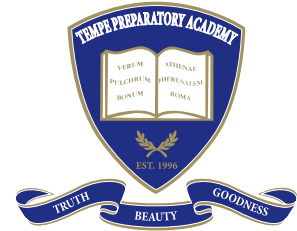




TEMPE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

TEMPE PREPARATORY ACADEMIES

CEEB/ACT Code: 030444
www.tempeprep.org



TEMPE PREPARATORY JUNIOR ACADEMY

2007-2008 Curriculum

❖ Humane Letters Seminars

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, history, autobiography, poetry, novels, and essays. Students learn to read carefully, discuss clearly, and write coherently.

Freshman:

A Socratic seminar that combines a survey of American history with representative American literature including selections from Hamilton, Madison, Thoreau, Emerson, de Toqueville, Douglass, Twain, Melville, Crane, Cather, Sinclair, Wilder, and Hemingway, as well as the Shakespeare play *Othello*.

Sophomore:

A Socratic seminar that addresses English and European literature, philosophy, and history in tracing the development of political institutions from the late Middle Ages through World War II. Authors studied include Shakespeare, More, Locke, Austen, Dickens, Rousseau, Marx, Dostoevsky, and Solzhenitsyn.

Junior:

A Socratic seminar on the literature, philosophy, and history of Ancient Greece with readings from Homer, Sophocles, Epictetus, Thucydides, Plato, and Aristotle. The students also study *Hamlet*, and *The Bible-Old Testament*.

Senior:

A capstone course in which students draw upon the work of the previous two seminars in examining developments in European literature and philosophy in the transition from Rome, through the Middle Ages and into the Modern era. Authors read include Virgil, Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Cervantes, Shakespeare, Descartes, Hegel, Marx, Dostoyevsky, and The Bible- New Testament.

❖ Math

Algebra I is completed in the 8th grade and is not shown on the transcript. The standard high school math progression at this school is: **Geometry, Algebra II**, 1 semester of **Analytic Trigonometry**, followed by **3 semesters of Calculus**. The students study the subject through Socratic discussion.

❖ Science

The standard science curriculum at TPA is: **Biology, Physics I, Physics II, and Chemistry**. All students graduate with four years of college preparatory science, including a second year of physics. Emphasis is placed on learning through discussion and experimentation.

❖ Fine Arts/Poetry

Music Theory/Chorus I & II:

Students study the composition of four-part tonal music according to Baroque style, music theory, and choral performance. In the second year, the focus shifts from the harmonic to the melodic as students combine two to three independent musical lines to form one piece of music and perform with a choir.

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, Milton, Wordsworth, Shelley, and Tennyson.

Drama I/II:

Students develop their skills over a two year period by experiencing various aspects of stage production and performance. They also explore theater history and read the great works of Aeschylus, Plautus, Shakespeare, Moliere, and others.

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.

❖ Senior Thesis

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 selects a faculty member to act as his or her thesis advisor. The thesis is an exploration of one of the “Six Great ideas” of humanity summarized as **Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Justice, Liberty, and Equality**. The first semester involves the selection of readings, directed study, note-taking, and conversation with the advisor. The second semester involves the writing of the thesis in sections, with the advisor offering feedback and guidance at each successive stage. The thesis is not a research paper, and it should not attempt to prove a specific point. Rather, the senior is asked to logically develop and assertively present his or her own philosophy on a topic of personal interest derived from the chosen texts. The thesis culminates with the senior defending his or her final draft in front of a committee of three faculty members.