ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Course Description Handbook 2025-2026

www.aristoiclassical.org

Table of Contents

Mission, Vision, & Philosophy ……...…….. 3

9th Grade Options ……...…….…… 4

10th Grade Options …….……...…… 4

11th Grade Options …… 5-6

12th Grade Options …… 7-8

Mathematics Courses ……. 9-10

Science Courses …….…….…… 11-13

Language Other Than English Courses ……...……..... 14-15

Fine Art Courses ……..…….....….. 16-25

Visual Art …….…. 16-18

Band …….. 19-22

Theatre …….……. 22-24

Choir ……....…. 24-25

Athletics Course ……..... 26

MISSION

Our mission is to provide students with an academically challenging Classical Liberal Arts education that encourages them to develop a passion for learning and that gives them the means to become responsible citizens of virtuous character.

VISION

ACA aims to graduate young men and women who seek the truth in all things; who understand that learning is a life-long pursuit; and who listen carefully, reason critically, communicate clearly, and write persuasively. We desire them to be honorable citizens who seek to improve their communities and the world rather than passively traveling along the road most followed. We desire to cultivate in our students the virtues of courage, moderation, and wisdom. We aim for them to be humble and magnanimous when dealing with others. We seek to help each student become who he or she is meant to be.

PHILOSOPHY

Aristoi's philosophy is to provide a disciplined culture of excellence that fosters intellectual curiosity through a partnership with the students, their parents and the community. The School requires a rigorous pursuit of knowledge, teaches the habits of hard work and perseverance, and develops students who embrace truth, goodness and beauty.

9th Grade Options:

Introduction to Band
Concert Ensemble*
Art I
Theatre I
Choir

**** Prerequisite (see course description)***

10th Grade Options:

Spanish I*
Latin III*
Introduction to Band
Concert Ensemble*
Art I
Art II*
Theatre I
Theatre II*
Choir

**** Prerequisite (see course description)***

11th Grade Mathematics Options:

Algebra II*
Algebra II Honors*
Pre-Calculus*
Math Models*
AP Calculus*

Prerequisite (see course description)

11th Grade Science Options:

Anatomy and Physiology
Principles of Astronomy*
Physics
AP Physics 1*
AP Physics 2*
AP Physics C*

Prerequisite (see course description)

11th Grade Foreign Language Options:

Latin III*
Latin IV/V*
Spanish I*
Spanish II*

Prerequisite (see course description)

11th Grade Fine Art Options:

Concert Ensemble*
Art I
Art II*
Art III*
Theatre I
Theatre II*
Theatre III*
Choir

**** Prerequisite (see course description)***

12th Grade Mathematics Options:

Algebra II*
Algebra II Honors*
Pre-Calculus*
Math Models*
AP Calculus*

Prerequisite (see course description)

12th Grade Science Options:

Anatomy and Physiology
Principles of Astronomy*
Physics
AP Physics 1*
AP Physics 2*
AP Physics C*

Prerequisite (see course description)

12th Grade Foreign Language Options:

Latin IV/V*
Spanish II*

Prerequisite (see course description)

12th Grade Fine Art Options:

Concert Ensemble*
Art I
Art II*
Art III*
Art IV*
Theatre I
Theatre II*
Theatre III*
Theatre IV*
Choir

Prerequisite (see course description)

Mathematics Courses

Algebra II

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry*

This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, imaginary and complex numbers, quadratics, transformations, and includes the study of logarithmic functions. The content of this course is important for students' success in their future college mathematics classes. Students who complete Algebra II should take Pre-Calculus next school year.

Algebra II Honors

**Prerequisite: 85% or higher in both Algebra I and Geometry, Meets or Masters on Algebra I EOC, AND Teacher recommendation*

Advanced Algebra 2/Trigonometry is an in depth study of algebraic topics over and above those studied in a standard high school Algebra 2 course. In addition to the normal algebraic concepts, a complete study of trigonometry is included. The course will adequately prepare students for AP Calculus.

Pre-Calculus

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II*

The textbook we use for Pre-Calculus is Larson: PreCalculus with Limits. In this course students will make numerical, graphical and algebraic connections of functions and their properties. Students will also study trigonometry and a brief introduction to limits in preparation for AP Calculus. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator will be required.

Statistics

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II.*

Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using calculators, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.This course will adequately prepare students for the Statistics AP Exam. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator will be required.

Mathematical Models

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.*

The textbook we use in Mathematical Models is Pearson Mathematical Models with Applications. This course makes a connection between mathematics and the students' futures, preparing them to use mathematics in everyday life and in the workplace. Solving problems that are important to them can motivate students by helping them see that mathematics really is useful to them in the real world. This course is intended to reinforce, broaden, and extend the mathematical knowledge and skills acquired in Algebra and Geometry. The primary purpose of this course is to use mathematics as a tool to model real-world phenomena in science, finance, music, and art. This course should help students to maintain and extend their algebraic and geometric skills.

AP Calculus

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus*

AP (Advanced Placement) Calculus AB is a yearlong course roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics such as limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students will study calculus concepts and problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and make connections among these representations. Students will use graphing calculators to assist problem solving, interpret results, and support conclusions. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator will be required.

Science Courses

Physics

How does that work? How did that happen? How can I predict what will happen next? Prepare to be amazed as we explore the order in the world around us through Conceptual Physics. While this class will be challenging, we should never lose our sense of wonder and awe as we learn about the predictable patterns and rules governing motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light, and the composition of atoms. Chocked full of practical hands-on demonstrations and labs, preparing for our daily lessons often feels more like preparing for a magic show than an academic class. If you enjoy being able to explain the astounding and varied phenomena in the world around you, then this course is for you.

Anatomy and Physiology (A&P)

Prepare to be awestruck as we explore the marvelous structure and functions of the human body. While this class will be challenging, we should never lose our sense of wonder as we learn about the infinitely complex and orderly creation that is us. Learn to think and analyze like a scientist as we examine the cells, tissues, chemistry, organ systems, and the finely tuned electrical system that form our bodies and give us our amazing capabilities.

AP Physics 1: Intro to College Physics

**Corequisite: Algebra II (A student must have completed or be enrolled in Algebra II to take this course)*

This course looks at the fundamentals of algebra-based physics: Classical Mechanics and an introduction to Electricity. Topics to be explored include: linear kinematics in one and two dimensions, dynamics and Newton's Laws, conservation of energy, simple harmonic motion, conservation of linear momentum, rotational dynamics, sound and acoustics, electric forces, and simple DC circuits.

AP Physics C: Physics for Scientists and Engineers

**Corequisite: AP Calculus (A student must have completed or be enrolled in AP Calculus to take this course)*

This course establishes the foundations of physics needed to pursue a degree in engineering or the physical sciences by investigating physical phenomena using calculus as a tool. Topics include: linear kinematics in one and two dimensions, dynamics and Newton's Laws, conservation of energy, simple harmonic motion, conservation of linear momentum, rotational dynamics, electric fields and potential, Gauss' Law, simple electric circuits, magnetism, magnetic forces, and induction.

AP Physics 2

Prerequisite: AP Physics 1

AP Physics 2 is a continuation of AP Physics 1 and will explore new topics in physics in the classroom and through laboratory activities. Topics include: thermodynamics; fluid dynamics; electric force, field, and potential; electric circuits; magnetism and magnetic induction; geometric and physical optics; quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics; and basic relativity.

Principles of Astronomy

Prerequisite: Geometry

Principles of Astronomy will provide an introduction to modern astrophysics, an overview of the constellations and night sky, as well as the techniques of observational astronomy. The treatment will be largely non-mathematical but a basic understanding of algebra and Euclidean geometry will be necessary on occasion. Topics include: the history of astronomical thought, the motion of Earth and other celestial bodies in the sky, systems of astronomical observation; the organization of the cosmos from the solar system to galactic superclusters; the solar system and planetary science; stellar classification and the life cycle of stars; the classification and characteristics of galaxies; cosmology and the Big Bang.

Languages Other than English Courses

Latin III

**Prerequisite: 80% or higher in each semester of Latin II and teacher approval (Grade level: 10-12)*

This course continues the study of Latin vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, and explores more nuanced aspects of the ancient Roman world. The course transitions into reading authentic Latin texts in prose and poetry from authors such as Livy, Pliny, Martial, Vergil, and Ovid. The students examine the historical and literary context of these Roman authors and their works. To be successful in this course, students are expected to prepare on a daily basis, and out-of-class assignments will average one-to-three hours per week.

● Students who enter Aristoi Classical Academy after studying Latin at another institution must take the Latin II final, earning a passing grade of 80% or higher in order to enter the Latin III level.

Latin IV/V

**Prerequisite: 80% or higher in each semester of Latin III and teacher approval (Grade Level: 11-12)*

This course guides students in developing their mastery of the Latin language and deepening their understanding about the ancient Roman world. Text selection incorporates the students' personal interest and may include a wide variety of works such as the oratory of Cicero, the epic poetry of Vergil and Ovid, the historical works of Livy and Caesar, and the personal poems of Catullus and Horace. The course focuses on translation, analysis of plot and narrative, character development, scansion of poetry, rhetorical devices, and figures of speech. To be successful in this course, students are expected to prepare on a daily basis, and out-of-class assignments will average one-to-three hours per week.

Spanish I

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin I & Latin II*

This course is an introduction to Spanish and focuses on four core areas: listening, speaking, reading, and limited writing. Students will learn basic vocabulary and will be expected to master proper sentence constructions, articles, and adjectives as well as regular and irregular present tense verb conjugations. Student engagement is a substantial part of this course and requires content retention. Students will be provided the opportunity to read, listen, speak, and write in order to strengthen their pronunciation and conversational skills. During the duration of this course, students will also have the opportunity to explore and understand the culture. This is a designed immersion course with an ultimate goal of speaking in the target language 90% of the time.

Spanish II

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I*

This course builds upon the comprehension acquired in Spanish I. Students will continue to grow in their ability to read, write, speak, and understand. This course continues to build on vocabulary and requires student engagement and content retention. Students will learn proper sentence constructions focused in the past tense and will be expected to master regular and irregular verb conjugations in the preterit. During the duration of this course, students will continue to explore and understand the beautiful culture. This course is a designed immersion course with an ultimate goal of speaking 95% of the time in the target language.

Fine Arts Courses

Visual Art

Fundamentals of Visual Art:

The Fundamentals of Studio Art class is intended to offer students an introductory art experience. Students will work to establish their fundamental understanding in classic media such as drawing, painting, and various sculptural techniques. This is where students learn the process and technical skills and tools needed to create art. In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency

working with a variety of mediums, students will learn about the history, analysis, critique, and interpretation of art.

Topics/skills covered focus on making art and include:
Creating original art
Identifying, understanding, and applying the elements of art and the principles of design
Communicating ideas through art
Use visual solutions to problem solve
Critical evaluation of and response to art
Interpretation, evaluation, and justification of art
Editing and exhibiting work
Effective use of art media and tools

Intermediate Visual Art: Art II & III

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Fundamentals of Art*

Students will build on the fundamental techniques learned in previous classes in classic art media such as drawings, paintings, prints, ceramics, and sculptures. In addition to gaining a higher level of confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, students will be asked to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the meaning behind art. They will learn to evaluate and respond to artwork in a critical way, analyzing for meaning. This is where students improve their abilities in the process and technical skills and tools needed to create art. In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, students will learn about the history, analysis, critique, and interpretation of art.

Topics/skills covered focus on making art and include:
Creating original art
Identifying, understanding and applying the elements of art and the principles of design
Communicating ideas through art
Use visual solutions to problem solve
Effective use of art media and tools
Critical evaluation of and response to art
Interpretation, evaluation, and justification of art
Constructing a portfolio
Editing and exhibiting work

Advanced Visual Art: Art IV

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Fundamentals and Intermediate Studio Art.*

The Advanced Studio Art class is intended to take students to the next level of art making. In the prerequisite students learned how to make art, in this course they will focus on why we make art, and how our society uses it to communicate. This is a studio intensive course, where students will take the skills acquired in previous art classes and put them to work in a meaningful way, creating art that communicates beyond visual aesthetics. Students will build on the techniques learned in previous classes in classic art media such as drawings, paintings, prints, ceramics, and sculptures. In addition to gaining a higher level of confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, students will be asked to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the

meaning behind art. They will learn to evaluate and respond to artwork in a critical way, analyzing for meaning.

Topics/skills covered include:
Creating original art
Identifying, understanding, and applying the elements of art and the principles of design
Communicating ideas through art
Use visual solutions to problem solve
Effective use of art media and tools in a variety of 2D and 3D media
Critical evaluation and response of art
Interpretation, evaluation, and justification of art
Constructing a portfolio
Editing and exhibiting work
Creating a body of work that follows a theme of the student's choice

Band

BAND I (Intro to Band)

This ensemble is open to all new music students in Grades 9-11; no prior band or musical experience is required to join this ensemble, other than a desire to learn. Primarily, this course is open to incoming 9th grade students to fulfill their Fine Arts credit, required for graduation.

Band Instruction In a Typical School Year:

1st Quarter:

- Students are organized into small groups of like instruments as they begin to learn the basics on their instrument. This includes:
- Instruction in handling, assembly if required, care and maintenance.
- Developing effective and consistent practice skills
- Embouchure and Tone Development
- Counting and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills
- Equipment care and maintenance
- Effective practice habits

2nd Quarter:

- Simple Music Theory
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of music terms and symbols
- Holiday Concert Preparation - Rehearsal and Performance (ALL ensembles)

3rd Quarter:

- Ear training and listening skills
- Introduction of the First Scales (3 major scales - 1 octave)

Band students learn the skills required to play in an ensemble while still fitting in small-group instruction time to hone their individual skills with the help of their instructors.

Practicing their instrument and studying music theory outside of class-time is required and is to be regarded as homework. Private lessons are strongly encouraged but not required.

Performances:

- Intro to Band participates in two concerts during the school year - a holiday concert and a Spring Concert
- Intro to Band band students may also have the opportunity to perform at the Solo & Ensemble concert in the spring.

Instruments in Band:

- Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion

Students are expected to provide their own instrument at all levels of band. Rental fees at area shops are quite reasonable (approximately $35 per month), and it is possible to find good quality low-cost instruments at pawn shops, *Craigslist*, and *EBay*. **However, NO instrument should be**

purchased without prior approval by the instructors. Not all instruments are created equal and a deal that is too good to be true, probably isn't.

Benefits of Renting an Instrument:
The Instrument is new or fully functional and certified by a service technician in full, playable condition
Most repairs and maintenance are often covered in the rental
If obtaining an instrument by any of these means is not a financially feasible option, please bring your concerns to the Directors - Dr. Montgomery or Mr. Richards. A suitable solution will be found in nearly all cases to unite a band student with a band instrument!

CONCERT ENSEMBLE (BAND I, II, III, IV)

Concert Ensemble Audition Requirements must:

- Be enrolled in Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12
- Have *at least one year* of playing experience on their instrument
- Audition and correctly play 4 ATSSB high school prescribed scales
- First three lines of that year's slow etude
- Sight read a short piece assigned at the audition by the Directors

This performance-focused group will use its members' teamwork and the self-discipline skills learned in *INTRO TO BAND* to allow each student to grow into a lifelong musician. Students will continue to gain technical skill on their instrument and will also begin to truly acquire the discipline of a trained musician.

- Band students in the Wind Ensemble perform in at least two concerts a year, are strongly encouraged to audition for the ATSSB Region/Area/All-State track and are required to prepare a solo for a recital performance.
- Band students in Concert Ensemble may be called upon to perform at school and for community events on an as-needed basis.
- Band students must either play the same instrument they learned in *INTRO TO BAND*, or (with Director approval) may move to a related instrument (i.e. Trumpet to French horn, Alto Saxophone to Tenor Saxophone, etc).
- Practicing their instrument and studying music theory outside of class-time is required and is to be regarded as homework.
- Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

- Additionally, students may be required to attend 1 Master Class per semester which will be offered before and/or after school.

Performances:

The Concert Ensemble is the performance ensemble for Aristoi Classical Academy. Performance participation is a requirement of this class. Scheduled performances include (but are *not* limited to):

- The Texas Renaissance Festival
- Holiday concert
- Solo & Ensemble Concert in the spring semester
- Spring concert

ATSSB Region, Area, and All-State:

The Association of Texas Small School Bands auditions - are open to all high school band students - includes a series of 8 scales and two prescribed etudes.

- Region auditions are held in the fall. Students who pass this participate in the Region clinic/concert in November, and may advance to Area.
- Students who pass the Area auditions in January move on to All-State.
- All-State students have the opportunity to participate in the All-State clinic and concert at the annual TMEA convention in February in San Antonio.

Theatre

Introduction to Theatre

This course is an exploratory survey of basic theatrical knowledge and skills, whose objective is to prepare students to participate in the Theatre II course the following year.

Major units of study will include a basic introduction to the following:

- Theatre history
- Storytelling
- Pantomime
- Improvisation

- Rudimentary stagecraft
- Script analysis
- Character development
- Puppetry
- Monologue and scene work
- The design process
- The production process

Students are encouraged, though not required, to attend work days, auditions, and rehearsals with the Aristoi Theatre Company outside of class.

Theatre II

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Introduction to Theatre or Theatre Practicum.*

This is an intensive course in theatre skills and production designed to deepen knowledge and skills introduced in the Introduction to Theatre course.

Students will explore the roles and skills necessary to produce live theatre, then take on one or several of those roles to produce both a one-act play and other pieces throughout the year:

While it is understood that students may be more inclined towards either performance or non-performance skills, all students will be asked to explore roles in both disciplines.

Major units of study will include a basic introduction to the following:

- Theatre history
- Improvisation
- Stagecraft and technical theatre
- Script analysis
- Directing
- Character development
- Acting technique, including study in Stanislavski, Hagen, and Meisner
- Movement work and Viewpoints
- Monologues and audition technique 21
- The production process

Students are encouraged, though not required, to attend work days, auditions, and rehearsals with the Aristoi Theatre Company outside of class.

Theatre III / IV Theatre History and Acting Styles

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of either Introduction and Theatre or Theatre II.*

This is an intensive course in the study of Theatre History and Acting Styles, designed for the advanced theatre student.

Students will immerse themselves in periods of theatre history from Ancient Greek to Restoration Era, with script study, historical and dramaturgical research, study of the historically accurate style, and technique of performance. Each unit will conclude with a final project of scenes, monologues or one-act plays presented at the end of each unit. We will also deal with adapting and interpreting classical theatre in the modern stage.

This class will be expected to prepare, audition, and submit pieces to the Renaissance festival theatrical competition in November.

Choir

These are performance-based ensembles with a focus on developing musicianship, self-discipline, collaboration, community, and a love for music. Students in choir will obtain the skills and experiences to become well-rounded musicians. These skills include: vocal technique, performance practice, sight-singing, and music theory.

Students in choir will perform in at least two concerts a year and will complete various sight-singing and music theory assessments. Students in the choir may be called upon to perform at school and community events on an as-needed basis.

Students are required to attend all choir performances, and practicing at home is an expectation for all choir members.

Introduction to Choir

No prior music/choir experience is required. This class covers the fundamentals of singing technique, music theory, and sight singing. Open to grades 9-12.

Topics/skills covered include:

- Vocal technique and tone development
- Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills, including sight reading
- Music theory fundamentals
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of music terms and symbols
- Ear training and listening skills
- Effective practice habits

Concert Choir

*Prerequisite: successful completion of Intro to Choir or placement by audition

This class further develops the techniques learned in Intro to Choir, including a focus on musicianship and advanced music theory and sight singing.

Topics/skills covered include:

- Vocal technique, tone development, and musicianship skills
- Reading and notation skills, including sight reading in 4 parts
- Advanced music theory
- Application of music vocabulary, terms, and symbols
- Advanced ear training and listening skills
- Effective practice habits
- Quarterly choral literature studies

Athletics

This course will encourage interest in physical fitness while developing the students' skills, knowledge, and technique in their specific sport. The athletic program encourages the students to work toward achieving a basic level of fitness and wellness, with a goal of being the best athletes they can become. Students taking this course MUST be on a sports team at Aristoi.

**Upon approval from Athletic Director.*