

UPPER SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE &
COURSE CATALOG

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Mission Statement

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.

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL HONOR CODE

Attendance at The First Academy is a great privilege. And like all privileges, it comes with certain responsibilities. I, therefore, personally accept each of the following Christian responsibilities:

1. To God almighty:

I believe and depend on the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation.

I will seek to honor the Lord in all that I think, say and do, and I will humbly submit to his commands.

I recognize that my appearance and behavior reflects on God as much as on me and my earthly family.

2. To my parents:

I will attempt to honor my parents in everything I think, say and do.

I will seek to learn all that I can from them.

I acknowledge that I cannot receive what I need, in life or godliness, without them.

3. To my church:

I will submit to all the authorities in the church that God has placed over me.

I will make worship, discipleship, and spiritual growth a priority in my life.

I will attempt to be an ambassador of Christ and His church wherever I am.

4. To my teachers:

I will demonstrate respect, attentiveness, gratitude, and obedience to my teachers.

I will seek to do all the work that I have been assigned with diligence, honesty and integrity.

I will do my utmost to learn as much and achieve as much as I possibly can.

5. To my classmates:

I will honor and respect the time, work, and feelings of my fellow students.

I will model honesty, integrity, kindness, and modesty in my relationships.

I will love others by confronting their sin (and receiving their correction) in spirit of love and humility.

I, therefore, pledge to uphold these Christian responsibilities, realizing that I will be able to enjoy the privilege of attending The First Academy only so long as I fully maintain this commitment – by the amazing grace and according to the merciful providence of God the father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Graduation Requirements

Entering high school before 2009-2010

English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I and above 	
Science	3 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Beyond Chemistry 	
Social Studies	3 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History American History American Govt & Econ. 	
Physical Education (or H.O.P.E)	1 credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Fitness .5 credit Physical Education elective .5 credit 	
Foreign Language	2 credits
Christian Studies	2.5 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual Formation Foundation of Theology World Religion Worldview Apologetics 	
Practical/Fine Art	1 credit
Electives	4.5 credits
Total	25 credits

Entering high school after 2009-2010

English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I and above 	
Science	3 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Beyond Chemistry 	
Social Studies	4 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History or AP Human Geography European History or AP Human Geography American History American Govt & Econ. 	
Physical Education (or H.O.P.E)	1 credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Fitness .5 credit Physical Education elective .5 credit 	
Foreign Language	2 credits
Christian Studies	2.5 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual Formation Foundation of Theology World Religion Worldview Apologetics 	
Practical/Fine Art	1 credit
Electives	4.5 credits
Total	26 credits

Academic Levels

Upper School students, with assistance from Guidance and College Placement counselors and in partnership with parents, 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 recommendation. Each student will meet with counseling staff to assure a course of study that meets his or her individual academic plan, interests, and goals.

College Prep

These courses follow a core curriculum (language arts, math, science, foreign language, and social studies) that will prepare students for admission to most colleges.

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 .5 (one-half point).

Advanced Placement

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 a standardized test.

Advanced Placement courses prepare students for selective colleges with more rigid admissions standards, and are weighted by a factor of 1.0 (one point).

Students and parents are encouraged to engage the counseling staff in academic level course selection. In general, there is no “drop/add” period at The First Academy Upper School.

Note that some colleges and Bright Futures Scholarships consider only grades in core academic courses in computing a grade point average.

Core Sequencing by Department

English/Language Arts

Grade	Standard	Honors, AP	Electives
9	English 9	English 9 Honors	Creative Writing Journalism
10	English 10	English 10 Honors	Creative Writing Journalism
11	English 11	English 11 Honors AP English Language	Creative Writing Journalism
12	English 12	English 12 Honors AP English Literature	Creative Writing Journalism

Most Honors and AP courses have prerequisites.

Electives are open to all Upper School grade levels unless specified otherwise.

Core Sequencing by Department

Mathematics

Grade	Standard	Honors, AP	Electives
9	Algebra I	Algebra I Honors	
	Geometry Honors		
10	Algebra II	Algebra II Honors	
	Geometry	Geometry Honors	
11	Algebra II	Algebra II Honors	
	Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors	
	Trigonometry & Statistics		
12	Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors	
	Trigonometry & Statistics	Calculus Honors or AP Calculus	
	Advanced Topics in Mathematics		

Most Honors and AP courses have prerequisites.

Electives are open to all Upper School grade levels unless specified otherwise.

Core Sequencing by Department

Science

Grade	Honors, AP	Electives
9	Biology Honors	
10	AP Biology Chemistry Honors	
11	AP Chemistry AP Biology Anatomy & Physiology Honors	Physics Honors
12	Physics Honors or AP Physics B AP Chemistry AP Biology	Marine Science Honors

Most Honors and AP courses have prerequisites.

Electives are open to all Upper School grade levels unless specified otherwise.

Core Sequencing by Department

Social Studies

Grade	Standard	Honors, AP	Electives
9	World History *	World History Honors AP World History	AP Human Geography
10	European History *	European History Honors AP European History	AP Human Geography
11	American History	American History Honors AP United States History	AP European History
12	American Government Economics	American Government Honors Economics Honors AP Government & Politics	AP European History

* Can be replaced by AP Human Geography

Most Honors and AP courses have prerequisites.

Electives are open to all Upper School grade levels unless specified otherwise.

Core Sequencing by Department

Christian Studies

Grade	Standard	Electives
9	Spiritual Formations	
10	Foundation of Theology	
11	Worldview	
	World Religions	
12	Apologetics	

Grade Level

Course Recommendations

9

9th Grade

English 9 (H)

Algebra I (H) or Geometry (H)

Biology (H)

World History (H), AP World History, AP Human Geography

Foreign Language I or II

Physical Fitness and PE elective

Spiritual Formation (Bible I)

Elective

* AP Human Geography (can be taken as an additional academic elective)

* Students and parents should carefully consider their four-year plan in selecting elective courses, as many classes seek to build on skill sets acquired in previous years' curriculum, as in Broadcast Media, Computer Education, and some fine arts courses.

10

10th Grade

English 10 (H)

Geometry (H) or Algebra II (H)

Chemistry (H) or AP Biology

European History (H), AP European History (World History**),

AP Human Geography

Foreign language II or III

Foundations of Theology (Bible II)

Electives

* Students and parents should carefully consider their four-year plan in selecting elective courses, as many classes seek to build on skill sets acquired in previous years' curriculum, as in Broadcast Media, Computer Education, and some fine arts courses.

** For students who entered high school before 2009-2010

11

11th Grade

English 11 (H) or AP Language
Algebra II (H) or Trigonometry & Statistics,
Pre-Calc.(H), etc.
Anatomy (H), AP Chemistry,
AP Biology, Physics (H) or (AP), etc
American History (H) or AP US History
Worldview
World Religions
Foreign Language
Electives (Includes AP European History & AP Human
Geography)

* Students and parents should carefully consider their four-year plan in selecting elective courses, as many classes seek to build on skill sets acquired in previous years' curriculum, as in Broadcast Media, Computer Education, and some fine arts courses.

12

12th Grade

English 12 (H) or AP Literature
Trigonometry & Statistics, Pre-Calc (H), Advanced Topics,
Calculus (H) or (AP)
Science Elective: Marine Science, Anatomy & Physiology (H)
American Government (H) or (AP) & Economics (H)
Apologetics
Electives (Includes AP European History & AP Human
Geography)

* Students and parents should carefully consider their four-year plan in selecting elective courses, as many classes seek to build on skill sets acquired in previous years' curriculum, as in Broadcast Media, Computer Education, and some fine arts courses.

2010 – 2011 Course Catalog

Language Arts

English 9 1 credit
This course focuses on language-related areas: grammar, composition, writing skills, and literature.

English 9 Honors 1 credit
Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in 8th gr. English Honors
The 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 1 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 1 credit
Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in 9th gr. English Honors
The honors level enhances the English 10 curriculum in its expectation of greater maturity and literary appreciation, written analysis and criticism.

English 11 1 credit
This course continues the study of composition, mechanics and vocabulary from English 9 and English 10 and further challenges the student in writing skills. The literary emphasis will encompass examination of various works of American literature.

English 11 Honors 1 credit
Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in 10th gr. English Honors
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.

English 12 1 credit
English 12 encompasses the study of British Literature. A look at cultural and historical formation of literature is integrated. Additional emphasis is implemented to strengthen spelling, grammar, and critical thinking skills.

English 12 Honors 1 credit
Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in 11th gr. English Honors
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.

AP English Language

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, entering 11th gr., 85% average or above in 10th gr. English Honors

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.

AP English Literature

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, entering 12th gr., 85% average or above in 11th gr. English Honors

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 they 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

1 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

1 credit

Pre-requisite: Department recommendation

This course parallels the Algebra I course but is more rigorous. Students will be exposed to and expected to master the mathematical concepts at a higher level.

Geometry

1 credit

Pre-requisite: Algebra I

Topics in the course will include logic and reasoning, developing proofs for theorems using the axiomatic approach, applying properties of lines, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals and circles in developing appropriate proofs and in solving problems.

Geometry Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in Algebra I Honors

This course parallels Geometry; however it teaches and tests on a more advanced level. Geometry Honors goes further in depth covering abstract proofs, topology, locus, coordinate and transformational geometry, and non-Euclidean geometries.

Algebra II

1 credit

Pre-requisite: Geometry

Algebra II includes such skills as analyzing, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, matrices, polynomial, rational quadratic, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions.

- Algebra II Honors** 1 credit
 Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in Geometry Honors
 Algebra II Honors prepares students for pre-calculus and covers the same topics as Algebra II. Additionally included in this course are topics in trigonometry such as translating functions, reciprocal functions, identities, and equations. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated.
- Advanced Topics in Mathematics** 1 credit
 Pre-requisite: Department recommendation, 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, and complex numbers, and exponential & logarithmic functions.
- Intro to Statistics** .5 credit
 Pre-requisite: Algebra II
 The purpose of this course is to introduce the study of statistics. Topics will include, but not limited to, sampling and experimentation, frequency distributions, histograms, bar graphs, circle graphs, stem and leaf displays, measures of central tendency, measures of variations, and probability.
- Trigonometry** .5 credit
 Pre-requisite: Algebra II
 The purpose of this course is to study circular and trigonometric functions and their applications. Study will include: circular and trigonometric functions and their inverses, trigonometric identities, graphs, trigonometric equations, solutions of right and oblique triangles, and trigonometric form of complex numbers. Note: Students earning credit in Pre-Calculus may not earn credit in both. Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry.
- Pre Calculus CP & Honors** 1 credit
 Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in Algebra II Honors
 Students, as mathematic analysts, will investigate how advanced mathematics concepts can solve problems encountered in operating national parks. The purpose of this course is to study functions and develop skills necessary for the study of calculus. The pre-calculus course includes analytical geometry and trigonometry.
- Calculus Honors** 1 credit
 Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in Pre-Calculus Honors
 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** 1 credit
 Pre- requisites: Department recommendation, 85% or above in Pre-Calculus Honors
 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, volume and arc length. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Calculus exam.

Science

Biology Honors

1 credit

This course follows the same outline as Biology, but in greater depth. Topics expand to include scientific methods, measurement, lab safety, biochemistry, and cellular biology.

Advanced Placement Biology

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 85% average or above in Biology Honors

The purpose of this course is to earn biology credit in college upon passing the AP exam. Topics 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.

Chemistry Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% average or above in Biology Honors

This course includes a strong mathematical interpretation. Topics are covered more in depth and require more time. Items covered include: models of the atom, thermochemistry, bonding, kinetics, equilibrium and electrochemistry.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 85% average or above in Chemistry Honors

This course develops a depth of understanding of fundamentals and a reasonable competence in dealing with chemical problems. The course will contribute to the development of the students' abilities to think clearly and to express their ideas, orally and in writing, with clarity and logic.

Anatomy & Physiology Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, Biology, Chemistry

This course involves a survey of the structure, function and interactive dynamics of the human body. An understanding of the cells, tissues, and anatomical terminology is achieved.

Marine Science Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, Biology

The student will have the opportunity to investigate the living creation found under the sea. Topics include: study of the ocean floor, marine communities and ecology.

Physics Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% average or above in Algebra II Honors

This course takes an in depth view of the laws of the natural universe. It includes such topics for study as motion, Newton's laws, friction, momentum, energy, electricity, and quantum and nuclear physics.

Advanced Placement Physics B

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 85% average or above in Algebra II Honors

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 Studies

- 9th GRADE HISTORY -**World History**

1 credit

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of 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.

World History Honors

1 credit

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of 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.

***Advanced Placement Human Geography**

1 credit

Pre-requisites/9th grade: Department recommendation

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

Advanced Placement World History

1 credit

Pre-requisites/9th grade: Department recommendation

This college level course will provide students with the understanding of the development of Europe within the context of history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of the global community. Students 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. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP World History exam.

- 10th GRADE HISTORY -

European History Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisite: World History or World History Honors or AP Human Geography

Students understand the development of Europe within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a global community. Students 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.

Advanced Placement European History

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in previous history course

Students understand the development of Europe within the context of history by examining connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of a global community. Students 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. ***Students must have taken at least one year of World History prior to taking this course or along with this course.**

- 11th GRADE HISTORY -

American History

1 credit

This course surveys American history beginning around the turn of the 19th century and encompassing the 20th century. Included are such as studies of people, places, technology and events critical to an understanding of the United States History.

American History Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% or above in previous history course

In addition to the material covered in American History, students will analyze current events and apply lessons from the past to situations of today. Military, constitutional, and international events affecting the nation will be examined.

Advanced Placement U.S. History

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 85% average or above in World History Honors or AP Human Geography previous year

This college level course will provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary for dealing critically with problems and materials in United States history. The material covered will extend from colonization to the current administration. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP US History exam.

- 12th GRADE HISTORY -

American Government

.5 credit

This course will provide the student with an understanding of the political traditions, documents, parties, and officers that make up the American political system as well as the rights and responsibilities of the American citizen.

Economics .5 credit
This course teaches a broad range of economic concepts as students examine the complex nature of essential characteristics of economic systems throughout the world. Students will also learn how economics impact their lives through income, labor, taxes, and resources.

American Government Honors .5 credit
Pre-requisites/12th grade: Department recommendation, 80% or above in American History Honors
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.

Economics Honors .5 credit
Pre-requisites/12th grade: Department recommendation
In addition to materials covered in Economics, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of principles of production, determination of prices, and distribution of income.

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics .5 credit
Pre-requisites/12th grade: Department recommendation, 85% average or above in American History Honors previous year
This college level 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. This course includes the required Economics' coursework. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP US Gov./Politics History exam.

Foreign Language

Spanish I 1 credit
Spanish I introduces the student to the Spanish language and its culture. Spanish vocabulary and grammar are included. An understanding, both written and spoken, of basic conversational Spanish is emphasized.

Spanish II or Spanish II Honors 1 credit
Pre-requisite: Spanish I
Spanish II reinforces and expands the foundation laid in Spanish I. It will broaden the students' understanding and usage of the language and the culture. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

Spanish III Honors 1 credit
Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% average or above in Spanish II previous year
This course is an honors course which 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. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

Spanish IV Honors 1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% average or above in Spanish III previous year

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. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

Advanced Placement Spanish Literature 1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 85% average or above in Spanish III previous year

The purpose of this course is to develop oral and written fluency in Spanish. Students will comprehend formal and informal spoken Spanish, possess vocabulary and structure that allows accurate reading of Spanish and Hispanic-American literature, compose expository passages, and express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency. Completion of this course will allow students to take the AP Spanish exam.

Latin I 1 credit

This course exposes the student to Roman culture, contextual exercises and etymology. Students will conjugate verbs and apply grammatical and syntactical rule in order to translate simple passages. Vocabulary will be an integral part of this course.

Latin II or Latin II Honors 1 credit

Pre-requisite: Latin I

Latin II builds on the foundation of Latin I. Grammar and vocabulary are expanded to allow the students to master translation.

Latin III Honors 1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% average or above in Latin II -previous year

This honors course utilizes both poetry and prose as it advances the students in their understanding of the language. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

Latin IV Honors 1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 80% average or above in Latin III -previous year

The purpose of this course is to enable students to enhance their proficiency in the foundations of Latin vocabulary and grammar and to expand their knowledge of classical culture. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

French I 1 credit

The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout this course.

French II or French II Honors 1 credit

Pre-requisite: French I

The purpose of this course is to enable students to enhance proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. There is continued emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

French III Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisite: French II

The purpose of this course is to enable students to enhance proficiency in French through an immersive, linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. There is continued emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on the mastery of applied grammar. Honors weighting is not calculated for Bright Futures calculation.

French IV Honors

1 credit

Pre-requisite: French III

The purpose of this course is to enable students to enhance proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. There is continued emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Experiences with French literature are broadened. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

Christian Studies

– 9th GRADE CHRISTIAN STUDIES –

Spiritual Formation

.5 credit

This required freshman Bible class is a one-semester course that serves as an introduction to the basic spiritual disciplines and is designed to bring life application to core biblical practices such as prayer, Bible study, worship, fellowship, witnessing, etc.

– 10th GRADE CHRISTIAN STUDIES –

Foundations of Theology

.5 credit

This required sophomore Bible class is a one-semester course and serves as an introduction to the basic biblical Christian doctrines. Doctrinal emphasis is upon the essentials of biblical Christianity.

– 10th, 11th, 12th GRADE CHRISTIAN STUDIES –

World Religions

.5 credit

Through the study of world religions, 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. This required Bible course (to be taken during the 10th or 11th grade) satisfies a Social Studies elective credit.

– 11th GRADE CHRISTIAN STUDIES –

Worldview

.5 credit

This course examines the major worldviews students are faced with today. It covers Christianity, Secular Humanism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age Movement), and Marxism. The students will understand how worldviews influence issues such as creation, moral issues, and politics.

Apologetics

.5 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.

Electives

Language Arts Electives

Creative Writing

.5 credit

This course is designed to improve writing skills and to allow students to explore the world of journalism through creative writing. Effort will be made to publish student writing.

Journalism I

.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

1 credit

Pre-requisite: Application process and Journalism/Writing course required

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

Physical Education Electives

Personal Fitness I *

.5 credit

The purpose of this course is to (a) acquire knowledge of physical fitness concepts (b) understand the influence of lifestyle on health and fitness, and (c) begin to develop an optimal level of fitness.

Beginning Weight Training

.5 credit

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

Intermediate Weight Training

.5 credit

Pre-requisite: Beginning Weight-Training

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 Weight Training

.5 credit

Pre-requisite: Intermediate Weight-Training

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop advanced knowledge and skills in weight training, further improve muscular strength and endurance, and further enhance self-image.

* Students can test out of this course by passing the Presidential Fitness Exam

Computer Education Electives

Introduction to Computer

.5 credit

Pre-requisites: None

The purpose of the course is to enable students to develop knowledge of the functions, capabilities, applications, and social implications of computer technology.

Computer Programming I

.5 credit

Pre-requisites: Completion of Algebra I Honors

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop knowledge of programming concepts and one more languages.

Information Design

.5 credit

Pre-requisites: None

This computer education course is designed to emphasize the architectural stages of definition, concept, creation and implementation in the authoring of information design. The course will integrate multimedia and desktop publishing features.

Interactive Design

.5 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, Information Design

This computer education course is designed to enhance organization, functionality, and structure of user interface design and interactive applications. Students will learn how to include animation and sound in design applications.

Fine / Visual / Practical Arts Electives

Drawing & Painting I

1 credit

This is a one-year introductory course in visual art. Our main focus is the exploration and development of skills in drawing, painting and color theory with a cross-curricular emphasis. Students learn to express ideas through a variety of art media. Visual memory skills are developed as we look at the work of famous artists. Our goal is that students will gain an appreciation of how Visual Arts enhance our quality of life. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Drawing & Painting II

.5 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, Art I

This course expands upon the skills learned in Art I. Our main focus is to successfully apply the art elements with the principles of design to the art product. Students will elevate their drawing skills to a new level and be given opportunities to explore art media and various color theories. We will compare the work of master artists to glean information on how to improve our artwork. Students can take this course for one or two semesters. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Illustration and Literature .5 credit

Prerequisite: Completion of 9th grade English. 2-D design or Drawing & Painting I is recommended

This course is for the students who love books and love to express themselves in poetry, journals, and stories. Writers will have a place to reveal their creative talent by making books as a canvas for talent. We will explore altered books, circular books, exploding books and more. We will learn the basics of calligraphy.

Beginning Drawing I .5 credit

This course is for students who wish to develop or improve drawing skills. We will work with the elements of good drawing: observation skills, contour and gesture drawing, shading, proportion and we will explore a variety of drawing materials.

Ceramics I .5 credit

This course teaches the origins and fundamentals of working with clay. Focus is on all aspects of hand building and glazing. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Ceramics II .5 credit

Pre-requisite: 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 stressed. Skills in pottery wheel throwing are developed. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

2-Dimensional Design .5 credit

Pre-requisite: Art I

This introductory course teaches students to use art elements and design principles on flat or 2-D surfaces. Experience with a variety of art media is encouraged where students develop skills in design, drawing and painting. Visual memory skills are strongly developed. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

3-Dimensional Design .5 credit

Pre-requisite: 2-Dimensional Design

This course emphasizes the use the art elements and design principles to fabricate three-dimensional art. We use a cross-curricular emphasis as we learn color theory, the use of a variety of art media and explore spatial concepts where critical thinking skills are developed. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Art Portfolio .5 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 3 semesters of Upper School Art including Art I

This is an advanced class for the experienced art student who has unique ability and is planning career possibilities in the field of art and design or is seriously interested in art. These students are already *very proficient* in art media and want to understand the creative process and how we “think art”. Our goal is to establish a portfolio, and our emphasis is on developing content. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Band

1 credit

Pre-requisites: 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. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Drama I

.5 credit

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the multiple elements of theatre as a collaborative art. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: acting and characterization, movement and vocal production, theatre terminology, script elements, theatre history and influences, playwriting, theatre production, artistic discipline, roles and careers in theatre arts, & relationships between theatre arts and other subject areas

Comprehensive Theatre

1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Drama I or teacher approval

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop and synthesize fundamental elements of theatre arts into final production using varied media, techniques, and processes. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following: acting and characterization, pantomime and improvisation, analysis of dramatic literature, playwriting skills, & theatre arts personnel.

Musical Theatre

1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Auditions

The purpose of this course is to enable students to participate in varied aspects of musical theater, with special attention to the fundamentals of voice production, stage movement, acting, characterization, dance, and technical aspects of a musical.

Speech

.5 credits

The emphasis in this course is upon the development of intelligent, educated, accurate, and creative oral communication, both formal and informal. Included are such activities as: group discussion, individual public speaking, and storytelling. This course will count toward the graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Debate

.5 credit

Students will be introduced to and familiarized with the concepts of academic educational debating. Students will work on skills in: organization, research, delivery, refutation, and argumentation. Students will 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.

Creating in the World of Mac

.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 TV Production courses.

Television Production I

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, 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. The course will meet graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Television Production II

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, Television Production 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. This course will meet graduation requirement for Fine Arts.

Television Production III

1 credit

Pre-requisites: Department recommendation, Television Production 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.

Valencia Dual Enrollment

11th & 12th Grade Only

In an effort to continue to offer courses that will challenge and better prepare our students for college, TFA is working with Valencia Community College (VCC) to offer online (web based) Dual Enrollment courses. Students will enroll at Valencia Community College at no cost other than the cost of the textbook. Students who pass the online courses will receive credits toward their high school diploma and three college credits from Valencia Community College.

REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER THE VCC DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

- GPA - 3.5 overall
- ACT scores - Reading 20, English 17, Math 21
- SAT - Verbal 480, Math 500

Students may also take the CPT test at the Valencia campus and must have the following scores: Reading – 83, Sentence Skills 83, Elem. Algebra 90

* It is the student's responsibility to take the CPT at the VCC Campus. We do not offer the test at TFA.

When taking VCC Dual Enrollment courses at TFA:

1. Students will report to the Computer Lab during the scheduled Dual Enrollment class and will work independently on course assignments, tests, etc. using WebCT via the Internet. Grades will be given by VCC professors.
2. VCC grades will be translated into a numerical grade and calculated into the TFA GPA with a weight factor of .5 (same as Honors level classes). These grades will appear on student transcripts.
3. Students will only take online courses offered during school hours.
4. Students may take VCC campus courses if taken outside TFA school hours.
5. Students may take only the General Core classes that are not offered at TFA.
6. If a student withdraws from a course, that withdrawal will appear on transcripts.

Intro to Microcomputers - Valencia Online Dual Enroll @ TFA

.5 credit

Pre-requisite: Guidance approval

Intro to major uses of microcomputers for business applications. Topics covered include computer literacy and the use of industry- standard software packages for word processing, spreadsheets, database, and presentation graphics. This course is available to juniors and seniors only.

College Algebra - Valencia Online Dual Enroll @ TFA

.5 credit

Pre-requisite: Guidance approval

Course based on the study of functions and their role in problem solving. Topics include graphing, the linear, quadratic, and exponential families of functions, and inverse functions. Students will be required to solve applied problems and communicate their findings effectively. Technology tools will be utilized in addition to analytical methods. Gordon Rule course. This course is available to juniors and seniors only.

General Psychology - Valencia Online Dual Enroll @ TFA

.5 credit

Pre-requisite: Guidance approval

Life-oriented course in psychology, designed to give student factual foundation in techniques and vocabulary of psychology and general understanding of human behavior. Surveys, research and application of psychology in areas of learning, intelligence, motivation, emotion, personality, behavior disorders, mental health and therapy. This course is available to juniors and seniors only.

Introductory Sociology - Valencia Online Dual Enroll @ TFA

.5 credit

Pre-requisite: Guidance approval

Enables student to understand social behavior and social processes and become familiar with vocabulary and methodology of discipline of sociology. Emphasis on culture and personality, age and sex roles, family, deviant behavior, social class and stratification, group behavior and social change. This course is available to juniors and seniors only.

If a student drops or is dropped by VCC from an online course, the student will be placed in an available elective course at TFA during that class period.