



Tempe Preparatory Academy

Verum Bonum Pulchrum

Truth Beauty Goodness

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School Profile Fall 2011

The School

Tempe Preparatory Academy is a public, independently operated charter school with an open admissions policy. It serves a student population of 312 students in grades 7-12. The Academy is a traditional liberal arts school with small classes, a student/teacher ratio of 10 to 1, and an advanced core curriculum designed for college-bound students. The school requires a common and rigorous sequence of courses for all students; there are no electives (except the choice among mandatory foreign languages). TPA is accredited by the North Central Association. All students are required to complete a Senior Thesis and 30 hours of Community Service for graduation. The high school opened in the fall with 241 students in Grades 9-12. **There are 51 students in the Class of 2012.**

Philosophy

The mission of Tempe Preparatory Academy is to educate students for the lifelong pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. TPA graduates have a foundation in the liberal arts of grammar and rhetoric, logic and mathematics, history, natural science, and philosophy, with the fine arts of music, drawing and painting, and drama. TPA has chosen to focus on our rigorous, integrated honors liberal arts curriculum rather than offer AP or IB programs. Our school believes in the growth of leaders through accomplishments; we do not have student council or class officers. TPA does not rank its students.

Academic Honors

Tempe Prep's students score near the highest in Maricopa County on standardized exams. The school was one of only three schools in the state to receive the "Excelling" rating from the Arizona Department of Education during the first year ratings were awarded, and retains that "Excelling" rating. Along with being a 2008 Blue Ribbon School, TPA continues to receive local and national recognition with, to name a few, the State Championship Speech and Debate Team for 6 consecutive years (2011 AIA 1/2/3A), State Championship Track Team (2011 AIA Div. IV) and one of only five schools in the state to receive the Arizona Department of Education's 2011 Reading Excellence Award.

National Merit Scholars	Class of 2012	Class of 2011	Class of 2010	Class of 2009	Class of 2008
Semifinalists	3	7	5	4	3
Hispanic	0	0	4	3	0
Commended	5	4	5	6	6
Percentage of Class	16% (of 51)	22% (of 50)	19% (of 48)	21% (of 48)	18% (of 51)

Graduation

The curriculum is exclusively college preparatory. Students take a minimum of six courses each semester and complete 24.5 credits to graduate. All students are required to pass Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test to graduate. 98% of TPA students pass these tests in the sophomore year.

English	4.0	Science	4.0	Community Service	0.25
Social Science	4.0	Foreign Language	4.0	Senior Thesis	0.25
Mathematics	4.0	Fine Arts	4.0	Total credits	24.5

Grading/Rank

Grades are not weighted and TPA does not rank its students. There are no AP courses. Grades reflect all students in the class at the time. Some of the students included no longer attend Tempe Prep. Only the grade points and credit hours earned from courses successfully completed at TPA are used in the computation of the student's GPA. The TPA grading scale is as follows:

A (4.0) = 100-93	B+ (3.33) = 89-88	C+ (2.33) = 79-78	D+ (1.33) = 69-68
A- (3.67) = 92-90	B (3.0) = 87-83	C (2.0) = 77-73	D (1.0) = 67-63
	B- (2.67) = 82-80	C- (1.67) = 72-70	D- (0.67) = 62-60
			F (0.0) = 59-0

The Curriculum

Humane Letters	<p>A cornerstone of the liberal arts curriculum at Tempe Preparatory Academy is the Humane Letters Seminar. In the 9th through 12th grades, English and History are combined in our Humane Letters Seminars: these are 2-hour long, daily seminars, directed Socratically and revolving around readings from Western Civilization's best works in philosophy, drama, economics, history, autobiography, poetry, novels, and essays. Students learn to read carefully, discuss clearly, and write coherently.</p> <p>Freshman: A Socratic seminar that addresses European literature, philosophy, and history, and traces the development of cultural and political institutions, and economic patterns from the Middle Ages through the 19th century. In addition to numerous primary source documents, texts studied include those by Shakespeare, More, Locke, Austen, Dickens, Marx, Dostoevsky, and Solzhenitsyn.</p> <p>Sophomore: A Socratic seminar that combines a survey of American history through primary sources with representative American literature and philosophy including works of Hamilton, Madison, Thoreau, Douglass, Twain, Crane, Cather, Fitzgerald, Steinbeck and Wilder as well as Shakespeare's <i>Othello</i>. The first semester concentrates on American history from the founding era through the Civil War and Reconstruction, while the second semester focus is on the 20th century with particular attention paid to W.W.I, W.W.II, and the Cold War.</p> <p>Junior: A Socratic seminar on ancient literature, drama, philosophy, and history with readings from Homer, Sophocles, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle and Vergil. Students also study Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Julius Caesar</i>, as well as The Old Testament.</p> <p>Senior: A capstone Socratic course in which students draw upon the work of the previous three years in examining developments in literature, philosophy, history, and economics in the transition from the era of the Roman Empire through the Middle Ages and into the modern era. Works include those by Plutarch, Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Shakespeare, Descartes, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and Faulkner, as well as selections from The New Testament.</p>
Math	<p>Algebra I is completed in the 8th grade and is not shown on the transcript. The standard high school math progression at TPA is: Geometry, Algebra II, 1 semester of Analytic Trigonometry, followed by 3 semesters of Calculus. The students study the subject through Socratic discussion.</p>
Science	<p>The standard science curriculum at TPA is: Biology, Physics I, Physics II, and Chemistry. All students graduate with four years of college preparatory lab science. Emphasis is placed on learning through discussion and experimentation.</p>
Foreign Languages	<p>All students study Latin in 7th & 8th grades. In high school, the students may switch to a modern language for four years of study, or they may continue their 3rd and 4th years of Latin, then study Ancient Greek for 2 years.</p> <p>Classical Languages: Latin & Greek</p> <p>This language track affords students the opportunity to read and best appreciate some of the world's richest and most influential literature and poetry in their original languages, including Cicero, Caesar, Lucretius, Ovid, Catullus, Virgil, Plato, Homer, and Herodotus.</p> <p>Modern Languages: Spanish, French, & German</p> <p>The emphasis in the modern language classes is to teach even first year courses entirely in the target language, adding both literature and composition by the second year. The class transitions to a seminar-style course in the third and fourth years, reading and discussing literary texts in the target language, including short stories, novels, plays, and poems. Students are expected to write essays of 3-4 pages in the target language.</p>
Fine Arts	<p>All students take each of the following fine arts classes:</p> <p>Music Theory/Chorus Performance I & II: Students study the theory and composition of four-part tonal music from Palestrina to the 20th Century and then apply their studies through choral performance.</p> <p>Poetry I/II: The courses study drama and music in verse and develop a variety of poetic techniques. Authors studied include Moliere, Donne, Coleridge, Frost, Dickinson, Shakespeare, Shelley, Milton, Wordsworth, and Tennyson.</p> <p>Drama I: Students study basic theatre skills. Specific attention to breath and vocal work as well as movement awareness is a key component of the curriculum. Students are guided through theatre history from its origins in ancient Greek theatre through the modern ideas/styles of the twentieth century. Students will also learn basic improvisation, stage directions, terminology and etiquette, engage in mask work, and begin to develop basic acting skills based on the techniques of Sanford Meisner, Stella Adler, Robert Cohen, and Uta Hagen.</p> <p>Drama II: Students learn about the audition process, how to prepare for an audition, and then audition for a production. They are guided through the rehearsal process and experience the different components that make up a theatrical production.</p> <p>Studio Art I/II: Building upon the basic art techniques taught in the junior high, these courses focus on advanced drawing techniques, art history, and an introduction to studio painting.</p>
Senior Thesis	<p>The culminating project for an Academy student is the Senior Thesis. At the beginning of the senior year, the student selects a field of inquiry from the curriculum—literature, philosophy, math, science, the arts—and then reads three or four substantial primary texts to examine in preparation for writing a 15-20 page analytical paper. At its core, the thesis is an exploration of one of the "Six Great Ideas" of humanity summarized as Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Justice, Liberty, and Equality. Students discuss texts in small group seminars composed of students, faculty, staff and board members, and work individually with a faculty member on the paper. After submitting the paper in the second semester, the senior then publicly defends the thesis before a three-member panel of faculty reviewers and the community at large.</p>

Class of 2011

Test Scores

Test	Median Range	Mean	# Tested
SAT (CR + Math)	1070-1340	1218	46
Critical Reading	530-680	605	46
Math	560-670	613	46
Writing	530-680	599	46
ACT (Composite)	23-31	27	37
English	23-32	28	37
Math	25-32	28	37
Reading	22-33	27	37
Science	21-30	26	37
SAT Subject Tests			
English Literature	580-730	657	10
Math Level II	590-750	659	12
Physics	590-750	684	5

Grade Distribution through Junior Year

	# of Students	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Mathematics													
Geometry Honors	50	16	16	11	16	8	4	11	8	5	1	3	0
Algebra II Honors	50	25	22	10	11	13	5	4	5	2	2	1	0
Analytical Trig./Calculus A Honors	50	24	11	15	16	8	5	10	8	2	1	0	0
Science													
Biology Honors	51	33	14	9	20	11	6	5	3	1	0	0	0
Physics I Honors	50	26	16	8	15	12	7	7	4	0	3	2	0
Physics II Honors	50	18	17	11	14	15	5	6	5	2	5	1	0
English / History													
Humane Letters 9 Honors	47	15	17	6	23	16	9	5	2	0	2	0	0
Humane Letters 10 Honors	46	19	8	18	12	12	10	8	7	2	0	0	1
Humane Letters 11 Honors	46	22	15	17	19	10	6	4	3	0	1	0	0
German													
German I Honors	8	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
German II Honors	8	12	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
German III Honors	8	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French													
French I Honors	13	5	4	5	4	2	1	1	2	0	2	0	0
French II Honors	13	7	4	1	2	2	0	2	6	0	1	0	0
French III Honors	13	8	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	0	0
Latin / Greek													
Latin III Honors	11	4	4	4	2	3	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
Latin IV Honors	10	6	2	3	6	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Greek I Honors	10	8	1	4	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish													
Spanish I Honors	20	11	10	2	6	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Spanish II Honors	18	9	4	6	11	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish III Honors	18	12	2	6	8	3	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
	% of Total												
Median Class GPA 3.203	Grades	26%	15%	12%	16%	11%	5%	6%	5%	1%	2%	1%	0%

College Acceptances 2000-2011

Agnes Scott College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Scripps College
American University	Gonzaga University	Smith College
Arizona State University	Grinnell College	Southern Methodist University
Azusa Pacific University	Grove City College	Stanford University
Barnard College	Hamilton College	Swarthmore College
Baylor University	Harvard University	Thomas Aquinas College
Benedictine College	Harvey Mudd College	Tufts University
Boston University	Hillsdale College	US Air Force Academy
Brandeis University	Hope International University	US Naval Academy
Brigham Young University	Kenyon College	US Merchant Marine Academy
Bryn Mawr College	Knox College	US Military Academy
Cal Polytechnic	Lewis and Clark College	University of Arizona
Carleton College	Loyola Marymount University	U. of California-Davis
Carnegie Mellon University	Marquette University	U. of California-Irvine
Carson-Newman College	Middlebury College	U. of California-San Diego
Case Western Reserve	New England Conservatory	University of Cambridge (UK)
Catholic U. of America	New Mexico Tech	University of Chicago
Chapman University	New York University	U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Christendom College	Northern Arizona University	University of Dallas
Claremont McKenna College	Northeastern University	University of Dayton
Colgate University	Northwestern University	University of Illinois/Chicago
College of Wooster	Occidental college	University of Maine/Machias
Colorado College	Pacific Lutheran University	University of Redlands
Colorado State University	Pepperdine University	University of Rochester
Columbia University	Pitzer College	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
Cornell College (IA)	Pomona College	University of San Francisco
Cornell University	Providence College	University of Southern California
Creighton University	Purdue University	University of Tampa
Dartmouth College	Rice University	University of Tulsa
Denison University	Ripon College	Valparaiso University
Duke University	Reed College	Vanderbilt University
Eastman School of Music	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Washington Univ of St Louis
Eckerd College	Rhodes College	Wellesley College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Westmont College
Evergreen State College	Saint Louis University	Whitman College
Fordham University	St. Mary's College (IN)	Whitworth University
Franciscan University of Steubenville	St. Norbert College	Willamette University
George Washington University	Santa Clara University	Yale University
	Sarah Lawrence College	