

# Academy of Classical Studies Newsletter

September 2022

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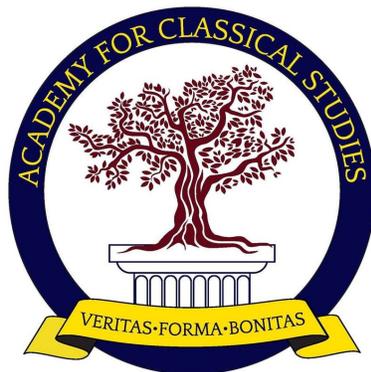
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## Important Dates

9/21: [Italy Trip Zoom Mtg](#) - 5:30pm

9/22: ACS Parent Board Mtg - 11:30am

9/29 - 10/3: AHS Fall Theatre  
[Picasso at the Lapin Agile](#)

10/3: [ACS Fall Parent Mingle](#) - 5:30pm

10/20 - 10/30: AHS Fall Theatre  
[Moon Over Buffalo](#)



Welcome to the Academy of Classical Studies 2022-2023

## ACS Parent Board Update

The Academy of Classical Studies parent board kicked off the school year introducing the board leadership and welcoming new members. The parent board works closely with **ACS Assistant Principal, Elizabeth Jenkins**, as well as **Director of Academies, Lacy Blakley**, in planning and supporting the staff and students of the Classical Academy.

### ACS Parent Board leadership

President - Jacy Donovan

VP PTSA liaison - Leslie Davenport

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Whelan

Parent Mingle - Lily Lloyd, Megan Sink

Teacher Appreciation - Elise Bridges, Molly Jones

Speaker Series - **\*\*OPEN (2-3 co-chairs)\*\***

Fundraising & Community Partners - Jacy Donovan, Robyn Malloy

Senior Breakfast - Shelley Kilday, Jennifer Foucher, Amy Corbett

Newsletter & Secretary - Amy Beisenherz

### Membership

We are welcoming new members and would love to have more parents of sophomores and seniors in particular. Additionally, to continue our popular [Speaker Series](#), we are in need of **2-3 parent co-chairs to be the point people for securing speakers** and coordinating the webinar with our Academy Director. If you are able to contribute, please reach out to board president Jacy Donovan at [j.donovan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.donovan@sbcglobal.net)

**Next meeting: Thursday, September 22nd @ 11:30am**

**ACS Fall Parent Mingle** Monday, October 3rd @ 5:30 - 7:00pm

LOVING BEING A PARENT IN  
**ACS**  
ACADEMY OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

Join us for a  
Parent Mingle  
Monday, October 3  
5:30pm to 7:30pm  
Gottesman Residential Office  
1501 Enfield Road, Austin, Texas 78703  
Snacks provided by the Parent Board, BYOB  
Parking on either side of building or in paved/dirt lots  
Casual | Come and go

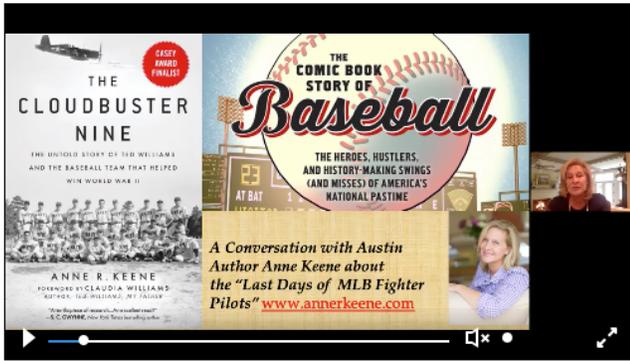
**ACS Communications**

Newsletters will be sent out via email to all ACS families as well as posted to the ACS website and social media. Please reach out to [Amy Beisenherz](#) with information you would like included in the next newsletter.

Check the [ACS Website](#) for the latest newsletters and information on speaker series, travel, and fundraising.

Make sure to follow [The Academy for Classical Studies at Austin High](#) on Facebook!

## ACS Speaker Series



The [ACS Speaker Series](#) is a great way for students, teachers and parents to engage with important people in our community through a 30 minute webinar during FIT (Wed/Thu/Fri). We aim to host two events in both Fall and Spring. Classical Academy students receive 2 civic engagement points for each speaker event added to x2vol.

The speaker encompasses/ties their profession/passion to the 4 pillars of learning: Think Logically, Speak Eloquently, Write Persuasively, and Live Ethically.

Do you know someone from our community that could speak to the importance of these pillars in their life? Please submit potential speaker candidates to our board!

**To continue this popular program, we are looking for two or three parent co-chairs to be the point people for securing speakers and coordinating the webinar with our Academy Director.**

## ACS Travel

### Class of 2023 Italy Trip

Current ACS Seniors can still join our trip to Florence & Rome! Target dates are April 10-17. **We have 6 seats left for April 2023.** Follow this link to sign up today!

[www.eftours.com/2522458uc](http://www.eftours.com/2522458uc)

### Class of 2024 Italy Trip

Current ACS Juniors, reserve your spot for April 2024! Starting payments now is a great way to make this more financially feasible. Follow this link to sign up today!

[www.eftours.com/2556770vb](http://www.eftours.com/2556770vb)

**Zoom meeting Wednesday, Sep 21st @ 5:30pm for Junior and Senior families interested in sending their student with us to Italy.**

Click here to join in: [ZOOM LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 380 303 9762

Passcode: Austin

We will share dates, travel itinerary highlights, safety information, sign-up details, and scholarship application links. We'll also host a Q&A to answer any questions you may have.

Find more pictures of our last trip on the ACS Website <http://www.austinhighclassical.org/italy.html> or ACS Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/austinhighclassical>



### **Trips for 10th & 11th Grades**

In the spring, sophomores will visit **Marfa** & American Studies Juniors will travel to **New Mexico**.

General questions about ACS travel may be directed to ACS Assistant Principal, **Elizabeth Jenkins** at [elizabeth.jenkins@austinisd.org](mailto:elizabeth.jenkins@austinisd.org) , 512-414-7207.

## **ACS Fall Fundraising**

### **Teacher Appreciation**

100% of Academy Program Fees and contributions via our Community Partners Campaign are used to directly support programs and travel for ACS students. Thus, our ACS Parent Board plans teacher appreciation events throughout the year to show our Classical Academy teachers and staff how grateful we are for their hard work and dedication.

## The ACS Board is collecting funds for Teacher Appreciation

We will provide things to  
the ACS teachers and staff throughout the year-  
lunches, snacks, gift cards for Christmas, and  
treats daily during teacher appreciation week.

Donations in the past  
have ranged from \$10-\$100!

Thank you!  
Elise Bridges & Molly Jones  
Teacher Appreciation Co-Chairs

**Molly Jones**

@mollyleamanjones



**venmo**

## **2022 Community Partners Campaign October 1-December 31st**

The 2021 Community Partners Campaign is getting ready to launch in October. All four academies at Austin High are participating again this year.

ACS is a humanities-based interdisciplinary program rooted in the search for truth, beauty, and goodness in the world. To fulfill this mission, ***we believe it is crucial for students to be provided the opportunity to explore the world outside the classroom and the routine experience of their daily lives.***

ACS is ***committed to ensuring that ALL students have the opportunity to participate*** in our carefully designed outside-the-classroom learning experiences. All ACS families participate in funding their travel, and we want to ensure that those who need some additional help are able to participate in the growth, education, and life-long love of learning and understanding that our travel program provides.

This year, we hope to increase that support through our Community Partners Campaign. To raise these needed funds, ***we will be reaching out to you, our families and corporate partners,*** to help ensure equal opportunities for each and every one of our students. All funds raised through this campaign are used for ***scholarships for student travel and academy experiences.*** The budget is carried over from year to year with spending approved by our parent advisory board, Assistant Principal (Liz Jenkins), and Director of Academies (Lacy Blakley)

## **9th Grade News**

### **Geometry**

We just started the City Block Project and will be moving on to our lesson on Midpoint and distance this week.

### **English**

We just completed our first Socratic seminar over dumpster diving and the kids had a lot of insightful thoughts on the subject. We are moving towards student writing about a memorable moment in their lives to practice narrative writing and then will move into a deep dive of our individual identities by learning our love languages.

### **World Geography**

We are starting Unit 2 (Cultural Geography) this week and kicking off our unit with ART! The students will be creating a piece of art based on a randomly selected style and then will present their works to the class in a gallery walk style presentation towards the end of the month.

## **10th Grade News**

We are constantly engaging our Classical Academy sophomores to expand on their discoveries of Truth, Beauty and Goodness as they learn to think logically, write persuasively, speak eloquently, and live ethically.

## English

Students are **Thinking Logically** about the Foundations of Learning unit that serves as an introduction to the course along with the "Super Eight" literary devices and the Habits of Thinking. They will start working on **Writing Persuasively** in their first Idea Book Essay of the year before they move onto their next unit over the Hero's Journey.

## World History

AP students will learn how to **Write Persuasively** their first DBQ (a Document-Based Question) to improve their historical and critical thinking skills in an essay format. Grade level students will begin studying Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome to **Think Logically** about the two cultures' impacts on history.



*Feudalism Role Play and Black Plague activity (AP World History)*

## Geometry

In Geometry, students are **Thinking Logically** about the building blocks of geometry and took their first test. They will engage with angles in the next unit.

## Algebra II

Students are **Thinking Logically** in their first unit, which includes function operations, function composition, finding inverses of functions, and transformations of parent functions. They are also turning in their first round of projects about data regression.

## Chemistry

Students have begun to make connections of how the objects that surround us possess different properties because of differences in how an object's particles behave. They are **Thinking Logically** by developing the skill of writing numbers in scientific notation to work with in a world that is incredibly large but also made up of particles we can't even see.

## 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.

## 12th Grade News

Seniors do not take ACS-specific courses, but many students are taking electives to help them qualify for the Graduation Distinction from the Academy for Classical Studies. To be eligible for the **Graduation Distinction**, 2023 graduates should:

- Complete 1 year of Latin and 3 Fine Arts/Humanities electives (see approved courses on [ACS website](#)), OR students may take 4 ACS-approved Fine Arts/Humanities electives if they opt out of Latin
- Document 70+ [Civic Engagement Points](#) (this number is adjusted due to Covid), and
- Complete a Senior Seminar Experience

The **Senior Seminar Experience** includes several options: the Service Learning Design Project, the Research/Thesis Track, or completion of an Internship (on-campus and off-campus internships are offered). Seniors who are hoping to earn the Graduation Distinction who are not currently enrolled in a Senior Seminar course for the fall should double check schedules and/or meet with counselors to be sure the Senior Seminar Experience is added to their schedule for the spring.

## Did You Know?

### Civic Engagement Points

[Civic Engagement Points](#) are awarded for civic engagement tasks and activities that align with the Classical Academy pillars of truth, beauty, and goodness. **Check out the list of activities that can earn you points on our Academy website:** [Truth points](#), [beauty points](#), [goodness points](#).

***To earn an ACS Graduation Distinction, civic engagement points must be logged, verified, and approved by May 1 of senior year.***

The goal for civic engagement points is typically 80 points, but the numbers needed for distinction eligibility have been adjusted due to Covid/pandemic issues. Here's a timeline of how we are adjusting back to that expectation:

- Class of 2023: 70 points
- Class of 2024 and beyond: 80 points\*

\*subject to change if we are unable to plan some of our typical experiences that lead to points

For all groups, an additional award (certificate + medal) is given to students who earn 120+ hours. In ACS, this is called the **Classy Award**. This number did not change, even during the pandemic, because it's an "above and beyond" award.

Keep in mind that the points are only one eligibility requirement. To receive the ACS Graduation Distinction, students also need to have academy-specific **coursework** and complete the **Senior Seminar** Experience:

- Coursework = 3 Fine Arts/Humanities electives + 1 year of Latin OR 4 Fine Arts/Humanities electives, if students opt out of Latin. Those approved electives are listed on the [ACS website](#).
- Senior Seminar for ACS = Thesis, Service Learning Design Project (collaborative), or Internship

For further information, watch this loom screencast explaining Academy graduation distinctions that was recently shared in all senior advisories: [Academy Distinctions](#)

## Austin High Fall Theatre Productions

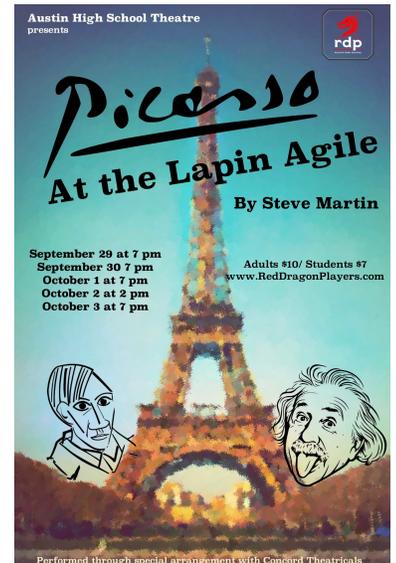
Come out and support our ACS cast members in Austin High's theater program! Plus, it's a great opportunity for ACS students to earn civic engagement points.

### Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's long-running off-Broadway absurdist comedy places Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904, just before the renowned scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world afire with cubism. This production is directed by Annie Dragoo, and features Camille Kilday as Germain, Axel Hibbert as Freddy, Aidan Mills as Einstein, and Nikko Ramos as Picasso.

- Thursday, September 29, at 7 pm
- Friday, September 30, at 7 pm
- Saturday, October 1, at 7pm
- Sunday, October 2, at 2 pm
- Monday, October 3, at 7 pm

Tickets are available at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/66723>



### Moon Over Buffalo

Ken Ludwig's comedy tells the story of the Hay family. Charlotte and George Hay are on tour in Buffalo in 1953 with a repertory consisting of Cyrano de Bergerac (the "revised, one nostril version") and Noel Coward's Private Lives, when they receive word that they might just have one last shot at stardom: Frank Capra is coming to town to see their matinee. This production is directed by Billy Dragoo and features Pearl Phillips, Lucas Miller, Sadie Dragoo, Jarret Cole, Levi Adams, Stella Gill, Lindsay Alexander, and Mason James.

- October 20, 21, 22, at 7 pm
- October 27, 28, 29, at 7 pm
- October 22 & 30 at 2 pm

Tickets will go on sale October 1, 2022