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History & Mission

Founded in 2014, Atlanta Classical Academy is an open-enrollment, K-12 public charter school for students who live in the Atlanta Public Schools district. *The mission of Atlanta Classical Academy is to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.* The school's first high school senior class will graduate in 2019.

Enrollment

Upper School (7-10): 203
Elementary School (K-6): 383
Total: 586 (23% students of color)
Class of 2019: 42

National Assessments

PSAT 8/9: In 2016, almost 40% of our students scored in the top 10% nationally, and more than half scored in the top 25%. Over 90% scored in the top half on the verbal, and 78% scored in the top half of the math section.

National Latin Exam: Sponsored by the American Classical League, this exam assesses students' knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar and Roman history, culture, and geography. Twenty percent of 9th graders who took the Latin I exam achieved *summa cum laude*, and 37% received *maxima cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *cum laude*. Of the 9th graders who took the Latin II exam, 33% passed *summa cum laude*.

Faculty

The high school faculty of Atlanta Classical Academy has 21 full-time members. Teachers are hired based on their mastery of academic disciplines in the liberal arts and sciences; certification is not required. Over 40% of the high-school faculty have a Master's degree or PhD, and 19% have taught at the college level.

Grading & Grade Point Average

Grade point averages are computed using semester grades and the grading scale below. Atlanta Classical Academy strongly discourages grade inflation.

A 94-100 (4.0)	A- 90-93 (3.7)	B+ 87-89 (3.3)
B 84-86 (3.0)	B- 80-83 (2.7)	C+ 77-79 (2.3)
C 74-76 (2.0)	C- 70-73 (1.7)	D+ 67-69 (1.3)
D 64-66 (1.0)	D- 60-63 (0.7)	F Below 60 (0.0)

Two separate GPAs are computed for grades 9-10: a cumulative overall GPA and a cumulative overall weighted GPA. The cumulative overall GPA is based on semester grades earned in all credited subjects graded A-F. The cumulative overall weighted GPA includes additional AP credits earned (+.5).

Because of the rigorous nature of our program, our students' high standing on national norms, and the small size of our program, Atlanta Classical Academy does not calculate class rank.

Class of 2019 cumulative unweighted freshman year GPA:

22%	3.75 and above
34%	3.5 to 3.75
20%	3.0 to 3.5
12%	2.5 to 3.0
12%	Below 2.5

54%

of high school students participate in Sports

34%

of high school students participate in Fine Arts

8

student-led clubs offered

A CLASSICAL EDUCATION FOR MODERN TIMES

A classical education is a liberal arts education intended to equip students for virtuous, knowledgeable, and happy lives. Our students will be engaged citizens and thoughtful contributors, well qualified for future studies in law, medicine, business, engineering, technology, theology or any other professional or vocational pursuit.

In the **humanities**, students engage in Socratic discussion, as teachers propose questions based on close readings of complete works. Freshmen read the *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid* and delve into the works of historians and philosophers such as Thucydides, Herodotus, Plato, and Plutarch. In their sophomore year, students read Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dickens, and Austen, while considering the religious and political contributions of Augustine through Adam Smith. Students discover America in their junior year, completing courses in American Literature, American History, and American Government. They read the founding documents as well as the influential Federalist papers and other writings of the founders, presidents, authors, and activists of the 19th century. Finally, the senior year focuses on modern times with works by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and George Orwell and a study of the presidencies, wars, politics, and theories that shaped the era.

Mathematics and **science** classes place an emphasis on the search for

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement coursework is available in 10th grade, with additional AP courses offered in following years, particularly in math, science, and Latin. Students enrolled in an AP course are expected to take the corresponding exam. Because all our high school courses are rigorous and follow a coherent trajectory, Atlanta Classical Academy offers AP courses only when they closely align with the curriculum. **Students must first complete the non-AP core course and may take optional follow-on AP courses only when this is recommended by their teachers.**

truth and beauty and the primacy of logic (including Euclidian Geometry), as well as deductive reasoning as students move from foundational to more advanced courses.

After three years of Latin in grades 6-8, students must complete one year of **Latin** in high school before pursuing 3 more years of foreign language. Many choose to advance further in Latin.

Other required courses include at least one semester of **Composition** with an emphasis on coherent, concise, and compelling writing and habits of clear thinking. Tenth grade students take **Moral Philosophy**, with a focus on the moral traditions of Western Civilization.

Students may continue to build upon **music theory** and **art history** instruction received during their elementary and middle school years by participating in **performance ensembles** and **advanced art classes**.

Seniors must write a 25-page **Senior Thesis** and defend it before faculty members and peers.

Curriculum (25.5 credits required)

English (4.0 credits)

Classical Literature
British Literature
American Literature
Modern European Literature

History (4.5 credits)

Western Civilization I (Classical)
Western Civilization II (Medieval)
American History (3 semesters)
Modern European History

Mathematics (4.0 credits)

Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
Pre-Calculus
Calculus I (AP option)

Science (4.0 credits)

Biology I (AP option)
Chemistry I (AP option)
Physics I (AP option)
Computer Science II (AP option)

Foreign Language (3.0 credits)

Latin I-IV (AP option)
Spanish I-III

Additional Requirements (3.5 credits)

Composition, Moral Philosophy,
American Government/Economics,
Personal Finance, Health/Personal
Fitness

Electives (2.5 credits)

Advanced Composition, Computer
Science I, Leadership, Team Sports,
Jazz Ensemble I-IV, Performance
Ensemble I-IV, Studio Art I-III

ACTIVITIES | SPORTS | LEADERSHIP | CLUBS | SERVICE

9th Grade Iliad Essay Contest. Ninth grade students finish their study of Homer with a deep analysis on a topic of their choosing. Literature teachers select a small group of outstanding essays, and the Principal chooses the winner from that group.

Honor Guard. Students who demonstrate exemplary character and sound academic performance receive the honor of lowering, folding, and hoisting a new flag at our annual Veterans Day ceremony.

Student Council. Officers and class representatives are elected and mentored. They meet following parliamentary procedure, develop proposals, collaborate with school leadership, and coordinate initiatives to serve the community and student body.

Student of the Quarter. Each quarter, one upper school student in 7th or 8th grade and one in the high school is recognized by the faculty and administration for his or her academic performance and good character.

Cavaliers Serve. Atlanta Classical Academy actively sponsors two long-term, student-led community service projects.

Sports. Girls' and Boys' Varsity and Junior-Varsity Basketball, Soccer, and Cross Country.

Clubs and Organizations. Civil Air Patrol, Airplane & Rocketry Club, Dramatic Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club, Quiz Bowl, Sewing Club, and String Ensemble.

Courage • Courtesy • Honesty • Perseverance • Self-Government • Service