

The High School Curriculum

Table of Contents

1	Mission
2	School Design
4	High School Curriculum
5	Humanities
5	English
7	History
8	Honors Humanities
9	STEM
9	Math
11	Science
12	STEM Academy
12	Computer Science
13	Academic Intervention and Special Education
14	Arts
15	Sports and Fitness
16	Health
17	Electives
18	Experiential Learning
18	Clubs
18	Competitive Teams
18	Summer Experience
19	Character and College Prep
19	Dedicated Deans
19	Academic Core Seminar
19	Comprehensive College Counseling
19	SAT and AP Test Preparation
20	SA HSLA College Acceptances 2018
21	Essential Logistics
21	Graduation Requirements
22	Parent Engagement

Mission

Success Academy is redefining what's possible in public education. **Our dual mission is to:**

- Build exceptional, world-class public schools that prove children from all backgrounds can succeed in college and life, and
- Advocate to change public policies that prevent so many children from having access to opportunity.

School Design

At Success Academy, we constantly ask ourselves: **“Would our scholars choose to come to school even if they didn’t have to?”** We have set out to redesign a high school experience that will evoke a resounding “yes!” from our oldest scholars. We reject the mediocrity, boredom, and inequity that have become almost synonymous with American public high schools, and we reject the assumption that teenagers won’t and don’t have to love school. Every decision we make, every question we ask, is focused on what we believe kids deserve: What are they going to love? What is going to challenge them? What is going to serve them well in the short term and in the future?

We believe that kids are bored by ease and engaged by challenging, intriguing work, so we ask our scholars to engage critically with difficult conceptual problems, sophisticated texts, and the complex ideas, issues, and events that have shaped our world. Supported by a close-knit community of advisors, counselors, teachers, and peers, and drawing on the strong foundation they have built in K–8, our scholars thrive in this setting of joyful rigor and robust exploration, and they emerge as strong, ethical young adults who know what they love and are ready to make their way in the world as thinkers, doers, and leaders.



High School Curriculum

At Success Academy, the high school experience is intellectually demanding and deeply engaging. Building on the knowledge, skills, and mind-sets developed in the K–8 program, the high school immerses scholars in a sophisticated collegiate experience in which they explore interests and passions, and gain confidence, independence, and self-knowledge. An advanced liberal arts curriculum prioritizes student-led inquiry, advanced problem-solving, and cross-disciplinary perspectives. A wide range of electives and clubs — along with academic honors programs, internship opportunities, and robust summer experiences — cultivates scholars' curiosity, talent, and skill in navigating the world around them.

Scholars receive comprehensive college counseling and support, guiding them through the challenges of applying and gaining admission to selective colleges, and equipping them with the content mastery and work habits they need to thrive there. Most importantly, our high school is warm and supportive, fostering and celebrating emotional maturity, kindness, independence, and leadership. Scholars enter young adulthood in an environment where they are known and loved and where they feel safe taking risks and tackling new challenges.

Humanities

Our humanities curriculum exposes scholars to the great texts, ideas, and events that have shaped our modern world, and it prioritizes Platonic-style discourse, incisive analysis, and powerful, cogent writing. Through the comprehensive study of literature, history, economics, and government, scholars grow into accomplished thinkers, writers, researchers, and public speakers. The workload is collegiate both in volume and nature; many courses are taught at an Advanced Placement (AP) level, preparing scholars for the academic demands they will encounter at selective colleges.

This year we are offering an inaugural Honors Humanities program. Accepted scholars can take an online Harvard University poetry course for college credit in 10th grade and AP Art History in 11th grade.

English

Our curriculum develops engaged and critical readers, writers, and thinkers. In Literature, scholars delve into a wide array of challenging texts, from both the Western canon and contemporary culture, to examine themselves and the world. In Writing, scholars compose argumentative, narrative, and research papers. Scholars take four years of English. External exams include the New York State Regents exam in English Language Arts, AP Language, and AP Literature.

Grade 9: Freshman Survey of Great Books

The Freshman Survey of Great Books has two goals: for scholars to read extensively and strengthen their skills in written compositions. Throughout the year, scholars read and study canonized and contemporary novels in addition to poetry and nonfiction, deeply analyzing the texts through personal annotations, classroom discussion, and formal and informal writing. In addition to reading comprehension skills, the course provides scholars with foundational skills for writing

various types of compositions. The basic tools of analytical and research writing are introduced: crafting a thesis statement, making an outline, paraphrasing materials, and citing sources using the Modern Language Association format. Teachers also emphasize standardized test preparation, vocabulary skills, and reference skills. The course culminates in the New York State Regents exam in English, which scholars are required to pass for graduation.

Grade 10: American Literature

American Literature is an intensive, fast-paced course designed to familiarize scholars with the classic and contemporary novels, plays, essays, and poems that comprise the United States' rich literary tradition. Scholars prepare for the year's culminating assessment, the AP Language exam, by reading thoughtfully and participating in spirited classroom discussions. They practice crafting lengthier, more complex, and more effective analytical and argumentative essays with clarity and eloquence, learning to incorporate the most legitimate textual evidence and the soundest organizational structures to support their original ideas. Increasing their precision and fluidity of expression through the study of vocabulary and grammar, scholars will not only be prepared for success on the exam but also develop their singular voices as thinkers, readers, and writers.

Grades 11 and 12: European Literature

In European Literature, scholars are exposed to classic and contemporary European works of varying genres in English translation. Scholars read comparatively across the texts, analyzing the historical contexts of the works, as well as significant literary techniques. This course provides scholars with opportunities to continue to develop as skilled, mature, and critical readers. Scholars practice writing as a process — planning, drafting, reviewing, redrafting, editing, and polishing — and in contained, timed settings, both of which are imperative for their success on the culminating AP Literature exam and in college courses. In addition, scholars continue to build upon the grammar and vocabulary foundations of their underclassmen years with targeted practice within the context of their written assignments.

SAMPLE COURSE TEXTS

GRADE

9

Semester 1

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare
Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
A collection of poetry including
 "The Harlem Dancer" by Claude McKay
 "Refuge" by Tracy K. Smith
 "Animals Are Passing From Our Lives"
 by Philip Levine
 "The Colonel" by Carolyn Forché and
 "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus

Semester 2

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close
by Jonathan Safran Foer



10

Semester 1

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Excerpts from Walden by Henry David Thoreau
Excerpts from Self-Reliance
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Semester 2

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
by Frederick Douglass
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
Poems by Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson

11–
12

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich M. Remarque
The Inferno by Dante Alighieri
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes
Les Misérables by Victor Hugo
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert



History

Our approach to history is set apart by an emphasis on inquiry and the examination and analysis of primary sources and authentic artifacts. Each scholar develops strengths as a reader, researcher, listener, and speaker, and especially as a writer, while building a comprehensive understanding of historical change and continuity. Success Academy high school scholars engage in a rigorous four-year history program, covering World History, Economics, and American History and Government. All scholars sit for the AP World History exam in grade 10, capping two years of world history study. In grade 11, scholars take an Economics course, studying classical theory alongside practical applications and current events, culminating in the AP Microeconomics exam. In grade 12, scholars revisit American history and government, and they sit for the AP U.S. Government exam.

Grade 9: Premodern World History

Grade 9 history scholars embark on a two-year course of study that explores the breadth and depth of world history, culminating in the AP World History exam at the end of their sophomore year. Grade 9 scholars master core historical skills, including periodization, document analysis, argumentation, and identifying change and continuity over time. Premodern World History begins with a review of all of human history from B.C. 10,000 to the present, then covers the narrative human experience from the Stone Age and the dawn of agriculture to the rise and fall of the Mongol Empire and the European Renaissance. This course exposes scholars to the foundations of the modern world across all global regions, with the goal of providing an inclusive, deep look at the diversity of human cultures and societies.

Grade 10: Modern World History

Grade 10 history scholars continue their world history studies from grade 9 with Modern World History, a course covering world history in the period between 1400 and the present. Scholars begin the year with a study of the emergence of globalization in the early modern era and progress through world history during the Enlightenment, the Age of Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, the Age of Imperialism, the World Wars, the Age of Decolonization, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War world order. This course exposes scholars to the major thematic and narrative topics of modern world history, establishing a contextual understanding for the state of global affairs in the 21st century. Grade 10 scholars strengthen their historical reading, writing, thinking, and discussion skills in preparation for the AP World History exam at the end of the year.

SAMPLE TEXTS

GRADE

9–
12

A Little History of the World by Ernst Gombrich
A History of the World in Six Glasses by Tom Standage
Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall
The Silk Roads by Peter Frankopan
The Swerve by Stephen Greenblatt
Vermeer's Hat by Timothy Brook
King Leopold's Ghost by Adam Hochschild
Freakonomics
by Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt
The Big Short by Michael Lewis

Grade 11: Economics

Grade 11 history scholars broaden their mastery of the social sciences through a study of economics, finance, and the intersection between government and capitalism. In Economics, scholars study the major topics of micro- and macroeconomic theory and practice, as well as broader issues of political economy and finance. In the microeconomics component, scholars learn about the motivations and factors that shape individual economic and financial decisions, while the macroeconomics lessons connect their studies to issues of national and world economic and financial trends and patterns.

Grade 12: American History and Government

In grade 12, scholars complete their four-year history sequence with a return to American history. In this final year, scholars deepen their understanding of the major trends, themes, and issues in American history and historiography, including the concepts of freedom and liberty, the origins of race, the immigrant experience, gender and feminism, ideology and partisanship, technology, militarism, and capitalism. Scholars progress through all eras of American history, including pre-Columbian America, the Colonial Era, the early republic and the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression and World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Era, the Reagan Era and 1990s, and the 21st century. Additionally, scholars engage in a study of the theory and practical mechanics of the American government and political system in preparation for the AP U.S. Government exam in May of this year.

Honors Humanities

SA HSLA scholars who are particularly passionate about the humanities have the opportunity to apply for admission to two honors humanities electives. In order to be eligible, a scholar's GPA must be in the top 20 percent of the class. The application process requires scholars to submit a statement of purpose and garner a strong teacher recommendation. In grade 10, admitted scholars take an online poetry course with Poetry in America, a collaboration with Harvard University. Successful completion of the course earns scholars undergraduate course credit from Harvard. In grade 11, admitted scholars take a year long art history course, culminating in the AP Art History exam.

Poetry in America in Collaboration with Harvard University

Poetry in America is an education initiative created by Elisa New, in collaboration with Harvard University. Scholars take two semesters of an online course on American poetry. In the first semester, scholars take Poetry in America: From the Mayflower Through Emerson. This course covers American poetry in a cultural context from the Puritans through the year 1850. In the second semester, scholars take Poetry in America: From the Civil War Through Modernism. This course spans a critical era in American literature, beginning with antebellum and Civil War poetry, entering the 20th century, and traversing the transformative Modernist Era. During the course, scholars have the opportunity to participate in two live annotation sessions with a graduate fellow from Harvard. They submit a culminating paper each semester on a poem of their choice. Successful completion of the course earns scholars undergraduate course credit from Harvard.

AP Art History

For most of human history, the primary vehicle for cultural discourse has not been the written word but art: cave paintings, carvings, sculptures, frescoes, paintings, and portraits. Art, in its various forms and mediums, has provided a universal language understood and spoken by human beings for thousands of years. In the Art History academic elective, eligible scholars explore the history of art from all corners of the world. Scholars master the major art movements and are able to identify, discuss, and analyze artworks and the contributions of artists within the broader context of world history. This course begins with a high-level introduction and review of art from all eras of history, then proceeds chronologically through the major art movements, focusing specifically on art created from 1400 through the present. Scholars frequently visit museums and cultural centers around New York City and learn to appreciate and discuss art both on the scale of individual paintings and pieces and more broadly within the context of art movements and trends.



STEM

Science, Technology,
Engineering, and Math

At Success Academy High School, we are building the next generation of innovators in the STEM fields and beyond, which starts with a revolutionary mathematics and science program. To reach this end, our teachers are facilitators of inquiry-based learning, creating the conditions for scholars to pose and pursue rich questions, develop their own approaches to solve these problems, and constantly make sense of the ideas they are learning. Our goal is to foster a robust *thinking culture* across STEM classrooms, one in which all scholars are challenged to become bold, knowledgeable, flexible, and resourceful problem-solvers.



Math

Each mathematics course at the high school consists of a series of carefully sequenced tasks that allow scholars to pose and pursue rich and often socially relevant mathematical questions. Through these problems, scholars formalize and gain fluency with key math concepts, conventions, and procedures. For example, in Algebra, scholars puzzle over whether pharmaceutical companies should be incentivized to invest in the Ebola vaccine through studying their revenue models, and they learn about the behavior of quadratic functions. In Algebra II, we create an intellectual need for geometric series by exploring how companies are valued and funded, then use our mathematical findings to debate how these processes are aligned to our core values. Applications span public policy, economics, technology, and popular culture to build a key mind-set: Mathematics is a powerful tool for analysis across disciplines. The four-year Math sequence begins with Geometry in grade 9, Advanced Algebra in grade 10, Precalculus in grade 11, and AP-level Calculus and/or Statistics in grade 12. These courses culminate in the Regents exams in Geometry and Algebra II, the AP exams in Calculus AB/BC and Statistics, and the SAT II in Mathematics Level 1 and 2.



9

Geometry

Our ninth-grade Geometry course includes a comprehensive analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts and real-world situations. Topics include proofs, right triangles, transformations, parallel lines and polygons, circles, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and modeling with geometry. Emphasis is placed on developing logical reasoning and argumentation through solving complex mathematical problems. Through strategically sequenced tasks, scholars use different tools to discover most of the mathematics they learn.

10

Algebra II

In Algebra II, scholars deepen their understanding of linear, exponential, and quadratic patterns of growth. During their study of quadratic functions, they encounter the complex coordinate plane and develop fluency with both the operations and the geometry of complex numbers. Scholars learn about new families of functions, including higher degree polynomials, rational functions, and logarithmic functions, and they use their knowledge of right-angle trigonometry from Geometry to study periodic functions. Modeling relevant problems in the world with their newly acquired mathematical tools is an important component of the course.

11

Precalculus

In Precalculus, scholars begin with a review of linear and exponential functions through the lens of sequences and series, and they continue their analysis of rational, polynomial, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Subsequently, they build on their knowledge of function families from Algebra II and their mathematical reasoning skills formed in Geometry. They explore the real-world applications of trigonometric functions and understand their value through investigations in engineering and mechanics. The course concludes with a deep dive into analytic geometry, matrices, and vectors, as well as an introduction to limits.

12

Calculus or Statistics

In 12th grade, scholars have the option to take AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC and/or AP Statistics.

AP Calculus AB builds on scholars' knowledge of precalculus, taking them into the nonconstant world of change. This includes a deep dive into limits and the infinitesimally small, followed by rates of change and net changes using Riemann sums, definite integrals, and the fundamental theorem of calculus. The course teaches scholars to approach calculus concepts graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and to make connections among these representations. Scholars also learn how to use technology to help analyze problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Throughout, scholars will apply the mathematics they are learning to relevant problems in economics, physics, and engineering.

AP Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to both first- and second-semester college calculus courses, extending the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introducing the topic of sequences and series. This course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills such as limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the fundamental theorem of calculus, and series. Scholars learn how to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and to make connections among these representations.

AP Statistics is equivalent to a one-semester, non-calculus-based introductory college-level course in statistics. The course introduces scholars to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Scholars use technology to investigate relevant questions through statistical analysis.

Science

Our science program encourages scholars to think flexibly and analytically, challenging them to systematically follow lines of insightful inquiry when faced with unfamiliar and difficult problems. Ninth and tenth graders complete weekly laboratory exercises and write-ups, mastering advanced applications of the scientific method. Juniors and seniors engage in college-level science content in their choice of AP courses. Scholars begin their inquiry-based science sequence with Biology in grade 9. Scholars take Physics in grade 10 and can select AP Biology, Physics, and/or Chemistry in grades 11 and 12. These courses culminate in AP exams in Biology, Physics, and Chemistry, as well as the SAT II Biology and SAT II Chemistry.

SCIENCE TOPICS

GRADE

9

Biology

The ninth-grade Biology course includes a comprehensive survey of all the foundational processes that make life possible. Topics include cellular and molecular biology, genetics, organismal biology, ecology, evolution and diversity. Emphasis is placed on understanding fundamental concepts and applying them to unfamiliar or practical situations. Scholars become proficient in interpreting, inferring, and deducing from qualitative and quantitative data, and integrating information to form conclusions. Through strategically sequenced labs, scholars perform live investigations of the topics they are studying and practice the fundamental components of scientific writing.

10

Physics

Physics is an algebra-based introductory college-level course in which scholars experience the true intersection of math and science for the first time. Scholars cultivate their understanding of physical phenomena through inquiry-based investigations as they explore such topics as Newtonian mechanics, including rotational motion; work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and simple circuits.

11–
12

Advanced Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

With a strong foundation in the biological sciences and physics, scholars are able to choose from the three upper-level science courses: AP Biology, AP Physics C: Mechanics or Electromagnetism, or AP Chemistry. All three courses are conducted as college courses, requiring a large amount of independent study and work for success.

AP Biology delves deeper into the foundation laid in scholars' ninth-grade Biology course. Scholars further their understanding of biology through investigations that explore evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, and ecology and interactions. It is a one-year course that is equivalent to a first-semester college course in Biology at most universities.

AP Chemistry provides scholars with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in biological sciences, chemistry, and medicine. Scholars cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore such topics as atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. AP Chemistry is a one-year course.

AP Physics C: Mechanics is equivalent to a one-semester, calculus-based college-level physics course. It is especially appropriate for scholars planning to specialize or major in physical science or engineering. The course explores such topics as kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; and oscillations and gravitation. Introductory differential and integral calculus are used throughout the course.

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism is a one-semester, calculus-based college-level physics course, especially appropriate for scholars planning to specialize or major in physical science or engineering. The course explores such topics as electrostatics; conductors, capacitors, and dielectrics; electric circuits; magnetic fields; and electromagnetism. Introductory differential and integral calculus are used throughout the course.

STEM Academy

Starting in 10th grade, outstanding scholars can be selected into our demanding STEM Academy, which progresses through a sequence of semester-long rotations in Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. The program has been designed for scholars who are passionate about designing and building solutions using technology in the world today.

Mechanical Engineering

The mechanical engineering rotation introduces scholars to the field of mechanical engineering and the relationships between the sciences and mathematics that inform the study, design, and manufacturing of mechanical products and systems. Scholars will use the SolidWorks software for drafting and design.

Electrical Engineering

The electrical engineering rotation introduces scholars to the fundamentals of circuit design, control theory, and digital communications — the three pillars of modern electrical systems. Scholars apply their knowledge to design an autonomous vehicle using Arduino software.

Computer Science

Our computer science program aims to push scholars to reject the idea that they are simply users of technology, rather creators of it. Each course harnesses project-based learning, affording scholars the opportunity to use computing technology to solve problems both close to home and afar. Through culminating projects, scholars collaboratively develop software solutions, not only learning programming languages and platforms but also how to use them in meaningful ways that improve quality of life while creating beautiful digital experiences. Computer Science electives are open to all scholars in grades 10–12.

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course introduces scholars to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives scholars the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem-solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

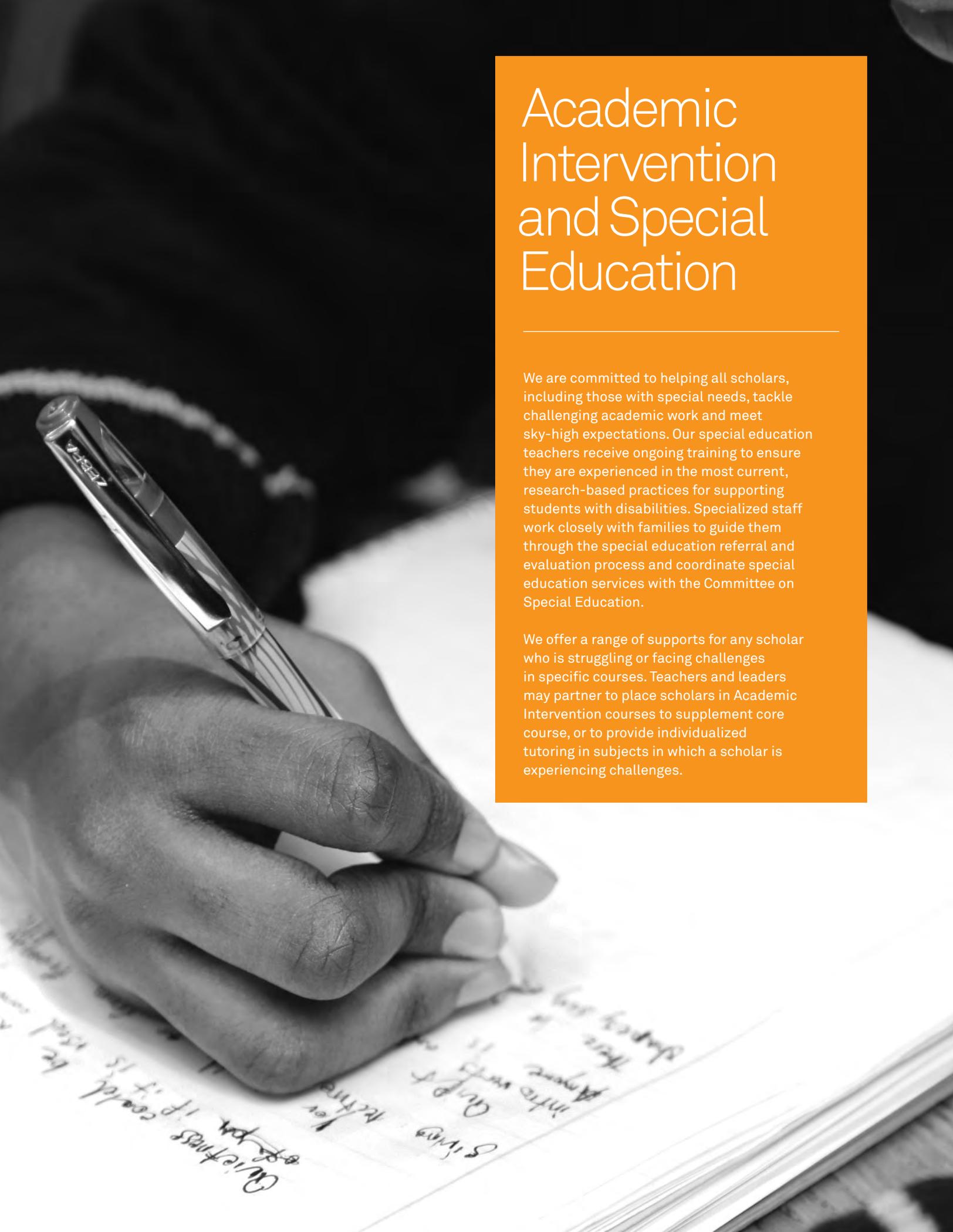
Introduction to Programming in C/C++ and JAVA

This is a fast-paced introductory course for the C++ and JAVA programming languages. It is intended for those with little programming background, though prior programming experience is helpful. The course topics include programming data types, how to apply these concepts, and how to create algorithms that solve a variety of computing problems. By the end of this one-year course, scholars will be fluent with the syntax and structure of both C/C++ and Java.

AP Computer Science A

The AP Computer Science A course introduces scholars to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem-solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. This one-year course is intended to serve as both an introductory course for future computer science majors and a course for people who will major in other disciplines but want to be informed citizens in today's technological society. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem-solving and design. The major theme of the course is creative problem-solving.



A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen, writing on a document. The document has handwritten text, including phrases like "Christians could be", "Intro words", and "There is". The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the hand and the pen.

Academic Intervention and Special Education

We are committed to helping all scholars, including those with special needs, tackle challenging academic work and meet sky-high expectations. Our special education teachers receive ongoing training to ensure they are experienced in the most current, research-based practices for supporting students with disabilities. Specialized staff work closely with families to guide them through the special education referral and evaluation process and coordinate special education services with the Committee on Special Education.

We offer a range of supports for any scholar who is struggling or facing challenges in specific courses. Teachers and leaders may partner to place scholars in Academic Intervention courses to supplement core course, or to provide individualized tutoring in subjects in which a scholar is experiencing challenges.

Arts

Scholars are required to take two semesters of art and can choose from a range of electives in visual arts, music, dance, and theater. The Arts curriculum aims to further creative growth and deepen scholars' understanding of aesthetics and history. Arts requirements can also be satisfied by participating in chorus, dance, or theater groups.



Sports and Fitness

Our Sports and Fitness program consists of competitive teams and core courses, emphasizing the development of skills and sportsmanship. Scholars are required to take four semesters of fitness classes. They can also fulfill these requirements by participating in team sports.



Health

All scholars take a one-semester Health course that covers sex ed, an exploration of social issues, and strategies for making healthy life choices.



Electives

In addition to the core required courses, scholars are required to take an additional seven semesters of electives, with the option of taking up to three electives per semester. To fulfill these requirements, we offer a range of choices, allowing scholars to explore and pursue their talents, passions, and interests at a high level. Most scholars exceed the credit requirement by taking the maximum number of electives each semester.

Courses that fulfill Electives credits include:

Visual Arts	Introduction to Photography Advanced Photography Drawing
Theater	Foundations in Theater Advanced Acting Theater Tech Art in Theater
Dance	Conservatory Dance Advanced Conservatory Dance Commercial Dance Advanced Commercial Dance
Music	Bel Canto Choir Mixed Chorus Chamber Chorale Music Theory
Debate	Debate Competitive Debate
Sports	Track Competitive Track PSAL Boys and Girls Basketball* PSAL Girls Volleyball*
Chess	Chess Competitive Chess
Computer Science	AP Computer Science Principles Introduction to Programming in C/C++ and JAVA AP Computer Science A

*Scholars can try out for PSAL (Public School Athletic League) teams as part of the co-located Norman Thomas campus.



Experiential Learning

Our schools nurture the creative interests and special talents of scholars, and we regard electives, internships, clubs, and summer programs as vital to the curriculum. Whether combining creativity with engineering skills in video game design or training diligently for the nation's largest track and field event, scholars are invested in their pursuits. We support them by providing high-level elective courses, truly excellent faculty, and sophisticated enrichment activities, including Broadway plays, trips to world-class museums, and travel to events in cities across the United States.

Clubs

Clubs provide a forum for scholars to socialize, forge friendships, pursue interests, and develop leadership skills. Scholars can join one of many existing clubs or create their own.

Art	Naturally Me
Chess	Pre-Med
Film	Student Council
Gardening Club	Theater Production
Gay-Straight Alliance	Theater Tech Crew
HSLA Ambassadors	Video Gaming and Design
HSLA Mentors	Yearbook
Literature Magazine	

Competitive Teams

Teams compete in regional and national tournaments. Scholars who participate in competitive Success Academy teams must make a substantial time commitment, but they also gain wonderful experiences traveling across the city, state, and country to compete against top private and public schools.

Chess	PSAL Boys Basketball
Choir	PSAL Girls Basketball
Dance Company	PSAL Girls Volleyball
Debate	Track

Summer Experience

SA HSLA scholars have the chance to participate in competitive collegiate, artistic, and outdoor leadership opportunities through the Success Academy Summer Experience program,* which provides a depth of experience that sets up scholars for success in college. Many scholars spend at least one summer on a college campus in precollege programs. Other summer experiences include sports camps, dance workshops, cultural and language-focused trips abroad, theater programs, and a wide range of interest-based opportunities. Summer Experience programs are selective, and Success Academy high schoolers are guided through a rigorous application process that provides early insight into and experience with the college application process they will undertake as seniors.

*Summer programs are subsidized by Success Academy but require a nominal fee from families.

Sample summer experiences:

Barnard College Summer in the City
Boston College Experience for High School Students
Boston University Summer Theater Institute
Brown University Precollege Programs
Chewonki Wilderness Trips
Cooper Union Summer Writing Program
Emory University Precollege Program
Harvard Debate Council Summer Workshops at Harvard University
Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth
Loomis Chaffee School Summer Program
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES)
New York Institute of Technology Academy
Northwestern Debate Institute
Phillips Exeter Academy Exeter Summer
Putney School of the Arts
Putney Student Travel
Tufts University College Experience
University of California Davis Pre-College Program

Character and College Prep

The scholars who walk through our doors have immense potential to become exceptional leaders in their communities. We help them fulfill this potential by cultivating their confidence and personal integrity, as well as the independence and drive that will carry them forward through college and the rest of their lives. Our deans, principals, and college counselors get to know scholars on a personal level. This trusted team helps scholars identify extracurricular opportunities for growth and learning, and they support scholars through every aspect of the college admissions process.

Dedicated Deans

Dedicated deans teach crucial life habits such as time and task management, goal setting, and self-advocacy. There are deans for every grade who help keep our families informed on scholars' progress and who advise and support scholars throughout their high school journey.



Academic Core Seminar

Scholars participate in weekly college prep seminars that support their academic core coursework and emphasize strong work habits. During the college application process, seniors learn about college-focused topics like financial literacy and stress management.

Comprehensive College Counseling

College access depends on a strong academic foundation but also the ability to navigate the admissions process. Our college counseling program provides comprehensive support in the complex college application process that's on par with the city's elite private schools. Counselors partner with scholars and families to help them identify the best colleges where financial support is available, complete financial aid forms, and showcase scholars' achievements in compelling applications. Unlike most schools, which begin college advising in junior year, counselors begin working with scholars in grade 9, ensuring that scholars and their families know early on what it takes to get into top universities and helping them craft action plans to get there.

SAT and AP Test Preparation

Success Academy High School of the Liberal Arts provides free, comprehensive preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and AP exams. Building this essential prep into the schedule means that scholars don't need to seek out costly external tutoring. Scholars take the SAT in November and March of grade 11 and October of grade 12. In preparation for each exam, scholars take an eight-week course, covering foundational topics for the verbal and math sections of the exam, including three or four official practice exams. On average, scholars improve between 50 and 100 points between each exam.

SA HSLA College Acceptances 2018

Last year, every member of our founding class of seniors earned acceptances to selective colleges, in addition to significant financial aid packages.

Bard College*
Barnard College*
Boston College*
Emory University*
Goucher College
Grinnell College*
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
Lehigh University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Morehouse College
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Seton Hall University
Skidmore College*
Spelman College
St. John's University*
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Cortland*
SUNY Stony Brook University*
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Tufts University*
Tulane University*
University of Louisville
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Southern California*
Ursinus College
Virginia State University*
Wake Forest University*
Wheaton College



*Colleges where our founding class of 16 seniors matriculated.

Essential Logistics

Graduation Requirements

Courses	Required Credits*	Required External Exams
Literature	4	ELA Regents, AP Language, and AP Literature
History	4	AP World History, AP Microeconomics, and AP U.S. Government
Science	4	SAT II Biology, SAT II Chemistry, and AP Biology, AP Physics, or AP Chemistry
Mathematics	4	Geometry Regents, Algebra II Regents, SAT II Math Level 1 and 2, and AP Calculus or AP Statistics
Physical Education	1	
Advisory and Health	0.5	
Fine Arts	1	
Electives	3.5	

*Two semesters = one credit





Parent Engagement

Like all college preparatory high schools, Success Academy High School of the Liberal Arts asks a lot of scholars and, therefore, of their families. Homework load is high, and the content is challenging; the payoff is that college will be easy by comparison! We ask that both scholars and their parents commit to this challenge and to the long-term goal of college completion in four years. We depend on parents to do their part — without parents' effort, oversight, and communication with teachers and leadership, we simply won't succeed. Our core expectations for parents include the following.

- 1. Responsiveness:** Read school and network communications and respond within 24 hours.
- 2. Meetings:** Be ready to meet with teachers and/or school leaders within three instructional days if the need arises.
- 3. School Culture:** Ensure that scholars are in school every day, on time, and in full uniform.
- 4. Independent Home Work:** Ensure that scholars do their nightly and weekend homework and that they study for exams.
- 5. Scholar Behavior:** Hold scholars accountable for upholding the school's Code of Conduct and Honor Code.

