

The First Academy

Upper & Middle School

Course Catalog



The First Academy is a Christ-centered, college-preparatory school whose mission is to prepare children for life as Christian leaders who choose character before career, wisdom beyond scholarship, service before self, and participation as a way of life.

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Graduation Requirements

ENGLISH

English 9.....1 credit
English 10.....1 credit
English 11.....1 credit
English 12.....1 credit

MATHEMATICS⁺

Algebra I.....1 credit
Geometry.....1 credit
Algebra II.....1 credit
Beyond Algebra II.....1 credit

SOCIAL SCIENCE

World Geography.....0.5 credit
World History.....1 credit
American History.....1 credit
American Government.....0.5 credit
Economics.....0.5 credit

SCIENCE

Biology.....1 credit
Chemistry.....1 credit
Beyond Chemistry.....1 credit

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Personal Fitness.....0.5 credit
Other P.E. Elective.....0.5 credit

WORLD LANGUAGE⁺⁺

Level I.....1 credit
Level II.....1 credit

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Spiritual Formation.....0.5 credit
Foundations of Theology.....0.5 credit
World Religions.....0.5 credit
Apologetics.....1 credit

PRACTICAL/FINE ARTS

1 credit

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

3.0+ credits

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

100 hours

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS

25 credits

⁺ At least 3 of the 4 credits must be earned while in high school.

⁺⁺ Must be the same language taken in two consecutive years

Academic Levels

Upper School students, with assistance from the College Advising team and parent partnership, will build a schedule of classes from three academic levels. Some courses carry prerequisites that must be met prior to scheduling. In addition, Honors and Advanced Placement courses may require teacher recommendations. Each student will meet with their assigned College Advisor to assure a course of study that meets his or her individual academic plan, interests, and goals. Students are encouraged to speak with their College Advisor in academic level course selection.

College Prep

These courses follow a core curriculum (English, Math, Science, Social Science, and World Language) that will prepare students for admission to most colleges and universities.

Honors

Honors courses offer a core curriculum that provides greater depth of subject matter and may include assignments that require more independent work effort. Students must obtain a teacher recommendation to enroll in these classes, and they frequently carry prerequisite courses. Honors-level courses prepare students for admission to competitive colleges and are weighted by a factor of 0.5.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer college-level curriculum. They require prerequisite classes, grade point average minimums, and teacher recommendation to enroll. AP courses are nationally recognized as academically challenging and are designed for the motivated student. College credit may be earned at the end of the course by successfully completing an AP exam. Advanced Placement courses prepare students for selective colleges with more rigid admissions standards and are weighted by a factor of 1.0.

Upper School Course Catalog

English

English 9 College Prep

9th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course focuses on the language-related areas of grammar, composition, writing skills, and literature.

English 9 Honors

9th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This Honors level adds to the English 9 curriculum by challenging the student to exhibit greater depth in the areas of critical thinking and analytical writing.

English 10 College Prep

10th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course focuses study on world literature, placing emphasis on critical analysis in reading and understanding structure and theme. Continued study of composition and writing skills is implemented.

English 10 Honors

10th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

The honors level enhances the English 10 curriculum in its expectation of greater maturity and literary appreciation, written analysis and criticism.

English 11 College Prep

11th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course focuses study on American literature, placing emphasis on analysis in reading and the understanding inductive and deductive reasoning. Continued study of composition and writing skills is implemented.

English 11 Honors

11th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

The honors level increases the writing expectations in both length and analysis. Inductive and deductive reasoning and oral communication are integral parts of the course requirements.

Advanced Placement English Language

11th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Advanced Placement English Language is an accelerated course designed to challenge and enable students to become both skilled readers and writers. Students learn to use modes of discourse, rhetorical strategies and critical standards. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP English Language exam.

English 12 Honors

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course enhances the English 12 curriculum in its expectation of writing competency, comprehension of literary works, and student reflection of the development of the English language.

Advanced Placement English Literature

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Advanced Placement English Literature involves the study and practice of writing about literature. The students will demonstrate an understanding of history, culture, and philosophy as those fields apply to many literary works. Literature is related to contemporary experience and/or history. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP English Literature exam.

Mathematics

Algebra I College Prep

9th Grade | 1.0 credit

Algebra I reviews pre-algebra skills and introduces the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions and graphing, radicals and rational expressions, quadratic equations and functions, exponents, polynomials and linear equations.

Algebra I Honors

9th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Algebra I reviews pre-algebra skills and introduces the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions and graphing, radicals and rational expressions, quadratic equations and functions, exponents, polynomials and linear equations.

Geometry College Prep

9th-10th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Geometry includes an in depth analysis of the concepts of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and planes, triangles, polygons, perimeter, area, volume, surface area, similarity, congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. All concepts are also related to real world phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Students will be required to use technology and projects to discover concepts covered in the course.

Geometry Honors

9th-10th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Department recommendation

Honors Geometry includes an in depth analysis of the concepts of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and planes, triangles, polygons, perimeter, area, volume, surface area, similarity, congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. All concepts are also related to real world phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Students will be required to use technology and projects to discover concepts covered in the course. This course will require students to develop a deeper level of understanding.

Algebra II College Prep

9th-11th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Geometry

Algebra II College Prep reviews Algebra I skills along with introducing Algebra II curriculum. In this course, fundamental skills of mathematics will be applied to a vast variety of functions, equations and inequalities, probability and statistics, logarithmic and exponential relationships, and quadratic and polynomial equations. Technology and problem-solving strategies are incorporated.

Algebra II Honors

9th-11th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Geometry, Department recommendation

Algebra II Honors prepares students for Pre-Calculus. In this course fundamental skills of mathematics will be applied to a vast variety of functions, equations and inequalities, probability and statistics, logarithmic and exponential relationships, and quadratic and polynomial equations. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated.

Math for College Readiness

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II

The purpose of this course is to continue development of students' understanding of Algebra II in preparation for college mathematics. Topics included are linear relations & functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, graphs, quadratics, statistics, and trigonometric ratios.

Probability & Statistics Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II, Department recommendation

This course will provide an overview of probability and statistics, and introduce students to the major concepts for collecting, analyzing, interpreting and drawing conclusions from data. Students will take a set of data and make sense of it using sound analytical methods, applying it to a larger population.

Pre-Calculus Honors

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II, Department recommendation

This class will move faster and go deeper than Pre-Calculus College Prep. Students, as mathematic analysts, will investigate how advanced mathematics concepts can solve problems encountered in real world situations. The purpose of this course is to study functions and develop skills necessary for the study of Calculus.

Calculus Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus, Department recommendation

This course enables students to develop knowledge and skills in calculus concepts while strengthening & extending concepts learned in previous math courses. Content includes: functions, limits & continuity, derivatives, antiderivatives, definite integrals.

Advanced Placement Calculus AB

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus, Department recommendation

Topics include derivatives of functions and inverse functions, differentiability and continuity, increasing and decreasing functions, concavity, points of inflections, anti-derivatives, and using integrals to find area and volume. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Calculus AB exam.

Advanced Placement Calculus BC

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB, Department recommendation

The topic outline for Calculus BC includes all Calculus AB topics. Some additional topics include polynomial approximations, parametric and vector-valued functions, sequences and series, and applications of integrals. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Calculus BC exam.

Advanced Placement Statistics

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II, Department recommendation

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: Exploring Data, Sampling and Experimentation, Probability, and Statistical Inference.

Science

Biology College Prep

9th Grade | 1.0 credit

Topics in Biology include scientific methods, biochemistry, cellular biology, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, genetics and DNA, biodiversity, evolution and an introduction to plants and animals.

Biology Honors

9th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course follows the same outline as Biology, but in greater depth and rigor. Topics in Honors Biology include scientific methods, biochemistry, cellular biology, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, genetics and DNA, biodiversity, evolution and an introduction to plants and animals.

Chemistry College Prep

10th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

College Prep Chemistry explores the composition, structure, properties and transformation of matter. It will include a study of matter and energy, periodic properties of elements, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gases, liquids, solids, solutions, acids and bases. Laboratory activities will provide hands on interaction in most of these areas.

Chemistry Honors

10th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Biology, Department recommendation

Honors Chemistry explores the composition, structure, properties and transformation of matter. It will include a study of matter and energy, periodic properties of elements, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gases, liquids, solids, 13 solutions, acids and bases. Honors Chemistry also provides an overview of thermochemistry, equilibrium, electrochemistry, organic chemistry and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory activities will provide hands on interaction in most of these areas.

Agricultural Science Foundations Honors

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas of agricultural history and aquaponics. Students will learn the global impact of agriculture, agribusiness, and human relations skills in agriscience. Laboratory investigations that include scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem-solving, emerging technologies, tools and equipment, and quality/safety procedures will be an integral part of this course.

Anatomy & Physiology Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Department recommendation

This course will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. Topics include anatomical terminology, biochemistry, the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic/immune, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. Introduces common human disease processes. Students also become CPR certified and learn basic first aid.

Health Science Anatomy & Physiology Honors (Sports Medicine II)

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Anatomy & Physiology

In Sports Medicine II, students will learn about advanced techniques in the care and prevention of athletic injuries while also learning techniques in caring for acute and chronic injuries in the classroom, training room, and on the field. Students can take this course concurrently with Anatomy & Physiology.

Physics Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course provides an introduction to the fundamental principles of physics. There is an emphasis on problem-solving and a strong knowledge of basic algebra is required. The major topics of physics are covered, with a strong focus on Newtonian mechanics, circular motion and gravitation, rotational motion and torque, energy, and momentum.

Marine Science Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Department recommendation

This course builds on the physical and life science concepts learned in previous science courses and applies that knowledge to the exploration of the living and nonliving environments of our bays and oceans. The first semester focuses on various aspects of oceanography: water chemistry, plate tectonics, ocean and atmospheric circulation, waves, tides, and coastal processes. The second semester will focus on marine biology: plankton, algae, plants, animals, marine ecosystems, and ecology. Students will participate in a variety of learning experiences including laboratory experiments, discussions, current events, and individual research into specific areas.

Advanced Placement Biology

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Biology, Department recommendation

Topics in AP Biology include molecules and cells, genetics, organisms and populations. AP labs are required and conducted. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Biology exam and earn potential college credit.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Department recommendation

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a first year college level general chemistry course. The course is structured around the “6 Big Ideas” articulated by the College Board in their AP Chemistry curriculum framework. It includes (but is not limited to) studying matter, physical and chemical properties, chemical modeling, energy, intermolecular forces, stoichiometry, calorimetry, thermochemistry, spectroscopy, and electrochemistry at the collegiate level. In laboratory investigations, students will practice their investigative skills by developing or partially developing their own procedures, collecting and manipulating data, and analyzing that data in order to answer real life questions. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Chemistry exam.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Biology, Department recommendation

The field of environmental science allows students to learn more about global changes and challenges and how they impact the world we live in. Topics cover the natural world (food webs, ecosystems, biomes) and also include man-made problems (pollution, global climate change, endangered species, overpopulation) and man-made solutions (aquaponics, wind turbines, electric vehicles). The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for them.

Advanced Placement Physics

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Pre-Calculus, Department recommendation

This course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of conceptual understanding and problem-solving ability using algebra and trigonometry, but rarely calculus. This course provides a foundation in physics for students in the life sciences, pre-medicine, and some applied sciences, as well as other fields not directly related to science.

Social Science

World Geography Honors

9th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course is designed to help students better understand our constantly changing and complex world through a study of geography. Students will study geography from the physical, political, and cultural prospective through the five basic geographical themes of location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Special emphasis will be placed on geographical skills and geographic literacy (locating countries, capitals, & physical features of the world). The course will also be a a study of World Religions. Through this study, students acquire an understanding of the way people in different cultures satisfy their spiritual needs. Students understand the place of religion in culture, the importance that has been attached to religion in peoples' lives and the relationship between religion and other social institutions.

Advanced Placement Human Geography

9th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course is designed to help students better understand our constantly changing and complex world through a study of geography. Students will study geography from the physical, political, and cultural perspectives through the five basic geographical themes of location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Special emphasis will be placed on geographical skills and geographic literacy (locating countries, capitals, & physical features of the world). Through this study, students understand the relationship religion has with culture and society and how people in different cultures satisfy their spiritual needs.

World History Honors

10th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of major civilizations by examining the past to prepare for their future as participating members of a global community. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings. This course will include preparation for AP History courses.

Advanced Placement World History

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This college level course will provide students with the understanding of the development of major civilizations in history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare students for their future as participating members of the global community. Students will study primary sources and learn writing and critical thinking skills that will help them success on the AP World History Exam.

Advanced Placement Psychology

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This college level course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

American History Honors

11th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course surveys American History from early America to the present. Primary source document reading and analysis of significant historical events and people are a key part of this course. The major goal of this course is to instill a critical understanding of the ongoing American experience.

Advanced Placement United States History

11th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This college level course will provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary for dealing critically with United States history. The material covered will extend from early America to the present day. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP US History exam.

Economics Honors

12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of principles of economics including production, determination of prices, and distribution of income. This course will take place in the fall semester of the senior year.

American Government Honors

12th Grade | 0.5 credit

In addition to the material covered in American Government, students will analyze current news and events affecting our political system. Critical thinking skills are stressed. This course will take place in the spring semester of the senior year.

Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics

12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course provides students with a critical perspective on politics and government. It involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States politics and the analysis of specific case studies. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Government exam. This course will take place in the spring semester of the senior year.

World Languages

Spanish I

9th-11th Grade | 1.0 credit

Spanish I is a full-year course with the goal of language immersion that prepares students for ongoing Spanish study. Spanish vocabulary and grammar are emphasized through reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural activities. Level 1 students take the National Spanish Exam during the month of April.

Spanish II

9th Grade-12th grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish II reinforces and expands the foundation laid in Spanish I with a heavy emphasis on grammatical structures and verb tenses. Skills are developed through more advanced reading, writing, and listening activities, opportunities for practice speaking, as well as lesson exams, written or oral projects. Level 2 students take the National Spanish Exam during the month of April.

Spanish II Honors

9th Grade-12th grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I, Department recommendation

Spanish II reinforces and expands the foundation laid in Spanish I with a heavy emphasis on grammatical structures and verb tenses. Skills are developed through more advanced reading, writing, and listening activities, opportunities for practice speaking, as well as lesson exams, written or oral projects. Level 2 students take the National Spanish Exam during the month of April.

Spanish III Honors

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course is designed to enable the advanced student to communicate by listening, writing, reading, and speaking the Spanish language most effectively. This course is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

Spanish IV Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course is designed to enable student to enhance proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic and communicative approach. Continued development of listening, speaking, reading and writing is emphasized. This course is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

Advanced Placement Spanish Language & Culture

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

This course promotes language fluency and accuracy and is therefore taught in Spanish. Students will engage in exploration of culture through contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of literature, laws, conventions, cultural practices and perspectives such as values, attitudes and assumptions.

Latin I

9th-11th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course exposes the student to Roman culture, history, and classicism. Students will learn vocabulary (400 words) and will learn how to read and speak basic Roman texts and phrases. Students will learn conjugations, tenses, moods and voices of verbs and declensions, cases, gender and number of nouns and adjectives as they support reading. In addition, students will learn about the Roman home and family, the calendar and number system, fashion and dress, military and government structures and geography of Italy and the Mediterranean.

Latin II

9th-12th grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Latin I

Latin II builds on the foundation of Latin I. Another 400 words are added to a student's vocabulary. Sophisticated grammar (participles, gerunds, gerundives, supine, etc.) is learned in order to prepare students for Latin III. Students will begin to read unadapted passages in Latin and continue to learn about Roman culture and history.

Latin III Honors

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Latin II, Department recommendation

This honors course continues to build vocabulary and begins the process of reading unadapted Latin. Grammar will be reviewed and reinforced which was learned in second year. Students will read Caesar, Catullus, Cicero, Vergil, Horace, and Ovid. Students will also be introduced to poetry and the history of classicism in Europe.

Latin IV Honors

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Latin III Honors, Department recommendation

This course focuses in on the reading of Vergil and Caesar in preparing the student to take the AP Latin Exam. Students will examine these texts along the themes of Literary Genre and Style, Roman Values, War and Empire, Leadership, Views of non-Romans, History and Memory, Human Beings and the Gods. These texts will be used to explore larger questions of literature, culture, history, politics, mythology and legend.

Advanced Placement Latin

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

The capstone course of the Latin program. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the language by translating texts and demonstrating comprehension of the Latin passages from books 1, 4, 5, and 6 of Caesar's *De bello Gallico* and passages from books 1, 2, 5, and 6 of Vergil's *Aeneid*.

Mandarin Chinese I

9th-11th Grade | 1.0 credit

This introductory Chinese course is for students who have had little to no prior exposure to the language. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be facilitated by the use of Pinyin (phonetic systems) as a supplement to Chinese characters. Chinese history and culture will be woven throughout the language acquisition process.

Mandarin Chinese II

9th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese I

This is a continuation course designed for students who have already studied the basics of Chinese (e.g. pinyin, four tones), learned either through taking Chinese I, or through some other relevant experience. Emphasis is placed on listening and speaking in order to enhance communication in day-to-day situations. Students will also expand their vocabulary through reading and will grow in their ability to write short compositions.

Mandarin Chinese II Honors

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese II, Department recommendation

This course is an honors course which is designed to enable the advanced student to communicate by listening, writing, reading, and speaking the Mandarin language most effectively. Emphasis is placed on improving ability to write short essays in Chinese characters as well as speaking and comprehending more fluently. This course is conducted predominantly in Mandarin Chinese. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

Advanced Placement Chinese Language & Culture

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese III Honors, Department recommendation

AP Chinese Language & Culture is designed to provide students with various opportunities to further improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to be ready for the AP Chinese exam held in May.

Christian Studies

New Testament Survey

9th-11th Grade | 0.5 credit

This survey class provides an overview of the entire New Testament. The sequence is divided into 30 units and some examples of the content include (but is not limited to) the intertestamental period, John the Baptist, the birth of Jesus, the early years of Jesus' life, the teaching of Jesus, Parables, the miracles of Jesus, the Transfiguration, the Cross, the Resurrection, the ascension, Pentecost, the expansion of the Church, the conversion of Paul, Romans, Hebrews, General Epistles, and the Christ of Revelation.

Spiritual Formation

9th-11th Grade | 0.5 credit

This one-semester course is designed for freshmen at TFA. The overall objective in this class is to promote growth in Christian discipleship in students. The purpose of this course is to point students to Christ and help them grow in their relationship with Him by cultivating some key spiritual disciplines. The spiritual disciplines focus the mind and heart on the truth of God.

Foundations of Theology

9th-11th Grade | 0.5 credit

This is a one-semester course designed to help students establish a foundation of concepts and terminology on which to build a theological framework. The overarching purpose of this course is to equip students with an understanding of God's Word more fully as it digs into the essentials of all major areas of systematic theology.

Apologetics

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course is designed to equip the Christian student for a defense against a full range of opposing arguments. Students will examine competing worldview claims and be able to defend their faith in a pluralistic marketplace. Students will complete a year-long project researching how they see God through a topic of their choice.

Ethics

10th-11th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course is an inquiry into mankind's moral nature. How should a person live? What is morality, and how do we make moral decisions? These are questions that we must wrestle with what are our responsibilities and the means by which we may fulfill them. Special attention will be given to understanding the implications of a Christian system of ethics and how that affects the major issues in society today.

Biblical Interpretation: Romans

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the drama of Scripture, the relevant historic Christian doctrines, and the key themes of Romans. This study explores the key themes of faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, and especially how to live a holy life. Studying God's word can bring understanding, growth, and freedom into our lives. The student will enjoy a deeper understanding that the gospel truly is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16).

Philosophical Worldview

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This class will focus upon the biblical worldview and provide a philosophical framework of ideas and beliefs through which a Christian individual, group or culture interprets the world and interacts with it. It will help the student think well, seek wisdom, pursue discernment, and apply truth practically. "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

Physical Education

Personal Fitness

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students will acquire knowledge of physical fitness concepts, understand the influence of lifestyle on health and fitness, and begin to develop an optimal level of fitness. This course serves as a graduation requirement for all students not participating in a sport for at least two years while in the Upper School.

Beginning Weightlifting

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course is designed to help students develop an individual weight training program. It involves developing muscular strength and endurance.

Intermediate Weightlifting

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This is a continuation of the weight training that students learned in Beginning Weight-Training. It is an intensive program that requires students to perform Olympic-style lifts, plyometrics, and extensive planning and record keeping.

Advanced Weightlifting

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students in this course will be enabled to develop advanced knowledge and skills in weight training and further improve muscular strength and endurance.

Varsity Sports Conditioning & Leadership

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Instructor approval; must be a Varsity athlete

This course is designed to help athletes elevate their games to a new level using state-of-the-art training techniques. Athletes will use many different training modalities to increase strength, speed, power, and endurance.

Athletes will have the opportunity to use off-season strength training programs in the weight room, speed development on the track, and agility training on the field and court. In-season sport specific training will also be available by sport. Athletes will be able to get individualized and team training in season.

Team Sports I & II

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students will be able to develop physical fitness skills such as speed, flexibility, muscular strength and endurance, and aerobic capacity. Students will learn how to become educated participants and spectators of varying sports and will develop understanding in the role sports play in pursuing a health and active lifestyle.

Fine Arts Electives

Visual

2D Design

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course centers on the Principles of Design on a flat surface. Students will use various art materials and techniques to produce unique works of art. We will study dynamics of design by learning how to incorporate art materials in the creative process. Students will use critical thinking skills to solve basic design problems using the art elements and principles and their applications on the two-dimensional surface. Historical and contemporary trends of design will be reviewed.

3D Design

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course focuses on design in three-dimensional form. Students use higher thinking skills to construct, manipulate and embellish unique sculptures and low relief forms. The art elements and principles are incorporated into every created artwork. Students research the work of other artists who work in 3-dimensional form in order to enrich their visual memory.

Ceramics I

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course teaches the origins and fundamentals of working with clay. Focus is on all aspects of hand building and glazing.

Ceramics II

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Ceramics I

This course is a continuation of Ceramics I. Students are introduced to more complex building and glazing techniques and creative expression and originality are encouraged. Skills in pottery wheel throwing are developed.

Ceramics III Honors

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Ceramics II

This course is a continuation of Ceramics I and II. Students will work independently using previously learned hand building and glazing techniques to explore new means of expression with both. Skills in pottery wheel throwing are perfected. Works completed in this course may be used toward a College Application Portfolio, and/or AP Studio 3D Portfolio.

Ceramics IV Honors

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course is a culmination of Ceramics I, II, & III. Students will work independently using previously learned hand building and glazing techniques to explore new means of expression with both. Skills in pottery wheel throwing are perfected. Works completed in this course may be used toward a College Application Portfolio, and/or AP Studio 3D Portfolio.

Drawing & Painting I

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

In this course, students will learn a variety of methods of drawing in pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, and pastels. Other focuses include the variety of painting processes where the student analyzes the expressive potential of painting media, techniques within the framework of the art elements and principles. Students learn to incorporate them into their own "visual voice". Students will find meaning by analyzing and evaluating paintings of master artists.

Drawing & Painting II

9th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

This course will explore drawing materials such as pencil, charcoal, pen, ink and pastels as well as painting media such as watercolor, acrylics, and possibly oil at a more advanced level. Students will build on their knowledge from Drawing/Painting I to a more advanced skill level. These media will be used to solve problems in visual expression. The work will focus on technical skills in the area of drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media.

2D Portfolio Development

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Drawing & Painting I

This course is designed for the serious art student who wishes to create a portfolio for college or to develop one section of the AP Studio Art portfolio without submitting it to the College Board for grading. This can apply as a pre-AP Studio course. Offered at the same time as AP Studio Art 2D, students create works that demonstrate broad experience and accomplishment or works organized around a compelling visual concept.

Advanced Placement Studio Art 2D

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Drawing & Painting I, Instructor approval

AP 2-D Art and Design is an introductory college-level two-dimensional design course. Students refine and apply skills and ideas they develop throughout the course to produce two-dimensional art and design. Students will investigate materials, processes, and ideas, and make and present their art and designs.

Advanced Placement Studio Art 3D

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Ceramics III or Drawing & Painting I, Instructor approval

This course requires advanced skills and a strong work ethic. Assignments include a combination of specific design assignments and self-directed projects. Submission of a portfolio of thirty or more works of art is required for completion of an AP Portfolio. For a detailed description of the course, students should speak with the instructor.

Advanced Placement Studio Art Drawing

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Drawing & Painting I, Instructor approval

The AP Drawing Portfolio is intended to address a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and media. Line quality, light and shade, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, the illusion of depth and mark-making are drawing issues that can be addressed through a variety of means, which could include painting, printmaking, mixed media, etc. For a detailed description of the course, students should speak with the instructor.

Fine Arts Electives

Practical

Band

9th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation or audition

Band will provide students the opportunity to develop their skill and proficiency on their musical instruments. All students are personally evaluated on their musical performance and constructive guidance is given by the director to enhance each student's abilities. Emphasis will be placed on musical literacy and performance techniques. Band is comprised of two primary performing groups: The Royal Marching Band and the TFA Concert Band. Band students will be separated into four levels based on individual student ability. Each level will be required to meet certain benchmarks. Honors credit is given for the top two levels.

Chorus

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 or 1.0 credit

This semester or year-long course is designed for students with broad ranges of choral experience. The class promotes the enjoyment of and appreciation of music. Rehearsals focus on foundational vocal techniques, basic music theory, ensemble skills, and aesthetic musical awareness. The course will culminate in periodic public performances both on and off campus. Performances may occur outside of the school day. This class may be repeated for credit.

Musical Theatre

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 or 1.0 credit

Students will explore the world of musical theatre through studying all three aspects of musical theatre: song, acting, and dance, as well as Musical Theatre history. Students will discover key musical theatre history concepts, beginning musical theatre dance and choreography, the process of acting through song, and musical theatre song composition and performance through participation in individual and group performances throughout the semester.

Introduction to Theatre

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Introduction to Theatre offers an introduction to theatre, acting, and the stage. Students will explore the general world of theatre and beginning acting techniques through improvisation, pantomime, monologues, theatre history, and duet acting scenes. Students will gain insight into theatre through real world application and active performance experience, while enhancing other life skills such as public speaking and collaborating with others.

Advanced Acting

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre or membership in the International Thespian Society
Advanced Acting builds upon topics learned in Introduction to Theatre or in after school involvement in Theatre. Students will explore intermediate and advanced acting techniques through improvisation, pantomime, monologues, duet scene work, audition preparation, script analysis, and theatre history. Students will learn and apply key acting vocabulary and acting techniques from the Stanislavski, Chekhov, & Meisner acting methods.

Creating in the World of Mac

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

A hands-on overview of Mac computers including the various iLife programs (including iMovie, iPhoto, GarageBand, etc.) and more that encourage expression through creativity. Students will create projects while exploring the various programs. This course may be used as an introductory requirement for students interested in Digital Cinema courses.

Digital Cinema I

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Creating in the World of Mac

Students who have been accepted into the Broadcast Media department will learn basic skills in editing and create a PSA, Commercial, Claymation, Silent B/W video, and will learn to identify possible segments and produce basic segments with a clear message. Students will learn basic camera operation, as well as skills in direction and production of video projects.

Digital Cinema II

11th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Digital Cinema I

Students will further develop production skills through more complex editing, using the studio to tape and include various backgrounds, and will learn to create their own original music and script to be used in their WTFA (RAW Footage) segments. Students will be able to produce a special video project and demonstrate leadership skills by providing feedback and creating, planning, directing and recording a television program.

Digital Cinema III

12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Digital Cinema II

This is the culmination of the Television Production program at The First Academy. The students must demonstrate an advanced knowledge and ability to independently produce scripts and video. They demonstrate skills as effective communicators by serving as anchors for the WTFA (RAW Footage) show and providing effective leadership for the crew. Students are responsible for the final editing of the show, a special graduation video, and other video projects.

Creative Writing

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course will expose students to a variety of types of writing and provide them with opportunities to create their own works. Students will focus on fictional writing, poetry, playwriting, and non-fiction.

Advanced Placement Computer Science

10th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Computer science embraces problem solving, hardware, algorithms, and perspectives that help people utilize computers to address real-world problems in contemporary life. Students who take the AP Computer Science A course and exam are well prepared to continue their study of computer science and its integration into a wide array of computing and STEM-related fields.

Public Speaking

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This class provides active performance experience to help students strengthen their stage presence and capture the attention of an audience of their peers while enhancing other life skills such as research, writing, and collaborating with others. The goal of this course is to prepare students for success in typical public speaking situations and to provide them with the basic principles of organization and research needed for effective speeches. Students will learn how to research, outline, and deliver various kinds of speeches.

Debate

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students will be introduced to the concepts of academic educational debating. Students will work on skills in organization, research, delivery, refutation, and argumentation. They will also be trained to participate in classroom practice debates and will then possibly engage in a field trip to novice debate tournaments held at other schools.

Journalism

9th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

This course will enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of print or electronic journalistic media. Topics studied include, but are not limited to: writing processes, the history and ethics of journalism, applications and issues in photojournalism, organization and management techniques, technology for research, production, and dissemination, analysis of journalistic media, and careers in journalism.

Yearbook

9th-12th Grade | 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Journalism or another writing course, application process

This course teaches the art of producing a yearbook. Students will gain experience in photography, design and layout, editing, and marketing skills.

Other Electives

Biblical Foundations in Personal Finance

11th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course covers numerous topics in personal finance. Such topics include, but are not limited to, managing money God's way; saving money; creating a budget; understanding different types of investments; setting and achieving financial and career goals; understanding the dangers of debt; and understanding different types of insurance.

Test Preparation: Math

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course is designed to help students prepare for the rigors of taking the SAT assessment offered by College Board. The primary goal of this course is to identify and implement test taking strategies using prerequisite knowledge to increase student performance on the SAT.

Test Preparation: English

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Students will undergo intensive review of the reading comprehension and grammar sections of the SAT and ACT. The class will focus on both content and strategy to maximize score potential in these areas.

Care & Prevention of Athletic Injury (Sports Medicine I)

10th-12th Grade | 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

This course is designed for students interested in a career in Sports Medicine. Students will learn how to care for and prevent injuries to the human body while also learning specific techniques for the acute and chronic treatment of injuries. First Aid, CPR, and AED use will be covered. Students will be required to complete 5 hours of training room/on-field assistance during the semester.

Advanced Placement Courses

English

AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature & Composition

Mathematics

AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics

Science

AP Biology
AP Environmental Science
AP Chemistry
AP Physics 1

Social Science

AP Art History
AP Human Geography
AP World History
AP Psychology
AP United States History
AP United States Government & Politics

World Languages

AP Latin
AP Spanish Language & Culture
AP Chinese Language & Culture

Computer Science

AP Computer Science A

Art

AP 2-D Art and Design
AP 3-D Art and Design
AP Drawing

Dual Enrollment

The First Academy offers students the opportunity to participate in the dual enrollment program through various postsecondary institutions. Students who participate in the dual enrollment program take college courses that simultaneously count toward their high school and college GPA and credit count.

For students participating in dual enrollment, please review the information below and speak with your College Advisor before submitting a dual enrollment application.

Policies

Students will receive high school credits based on policies outlined by the college. When not specified, credits are awarded based on high school course equivalencies.

Students may not register for remedial/developmental courses, since they do not receive college credit.

Scheduling

If completing dual enrollment courses online, students will have a "Dual Enrollment" period on their TFA schedule and will report to the library to work independently on coursework.

If applicable, students may attend physical classes at the college campus during the school day as their schedule allows.

Grading

Final grades in dual enrollment courses will be listed on the student's high school transcript with an alphanumeric grade (A, B, etc.) and calculated into the TFA GPA with a weighting of 1.0 (same as AP courses). If proof of a numerical grade is provided to the College Guidance office by the student, the numerical grade will be reflected on the student's high school transcript.

Additional Information

Students and parents must sign and return the **Dual Enrollment Agreement Form**.

TFA covers tuition of dual enrollment courses through Valencia College and the University of Central Florida. Students are responsible for the cost of textbooks and any additional fees assessed by the college.

Middle School Course Catalog

English

English 6

6th Grade

This Language Arts class is designed to increase communications skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. The primary focus in language arts class will be mastery of argumentative writing, vocabulary, and demonstration of the rules of grammar. The students will read, comprehend, and apply critical thinking skills to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays. Writing assignments will include timed responses, essays, critiques, and creative pieces.

English 7

7th Grade

As a result of the TFA Language Arts education, students are exposed to a variety of literature: Christian fiction, apologetic writing, secular novels, historically-based literature, historical documentation, prose, poetry, personal narratives, and a wide array of children's literature. The systematic targeting of organizational skills, analytical thinking, and editing skills woven throughout the curriculum enhances the success of the students. Discernment for God's Truth is taught formally and informally within the Language Arts discipline. Students evaluate literature and accompanying forms of written communication on the basis of the Truth, and gain a deeper understanding and application of Biblical Truths.

English 8

8th Grade

The exploration of literature in a variety of forms continues in 8th grade as students read and engage with speeches, articles, poems, letters, short stories, biographies, plays, and novels. Through this literature, students will see and discuss God's love for the world and his heart to right injustice and care for the poor. A focus on grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary plays a central role in preparing students to grow as young writers. Students will learn to reason and think both biblically and rationally as they learn the art of argumentative writing. They have the opportunity to display these skills in essays and an intensive research paper which will prepare them to be successful in high school and beyond.

Mathematics

Middle School Math 1

6th Grade

This course prepares students for pre-algebra while focusing on foundational math skills such as fractions, decimals, integers, percents, order of operations, and we begin working on one and two-step equations.

Middle School Math 2

6th-7th Grade

This course continues student preparation for Pre-Algebra while focusing on foundational math skills such as fractions, decimals, integers, percents, order of operations, and one and two-step equations.

Pre-Algebra

6th-8th Grade

Pre-Algebra is designed to develop fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. Students will begin to learn algebraic concepts that will transition into formal Algebra and Geometry. Students will demonstrate an understanding of fractions, decimals, and percents. Students will learn to recognize and generate equivalent expressions as well as solve equations and inequalities.

Algebra I Honors

7th-8th Grade | 1.0 credit*

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Algebra I reviews Pre-Algebra skills and introduces the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions and graphing, radicals and rational expressions, quadratic equations and functions, exponents, polynomials and linear equations. The class goes in-depth on various topics and emphasizes problem solving.

**This class earns Upper School credit and will appear on your Upper School transcript.*

Geometry Honors

8th Grade | 1.0 credit*

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Geometry Honors includes an in-depth analysis of the concepts of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry. Topics include logic and proofs, parallel lines and planes, triangles, polygons, perimeter, area, volume, surface area, similarity, congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. All concepts are also related to real-world phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. This course will require students to develop a deep level of understanding that will include rigorous assignments and assessments as well as multiple projects throughout the year.

**This class earns Upper School credit and will appear on your Upper School transcript.*

Science

6th Grade Science (Earth Science)

6th Grade

The TFA Science Curriculum provides an opportunity for the student to develop a grounded Biblical truth measured against his/her observations of the natural world and its processes. Science is a method of inquiry, founded upon the order of this natural world and the design of its Creator. Students will discover their abilities to become responsible, independent, inquisitive, creative, and organized learners moving from curiosity, to familiarity, and ultimately mastery of scientific skills, processes, concepts, and theories. Students will recognize that science integrates with mathematics, technology, written language, and consumer and career interests. Students come to acknowledge personal responsibility as stewards to care for humanity and conserve resources for the glory of God.

7th Grade Science (Life Science)

7th Grade

This course is an ongoing process that is unlimited as an investigative tool. Students explore the various disciplines of science through an organized progression of class presentations, hands-on activities, and laboratory investigations that emphasize scientific processes and develop critical thinking skills. The concepts and principles of life science will be taught through instructional learning experience by means of laboratory activities, lectures, and application of the material. The student will be challenged to think critically by solving problems, making decisions, and learning to communicate effectively. This will foster a growing understanding of how science and the Bible are compatible.

8th Grade Science (Physical Science)

8th Grade

Physical Science is centered on developing the foundational skills of chemistry and physics with the knowledge of an omniscient creator God. Students explore matter (chemistry) and energy (physics) through class presentations, hands-on activities, and laboratory investigations that emphasize scientific processes, developing critical thinking skills that help students understand the processes at work around them every day. This course will foster a growing understanding of how God is reflected in the order and complexity of the universe by studying its smallest pieces and simplest workings.

Social Studies

6th Grade Social Studies

6th Grade

6th Grade Social Studies prepares students to acquire an awareness and understanding of the world and its people, as well as how the past may influence the future. Within the Christian perspective, students explore patterns of human interaction through history, geography, political science, economics, and social structure. Just as Luke recognized the importance of firsthand accounts in understanding historical events, so too, students will focus on primary and secondary sources. They will also apply Christian principles to examine the past and present; to understand local, state, national and global events; and to explore cause and effect relationships. The students will develop an appreciation for a personal heritage and cultural differences as they evaluate their roles and responsibilities as citizens in God's creation. They will also grow in their ability to make reasoned decisions as citizens in a culturally diverse world.

7th Grade Social Studies

7th Grade

7th Grade World History examines human development from Creation to the present day. Students learn about the socioeconomic conditions, political institutions, and ideological attitudes that have marked various time periods throughout history. The students will examine building democracy in Athens, changes in Greek democracy, development of the Roman republic, Roman law, Judaism, and Christianity, before exploring the changes that occurred during the Middle Ages. Additionally, the students will explore the Renaissance and Reformation, The Age of Exploration, The Scientific Revolution, The Industrial Revolution, Imperialism and World War 1, World War 2 and the Cold War, and current events. In addition to studying economics, history, civics, and government, the students will learn the countries and capitals of the world. Lastly, everything is based on developing a Christian worldview.

8th Grade Social Studies

8th Grade

8th Grade Social Studies offers a chronological history of the U.S. from the colonial times to World War I. Themes include planting colonies from a diverse population, creating and strengthening government based on Biblical principles, broadening and expanding our nation, and utilizing primary source information. Students will be engaged in creative and critical thinking activities, the highlight being an optional trip to Washington, D.C., to further understand and appreciate our Christian heritage.

World Languages

Spanish I Honors

8th Grade | 1.0 credit*

Spanish I is a full-year course with the goal of language immersion that prepares students for ongoing Spanish study. Spanish vocabulary and grammar are emphasized through reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural activities. Level 1 students take the National Spanish Exam during the month of April.

**This class earns Upper School credit and will appear on your Upper School transcript.*

Latin I Honors

8th Grade | 1.0 credit*

Latin I is a comprehensive introduction not only to the Latin language and how it works but also to the Roman world and the cultural milieu in which the language flourished. Students will build a 500-word Latin vocabulary and will be familiar with common Latin terms and phrases that survive even today. They will also learn the pantheon of Roman deities which provides a background understanding of the culture that existed in the first century as the Church began and the Gospel spread. Students will understand the value of the Pax Romana and how the Gospel was accelerated because of the Roman infrastructure that existed at the time of Christ.

**This class earns Upper School credit and will appear on your Upper School transcript.*

Mandarin Chinese I Honors

8th Grade | 1.0 credit*

This introductory Chinese course is for students who have had little to no prior exposure to the language. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be facilitated by the use of Pinyin (phonetic systems) as a supplement to Chinese characters. Chinese history and culture will be woven throughout the language acquisition process.

**This class earns Upper School credit and will appear on your Upper School transcript.*

Christian Studies

6th Grade Bible

6th Grade

In this course, students gain an in-depth understanding of a Biblical worldview. This focus presents a framework of biblical truth and values, encourages students to reflect upon it, and provides opportunities in various formats for them to apply what they have learned. Ultimately, students must individually embrace biblical truth and act on it as they are enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit. Within these parameters, our 6th graders begin to develop a cohesive Christian worldview through which they can interpret the world around them and respond biblically to it in their thinking and doing.

7th Grade Bible

7th Grade

7th grade Bible provides an in-depth look at the life of Christ. Students receive an overview of the content and background of the four Gospels. The course seeks to teach students how to read the Gospels and how to understand the significance of the work of Christ in their lives.

8th Grade Bible

8th Grade

8th grade Bible offers a survey of the Old Testament. The curriculum serves as a road map to guide students from Genesis to Malachi. The focus of the intentional classroom instruction consists of a) knowledge of the Bible, b) application of Scripture, and c) discernment to think and reason from a Biblical worldview.

Fine Arts Electives

Advanced Theatre

7th-8th Grade

Students will explore intermediate & advanced acting techniques such as improvisation, audition technique, monologues, musical theatre, theatre history, script analysis, and duet acting scenes. Students will also learn how to select material for auditions and theatre individual event competitions and will prepare for competitions receiving one-on-one coaching and training. This course requires an outside performance aspect at the Jr Thespian District Festival.

Band

6th-8th Grade

This introductory class exposes students to a variety of musical instruments and genres. Students have the opportunity to participate in various performance ensembles and learn to read music, work collaboratively, and learn about different performance techniques.

Varsity Band (Woodwind, Brass, or Percussion)

7th-8th Grade | 1.0 credit*

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Varsity Band will provide students the opportunity to develop their skill and proficiency on their musical instruments. Select 7th and 8th Grade students will be invited to play with the Upper School Band. Based upon instrument (woodwind, brass, or percussion), they will be placed in the section which reflects their instrument. All students are personally evaluated on their musical performance and constructive guidance is given by the director to enhance each student's abilities. Emphasis is placed on musical literacy and performance techniques. Band is comprised of two primary performing groups: The Royal Marching Band and the TFA Concert Band.

**This class earns Upper School credit and will appear on your Upper School transcript.*

Ceramics

6th-8th Grade

The TFA Visual Arts Ceramics 3/D curriculum encourages students to explore the medium of clay and glazes with hands on experience in basic hand building methods. Students will also be introduced to the wheel and experience our own special Raku firing on campus.

Drawing & Painting

6th-8th Grade

The TFA Visual Arts Drawing and Painting curriculum provides students the opportunity to discover their creativity with a variety of media and techniques, encouraging individuality and development of their own unique style. Students will begin to work toward building an original body of work that can be used as a portfolio that will include paintings, drawings, printmaking and mixed media art.

Middle School Choir – The Royal Ensemble

6th-8th Grade

This vocal ensemble is designed to prepare students to become strong vocal performers and develop their musical skills to become the complete musician. Studies will include music theory concepts such as rhythm, sight-reading/ singing, ear training, and other key vocal techniques. Students will develop their voices based on classical and modern techniques through solo and group singing. This group will participate in a required semester concert as well as other smaller performances throughout the year. Students involved in this ensemble will also be eligible to compete for The Florida All State Choir Competition. This class will expose students to a variety of music and give them the chance to audition for smaller vocal ensembles, such as pop a *cappella* groups.

Other Electives

Wheel

6th-7th Grade

Each quarter, students in Wheel will rotate to a new class to discover the elective offerings the Middle School has to offer. This exposes the students to new content areas as well as gives them the opportunity to discover fields they might want to explore in greater depth in the future. All students will take the Wheel unless they commit to full-year electives in Band, Steel Drums, Advanced Theater, or Chorus. **PLEASE NOTE: The actual courses that will appear on the Wheel for 2020-2021 will not be finalized until late in the summer.** Some possible options that might appear on the wheel next year are as follows:

Latin – An exploration of Roman culture, history, language and impact upon modern life. Students will learn vocabulary, mythos, and better understand the culture of the Pax Romana in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread throughout the world.

Mandarin – Students will learn the basics of pinyin, simple vocabulary and an introduction to Chinese culture, history and geography.

Photography – An overview of the technical aspects of photography and photo editing as well as how to best create meaningful and beautiful pictures.

Discipleship – A look at what it means to be a Christian in the world and how to best develop godly habits. This class is divided by gender so that the students can have authentic conversations about the challenges of being a middle school boy or girl.

Art – An exploration of various methods to create drawings, paintings, ceramics and three-dimensional art in a variety of styles.

Physical Education – Students will engage in a variety of athletic and classroom activities to develop healthy attitudes towards exercise and physical/mental well-being.

Exploratory Theater – Students will explore the general world of theatre and beginning acting techniques through improvisation, pantomime, monologues, theatre history, and duet acting scenes.

Exploratory Chorus – This vocal ensemble is designed to give students an opportunity to explore middle school choir without the commitment of performing. It will prepare students to become strong vocal performers and develop their musical skill set to become the complete musician.

Physical Education

6th-8th Grade

The middle school physical education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a competitive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. These students receive instruction in rules, strategy, and skills associated with different sports. The students will also have the opportunity to participate in lifelong activities through individual and dual sports. The program promotes Christian behavior, leadership, fair play and friendly competition. Students are encouraged and guided to develop positive self-esteem, to accept themselves and others, to handle stress, to solve problems, and to exercise leadership.

Student Aide

7th-8th Grade

Students can help teachers in either the Lower School or Middle School with various projects. This class does not earn academic credit. However, students earn 10 service hours per semester that can be counted towards the Bible class service requirement.

Study Hall

6th-8th Grade

Students will have a quiet, supervised work environment to complete homework, study for tests, etc. This class does not earn academic credit.