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# AD FONTES ACADEMY

## 2018 - 2019 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 50% 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 2018-2019 school year is 201, kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Upper School enrollment is 78 students, 9 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

- The Internet of Things: Is it Worth the Risk?
- Identifying the Standard for a Film Adaptation of a Literary Classic
- Huxley and Orwell: Totalitarianism and Comfort in Western Society
- Thorium Generation IV Reactors: A Superior Energy Source
- 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
- The Familial, Biological and Sociocultural Causes of Eating Disorders
- The Effect of the Cold War in Latin America in Context of Its History

# AD FONTES ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Area of Study	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Literature	<b>Honors or Advanced</b> Medieval and European/Early Modern		<b>Honors or Advanced</b> American/Modern and Great Books	
History/Government	<b>Honors or Advanced</b> Medieval and European/Early Modern		<b>Honors or Advanced</b> 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 Calculus	Calculus Calculus II
Foreign Language	Latin III *Latin I or II	Latin IV *Latin I, II or III French I	Latin V *Latin II, III, or IV French I or II	Latin VI *Latin, III, IV or V French I, II or III
Theology/Philosophy	Biblical Theology III	Biblical Theology IV	Apologetics and Worldview	Theology Seminar
Electives	American Sign Language, Art, Film, Photography, Computer Programming, Theatre			

## Graduation Requirements

History	4.0
Literature	4.0
Rhetoric	4.0
Latin	3.0
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0
Theology/Philosophy	3.0
Arts/Computer Programming	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 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
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

## SAT Scores (as of September 2018)

Classes 2014-2018	Mid-50%	Mean
Reading	550-690	628
Math	530-620	559
<b>Total</b>	<b>1080-1310</b>	<b>1,187</b>

This reflects scores from 58 students from the classes of 2014-2019 to show a larger sample size.

## Fine Arts, Clubs and Athletics

Ad Fontes offers a wide variety of clubs including Cerebrosous (crazy ideas), Debate, Latin, Mock Trial, Play Reading, Techne, Theatre and Yearbook, along with student-created and led clubs on Cooking, Leadership, Presentation Anxiety, and Shakespeare.

Students participate in electives each high school year in Art, Computer Programming, Film, Photography, Sign Language, or Theatre. The Theatre club performs a classic play each year.

Athletically, Ad Fontes is a member of VISAA and the the NVIAC Conference. Students compete in five sports. Ad Fontes has had 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
- \* George Washington 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

\* Marymount University

\* 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. 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  
*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens  
*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare  
*Animal Farm*, George Orwell  
*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

## 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*, Euclid

## 9th–10th Grade Medieval Literature

*Le Morte d'Arthur*, Thomas Malory  
*Selections of Anglo-Saxon poetry*, Various authors  
*Beowulf*, Anonymous  
*The Völsunga Saga*, Anonymous  
*The Song of Roland*, Anonymous  
*Inferno and Purgatorio*, Dante Alighieri  
*The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer

## 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

## 11th 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  
*The Tempest* by William Shakespeare  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
*The Complete Short Stories* by Flannery O'Connor

## 11th Grade Rhetoric

*On Writing Well*, William Zinnser

## 11th Grade U.S./Modern History

Selections from *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville

## 11th Grade Worldview and Apologetics

*Living at the Crossroads: An Introduction to Christian Worldview*, Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen  
*Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman  
*The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*, Timothy Keller  
*unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity*, David Kinnaman

## 12th Grade Government

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

## 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  
*Utopia* by Thomas Moore  
*1984* by George Orwell  
*Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert  
*Collected Works* by T.S. Eliot

## 12th Grade Rhetoric

*Ad Herenium*, Cicero

## 12th Grade Senior Seminar

*Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*, Tim Keller  
*Telling Truth to Kings*, Reinhold Schneider  
*Crossed Lives, Crossed Purposes: Why Thomas Jefferson Failed and William Wilberforce Persisted in Leading an End to Slavery*, (selections) Ray Blunt  
*Nathan and Hannah*, by Wendell Berry  
*How Much Land Does One Man Need?* by Leo Tolstoy  
*The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis  
*Leaf by Niggle*, J.R.R. Tolkien

## 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