



ARMA DEI ACADEMY SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

Arma Dei Academy's mission is to glorify God by providing an excellent classical Christian education founded upon a biblical worldview which equips students to live purposefully and intelligently in service to God and others.

**CHRIST-CENTERED • CLASSICAL CURRICULUM • CHARACTER CULTIVATION
COMMITTED COMMUNITY • COUNTERCULTURAL**

MISSION

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VISION & PHILOSOPHY

Success in Arma Dei Academy's mission -- success, that is, in the task of equipping students to live, ultimately, "in service to God and others" -- depends upon the unique contribution that each phase of a classical Christian education makes to the formation of students. During the Grammar and Logic stages of that education, students acquire large amounts of information and the critical thinking skills necessary to distinguish truth from error. In the Rhetoric stage, they acquire the ability to clearly and persuasively convince others of truth. From kindergarten through graduation, all truth is presented through the lens of a biblical worldview.

The Rhetoric Program is designed to form students into mature, responsible adults whose ideas about this world, themselves, and God reflect objective truth about this world, themselves, and God; responsible adults who, additionally, love that objective truth (recognizing its intrinsic beauty) and promote that objective truth to others in every sphere of life – family, church, workplace, public square, etc. – to which God calls them in the future. In other words, the Rhetoric Program aims to inculcate in students *wisdom* as measured by the ancient proverb that “wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.”

Our mission statement culminates in the words “in service to God and others.” We believe there is greater joy in a life of service to others than a life of serving oneself. In an age where idolatry of self reigns, education naturally capitulates to questions of what one can *get* rather than one what can *give*. Self-interest becomes the selling point of degree programs and curricular choices, and self-indulgence the trademark of the typical “high school experience.” By way of contrast, every aspect of our Rhetoric Program – from the curriculum to social events to spiritual retreats to international mission trips – is designed to orient students toward “God and others” rather than themselves, pointing them toward true human flourishing and fulfillment.

Whatever courses of study or careers Arma Dei students pursue beyond graduation – whether they become pilots or politicians, graphic designers or doctors, homemakers or historians – our vision and prayer is that they will reflect the character of God in all they do and will advance his Kingdom within their respective spheres of influence by promoting truth with conviction and serving him and all those made in his image with compassion.





SETTING & FACILITIES

Arma Dei Academy's unique setting at the foot of the Rocky Mountains directly serves the Rhetoric School's vision to inculcate in students an appreciation and appetite for beauty and goodness in addition to a knowledge of truth. Breathtaking views of 14,000 ft. peaks to the west remind students of God's creative power; the skyline of downtown Denver to the north reminds students of the creative power and ingenuity of those made in God's image. Rhetoric School classrooms are intentionally equipped and decorated to facilitate Socratic dialogue and point students toward truth, goodness, and beauty. The school boasts a modern science lab, an art studio, a library, a common room for students (including ping pong and foosball tables), and dedicated space for a student-run coffee shop (Dwelling Place) where students and faculty can relax and build relationships. The academy's new gymnasium/auditorium provides space for competitive sports, student presentations, and plays.



CLASS SIZE

Small class sizes (maximum 24 students per class) preserve a low student-teacher ratio, which in turn ensures that each Rhetoric student is personally known and receives individualized instruction from his or her teachers.

ADMISSION

The Rhetoric School admits students who, together with their parents, are committed to the Academy's vision to equip them for lives of service to God and others by providing them an excellent classical Christian education founded upon a biblical worldview.

FINANCIAL AID

Arma Dei Academy is committed to making every phase of an excellent classical Christian education available to all who desire it. Financial aid is available to qualifying, like-minded families.

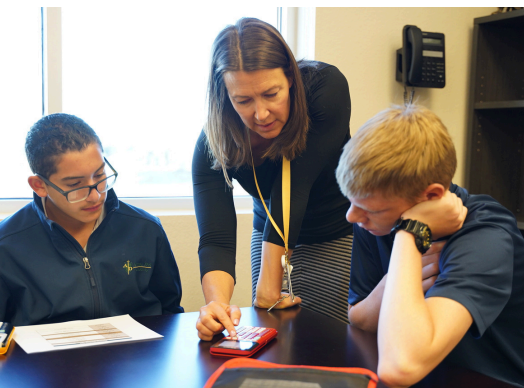


ACADEMIC PROGRAM DISTINCTIVES



A LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM

Against the modern educational trend to sacrifice core, traditional subjects in favor of more “practical,” skills-based courses or self-fulfilling electives, the Rhetoric School delivers a time-tested, liberal arts curriculum to students. Our English term “liberal” comes from the Latin verb *liberare*, meaning “to free” someone or something from bondage. The “liberal arts” are those subjects that, according to traditional wisdom, free a student from his or her natural bondage to ignorance and animalistic instinct, and so permit that student to flourish both individually and socially. Arma Dei Rhetoric students receive a thorough grounding in the humanities (i.e., the history and literature of ancient, medieval, and modern periods), Christian theology and apologetics, mathematics, the sciences, formal rhetoric, and language. Required courses in music, art, and drama further refine their appreciation for beauty and their ability to express themselves powerfully, persuasively, and artfully. While the curriculum fully prepares students to flourish academically and professionally, it ultimately frees them to reflect the character of their Heavenly Father through lives of intentional, purposeful service to him and others.



THE GREAT CONVERSATION, GREAT BOOKS, & GREAT IDEAS

As Rhetoric students read the “great books” in their courses, they are simultaneously drawn into the “great conversation” with pivotal thinkers in the Western intellectual tradition and exposed to the “great ideas” (democracy, love, courage, progress, liberty, etc.) that have shaped Western civilization over the course of its history. Examples of works featured in the Rhetoric curriculum include Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Plato’s *Republic*, Augustine’s *Confessions*, Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, More’s *Utopia*, Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, Marx and Engel’s *Communist Manifesto*, and Dostoyevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*. Whether books are studied for the significance of their ideas or the depth of their insight into human existence, they are critiqued through the lens of a biblical worldview and God’s ultimate vision for human flourishing.





ACADEMIC PROGRAM DISTINCTIVES

DUAL CREDIT

The qualifications of Rhetoric faculty members allows Arma Dei Academy to partner with Colorado Christian University (CCU) and Northwest Nazarene University to offer students dual credit (high school and college credit) for the majority of their core, liberal arts courses and select elective courses. Over 90 college credits are available to students in current Rhetoric classes. Students may also pursue an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in Liberal Arts from CCU during their tenure in the Rhetoric School. All the degree requirements for the AA are met by Arma Dei Academy's current course offerings.

Benefits of dual credit courses for students include:

- completing a college education in a shorter time period or at a more relaxed pace after graduating from high school
- bypassing general education courses and enrolling in courses related to their degree program and career ambitions earlier
- saving financially by omitting 1 to 2 years of university study at tuition rates between \$40,000 to \$100,000 per year.

ELECTIVES

The Rhetoric Program comprises select, elective courses which, in keeping with the Rhetoric School's mission and vision, orient students toward truth, goodness, and beauty and shape them for lives of intentional, purposeful service to God and others. Current elective offerings include Mock Trial, Business, Coding, Graphic Design/Yearbook, Art, and Creative Writing.

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

The Rhetoric School sponsors both competitive and non-competitive clubs that reinforce its mission and vision. Current extracurricular offerings include the Rhetoric Drama Club (which produces an annual play), the Rhetoric School Investment Club, and Mock Trial, which, in addition to fulfilling elective requirements for graduation, provides students opportunity to compete against other schools in the region, state, and nation as part of the American Mock Trial Association.



RHETORIC TRAVEL

ACADEMIC CAPSTONE TRIPS

Travel plays an important role in classical education. From the late 15th to early 20th centuries, on the culmination of their academic studies, students would embark on a “Grand Tour” of key cities in western history and culture. According to classical educator George Grant, the Grand Tour was an essential part of a well-rounded education and the capstone of a true classical curriculum, intended to help the next generation of leaders broaden their horizons, test the practicality of their book learning, and deepen their social and academic awareness. Arma Dei has incorporated numerous trips that directly complement Rhetoric curriculum into its program of study.

While studying ancient civilizations, **9th-grade students** visit London, England, where they observe ancient artifacts in the British Museum and explore the remnants of amphitheaters, baths, tombstones, and temples from Roman England in central London and Bath. Students also visit sites of medieval and modern interest, walk in the footsteps of Tolkein and Lewis in Oxford, and enjoy fish & chips along the Thames.

10th-grade students launch their study of medieval history with a camping trip to Mesa Verde National Park, where they encounter the architecture (cliff dwellings), customs, and religion of 12th-century Puebloan Indians. As they proceed in their study of history to the age of exploration and colonization, students travel to Florida to visit St. Augustine, the oldest continually inhabited town in America and center of numerous museums dedicated to colonial American life. In anticipation of their studies in modern American history in 11th and 12th grades, students also visit the Kennedy Space Center and sites of significance to the American civil rights movement.

11th-grade students participate in a mission trip to Guatemala, where they partner with One Way Community to serve impoverished communities in the outskirts of Antigua and rural mountainous villages. This trip complements 11th-grade students’ study of Spanish and reinforces Arma Dei’s mission to equip students for intentional, purposeful lives of service to God and others as they are exposed to the depth of human needs in this world. It also allows them to share both the Christian gospel and concrete gifts that improve the standard of living for Guatemalan families.

12th-grade students visit Italy and France on their Senior Academic Capstone Trip. Their itinerary includes Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Pisa, Cinque Terre, and Paris, and comprises significant historical sites and significant works of art in the history of Western civilization. Of course, gelatos and espressos on the Amalfi and Cinque Terre coasts also constitute an important aspect of the Senior trip experience. The Senior trip is intentionally designed as the ultimate capstone to our students’ participation in the “great conversation” during their course of study at Arma Dei Academy.



Numerical Percentage %	Letter Grade Conversion	Grade Point Conversion
94-100	A	4.0
90-93	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
84-86	B	3.0
80-83	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
74-76	C	2.0
70-73	C-	1.7
64-69	D	1.0
0-64	F	0

- Only core classes are calculated in the GPA. Electives receive letter grades on transcripts. For purposes of calculating weighted GPAs, dual credit courses are weighted one additional point.
- Transcripts report weighted & unweighted GPAs (highest unweighted GPA is a 4.0).
- Courses offered for dual credit are listed in **tan**.
- Credits equal the number of hours a course meets weekly. Courses are 4 credits unless otherwise indicated.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OF STUDY

	Graduation Credits Required	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Theology	12 credits	Systematic Theology I	Systematic Theology II		Christian Worldview & Apologetics
Literature	16 credits	Ancient Literature	Medieval European Literature	Modern World Literature	American Literature
History & Civics	16 credits	Ancient Civilizations	Medieval & Early Modern European Civilization	Modern World History	American History & Government
Rhetoric	8 credits			Formal Rhetoric: Speech & Composition	Senior Thesis
Foreign Language	12/16 credits	Advanced Latin I	Advanced Latin II	Spanish I	Spanish II
Mathematics	16 credits	Algebra II or Geometry	Algebra II or Precalculus	Precalculus or Calculus I	Calculus I, II, or Statistics
Science	12/16 credits	Physics	Chemistry (5 credits)	Biology	Anatomy & Physiology
Art	4 credits	Art (1 credit)	Art (1 credit)	Art (1 credit)	Art (1 credit)
Drama	2 credits	Drama (1 credit)			
Music	4 credits	Choir (1 credit)	Choir (1 credit)	Choir (1 credit)	Choir (1 credit)
Physical Education	1 credit	Mountaineering Day & Snow Sports Day 0.5 credit	Mountaineering Day & Snow Sports Day 0.5 credit	Mountaineering Day & Snow Sports Day 0.5 credit	Mountaineering Day & Snow Sports Day 0.5 credit
Electives	4 credits	Coding (2 credits) Mock Trial (1 credit) Art Practicum (1 credit) Business (1 credit) Yearbook (1 credit) Creative Writing Workshop (1 credit)	Coding (2 credits) Mock Trial (1 credit) Art Practicum (1 credit) Business (1 credit) Yearbook (1 credit) Creative Writing Workshop (1 credit)	Coding (2 credits) Mock Trial (1 credit) Art Practicum (1 credit) Business (1 credit) Yearbook (1 credit) Creative Writing Workshop (1 credit)	Coding (2 credits) Mock Trial (1 credit) Art Practicum (1 credit) Business (1 credit) Yearbook (1 credit) Creative Writing Workshop (1 credit)
Total	112 credits	27 - 29 credits	27 - 29 credits	26 - 28 credits	26 - 28 credits

MEET SOME OF OUR FACULTY

The Arma Dei Academy School of Rhetoric teacher professes the Christian faith consistent with the Academy's statement of faith, endorses the mission statement, especially with respect to a biblical worldview, defends and applies classical Christian pedagogy, models the Arma Dei Academy portrait of a graduate, demonstrates subject matter expertise, and exhibits characteristics of professional excellence. Most teachers in the School of Logic and Rhetoric hold advanced degrees.



Dr. Aaron Denlinger

Dean of Rhetoric School & Bible Teacher

Educational Background

BA in History, Colorado Christian University
MA in Theology, Westminster Seminary California
PhD in Church History, University of Aberdeen

Experience

Prior to joining Arma Dei in 2016, Dr. Denlinger spent 7 years in higher education, teaching church history, Latin, and theology at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and at Reformation Bible College in Florida. Dr. Denlinger presently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia) in addition to his role at Arma Dei.



Dr. Janine Knedlik

Dean of Grammar School & Humanities Teacher

Educational Background

BA in European History, University of Pennsylvania
MA in Scottish Studies, University of Guelph
PhD in European History, University of Pennsylvania

Experience

Prior to joining Arma Dei in 2019, Dr. Knedlik helped found Donum Dei Classical Academy, the first classical Christian school in the San Francisco area. During her tenure at Arma Dei, Janine has taught first grade, managed various projects such as Arma Dei's accreditation process with ACCS, and, most recently, overseen the Grammar School.



Dr. Kristen Holderness

Science Teacher & Curriculum Lead

Educational Background

BS in Pharmacy, University of Colorado
PharmD in Pharmacy, University of Colorado

Experience

Prior to joining Arma Dei in 2016, Dr. Holderness spent 13 years in the medical field, where she worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Instructor at the University of Colorado Drug Information Center and fulfilled various managerial roles for a private pharmaceutical company. Dr. Holderness also manages curriculum and mentors Science faculty at Arma Dei's Logic & Rhetoric schools.



Mr. Justin Langley

Math, Apologetics, & Performing Arts Teacher

Educational Background

BA in Mathematics, Greenville University
MA in Apologetics and Ethics, Denver Seminary

Experience

Prior to joining Arma Dei in 2020, Mr. Langley worked as a drama teacher and director, camp counselor, and youth ministry leader. He brings his experience in drama to his role at Arma Dei, serving as Arma Dei's Fine Arts Lead and directing the Rhetoric School's annual play in addition to teaching Rhetoric Drama, Precalculus, Statistics, and Apologetics.



Dr. Clayton McReynolds

Humanities, Creative Writing, & Formal Rhetoric Teacher

Educational Background

BA in Literature, Patrick Henry College
PhD in English Literature, Baylor University

Experience

Prior to joining Arma Dei in 2023, Dr. McReynolds spent 6 years as a writing tutor and lecturer in literature at Baylor University and a writing coach for the U.S. Army War College. Dr. McReynolds also directs Arma Dei students in their Senior Thesis projects, serving students well through his own proficiency in both creative and academic writing.



Mrs. Taylor McCallum

Humanities Teacher

Educational Background

BA in Intl. & Religious Studies, University of Arkansas
MA in Biblical & Theological Studies, Denver Seminary

Experience

Prior to joining Arma Dei in 2024, Mrs. McCallum spent three years teaching Logic and Rhetoric Humanities and supervising the House System at Augustine Classical Academy in Lakewood, CO. In addition to her role at Arma Dei, Mrs. McCallum creates curriculum and teaches at the Heights Institute in Denver.



THE TRACK RECORD OF ARMA DEI ACADEMY & CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CLASSIC LEARNING TEST (CLT)

Rhetoric students annually complete the CLT, a standardized test that provides valuable feedback to Arma Dei Academy on the strength of its Rhetoric Program while also providing feedback to students on their academic aptitude and college readiness. The CLT is specifically designed for students completing a classical curriculum, whether in a private or public setting. Arma Dei students consistently score above national averages in every category measured by the CLT (Verbal Reasoning, Grammar/Writing, and Quantitative Reasoning).

ALUMNI OUTCOMES FROM THE “GOOD SOIL REPORT”

Through its mission and vision, Arma Dei Academy aims higher than successful scores on standardized tests or college admission for its students. In 2019, a study (“Good Soil Report”) was conducted by the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) and researchers at Notre Dame University, which measured graduates from classical Christian schools against graduates from other schools using a variety of metrics of greater significance than college readiness. The study demonstrated that classical Christian school graduates surpass their peers in each of the following categories:

- College readiness and success (as measured by college GPAs)
- Independence of thought (i.e., willingness to hold an opinion at odds with the majority)
- Positive life outlook (as measured by a sense of gratitude and confidence in the face of life’s difficulties)
- Volunteer work with charitable organizations
- Church membership and frequency in the practice of spiritual disciplines (Bible reading, prayer, worship, etc.)
- Experience of healthy marriages, strong families, and close friendships
- Likelihood to take action against perceived injustice



A full report can be downloaded
using the QR code

The Good Soil Report is a 2019 comparative study of 24-42 year old alumni from public, secular private, Catholic, evangelical Christian, religious homeschool, and ACCS (classical Christian) schools, on topics of life-choices, preparation, attitudes, values, opinions, and practices.

RHETORIC STUDENT LIFE



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Arma Dei Academy is committed to seeing every student grow in faith and Christlike character during his or her tenure at the school. The Rhetoric School provides intentional space for spiritual growth through annual retreats, weekly participation in Chapel, student-led morning assemblies that include worship and reflection upon Scripture, and extracurricular Bible studies led by mature Christian adults in the Arma Dei community. Spiritual growth is also fostered by Rhetoric teachers with strong Christian faith and character who intentionally encourage and mentor students both formally (through classroom teaching and discussion) and informally (through conversations in the hallway, over lunch, or in the coffee shop).

RETREATS

Annual retreats provide space for students to deepen relationships with their peers, teachers, and God as they study Scripture, experience the beauty of Colorado's mountains, and establish personal goals. During their Mesa Verde trip, 10th-graders gather around the campfire to reflect on Scripture, talk, and pray beneath stunning views of the Milky Way. Upperclassmen spend two nights in the mountains each fall during Mountaineering Day. All students spend several days in January at Snow Mountain Ranch, where they enjoy a variety of outdoor Winter activities, games, conversations, Bible study, and prayer each evening by the fireside in the group cabin.



DANCES

Dances foster fun, laughter, and friendship, constituting the cornerstone of the Rhetoric School's rich social life. In addition, dances also reinforce curricular lessons on gender, embodiment, etiquette, and virtue. The Rhetoric School holds both formal and informal dances (for example, the annual Tailgate Ceilidh in October). Rhetoric dances typically feature "called dances" of American, English, or Scottish origin (for example, the Virginia Reel or Strip the Willow) as well as country-style swing dancing.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Rhetoric School provides ample opportunities for students to exercise and refine leadership skills, most notably in the Rhetoric Student Council, which comprises student-run groups overseeing various aspects of Rhetoric School life (e.g., social events, hospitality, and service) as well as roles for student chaplains and grade-level representatives.



ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ARMA DEI ACADEMY ATHLETICS



Arma Dei Academy recognizes every student as one uniquely made in God's image in the entirety of his or her person (i.e., both body and soul) and so seeks to form the whole person (body and soul) to glorify and reflect God in all endeavors. Physical education (PE) and sports programs in the Rhetoric School serve this ultimate end while simultaneously building community, fostering teamwork and camaraderie, cultivating virtues such as integrity and perseverance, and facilitating engagement with God's creation in all of its Colorado splendor.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Rhetoric School takes a unique approach to PE that capitalizes on Arma Dei Academy's location at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. While daily exercise is available to Rhetoric students during lunch or study hall, PE as a discrete course of study is centralized in a "Mountaineering Day" each Fall, a "Snow Sports Day" each Spring, and the outdoor activities comprised in the Rhetoric School's annual Winter Retreat (cross-country skiing, tubing, and ice skating). Each Mountaineering Day, Rhetoric students summit "fourteeners" in the Front and Collegiate Ranges (Bierstadt, Quandary, Elbert, etc.). Each Snow Sports Day, students take to the slopes at one of Colorado's world-renowned ski resorts. Indoor rock climbing exists as an alternative to skiing for those who wish to stay warm on Snow Sports Day.

ATHLETICS

Arma Dei currently offers competitive golf, cross country, and track & field teams for both male and female students. With the opening of Arma Dei Academy's new gymnasium in the Fall of 2024, the Rhetoric School anticipates adding volleyball and basketball to its sports program. Arma Dei is committed to joining competitive leagues and pursuing sanctioning from the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) for each sport that it offers. CHSAA rules permit Arma Dei students to participate in sports that are not CHSAA sanctioned at Arma Dei at local public schools (e.g., football, soccer, rugby, etc.). The Rhetoric School's class schedule has intentionally been designed to facilitate students attending sports practices at local public schools.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Our Admissions office is here to serve you during this process. Please call (303) 346-4523 or email admissions@armadeiacademy.com with your questions. You may begin the application process at www.armadeiacademy.com/admission/.



Arma Dei Academy stands on Ephesians 6:10-11, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

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