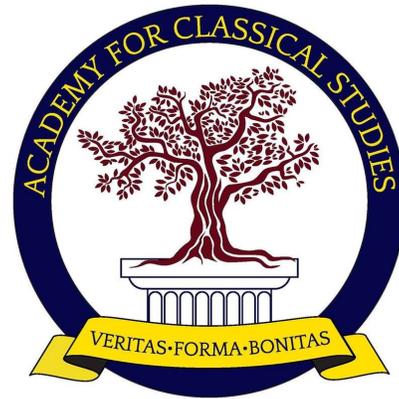


Academy of Classical Studies Newsletter

April 2021



Contents

[ACS Parent Board Update](#)

[ACS Senior Breakfast](#)

[ACS Speaker Series](#)

[ACS Travel](#)

[ACS Team Wishlist](#)

[9th Grade News](#)

[10th Grade News](#)

[11th Grade News: American Studies](#)

[12th Grade News: Senior Seminars](#)



ACS Parent Board Update



In March, we were able to provide ACS teachers **\$25 gift cards to Taco Deli and P Terry's along with some other goodies.** The teachers feel so appreciated!

“To all our ACS parents, we were beyond ecstatic to receive such a generous gift! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

Sincerely,
The teachers and staff of the Academy for Classical Studies



If you would like to contribute to our **ACS teacher appreciation fund**, you still can! Donations can be submitted to Leslie Davenport via her venmo @leslie-davenport.

Classical Academy T-shirts for 9th graders are being distributed curbside at AHS on Friday, April 9th. Students that were not able to pick theirs up, can request their shirt from security at the east entrance.

This will be our final newsletter for this school year. On behalf of the ACS parent board and staff we wish you a safe and healthy summer. Looking forward to next year!

ACS Senior Breakfast



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL STUDIES
CLASS OF 2021
AT OUR ANNUAL SENIOR BREAKFAST

Thursday, May 27 at 8:00am
Under the big tent
Austin High School Field

This event is FREE of charge to all ACS Seniors.
ACS teachers are invited to attend.

Live Music, Door Prizes, Graduation Cords, and a Senior ACS Gift
Dress: Sophisticated Casual

Please RSVP and Vote for your choice of both a Teacher and
Student to speak at the Breakfast

[Academy for Classical Studies Senior Breakfast RSVP & Ballot](#)

ACS Speaker Series

In March, our new ACS Speaker Series kicked off with a compelling talk by broadcast journalist, documentary filmmaker, and AISD Trustee [Lynn Boswell](#). With over a hundred participants and so many poignant questions, it was easy to tell our students were interested and engaged in her story .

Join us for two more events this spring! Come hear each speaker's story and find out how the Classical Academy Pillars to think logically, speak eloquently, write persuasively, & live ethically have been relevant in their life journey.

Thu 4/22 [Marit Weisenberg](#) YA author, film and television executive
Thu 5/6 [Ronnie Hall](#) Vocalist, musician and coach

- All are welcome! The speaker series is open to the entire Austin High student body and will take place on FIT days at 10:30AM.
- Look for zoom webinar information in campus communications, including the Maroon Update, PTSA Facebook, and Classical Academy Blend announcements.
- Classical Academy students will receive **2 civic engagement points** for each speaker event added to x2vol.

ACS Travel

All travel for this year has unfortunately been cancelled. We are proceeding with travel planning for the fall of 2021, but will continue to provide updates as trips get closer.

Please direct questions to Austin High's Director of Academies, Steve Maddox at steven.maddox@austinisd.org , 512-841-1950.

ACS Team Wish List



Recently, Ms. Clausen set up a great way to contribute to the [ACS classroom needs](#) through the **DonorsChoose** classroom funding site. Soon after, *a generous anonymous donor funded the entire remaining amount of the Academy Wish List!* The Classical Academy is so grateful.

Everything on our Academy Wish List will help us create a tight community for the kids and build their capabilities and access to various supplies for every day assignments and projects. **Camera equipment** and **green screens** will be used for digital projects for students without adequate access to technology. **Foldable tables and stools** will help with work spaces outside the classroom. The **printer** will help teachers be able to give students better quality activities for all classes, as will all of the other various supplies.

THANK YOU!

9th Grade News

Our Classical freshmen are currently working on their **Virtue Project**, which is a cross-curricular project that requires each student to choose a virtue to serve as their lens of study throughout the spring semester. Students make connections between their chosen virtue and the curriculum they are studying in English, Biology, World Geography, and Geometry, as well as personal connections to their own experiences. Coming up soon, students in Advanced English will participate in a **Model UN simulation** on April 21 where they serve as a delegate from an assigned country arguing one of three ethical issues.

Our 9th grade teaching team is hard at work finalizing preparations for the upcoming **Virtual Signature Experience!** Students will virtually "travel" to four locations in Austin to view and reflect on traditional and non-traditional forms of art. Students will be searching for Truth, Beauty, and Goodness in our community as they "tour" these locations with their teachers and reflect on this experience.

Here's an overview from our [freshman team](#) of what's coming up in each of our ACS core classes:

Algebra

We are wrapping up our study of quadratic functions, and we will soon begin exploring applications of quadratic functions!

Geometry

We are finishing our study of trigonometry!

Biology

We're studying Genetics right now! We're studying how traits are passed down from parents to offspring. The students are enjoying learning how to do Punnett Squares to predict genetic outcomes. "Is genetic engineering ethical?" is a point of discussion.

English

Our English I students are considering what it means to be a hero as they dare to venture alongside Odysseus in sections of the epic poem *The Odyssey*. We are continuing to work on our expository writing skills in preparation for the upcoming STAAR test. Students in Advanced English are continuing to explore identity through the textual lenses of *The Four Agreements* and the *Five Love Languages of Teenagers*.

World Geography

We are wrapping up our Europe Unit with Project Presentations this week and starting Unit 6: The Middle East and South Asia on Monday.

10th Grade News

The Classical Academy Sophomore team news updates are as follows:

English

All sophomore English classes are beginning the year-end unit on **Living Ethically with Nature**. The students

will all be keeping a nature journal over the next month using imagery and sensory details to write about changes they notice as Spring awakens in our area. Meanwhile, in class, they'll be reading fiction connected to themes of humanity's relationship with our environment. Our English II classes will be doing this mostly through a series of short stories and poems, while the Pre-AP English II students will be reading the Daniel Quinn novel *Ishmael*.

World History

World History students are finishing up World War II and entering a final major unit about the Cold War (ending in 1980). AP Students are practicing for their AP Exam on Thursday, May 20th by reviewing College Board practice quizzes, a practice AP Exam on BLEND, as well as looking over their AP AMSCO book again. All World History students will be engaging in a **Living Ethically with Nature** major project during the 6th six weeks that overlaps with their English courses.

Geometry

Students are **Thinking Logically** about volume, trigonometry, and circles.

Algebra II

In ALG II PAP, students are finishing Rational Functions and beginning Exponential Functions and Logarithms, including launching our last project of the year, the **Archeological Dig Project**.

Chemistry

Students will be engaging in their **Classical Academy Spring Project** soon. More details to come.

In all classes, we continue to focus on thinking logically, writing persuasively, speaking eloquently, and living ethically. If your student is looking for ways to do service learning or to get involved with civic engagement from home, one of our ACS senior interns, ***Lucinda Hagen***, recently researched and published opportunities for [civic engagement points on our ACS website](#). Check it out!

11th Grade News: American Studies

American Studies is available for the Academy for Classical Studies and the Academy for Global Studies students only. The English and US History curriculum is similar to the traditional humanities core courses at AHS as far as rigor and learning objectives, but has a more interdisciplinary pedagogy that allows for content alignment, project-based learning, and curricular connections to the ACS and AGS pillars of learning. Students will explore the American experience by analyzing literary and historical texts in order to develop a sophisticated understanding of American history and culture while growing into critical thinkers who effectively use language to communicate ideas. The table below shows a very basic overview of the core humanities options for juniors.

The Latest News

- AP-level students are deep into their "American Identity Inquiry Project," where they are completing research into a student-selected topic related to American Identity. Using the ACS pillars "speak eloquently" and "live ethically," students communicate their findings to an authentic audience. The entire project is student-driven and student-designed, another opportunity to build on their previous

PBL experiences as freshmen and sophomores on a path to the culminating ACS experience of Capstone senior year. Students are also learning about the early 20th century, using their knowledge of Progressive reform movements to “speak eloquently” the afternoon of Tuesday, April 13th after the on-campus SAT exam, (which is being taken by many juniors.)

- As AP exam time creeps closer, AP-level students will be spending additional time preparing for their exams, both in-class and out-of-class.
- Grade-level students are “thinking logically” about power and authority through a variety of texts and historical situations. Students recently finished Good Night and Good Luck and are just starting a new anchor text, The Crucible. This theme is connected to the Civil Rights Movements and protests of the 1960s and 1970s where different leaders had different ideas about “living ethically.” Students will “write persuasively” about the different methods and goals of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, then will “speak eloquently” to complete a project connecting their learning to a modern protest movement.

Links for more info about junior-level humanities options at AHS		
NOTE: Syllabi and Instructors may vary each year (fall 20-21 shown below)		
	ENGLISH	US HISTORY
ACC Dual Credit basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ENGL 1301 & 1302 with Ms. Cooper · ENGL 1301 with Ms. Wadbrook (non-AHS teacher) · ENGL 1301 & 1302 with Mr. Karr (non-AHS teacher) · ENGL 1301 with Ms. Aikhan (non-AHS teacher) · ENGL 1302 with Mr. Davidson (non-AHS teacher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · HIST 1301 & 1302 with Mr. Nicholls
Advanced Placement Advanced Placement (AP) basics NOTE: AP and American Studies use the same general syllabi, differing mostly in instruction & topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · AP Language and Composition (English) with Ms. Cooper (American Studies only), Ms. Kelley and Ms. Stanley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · AP US History with Ms. Whipple (American Studies and Traditional APUSH)
OnRamps OnRamps basics NOTE: College and High School grades are separate and may differ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ENG 306 & 309K – AHS version · ENG 306 – UT version 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · HIS 315K – UT version · HIS 315K & 315L – AHS version
On Level/Grade Level NOTE: Grade Level and American Studies use the same general syllabi, differing mostly in instruction and topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · English 3 with Mr. Atkins, Ms. Cooper (American Studies only), and Mr. Keller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · US History with Ms. Guerrero · US History with Ms. Hall · US History with Ms. Whipple (American Studies and Traditional US History)

12th Grade News

Senior Seminar Highlights

Spring semester seniors are in the thick of their project design right now. Students working in collaborative groups to design an intensive service project met with community panel members at the end of March to receive feedback on their preliminary ideas, and now they're reflecting on that experience as they determine next steps.

Hi Austin High!

Need service points?

We are Austin High students who are collecting items to donate to Casa Marianella in Austin.

We will have a box labeled "Casa Marianella Donations" inside the school where you can place your items. There will be a sheet where you can record your name and what you donated so we can verify your points!

Items to donate:

- Gently used clothing/shoes
- New packs of underwear/socks
- Iodized salt
- Laundry pods
- Cooking oil
- Dish soap
- White rice
- Travel-size hygiene products
- Masks!

Email any questions to stromberger.emma@gmail.com

Two groups of ACS/AGS seniors are designing drives to support local organizations like Casa Marianella and I Support the Girls.

Donation boxes will be set up on campus on April 9, so if students would like to **participate in the donation drives and earn service points**, we have groups collecting gently used clothing and shoes, canned and boxed foods, feminine hygiene products, new packages of socks, and pet food.

On April 9, boxes will be set up in an outdoor area near the band hall and PAC close to where academy t-shirts are being distributed. After April 9, the donation boxes will be located under the stairs near the eastside check-in kiosk.

In addition to our service groups, we have two seniors pursuing a thesis track. Last week our thesis students met with experts in writing and politics to share their preliminary research on their topics: 1) Portrayals of Unhealthy Relationships in YA Literature and 2) Gathering Voter Intelligence. Completed thesis statements will be shared during a Presentation of Learning in May!

ACS Parent Board Members

ACS Parent Board meetings are facilitated by ACS Assistant Principal, [Liz Jenkins](#).

Please reach out if you would like to get involved!

President - Michelle Carlson, Jacy Donovan

Vice President PTSA liaison - Ashley Unbehagen

Teacher Appreciation - Holly Sudduth, Adina Chirogianis, Leslie Davenport

Newsletter - Amy Beisenherz, Holly Sudduth

Speaker Series - Jennifer Botchway, Amy Beisenherz, Shelley Kilday

Fundraising - Alex Percia

Senior breakfast - Jennifer Botchway

Secretary - Amy Beisenherz