



1953

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY

Leading in Courage • Learning with Purpose

2025-2026 ACADEMIC OVERVIEW UPPER SCHOOL 6TH - 12TH GRADE

Shannon Forest Campus

829 Garlington Road Greenville SC 29615
864-678-5107

Downtown Campus

200 W. Washington Street Greenville, SC 29601
864-565-0990



Dear FPA Families,

First Presbyterian Academy is a Calling Prep School which goes far beyond the typical college prep curriculum of a standard high school. It means preparing your student for life. Our goal is to help each student grow into the person God created them to be: someone who loves God deeply, loves others genuinely, pursues their God-given passions, and embraces a cause greater than themselves.

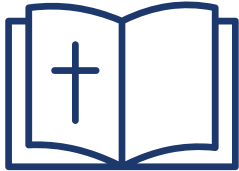
Our academic program is designed to challenge students intellectually while nurturing their hearts and character. Through rigorous coursework, dedicated teachers, and a Christ-centered learning environment, students gain the knowledge, skills, and habits that prepare them for success in college, in the workplace, and in a life marked by service and purpose. We understand that students will have different experiences when they graduate from FPA; some will attend college, some will go straight into the work force; some will enroll in a valuable gap year program; and others may enlist in the military. We are committed to preparing our students for the plan the Lord has set before them.

This academic overview serves as an academic map to provide a broad look at the college prep (CP), Honors (H), Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment courses that FPA currently offers. Each class is designed to prepare all students for the rigors of college and beyond. We also provide ample opportunities for our students to develop their gifts and passions outside of the classroom. Our athletic program offers sports at the Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity level; we offer opportunities to serve in our Key Club, IMPACT service days, and our Ambassador program; we have academic clubs including the National Honor Society; we provide opportunities for public speaking and debate through Middle and High School Youth in Government programs; we foster creativity through our Art clubs; and, we provide opportunities for competition and strategy through our Chess club.

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in your child's education. It is truly an honor to be a part of their educational journey.

Sincerely,
Amber Thompson
Upper School Principal





CHAPEL

Every other Wednesday morning, our Upper School students gather for one of our most meaningful times together—Chapel. This year's theme, "Rooted in Christ," is inspired by Ephesians 3:17–18, which says: *"So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—and I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*

Through worship, teaching, and reflection, students are discovering what it means to build their lives firmly on the foundation of Christ. As their roots grow deeper in His love, their faith is strengthened and their relationship with Him flourishes. Chapel is a time that challenges and encourages our students to live out their faith with confidence and purpose.



D-GROUPS

On alternating Wednesdays, when students are not in Chapel, our Upper School gathers in D-Groups (Discipleship Groups)—small groups designed to help students grow deeper in their faith and build meaningful community. Led by teachers and staff, these groups provide time for discussion, prayer, and encouragement as students apply God's Word to their daily lives.

D-Groups are an intentional space for students to ask questions, share life together, and strengthen their walk with Christ. As we meet every other week, we're excited to see how God continues to shape hearts and deepen relationships through these times of connection and discipleship.



EXCEL

EXCEL helps every student succeed, no matter where they start. Each student is uniquely created by God, and trained staff work alongside classroom teachers to provide individualized, Christ-centered instruction and support. Students receive help through small group sessions, targeted classroom support, and one-on-one assistance as needed. Services may include accommodations, modifications, and small group testing to ensure students can fully demonstrate their learning. Research-based strategies are used to strengthen skills, and parents are actively involved in monitoring and supporting their child's progress.



Mindy Brown



MATH DEPARTMENT

Denise Cook



Math

Joe Gifford



Math

Stephanie Brandenburg



Math



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

April Milby



English

Jen Malone



English

Jessi Cain



English



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Nate Ottens



History

Terry Crocker



History

Alvin Sell



Social Science

STUDENT SERVICES

Lisa Anderson



Director of College Counseling

Brent King



Student Services Coordinator



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Hallie McDonald



Science

Adam Summer

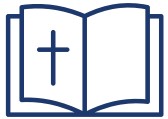


Science

Caroline Wilburn



Science



BIBLE DEPARTMENT

Ethan Pettigrew



Bible

Daniel Pandolph



Bible

Ryan Godsey



Bible



LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Jessica Villatoro



Spanish

Leslie Smith



American Sign Language

ELECTIVES

Hudson Dye



STEM

Jynne Stowe



Physical Education

Maridel Shaw



Visual Arts

Lindsay Donovan



Choir / Theater



6th grade trip to Dahlenega, GA



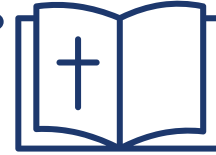
MATH

In Math 6, using All Things Algebra curriculum, students build a strong foundation in algebraic thinking while strengthening their understanding of numbers, operations, and problem-solving. This course emphasizes critical thinking, precision, and application of mathematical concepts, preparing students for higher-level math.



ENGLISH

English 6 emphasizes the development of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills while fostering a love for language and literature. Students engage with a variety of genres—including narratives, poetry, novels, plays, and creative writing—while practicing vocabulary, grammar, and research skills. Through discussion, analysis, and writing, students learn to communicate ideas clearly, cite textual evidence, and make meaningful connections to texts.



BIBLE

Bible 6 introduces students to the foundations of the Christian faith, helping them grow in their knowledge of God's Word and apply biblical principles to their daily lives. Students explore how to use the Bible, memorize the books of Scripture, and learn key doctrines while engaging with age-appropriate texts and activities.



SCIENCE

Science 6 introduces students to the study of Earth and space, encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and scientific inquiry. Through hands-on labs, observations, and research, students explore Earth's systems, including the atmosphere, waters, rocks and minerals, and surface processes. Emphasis is placed on understanding natural phenomena, human impact on the environment, and applying the scientific method to real-world problems.



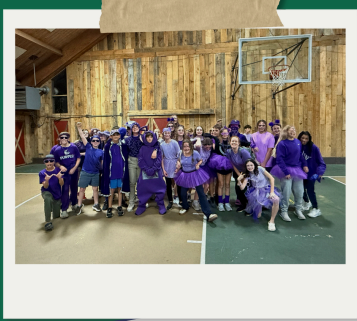
HISTORY

History 6 explores the foundations of world civilizations from ancient times through the rise of Islamic empires. Students develop skills in analyzing sources, understanding geographic influences, and interpreting historical events. The course emphasizes cultural, political, and religious developments, helping students connect past societies to the world today.

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

- Art
- Choir
- Drama
- Exploratory Spanish
- Middle School Study Skills
- Physical Education
- STEM
- Zoology
- Marine Science

7TH GRADE



Pre-Algebra 7 CP builds on foundational math skills, deepening students' understanding of algebraic concepts, number operations, and problem-solving strategies. This course emphasizes critical thinking, real-world application, and preparation for higher-level mathematics, including work with expressions, equations, geometry, ratios, and proportions.

Pre-Algebra 7 Honors challenges students to deepen their algebraic reasoning and problem-solving skills while exploring advanced concepts in numbers, expressions, equations, and geometry. This course emphasizes critical thinking, real-world applications, and preparation for high school mathematics.



ENGLISH

English 7 emphasizes reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, guiding students to analyze literature and nonfiction while expressing ideas clearly and effectively. Through novels, short stories, poetry, Shakespeare, and informational texts, students explore theme, figurative language, and literary structure. Writing instruction focuses on narrative, persuasive, argumentative, and creative pieces, with grammar, vocabulary, and conventions integrated throughout.



BIBLE

Bible 7 explores the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus Christ through a detailed study of the Gospels. Students examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts of Jesus' life, connecting Old Testament covenants to the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ. Through the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, students learn how Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah, Savior, and Son of God, and how His life and teachings continue to impact our faith today.



SCIENCE

Science 7 explores the living world, emphasizing the structure, function, and processes of cells, genetics, classification, plants, animals, and human body systems. Students develop critical thinking and scientific inquiry skills while investigating life at both the microscopic and organismal levels. Hands-on labs, experiments, and observation activities help students understand biological principles and the interconnection of all living things.



HISTORY

History 7 guides students through global events and civilizations from the Middle Ages to modern times. Students develop historical thinking skills, analyze primary and secondary sources, and explore how geography, culture, and societal structures shape human events. Emphasis is placed on understanding the causes and effects of major political, cultural, and social movements worldwide.

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

Art
Choir
Drama
Exploratory Spanish
Middle School Study Skills
Physical Education
STEM
Zoology
Marine Science

8TH GRADE



MATH

In **Pre-Algebra 8 CP**, students strengthen their understanding of foundational math concepts while transitioning toward high school-level algebraic reasoning. This course emphasizes problem-solving, real-world application, and logical reasoning as students explore numerical relationships, expressions, equations, and geometric concepts.

Geometry Honors provides a rigorous study of geometric reasoning, and real-world applications. Students develop problem-solving, and spatial reasoning skills while exploring relationships between figures, transformations, and probability.



SCIENCE

Science 8 provides a comprehensive study of physical science, including matter, motion, energy, waves, motion and forces. Students engage in hands-on experiments and real-world applications to develop scientific reasoning and measurement skills. This foundational class prepares students for high school Chemistry and Physics.



ENGLISH

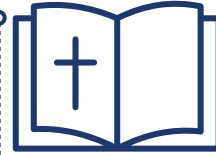
English 8 CP emphasizes reading comprehension, literary analysis, writing skills, and vocabulary development. Students explore a variety of texts including novels, short stories, poetry, and memoirs while practicing narrative, persuasive, and research writing. Grammar, syntax, and punctuation skills are integrated throughout to strengthen communication and analytical thinking.

English 8 Honors provides an in-depth exploration of literary genres, writing techniques, and critical analysis skills. Students read and analyze novels, short stories, poetry, and drama, while developing narrative, persuasive, and research writing skills. Emphasis is placed on figurative language, literary elements, grammar, and effective communication through both written and oral expression.



HISTORY

History 8 provides a chronological study of the United States from Exploration to the present, emphasizing historical analysis, cause-and-effect relationships, and social, political, and economic developments.



BIBLE

Bible 8 provides an in-depth study of Acts and the Epistles, focusing on early church history, Pauline theology, and practical application of Biblical principles. Using Paul's example, students develop a foundational approach to key apologetic questions. Students learn to interpret Scripture within context, explore the themes of faith and leadership, and understand the overarching narrative of the New Testament.

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

- Computer 1*
- Art
- Choir
- Drama
- Exploratory Spanish
- Middle School Study Skills
- Physical Education
- STEM
- Zoology
- Marine Science

*Denotes class taken for high school credit.

9TH GRADE



MATH

Geometry CP strengthens students' reasoning, problem-solving, and spatial visualization skills while exploring the properties and relationships of shapes in both real-world and coordinate-plane contexts. Students connect algebraic and geometric concepts, and apply their understanding to complex problems.

Algebra 1 Honors provides a rigorous, accelerated study of foundational algebraic concepts that prepare students for advanced high school mathematics. Through real-world application, problem-solving, and technology integration, students deepen their understanding of functions, equations, and relationships while developing strong analytical reasoning skills.



SCIENCE

Biology CP develops students' understanding of living systems, scientific inquiry, and the interconnections of life. Students explore core concepts in cellular biology, genetics, evolution, and ecology, emphasizing critical thinking, data analysis, and application of the scientific method. Hands-on investigations and real-world examples reinforce how biological principles shape our understanding of life and the natural world.

Biology Honors provides an in-depth exploration of living systems, emphasizing scientific inquiry, analytical thinking, and real-world applications. Students study cellular processes, genetics, molecular biology, evolution, and ecology while developing laboratory skills, data analysis, and critical reasoning. The course challenges students to make connections across biological concepts and understand the interdependence of life, preparing them for advanced studies in science.



ENGLISH

English 9 CP provides an in-depth exploration of literary genres, writing techniques, and critical analysis skills. Students read and analyze novels, short stories, poetry, and drama, while developing narrative, persuasive, and research writing skills. Emphasis is placed on figurative language, literary elements, grammar, and effective communication through both written and oral expression.

English 9 Honors develops students' critical reading, analytical writing, and communication skills through a diverse study of world literature. Students explore novels, plays, short stories, essays, and supplemental texts, analyzing themes, literary devices, and authorial purpose while strengthening grammar, vocabulary, and composition skills. Emphasis is placed on close reading, evidence-based analysis, and connecting literature to historical, cultural, and ethical contexts.



HISTORY

Human Geography CP explores how people around the world build societies and shape the environments they live in. Topics include population, culture, politics, farming, and cities. Using maps and data analysis, students investigate global challenges and the ways people and places are connected.

AP Human Geography is an introductory that explores how human societies are structured and how they interact with their environments. The course examines themes such as population, culture, politics, agriculture, and urban development through a spatial and inquiry-based lens. Students gain experience using geographic tools—including mapping and data analysis—to interpret global challenges, cultural patterns, and human-environment connections.



BIBLE

Bible 9/10 Old Testament History and Theology explores the history, theology, and literary richness of the Old Testament, guiding students to understand God's unfolding plan of redemption through Scripture. Students examine key narratives, laws, prophecies, and poetry, reflecting on God's character, covenant relationships, and His redemptive work pointing to Jesus. Emphasis is placed on biblical literacy, critical thinking, and connecting Old Testament truths to a Christ-centered worldview.

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

Show Choir
Technical Theatre
Art
Advanced Art
Yearbook
Physical Education
French 1CP (online only)
German 1CP (online only)
Spanish 1CP
American Sign Language 1 CP
Philosophy

10TH GRADE



MATH

Algebra 1 CP develops students' understanding of algebraic reasoning, problem-solving, and mathematical communication. Students explore patterns, relationships, and functions while learning to model and analyze real-world situations using algebraic expressions, equations, and graphs. Emphasis is placed on connecting algebraic concepts to prior knowledge of arithmetic and preparing students for higher-level math.

Algebra 2 Honors deepens students' understanding of functions, equations, and higher-level algebraic concepts while strengthening analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students explore a wide range of function families—linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and trigonometric—and learn to apply these concepts to model and interpret real-world situations. Emphasis is placed on connections among algebraic, graphical, and numerical representations, preparing students for advanced math courses and college readiness exams.



SCIENCE

Chemistry CP introduces students to the fundamental principles of chemistry, emphasizing the scientific method, problem-solving, and real-world applications. Students explore atomic structure, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, gas laws, acids and bases, organic chemistry, and biomolecules while developing analytical reasoning, laboratory skills, and quantitative analysis. The course prepares students for higher-level science courses by fostering critical thinking and a deep understanding of matter and chemical processes.

Chemistry Honors provides an in-depth study of matter, chemical reactions, and the underlying principles that govern the physical world. Students develop advanced problem-solving, laboratory, and analytical skills while exploring atomic structure, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, reaction kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and real-world applications, preparing students for higher-level science courses and STEM-focused pathways.



ENGLISH

English 10 CP develops students' critical reading, analytical writing, and communication skills through a diverse study of world literature. Students explore novels, plays, short stories, essays, and supplemental texts, analyzing themes, literary devices, and authorial purpose while strengthening grammar, vocabulary, and composition skills. Emphasis is placed on close reading, evidence-based analysis, and connecting literature to historical, cultural, and ethical contexts.

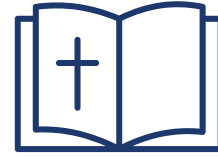
English 10 Honors explores major movements, authors, and works in American literature from the Puritan Era through the 20th century. Students develop critical reading, literary analysis, research, and writing skills, with emphasis on rhetoric, thematic development, and AP-style synthesis.



HISTORY

US History CP examines the political, economic, and cultural development of the United States from its founding through the early 21st century. Students analyze historical events, movements, and figures, developing critical thinking, research, and historical interpretation skills.

Dual Enrollment US History through Cedarville University provides a rigorous, college-level study of American history from pre-colonial times to the late 20th century. Students develop advanced analytical, research, and historical interpretation skills while examining political, economic, social, and cultural developments that have shaped the United States.



BIBLE

Bible 9/10 Hermeneutics introduces students to the principles and practice of biblical interpretation, emphasizing careful reading, historical and literary context, and the role of the reader in understanding Scripture. Students explore diverse genres, including narratives, epistles, parables, law, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecy, and apocalyptic texts, developing skills in exegesis, critical thinking, and applying biblical truths faithfully.

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

Show Choir
Technical Theatre
Art
Advanced Art
Yearbook
Physical Education
French 2CP (online only)
German 2CP (online only)
Spanish 2CP
American Sign Language 2CP
Philosophy



MATH

Algebra 2 CP strengthens students' understanding of functions, equations, and advanced algebraic concepts. Students develop problem-solving, analytical, and modeling skills while exploring real-world applications and preparing for standardized math assessments.

AP Precalculus prepares students for advanced mathematics, including calculus, by developing rigorous problem-solving, analytical, and modeling skills. Students explore polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and polar functions, as well as introductory calculus concepts.



SCIENCE

Human Anatomy & Physiology CP explores the structure and function of the human body, covering the organization of cells, tissues, organs, and systems. Students study the relationships between anatomy and physiology, applying knowledge to health, disease, and clinical scenarios.

AP Environmental explores the interactions between humans and the environment, covering ecosystems, biodiversity, population dynamics, earth systems, resource use, pollution, and global changes. Students analyze environmental issues, apply scientific principles, and evaluate sustainable solutions.

Physics Honors explores the principles of physics, emphasizing motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear processes. Students apply mathematical and conceptual reasoning to analyze physical phenomena and solve real-world problems.



ENGLISH

English 11 explores British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through Modernism. Students develop advanced reading, literary analysis, research, and writing skills, focusing on historical context, thematic development, rhetorical analysis, and creative expression.

AP Language and Composition develops students' skills in rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis of multiple sources. Students read a variety of nonfiction and literary texts to understand how style, purpose, and audience influence meaning. Emphasis is placed on writing for analysis, argument, and synthesis in preparation for college-level work.



HISTORY

World History 2 CP examines global historical developments from the Late Middle Ages to contemporary times, focusing on cultural, political, economic, and social transformations. Students analyze the causes and consequences of major events and movements worldwide.

AP European History This course explores European history from the Late Middle Ages through modern conflicts, emphasizing political, social, intellectual, and cultural transformations. Students develop skills in historical analysis and AP exam preparation.



BIBLE

Systematic Theology develops students' understanding of core Christian doctrines and the logical organization of biblical truth. Students explore the nature of God, humanity, Christ, salvation, the church, and the end times, connecting biblical teaching to life and faith.

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

Show Choir
Technical Theatre
Art
Advanced Art
Yearbook
Physical Education
French 3CP (online only)
German 3CP (online only)
Spanish 3 Honors
ASL 3 Honors
Philosophy

12TH GRADE



MATH

Pre-Calculus CP explores advanced algebra, trigonometry, and pre-calculus concepts, preparing students for calculus. Students study functions, equations, systems, and mathematical modeling while developing problem-solving and analytical skills.

AP Statistics introduces students to descriptive and inferential statistics, probability, and data analysis, preparing them for AP-level statistical reasoning.

AP Calculus explores the fundamental concepts of calculus, including limits, derivatives, and integrals, with applications to real-world problems and preparation for the AP Calculus exam.



SCIENCE

Physics Honors explores the principles of physics, emphasizing motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear processes. Students apply mathematical and conceptual reasoning to analyze physical phenomena and solve real-world problems.

AP Environmental explores the interactions between humans and the environment, covering ecosystems, biodiversity, population dynamics, earth systems, resource use, pollution, and global changes. Students analyze environmental issues, apply scientific principles, and evaluate sustainable solutions.

Psychology Honors introduces students to the study of human behavior, brain function, and mental processes. Students explore biological, social, and developmental psychology while learning strategies for effective learning, memory, and personal growth.



ENGLISH

English 12 CP | Senior Composition develops advanced writing, reading, and analytical skills, preparing students for college-level composition. Students study literature, practice rhetorical and persuasive writing, and refine grammar and punctuation skills. Projects and assessments emphasize critical thinking, textual analysis, and effective communication.

AP English Literature develops advanced literary analysis, critical thinking, and composition skills through the study of poetry, drama, and prose from a range of historical and cultural contexts. Students prepare for the AP Literature exam with rigorous practice in AP-style multiple-choice questions and free-response essays.



HISTORY

Government and Economics CP explores the foundations of American government alongside fundamental economic principles. Students examine how political structures and economic systems shape society, while developing practical skills in civic understanding and personal financial management.



BIBLE

Apologetics explores Christian apologetics, equipping students to defend the faith through philosophical, moral, and biblical reasoning while engaging with contemporary cultural and ethical issues.

Required Reading: Person of Interest by J. Warner Wallace and 10 Questions Every Christian Teen Should Ask and Answer by Rebecca McLaughlin

ELECTIVES OFFERED:

Show Choir
Technical Theatre
Art
Advanced Art
Yearbook
Physical Education
Teacher's Assistant
Philosophy