



AD FONTES ACADEMY

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL PROFILE

Ad Fontes Academy exists to glorify God by partnering with parents to cultivate wise and virtuous students through a robust Christ-centered classical education.

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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.

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 robust classical 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 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 thorough 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 meticulous grammar program which provides a strong foundation for reading Latin literature and 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 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

- The Sun Sets in Tehran: An Argument Against Iranian Nuclear Capability
- Huxley and Orwell: Totalitarianism and Comfort in Western Society
- The Case Against Lethal Autonomous Weapon System: How I Learned to Start Worrying and Hate the Robot
- The Sacred Icon: How Humanism Failed to Preserve Truth in Renaissance Church Art
- Playing God: The Ethical and Theological Failures of Genetic Enhancement
- The Bondage of Freedom: A Philosophical Analysis of Love's Role in Liberty

10 Upper school faculty members

27% Faculty with advanced degrees

6:1 Upper school student to faculty ratio

167 Students | **62** in Grades 7-12

7 Seniors | **10** average class size

AD FONTES ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Area of Study	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Literature	Honors or Advanced Medieval and Early Modern		Honors or Advanced Modern and Great Books	
History/Government	Honors or Advanced Medieval and Early Modern		Honors or Advanced Modern and Government	
Composition and Logic	Classical Composition I	Classical Composition II and Logic	Rhetoric I	Rhetoric II
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Advanced Science Option
Math	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Calculus
Foreign Language	Latin I or II	Latin I, II or III	Latin II, III or IV	Latin III, IV or V
Theology/Philosophy	Biblical Theology III	Systematic Theology	Apologetics	Senior Seminar
Electives	Fine and Common Arts Options			
Physical Education	Ballroom Dancing/Etiquette			

Graduation Requirements 22 Credits

History.....	4.0
Literature.....	4.0
Rhetoric.....	3.0
Latin.....	3.0
Mathematics.....	3.0
Science.....	3.0
Theology/Philosophy.....	2.0
Fine Arts.....	3 years required
Logic.....	required

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

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100.....	4.0	C+ 77-79.....	2.3
A 93-96.....	4.0	C 73-76.....	2.0
A- 90-92.....	3.7	C- 70-72.....	1.7
B+ 87-89.....	3.3	D 65-69.....	1.0
B 83-86.....	3.0	F 64 or below.....	0
B- 80-82.....	2.7		

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.

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

College Admission and Placement

Matriculated in bold

Air Force Academy
 Appalachian State University
 Baylor University
 Belmont University
 Boston University
 Cedarville University
 Christopher Newport University
 College of Charleston
 College of William and Mary
 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
 Sewanee, The University of the South
 Southeastern University
 St. John's College
 St. Louis University in Madrid
 St. Thomas Aquinas College
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Stevenson University
 Sweet Briar College
 Texas A&M University
 Union University
 University of California-San Diego

University of California at Los Angeles
 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 University
 Wake Forest University
 Wheaton College

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 September, 2024)

Classes 2020-2024	Mid 50%	Mean
Reading	580-693	633
Math	530-670	588
Total	1110-1363	1221

This reflects scores from 46 students from the classes of 2020-2024 to show a larger sample size.

Fine Arts, Clubs and Athletics

Ad Fontes offers a wide variety of clubs and activities including Art, Book, Chess, Cooking, Play Reading, Tennis, and Yearbook.

Students participate in Fine and Common Arts electives each high school year. Students have led and performed their own Shakespeare play as well as Theatre Club producing an annual play.

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

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
A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare
Animal Farm, George Orwell
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

8th Grade Ancient Literature

Greek Myths, Olivia Coolidge
Antigone, Sophocles
The Iliad, Homer
The Odyssey, Homer
The Aeneid, Virgil
Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare
Oedipus Rex, Sophocles

9th Grade Geometry

The Elements I-VI, Euclid

9th-10th Grade Medieval Literature

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

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 Applebaum

Algebra II

The Elements VII, Euclid
Arithmetic, Diophantus

Latin III

Selections read in Latin from *The Gallic Wars*, Julius Caesar

11th Grade Rhetoric I

On Writing Well, William Zinnser
Selections from *On Rhetoric*, Aristotle

11th Grade Apologetics

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

Latin IV

Selections read in Latin from *Biblia Sacra Vulgata*, Saint Jerome

11-12th Grade Modern Literature

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

11-12th Grade Modern History

Selections from *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville

11-12th Grade Government

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

11-12th Grade Great Books

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

12th Grade Rhetoric II

Ad Herenium, Cicero

12th Grade Senior Seminar

The Bible
Essays, letters, sermons, and films by:
C. S. Lewis
J. R. R. Tolkien
Dallas Willard
Ingmar Bergman
Frank Capra
Et al.

Latin V

Selections read in Latin from Catullus, Vergil, Horace, Juvenal, Ovid, and Thomas of Celano

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