

ACADEME *of the* OAKS



*redefining high school*



**Waldorf High School Education**

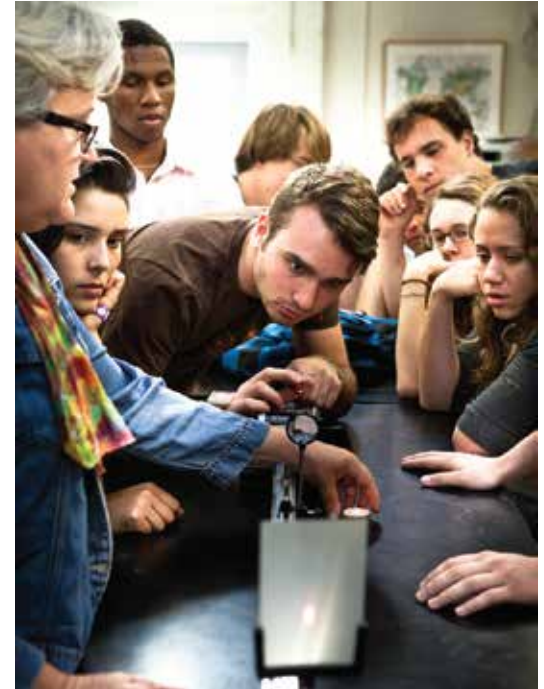


## *The Future*

Today's world is complicated, exciting, and changing fast. At ACADEME of the OAKS, we believe this global reality requires an educational approach that's both radical and relevant. We develop students to think beyond memorization and standardized tests, emphasizing active involvement and creative consideration. Here, learning is centered on lived experience.

Academe's faculty members take a fresh approach to teaching, addressing each student's full array of talents and interests—not just in what they are best at, but in what they want to be. Students conduct scientific experiments, compose poetry and stories, play music, work in the community, and become global citizens. Along the way, they work to become skilled writers, careful problem-solvers, and compassionate thinkers.

*“The teachers here help us build on our individual strengths and talents, and they push us in areas that are difficult or unfamiliar to us.”* Academe Senior



Our mission is to redefine the high school experience by educating our students to be resourceful, clear, and flexible thinkers, capable of making profound and positive contributions to the fast-changing world.

## *About Us*

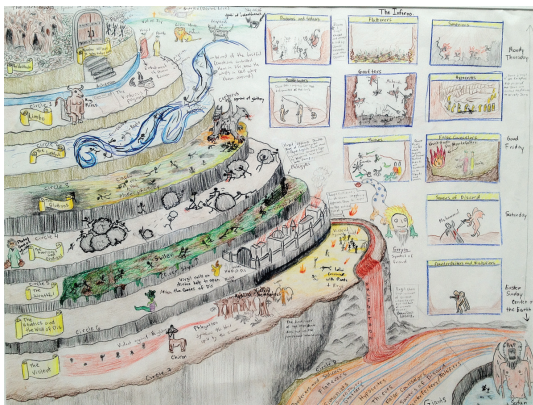
Founded in 2003, *ACADEME of the OAKS* was named for the grove in ancient Greece where Plato held classes and inspired his students. The strength of the oak tree is symbolic of the support our students receive as they grow into strong and balanced adults who understand the importance of giving back to their community and the world.

*ACADEME of the OAKS* is accredited by the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America, the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In addition, Academe is a member of the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) and the Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools (AAAIS).



Academe of the Oaks welcomes students who are curious, thoughtful, and eager to learn.

We offer a proven college preparatory education in the sciences, mathematics, and humanities, led by teachers with advanced degrees in their subject areas.



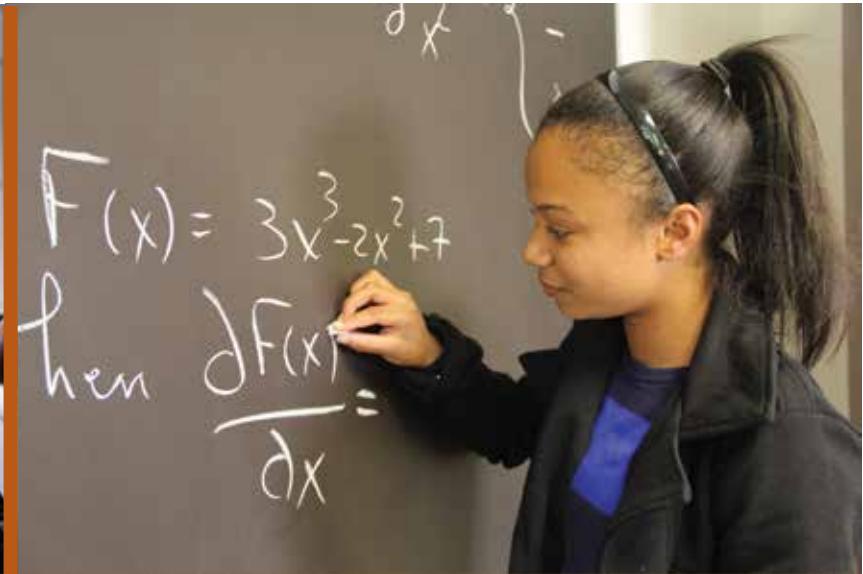
Our challenging curriculum is structured to reach students based on their age and point of development. Major subjects are not taught separately in compartmentalized classes, but interwoven across disciplines so that students can connect big ideas and watch a fuller picture of the world around them emerge. More than ever before, high school students are preparing to live and work in an interconnected world unfettered by geographic boundaries. That's why we infuse our educational experience with a global focus that shapes all Academe students. We believe that high school is not the time to specialize, but to open minds and hearts to possibility.

## Academics

Academe of the Oaks welcomes students who are curious, thoughtful, and eager to learn. Our academic vision is vigorous and deliberately different, centered on primary source materials rather than textbooks and computers, and driven by the infectious excitement of intellectual discovery. Our students don't sit back and passively receive information; Academe teachers challenge them to fully experience education rather than merely acquire it. All Academe

students are immersed in every aspect of the Waldorf curriculum —math and science, literature and history, social studies and the arts.

Faculty members explore the deep, perplexing questions of their subjects, demonstrating their own search for truth. Inspiring students also involves connecting academic work to the real world and the experiences of people living in the present.



Classes are highly interactive and academically rigorous, and our teachers know each student as an individual.

Students at Academe strive to figure out how things work before they are given theoretical explanations.



Entire blocks are dedicated to individual works, such as Homer's *Odyssey* and Dante's *Divine Comedy*; to specific science topics, such as optics, hydrology, and mechanics; to global developments and world economics; and to branches of mathematics, such as calculus and projective geometry. These in-depth courses allow students to immerse themselves in these important and intriguing subjects, while at the same time taking continuous classes in English, math, and foreign language.

*"Academe has given me room to grow in all directions rather than in one."* Academe Senior

## *The Arts*

At ACADEME *of the* OAKS, arts are not considered extracurricular but essential to education. The Waldorf philosophy has recognized since its beginnings that engaging in the arts complements intellectual development, fosters mental balance, and strengthens focus and confidence. All Academe students are expected to participate in art and music—not just in one or two required courses, but continuously throughout each year. We believe that experiences of beauty enhance every academic subject.



Far from being a frill, the arts deepen academics and strengthen skills of observation, engineering, imagination, and intuition.

Academe students gain a lasting appreciation and understanding of the role of aesthetics in their lives.



Opportunities for getting creative include the more traditional fine art forms—drawing, painting, sculpture, calligraphy, and more—but students can also try their hands at crafts like woodworking, blacksmithing, jewelry-making, and bookbinding. While everyone sings in the choir, there are also drumming, guitar, and jazz musical groups. And all students get their chance to shine on the stage in dramatic productions—from Shakespeare to contemporary comedies—that involve their entire class.

Please visit our website for a more complete look at our remarkable and effective curriculum.

## Grade WHAT 9

Freshmen learn the power of observation through a variety of subjects, such as ANATOMY, HISTORY THROUGH ART, ORGANIC CHEMISTRY, REVOLUTION AND REFORM, COMEDY AND TRAGEDY, and POSSIBILITY AND PROBABILITY.

The curriculum engages students with the excitement of opposites, while also encouraging them to bring accuracy, balance, and objectivity to their questioning of the world.



### EXAMPLES OF WHAT FRESHMEN WILL DO

#### Build a heat engine

PHYSICS - Thermodynamics

#### Hold debates in the National Assembly

HISTORY - French Revolution

#### Become mathematically adept card players

MATHEMATICS - Possibility and Probability

#### Create a cultural comparison of the human form

AESTHETICS - History of Art

#### Draw and name the bones in your hand

BIOLOGY - Anatomy

#### Practice the art of rhetoric while reading *Orwell's Animal Farm*

LITERATURE - The Novel

#### Explore a large rock formation

EARTH SCIENCE - Geology

## Grade HOW 10

Sophomores learn to compare and contrast ideas in subjects like the HISTORY OF ENGLISH, PHYSIOLOGY, MECHANICS, DRAMA, and ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS.

As the students mature, an intense interest in process develops. They examine the development of form and the transformation of ideas and substances.



### EXAMPLES OF WHAT SOPHOMORES WILL DO

#### Construct projectile launchers

PHYSICS - Mechanics

#### Compose original short stories

LITERATURE - Short Fiction

#### Create an imaginary but realistic culture

HISTORY - Ancient Civilizations

#### Participate in a public poetry slam

ENGLISH - Poetics

#### Write philosophical dialogues with Socrates

SOCIAL STUDIES - Greek History

#### Apply math to understand the landscape

MATHEMATICS - Surveying

#### Understand how a local stream works

EARTH SCIENCE - Hydrology

love for learning

active discovery

## Grade 11 WHY

Juniors learn the power of analysis and interpretation through subjects such as ATOMIC THEORY, THE MIDDLE EAST, PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY, PARSIFAL, and ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM.

The students stretch their thinking and imagination from the smallest invisible particles to the farthest reaches of the universe.



### EXAMPLES OF WHAT JUNIORS WILL DO

**Make an electrical apparatus**  
PHYSICS - Electricity and Magnetism

**Develop foreign policy advice for the U.S. President**  
SOCIAL STUDIES - Middle East

**Grapple with infinity**  
MATHEMATICS - Projective Geometry

**Create full-scale maps of Dante's Inferno**  
LITERATURE - The Divine Comedy

**Delve into the world of the atom**  
CHEMISTRY - Atomic Theory

**Write and perform individual dramatic monologues**  
DRAMA - Dramatic Monologues

## Grade 12 WHO

Seniors apply the power of synthesis to the study of subjects such as BIOCHEMISTRY, CHINA, ECONOMICS, MODERN WORLD HISTORY, ZOOLOGY, and TRANSCENDENTALISM.

Students seek to find their place in the world. They see the big picture as never before, which brings increased responsibility and maturity.



### EXAMPLES OF WHAT SENIORS WILL DO

**Photo document optical phenomena**  
PHYSICS - Optics

**Draw a comprehensive world map**  
HISTORY - America & the Modern World

**Develop a business plan**  
MATHEMATICS - Economics

**Live like Henry David Thoreau**  
ENGLISH - Transcendentalism

**Isolate and test your own DNA**  
CHEMISTRY - Biochemistry

**Choose your own major project, like building a boat or triathlon training**  
SENIOR PROJECTS

**independent thinking**

**knowledge across disciplines**

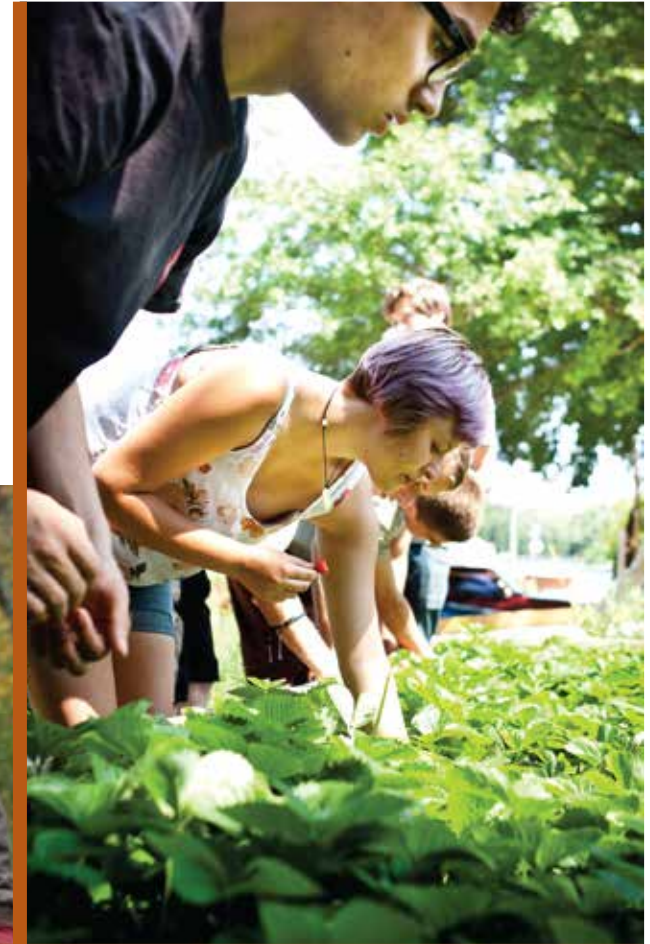


## Service

The themes of serving one's community and respecting the natural world have been part of Waldorf education for nearly a century, and they are at the heart of the Academe experience. Whether it's working in our gardens, organizing a recycling program, or pursuing their own volunteer interests outside school, all students participate in service learning and sustainability efforts. Students are encouraged to seek out activities they truly care about and come to appreciate making a difference in the lives of others and in the world.

*"Academe is a haven of self-expression where students are free to become the people they want to be."*

Academe Junior



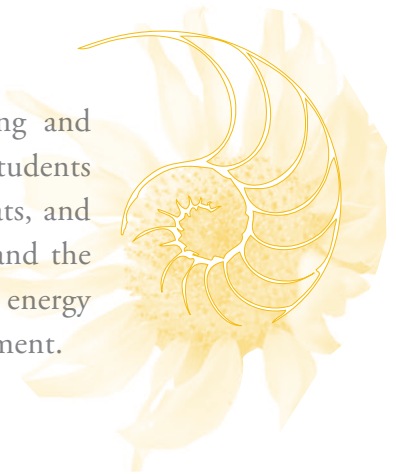
Students develop a natural sense of social responsibility through meaningful action.

Academe students are good stewards of the environment and the earth.



### *Sustainability*

Our school's commitment to sustainability extends far beyond recycling and reducing waste, although those activities are important. Academe staff and students work in our thriving gardens, tend to our campus chickens, bees, and goats, and seek new ways to enrich our community's connection to food, animals, and the environment we live in. We involve students in regular assessments of our energy and water use, and we carefully monitor our overall impact on the environment.



## *Global Education*

Many of our students participate in our robust international exchange program, spending two or three months abroad—typically with a family from another Waldorf school—and hosting a foreign exchange student in return. Our students have lived in Spain, Italy, France, Peru and many other countries, developing lasting connections with their host students and families and returning home with a richer and broader perspective of the world.

Other parts of the globe have a vibrant presence on our own campus, too—through our foreign language program; through our international history curriculum, including topics such as the Middle East, China, and Africa; and through the foreign exchange students who join our community each semester. Academe students have reached out to their counterparts from war-torn countries such as Sudan and held joint classes with international students via video-conferencing.



There is no better way to gain an understanding of a different culture, language, and social system than by becoming a part of it.

Students visit mountains, oceans, and forests. They also go to farms, cities, and industrial sites.



### *Off-Campus Classroom*

Class trips are an important part of the curriculum at Academe. Our students take at least one major class trip annually that is designed to complement and enrich their coursework. Sophomores reflect on the archetypal journey during a week-long Odyssey trip; seniors apply what they've learned in science when they explore coastal ecology in Maine; juniors get in touch with their contemplative selves at a monastery after reading the epic *Parzival*. Other destinations have included New York and San Francisco, coastal Georgia islands, the North Georgia mountains, and the Okefenokee swamp—all carefully conceived to relate to the curriculum and augment the students' sense of discovery and synthesis.

## *After School*

Academe students fill their after-school hours with a range of engaging options, such as robotics, Green Club, *The Scribe*—our school newspaper—Academe Singers, debate team, cycling club, Model U.N. and mock trial. Many of our activities are initiated and organized by students who are eager to pursue their interests and build their leadership skills.

*“There is always some way to get involved with our peers, whether it’s sports, farming, or robotics—there is something for everyone.”*

Academe Sophomore



Academe students enjoy an active, exciting life outside the classroom through numerous trips and extracurricular opportunities.

Our athletic program develops endurance, teamwork, and self-confidence in our student athletes.



### *Athletics*

Academe offers a vital and extensive sports program, including basketball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, track, and ultimate Frisbee. Our no-cut policy ensures every student has an opportunity to play on a team. Being inclusive doesn't mean we aren't competitive, though. The AO Firebirds are passionate about winning, and they compete with the same determination as other schools' teams.

*"In all of the sports, each athlete has a moment to shine."* Academe Senior



think  
create  
connect

[www.academeatlanta.org](http://www.academeatlanta.org)