

# **Athena Hybrid Academy**

## **Overview**

The Athena Hybrid Academy offers a hybrid high school education that combines aspects of small class size private school setting, with the customization and character building of homeschool. The Athena Hybrid Academy specializes in delivering a classical education in the humanities, math, and science. The humanities include history, philosophy, literature, the Bible, economics, and more. Math includes pre-algebra through calc and the science classes offered are biology, chemistry, physics, and nutrition.

There will be a focus on developing the skills necessary for public life such as reading, writing, and public speaking. As a society we have largely lost touch with the original purpose of higher ed which was to train the next generation of leaders in business, politics, ministry, etc. It only takes a cursory glance at the modern world to see what happens when many of our leaders lack any grounding in these areas. This program weaves the subjects into a whole to meet the desired aim: producing students who are well grounded in the values of the American Republic and can speak, write, and think. Speech class will not exist independent of history class. Decision making skills will be part of economics and so on to make a coherent whole.

Our math and science courses are grounded in exploring God's grand design.

## **Format**

The classical humanities class will resemble a traditional class setting with class sizes of 8-16 students depending on

enrollment. Students will meet at our office for class mornings 9-11:30am twice a week for instructional time.

Math and science class will be 12:30-3:00 on the same two days a week as your student attends humanities class.

On non class days students will complete their work at home. On weeks with a holiday or instructor illness, Friday may be a substitute for one of the in person days. Depending on interest, we may form study group pods for the at home days.

The January 2023 second semester class will be on Tuesday and Thursday.

Any other online programs can be added at the discretion of the parent. We have a suite of elective online courses you can pick from as it suits you. The state does require health/physical ed. We recommend you find a sport for your child to participate in or consider a gym membership. Sex ed is back where it belongs, being taught at home by you the parent.

### **Benefits to the hybrid approach**

In recent years more and more parents have become interested in homeschooling either out of necessity due to covid shutdowns or out of personal preference due to the many issues that plague our education system. The Athena Hybrid Academy offers benefits over both traditional homeschool and private school. Many homeschool parents begin to feel overwhelmed by the complexity of content at the high school level and feel the need for professional teachers. Another drawback to homeschool is your child may feel isolated from peers and alone for most of the day. The academy offers socialization and group support.

Benefits over private school include the more tailored approach the academy offers. The humanities courses are woven together to offer a comprehensive education that is oriented towards the vital skills of reading, writing, public speaking, critical thinking, and decision making. Students also learn the independence and responsibility that college and the workplace requires during their homeschool days where it is the responsibility of the student to be productive and accomplish the assigned tasks. The academy is also significantly more affordable than most private high schools and is priced more in line with what private school costs in the junior high years.

## **Legal Structure**

Your student will be considered homeschooled by the state and you will need to notify your local school district of your intent to homeschool. Tika is a homeschool parent herself and can help you with the couple of steps you have to take. They are very easy since Illinois has one of the best states in the country to homeschool in. The Athena Hybrid Academy is not a full blown private school and is more akin to an in depth tutoring center. Therefore, the academy is not receiving state funding or accreditation from ISBE which makes it easier for us to offer education that does not include CRT, SEL, or DEI.

## **Cost**

The tuition cost for a full, standard school year in the academy, mid August through Memorial Day, is \$5,900 if paid in full upfront. Cost is \$6,400 if paid monthly. Students will need to bring their own laptop and school supplies including

books/audiobooks. We require a \$500 down payment at enrollment to secure your spot.

We are looking to launch a pilot group this January for the second semester starting in mid January. Second semester only tuition cost is \$2,950 if paid in full or \$3,200 if paid monthly. The first month's payment of \$640 will be due at enrollment. Joining the pilot group will secure your spot in the 2023-2024 school year if you so choose.

You will need a Schoolhouseteachers.com membership priced at \$269.97 for the year. This membership contains worksheets and quizzes as well as the full suit of elective courses you can add.

<https://schoolhouseteachers.com/membership-benefits/join-now/>

### **Classical Humanities Class Description**

The following disciplines will be covered in the program in an integrated fashion.

- History
- Rhetoric/public speaking
- Composition
- Philosophy
- The Bible independent of any denomination
- 2nd order consequences/decision making
- Economics/markets
- Psychology
- Classical literature
- Critical thinking/evaluating sources

## **History**

History grounds you in time and place, provides stability, and provides boundaries. Acting without knowledge of history or in a deliberate attempt to obfuscate the past leads to chaos and collapse. A thorough knowledge of history allows you to make better decisions in the present and predict the future with greater accuracy. We will cover American history from a perspective that values the Constitution and explores the many attempts to subvert this document. There will be no wokeness or CRT.

## **Public speaking**

The art of public speaking is often absent from most modern education systems. The great orators of antiquity like Cicero spent periods of their lives solely devoted to mastering this craft. We will examine the great orators of history to learn rhetorical devices and strategies for being an effective public speaker. This is truly a skill that has to be practiced on a regular basis and takes as detailed instruction as one would expect a quarterback's coach to give to a young QB. In an age when fewer and fewer people possess this skill, the art of public speaking is one that can set you apart.

## **Composition**

The written word is the foundation for much of Western civilization. The ability to communicate clearly is vital to success. Students will learn to write well structured paragraphs and essays. We will also explore more creative sides of writing like poetry.

## **Philosophy**

Much like history, philosophy is one of those subjects I often hear students complain about why we need to bother with it at all. Philosophy is one of the pillars needed to maintain our republic. We will explore ancient philosophy as well as existentialists and the myths of Marxism.

## **The Bible**

The Bible is the cornerstone book for Western civilization. We will explore how the lessons from the Bible can help you personally and professionally. The Bible functions as a handbook of archetypes and presents you with a guidebook to analyzing the ever changing world and how to act within it. The program is nondenominational and will not push a set of beliefs upon the students. We will use Jordan B. Peterson's Old Testament lecture series as a template for exploring the deep meaning of Biblical stories.

## **2nd order consequences/decision making**

It is staggering how often we see public policy makers fail to foresee obvious consequences of their actions. The ability to see two and three moves ahead is an acquired skill. Games of strategy are one of the best ways to teach this skill. The stock market simulation in the economics section will also target this skill set. We will also play chess to develop a strategic mind.

## **Economics/markets**

An understanding of basic economics like supply and demand are seemingly lost on the political class of today. We will cover basic economic principles and apply it to the real life instructor that is the global markets. All students will set up a

TradingView paper trade demo account to practice investing in the markets. The markets serve as a great test of many of the other principles covered in the program like the ability to predict second order consequences, strategic thinking, and evaluating sources. Most investing mistakes can only be learned through experience so best to learn in a risk free, practice environment.

## **Psychology**

The ability to understand your own psychology as well as that of others is invaluable. Success in the world depends on the ability to read the intentions and motivations of others and plan accordingly. We will study key experiments like the Milgrim experiment that have so much to offer us in an age where authoritarianism threatens us. We will also explore authors that have deep psychological insight like Dostoyevsky and LeCarre.

## **Classical Literature**

Literature shapes culture. In public ed we have increasingly witnessed English class move very far afield of the values of the original Republic and become contaminated by wokism. Classical literature argues effectively for Western values. It is vital to ground students in classical literature like Dostoyevsky, Shakespeare, Orwell, etc.

## **Critical Thinking/evaluating sources**

In a world where there is information overload, the ability to separate reliable from unreliable information is truly a unique gift. Most public schools are teaching trust in institutional sources, obviously dangerous. This program will teach a results based approach to evaluating sources. How do you process information

in real time? This largely depends on being well grounded in all the above subjects. Your conceptual framework is one of the biggest factors to accurate decision making. We will also explore the works on risk analysis done by Nassim Nicholas Taleb.

## **Math and science class description**

Math and science provide a framework or circuit board for the mind to work off of. The goal is to make connections between the information presented so you have a solid mental framework for decision making.

## **Algebra 1**

Algebra 1 is a foundational skill like learning how to walk. Once you master the foundational skill, you can then jump, jog, skip, etc on to the more advanced courses.

## **Geometry**

This class introduces the key shapes of the triangle and the circle which are imperative to understanding the world around us and the space outside our planet. Proofs teach you to problem solve in a systematic, step by step manner in which you justify your results. Geometry provides the foundation students need for physics, therefore, these will be offered together so students can finally make connections between math and science.

## **Algebra 2**

Algebra 2 builds on the mathematical and linear algebra concepts of Algebra 1, along with introducing non-linear graphing and trigonometry. The first semester of this class will expand on Algebra 1 knowledge and parabolic functions. Second semester



will be spent on graphing rational and trig functions. This course is a great foundation for higher mathematical courses in college, especially when pursuing math or science majors.

### **Pre-Calc and Calc**

These courses cover trig, changing derivative functions, limiting functions, graphing, and more. These higher math courses will develop valuable critical thinking skills necessary for complex problem solving. Complex ideas will be broken down in a succinct organizational structure so students can understand and apply their knowledge. Math does not need to be difficult and every student can be “good at it” if it is taught in a clear and concise manner for students to absorb. They will finally develop confidence in math topics.

### **Biology**

Biology is the cornerstone for anyone going into the medical field. This course will cover the most important aspects of our understanding of our natural world including plant and animal cells, respiration cycles, ecosystems, reproduction, the miracle of life, and nutrition, which is often neglected in today’s curriculum. There will be hands-on labs to better engage with the material, along with group projects. Learning to memorize and retain information is a key skill that is often neglected. In this introductory class, students will understand how to structure their mind and notes for optimum retention. These skills are very necessary for success in college.

### **Chemistry**

Chemistry introduces students to the molecular world of life around us. Understanding a basic foundation in atoms, the periodic table, molecular bonding, and much more will help students get an amazing glimpse into the unseen world. The beauty and complexity of life around us will be celebrated through the majesty of God's work. Our passion to teach through this lens of appreciation and gratitude will lay the groundwork for most of our science courses. We will have lab and group work to better visualize this mystical world.

## **Physics**

Physics gives students a glimpse into the micro and macro forces that provide a circuitry of connection between us and our universe. These forces are a code of law that we are bound to every single day, and understanding them will help our students manage boundaries in all aspects of life. This class can be challenging to students, but don't shy away from it. It is absolutely necessary in not only understanding the space around us but in appreciating the grand design of earth and space as well. We have a passion to understand more complex, mind bending topics such as quantum physics and string theory, which will be studied by our students.

## **Grading**

Letter grades will be given. The focus for the student should be less about preoccupation with the letter grade and more about making improvement over the course of the class. Do not be alarmed with low grades at the beginning. All this means is there is room for improvement.

A= excellent, few errors, high quality work

B= very good, some errors but the overall work is on point  
C= acceptable, more errors but the message gets across  
D= the assignment was completed but the errors detract from the work  
F= the assignment was either not done or was off point  
Cumulative grades will be done quarterly so Q1 will have no bearing on Q2.

## **Absences**

Student attendance will be taken for accountability on scheduled days. If a student is absent work will be posted online, and the Friday office hours can be utilized to help catch up. In the event of instructor absence, the Friday may be reassigned to a group for that week or online materials will be posted.

## **Preliminary Reading/Movie List**

The following books/audiobooks are required for the humanities course and will need to be purchased. Many audiobooks are available for free. This list is not exhaustive, and additions may be made with notice. Movies are listed when it is the movie itself that will be assigned. Otherwise, movies are not a substitute for the book. The list is in order so Sun Tzu will be first.

1. Sun Tzu- *The Art of War* free audiobook  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxcMRkqaQdw>
2. Book Niccolo Machiavelli- *The Prince* free audiobook  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldRxHTih-28>
3. Book- Thomas Paine- *Common Sense* free audiobook  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ped33ndoJY>
4. Book- Nassim Nicholas Taleb- *Skin in the Game*
5. Movie- John LeCarre- *The Tailor of Panama*

6. Movie- William Shakespeare- *Hamlet*
7. Book- George Orwell- *1984*
8. Book- Fyodor Dostoevsky - *Crime and Punishment*