 of whom 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 seniors and juniors nominated and selected by students to work closely with school administration to lead the Upper School.

Activities include weekly house meetings, house competitions, service projects, and social 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 advanced level. AFA students are equipped to clearly and persuasively articulate the knowledge they acquire across the curriculum.

Ad Fontes students engage with classic texts and original source documents in classrooms of active discussion and debate using the Harkness Method. This develops 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.

AFA teaches our students that they are both inheritors and responsible members of historical, social, and cultural contexts much greater than themselves. As part of this process, our curriculum relies heavily on a wide range of original source materials and whole texts.

Students, for example, learn geometry directly from Euclid, philosophy from Plato, and literature from Sophocles, while also encountering plenty of contemporary scholars and artists. This juxtaposition helps our learners develop the logic, critical thinking, and perseverance necessary to engage thoughtfully with the diverse world around them. Teachers regularly present "Outside the Box" awards to students who bring new insight to a question or problem.

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. Our goal is to shape students who think as mathematicians and scientists. The Advanced Math and Science courses are highly interactive, as students solve challenging problems and create beautiful, convincing mathematical arguments.

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

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 of high school rhetoric courses. 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

- On the Necessity for American Arbitration in the South China Sea
- A Case for Medical Marijuana in Chronic Conditions: An Opioid Alternative
- The Argument Behind an Image: Visual Rhetoric as a Form of Persuasion
- The Sun Sets in Tehran: An Argument Against Iranian Nuclear Capability
- The Destructive Effects of Adolescent Recreational Cannabis Use
- Huxley and Orwell: Totalitarianism and Comfort in Western Society
- Thorium Generation IV Reactors: A Superior Energy Source
- Humanitarian and Environmental Impacts of the Fast Fashion Industry
- The Political Tribe Phenomenon: How Media Perpetuates Polarization
- The Case Against Lethal Autonomous Weapon System: How I Learned to Start Worrying and Hate the Robot
- The Familial, Biological and Sociocultural Causes of Eating Disorders

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		Honors 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	Honors or Advanced Chemistry and/or Physics	
Math	Geometry Algebra II	Algebra II Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC
Foreign Language	Latin I, II or III	Latin II, III or IV	Latin III, IV or V French I	Latin IV or V French I
Theology/Philosophy	Biblical Theology III	Biblical Theology IV	Apologetics and Worldview	Theology Seminar
Electives	Art, Film, Music, Photography, Computer Programming, Theatre			

Graduation Requirements

History	4.0	22 Credits
Literature	4.0	
Rhetoric	3.0	
Latin	3.0	
Mathematics	3.0	
Science	3.0	
Theology/Philosophy	2.0	
Arts/Computer Programming	3 years required	
Logic	required	

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
D	65-69	1.0
F	64 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 starting in the 2017-18 school year.

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

Special Note on Covid-19 Response

After the March 13 school closure, Ad Fontes quickly moved to a robust distance learning approach and continued providing meaningful instruction, assessments and grades. In September 2020, Ad Fontes opened in-person with a full academic schedule except for electives and clubs.

SAT Scores (as of September, 2020)

Classes 2017-21	Mid-50%	Mean
Reading	555-695	633
Math	520-610	556
Total	1075-1305	1189

This reflects scores from 30 students from the classes of 2017-2021 to show a larger sample size.

Fine Arts, Clubs and Athletics

Ad Fontes offers a wide variety of clubs including Artists' Society, Calligraphy, French, Latin, Play Reading, Techne Society, Theatre, Wargaming, and Yearbook.

Students participate in electives each high school year in Art, Computer Programming, Film, Photography, or Theatre. Students lead and perform their own Shakespeare play each fall and Theater Club produces a play each spring.

Athletically, Ad Fontes is a member of VISAA and the the NVIAC Conference. Students compete in five sports.

College Admission and Placement

*Matriculated

- * Air Force Academy
- * Appalachian State University
- * Baylor University
- * Belmont University
- * Boston University
- * Colby Sawyer College
- * College of Charleston
- * Christopher Newport University
- * Covenant College
- * Elon University
- * Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- * Furman University
- * Geneva College
- * George Mason University
- * George Washington University
- * Georgetown 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
- * Lynchburg College
- * Marymount University
- * Messiah College
- * Middlebury College
- * New Saint Andrews College
- * Norwich University
- * Ohio State University
- * Old Dominion University
- * Palm Beach Atlantic
- * Patrick Henry College
- * Penn State University
- * Pepperdine University
- * Randolph Macon College
- * Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- * San Diego Christian College (aviation school)
- * Sewanee, University of the South
- * Southeastern University
- * St. John's College
- * St. Louis University in Madrid
- * 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

Upper School Reading List

AFA teaches our students that they are both inheritors and responsible members of historical, social, and cultural contexts much greater than themselves. As part of this process, our curriculum relies heavily on a wide range of original source materials and whole texts. Our students read the following and more:

7th Grade Literature

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain
Call of the Wild, Jack London
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens
Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare
Animal Farm, George Orwell
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

The Elements IX-X, Euclid

8th Grade Ancient Literature

The Age of Fable, Thomas Bulfinch
The Epic of Gilgamesh, Anonymous
The Iliad, Homer
The Odyssey, Homer
The Aeneid, Virgil
Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare
On Fairy Stories, J.R.R. Tolkien

9th Grade Geometry

The Elements I-VI, Euclid

9th–10th Grade Medieval Literature

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Gawain Poet
Beowulf, Anonymous
King Lear, William Shakespeare
The Song of Roland, Anonymous
The Divine Comedy, Dante Alighieri
The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer
Utopia, Thomas More

9-10th Grade Early Modern Literature

The Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan
The Faerie Queene, Book I, Edmund Spenser
The Rape of the Lock, Alexander Pope
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Paradise Lost, John Milton
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
Othello, William Shakespeare
Moby Dick, Herman Melville
English Romantic Poetry, ed. Stanley Appelbaum

Algebra II

The Elements VII, Euclid
Arithmetic, Diophantus

11th Grade Rhetoric

On Writing Well, William Zinsser
Selections from Aristotle's *On Rhetoric*

11th Grade Worldview and Apologetics

The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis
Selections from *Early Christian Origins*, Oliver Clement

11-12th Grade U.S./Modern Literature

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Complete Works by Edgar Allan Poe
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque
World War I Poetry (Dover Thrift Edition)
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

11-12th Grade U.S./Modern History

Selections from *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville

11-12th Grade Government

Selections from Plato's *The Republic*
Selections from Madison's *Notes from the Constitutional Convention*
Selections from Aristotle's *Politics*

11-12th Grade Great Books

Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis
The Complete Works by Sophocles
Metamorphoses by Ovid
Confessions by St. Augustine
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
1984 by George Orwell
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
Collected Works by T.S. Elliot
The Complete Short Stories by Flannery O'Connor

12th Grade Rhetoric

Ad Herenium, Cicero

12th Grade Senior Seminar

Dwell: Life with God for the World, Barry D. Jones
Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions,
Tim Keller
Telling Truth to Kings, Reinhold Schneider
Leaf by Niggle, J.R.R. Tolkien
Selections from *The Sabbath* by Abraham Heschel

Calculus

Calculus: An Intuitive and Physical Approach, Morris Kline

Physics

Six Easy Pieces, Richard Feynman
Relativity, Albert Einstein
Selections from *The Almagest*, Claudius Ptolemy
Selections from *A Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*,
Galileo Galilei