

I WILL DO THE GOOD.

I WILL LEARN THE TRUE.



I WILL LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL.

EST. 2020

ASCENT CLASSICAL ACADEMY

*Upper School
Welcome Packet*

2024 - 2025

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SCHOOL PLEDGE

I WILL LEARN THE TRUE. I WILL DO THE GOOD. I WILL LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL.

SCHOOL MOTTO

AD MAIORA EX TENEBRIS

‘OUT OF THE DARKNESS TOWARDS THE GREATER THINGS’

HONOR CODE

I AM HONORABLE AND RESPONSIBLE IN CONDUCT, HONEST IN WORD AND DEED,
RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS, AND I WILL PROMOTE THE SAME.

For Parents

We suggest looking at this list to find books the you yourself might enjoy, not only for the fun of it, but to establish or reinforce a culture of books in the home. Few things, over the long term, prepare students for their own reading more than knowing that their parents enjoy it and seek it out themselves.

Here are a few specific suggestions for parents looking to for further guidance on helping students at home:

- Arithmetic for Parents by Ron Aharoni
- Character Building by David Isaacs
- Mathematics for Human Flourishing by Francis Su
- Study is Hard Work by William H. Armstrong

For further family reading suggestions, we recommend consulting John Senior’s [“The Thousand Good Book: Lifelong Reading List.”](#)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



Staff Work Day

First/Last School Day

Parent/Teacher Conferences No School
No School

Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Colorado

2024-2025

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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MARCH

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL

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27	28	29	30			

MAY

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE

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SUMMER READING

Schools such as ours commonly assign work over the summer, because we take our responsibility to our students and their long-term academic and moral development seriously. Summer assignments do not intend to burden students during a time best spent with friends and family. Rather, the assignments attempt to enhance summer break, by showing students how to spend their time wisely. Completing a summer assignment allows our students to learn at a faster pace and higher level once we return to the classroom. Not only does a summer assignment keep students thinking during their time away from school, but it also provides their classes a springboard from which to launch the year's curriculum. When classes resume, teachers may use the first week or so to discuss the ideas and concepts students contemplated over the summer. These discussions are a great way to start the school year in history and literature. Additionally, summer assignments give students a chance to engage in independent thinking and learning, which is an incredibly valuable opportunity.

BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT OFFICE

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING BOOKS BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS.

Rising 7th Graders

The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien

Rising 10th Graders

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers,
by J.R.R. Tolkien

Rising 8th Graders

Shane, by Jack Schaefer

Rising 11th Graders

A Tale of Two Cities,
by Charles Dickens

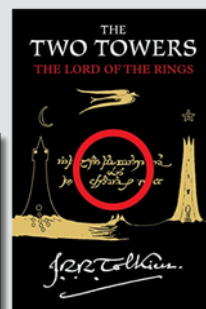
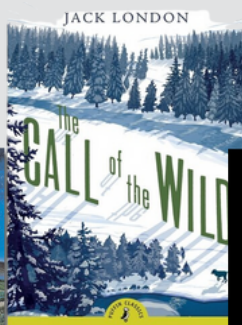
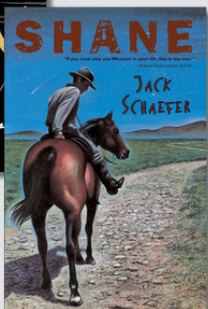
Call of the Wild, by Jack London

Rising 9th Graders

The Fellowship of the Ring, by J.R.R.
Tolkien

Rising 12th Graders

The Space Trilogy, by C.S. Lewis



Books for summer reading are included in student fees.

COURSE PROGRESSION MAP

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Credits
History	Intro to Western Civilization	Intro to American History	Western Civilization I	Western Civilization II	U.S. History	Modern World History	4 High School Credits Required
English	Intro to Classical Literature	Intro to American Literature	Ancient Literature	British Literature	American Literature	Modern Literature	4 High School Credits Required
Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Euclidean Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry	Calculus	4 High School Credits Required
Science	Life Science	Conceptual Physics	Biology	Chemistry	Physics I	Anatomy and Physiology	4 High School Credits Required
Composition, Civics and Philosophy	Composition and Grammar	Composition and Grammar	Logic and Rhetoric		Political Philosophy	U.S. Government and Politics and Economics Moral Philosophy and Senior Thesis	3 High School Credits Required
Foreign Language	7th-Grade Latin	8th-Grade Latin	Latin I	Language Elective	Language Elective		3 High School Credits Required
Physical Education	7th-Grade P.E.	8th-Grade P.E.		High School P.E.			1 High School Credit Required
Fine Arts/Electives	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	3 High School Elective Credits Required/1 Fine Arts Elective

SUMMER PREP

HIGHLY-RECOMMENDED READING

A book of Greek Mythology, such as **Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes**

An abridged version of The Iliad and The Odyssey, such as **The Children's Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy**

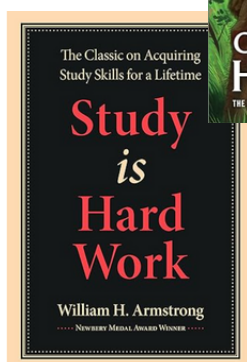
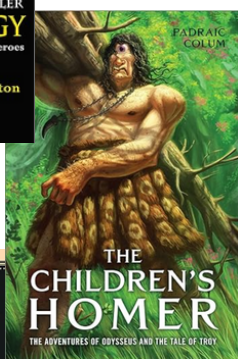
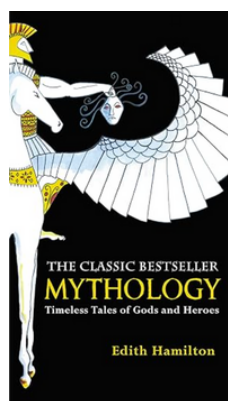
SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Hillsdale's **Great Books 101: Ancient to Medieval**

Hillsdale's **Western Heritage: From the Book of Genesis to John Locke**

Study is Hard Work by William H. Armstrong. -

Acquiring and maintaining good study skills is, as the author says, hard work. But it is also the only way to succeed.



LATIN PREP

I'm New to Latin - Where Do I Start?

Ascent students begin taking Latin as a core class in 7th grade. Students entering the program in 7th grade and 9th grade will be entering classes that start from the beginning.

Middle School & 9th Grade:

Ascent recommends the following resources for students who would like to get a head start on Latin:

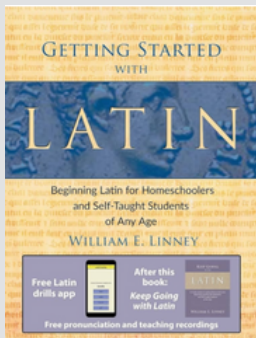
- **Getting Started With Latin**

This reader breaks the language down into one-page lessons that can be completed daily.

- **Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata: Familia Romana**

This reader is meant for the absolute beginner to pick up and begin reading Latin and learning vocabulary and grammar from context.

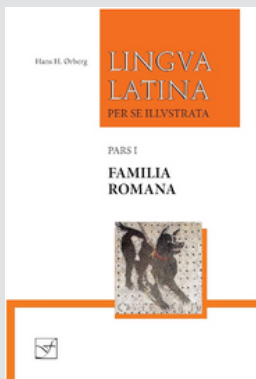
Lingua Latina is used as the textbook for grades 7 & 8.



[GETTING STARTED WITH LATIN](#)

Getting Started with Latin is divided into simple lessons that explain the fundamentals of Latin grammar in a way that anyone can grasp. Instead of burying you in mountains of information to memorize, new words and concepts are introduced in a gradual and systematic way. You can immediately apply what you've learned by translating the fun exercises at the end of each lesson. Quickly check your work by turning to the included answer key. To hear the words pronounced, simply download the free recordings from www.GettingStartedWithLatin.com. For additional help and instruction, the author has provided extensive audio commentary recordings that teach through every lesson and exercise in the book. With everything you need here in one book, why aren't you Getting Started with Latin?

[LINGUA LATINA PER SE ILLUSTRATA, PARS I: FAMILIA ROMANA](#)



Hans Ørberg's *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata* is the world's premiere series for learning Latin via the Natural Method. The Natural Method encourages students to learn Latin without resorting to translation, but instead by teaching them to think in the language: students first learn grammar and vocabulary inductively through extended contextual reading and an ingenious system of marginal notes. *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata* is also the most popular series for those teachers at both the secondary and collegiate levels who wish to develop Latin conversational skills in the classroom.

UPPER SCHOOL UNIFORM

What's the point of a uniform or dress code?

- Dress code helps students prepare their minds for the day's work by putting on attire that shows respect and reverence for the learning that goes on in school.
- When students pass through our doors, they become a part of something larger than themselves.
 - Students at Ascent wear our uniform to show that they are representatives of the school community. They are not customers of the school, but active participants in its work.
 - Wearing the uniform shows that all students are here for the same purpose: to develop their minds and improve their hearts for the purpose of living truly happy lives.
- Dress code presents a daily opportunity for character development.
 - There is nothing inherently moral about khaki or navy skirts, orange or purple socks. Each morning, however, a student has the chance to know what is expected of them in the dress code and can choose to meet that expectation or not. They can practice virtue and comply with the expectations, or practice vice and choose to break expectations.
 - Whether or not a uniform violation is caught, the habit of virtue or vice is already forming. We ask our parents to partner with us in forming young men and women of character by reinforcing the importance of following dress code as a matter of the heart, rather than of comfort or style.

UPPER SCHOOL GENTLEMEN UNIFORM GUIDE

UPPER SCHOOL LADIES UNIFORM GUIDE

CHANGES FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

- Hey Dudes, Toms, and casual canvas slip-ons are explicitly not permitted per dress code.
- P.E. Uniforms/athletic warm-ups must be purchased through specific vendor. Ordering information coming soon.
- For 2024-25 both the old Ascent Classical Academies logo and our ACANC School Crest will be allowed. The old logo will no longer be accepted after the 24-25 year. The old logo is no longer sold on Land's End.
- Clarification for families that all items bought outside of Land's End should be cross-referenced with the options available on the Land's End store to ensure they are aligned with our uniform guidelines.

ELECTIVE PREFERENCE FORM

This form officially collects ACANC student preferences for upper school electives in the 2024-2025 school year.

This form does not guarantee enrollment. Elective offerings are subject to change.

Should the form be submitted multiple times for the same student, the school will recognize the most recent submission for placement. Students entering grades 7-12 should plan to complete this form.

Students are advised to choose with care and thoughtfulness. Elective changes can rarely be accommodated after the deadline, as placement opportunities are then extended to other students. Please make sure to review all course descriptions before completing this form.

ELECTIVE PREFERENCE FORM

Click here

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

7th and 8th graders will have the option to participate in two electives. These classes will rotate on an A/B day schedule with each class meeting five times total every two weeks. ACANC wants to place students in the classes of their preference; however, should more students request a class than there are seats available, spaces in the class will be assigned based on class seniority, then by first come, first serve.

Physical education and composition are required courses in middle school and are therefore not available as elective choices.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Middle School: Beginning Art

Students in 7th and 8th grade will learn about art history, artists, elements of art and principles of design. Students will use a variety of mediums to create their art. These students will be required to participate in at least one art show a year.

Prerequisites: No prerequisite is required for this class..

Middle School: Orchestra

This orchestra class is open to any student in 7th and 8th grade who plays an orchestral string instrument. Students will be expected to perform in two concerts a year.

Prerequisites: Please contact Mrs. May at jen.may@nc.ascentcolorado.org to set up an audition. If your student wants to learn how to play an orchestral string instrument please reach out and we can discuss various options that best fit your needs.

Middle School: Advanced Band

This band is open to any student in 7th and 8th grade who has at least one year of experience on their instrument and who set up an audition with Mrs. May. Students will practice more advanced techniques for their instrument and delve into beginning concert music repertoire. Students will be expected to perform in two concerts a year.

Prerequisites: The prerequisite for this course is Middle School Beginning Band, or a successful audition for Mrs. May by May 20th or by Aug. 20th for incoming students.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Middle School: Beginning Choir

This class is open to all students in 7th and 8th grade. Students will learn the fundamentals of singing, music theory, vocal warmups and techniques. Students will be performing music and be expected to sing in both the Winter and Spring Concert.

Prerequisites: No prerequisite is required for this class.

Middle School: Advanced Choir

This class is open to all students in 7th and 8th grade. Students will focus on more advanced singing techniques, music theory, vocal warmups. Students will be performing music and be expected to sing in both the Winter and Spring Concert.

Prerequisites: An audition for Mr. Henreckson by May 20th or incoming students by Aug. 20th

Middle School: Speech and Debate

Utilizing rhetoric as it is traditionally meant, students will engage with assignments, activities, and discussions meant to improve their understanding of speech and debate as well as their ability to civilly communicate their own ideas with clarity, efficiency, and emotion. Additionally, students will research and argue for ideas they do not necessarily agree with, in order to see a variety of perspectives on ideas which shape our modern world.

Prerequisites: No prerequisite is required for this class..

Middle School: Beginning Theater

Students will learn about the history of theater, and the basics of acting. Students will be expected to complete a final project of some kind at the end of each semester.

Prerequisites: No prerequisite is required for this class..

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

High schoolers will choose one elective to pursue for the entirety of the year. Should there be more interest in a class than available seats, spaces will be assigned according to class seniority, then by GPA.

Rising 11th and 12th Graders - please see the bottom section regarding your language elective.

We will only be offering advanced sections of choir and band in the 24-25 school year. Students who are new to choir and band are welcome to join, but should recognize that more work will be necessary to participate at the level of the class. Art, Theater and Speech/Debate are offered at an intermediate level and are good options for students with little experience in choir and band.

HIGH SCHOOL: INTERMEDIATE ART (9-12 GRADE)

High School students will delve into intermediate art techniques and mediums. Students will expand their artistic vocabulary by critiquing artwork. These students will be required to participate in two art shows a year.

Prerequisites: Middle School Art. Students who have not completed the prerequisite may still register for the class, but must understand that more work will be expected of them to perform at the level of the class.

A Portfolio review will be required with Mr. Howe by May 20th for current students or Aug. 20th for incoming students.

HIGH SCHOOL: ADVANCED ART (10-12 GRADE ONLY)

High School students will delve into advanced art techniques and mediums. Students will expand their artistic vocabulary by critiquing artwork and explaining the methodology of their work. These students will be required to participate in two art shows a year.

Prerequisites: A High School Art Class. Students who have not completed the prerequisite may still register for the class, but must understand that more work will be expected of them to perform at the level of the class. A portfolio review will be required with Mr. Howe by May 20th for current students or Aug. 20th for incoming students.

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

HIGH SCHOOL: BAND

This ensemble consists of high school students who have successfully auditioned and have been playing their instrument for at least 1 year. Students will dive into advanced techniques on their instruments, learn about composers, music theory, history, and musicality. These students will be the ones representing their school at events such as athletic events, parades, and ceremonies.

Prerequisites: Middle School Band. Students who have not completed the prerequisite may still register for the class, but must understand that more work will be expected of them to perform at the level of the class. Students will need audition for band by May 20th for current students or Aug. 20th for incoming students.

HIGH SCHOOL: CHOIR

This class is open to all high school students. Students will build upon the fundamentals they learned in middle school and discuss and perform advanced techniques and repertoire. This ensemble will be the highest choir available to students which means that they may be expected to perform for events in the community on top of our school concerts.

Prerequisites: Middle School Choir. Students who have not completed the prerequisite may still register for the class, but must understand that more work will be expected of them to perform at the level of the class.



HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

High School: Speech and Debate

Utilizing rhetoric as it is traditionally meant, students will engage with assignments, activities, and discussions meant to improve their understanding of speech and debate as well as their ability to civilly communicate their own ideas with clarity, efficiency, and emotion. Additionally, students will argue for ideas they do not necessarily agree with, in order to see a variety of perspectives on ideas which shape our modern world.

Prerequisites: No prerequisite is required for this class.

High School: Theater

This class is open to all high school students who want to dive deeper into acting. Students will discuss and perform plays, talk about stagecraft, advanced acting skills, and learn about masterwork performances. Students will be expected to complete a final project at the end of each semester.

Prerequisites: No prerequisite is required for this class.



ELECTIVES: LANGUAGE

High School Foreign Language

We are gauging interest and feasibility of offering additional foreign languages for the 2024-2025 school year. Our current proposed languages include Greek, Spanish, and French. This choice is only available to rising 11th and 12th graders.

HOUSE SYSTEM

Upon entering our Upper School, full-time students are sorted into one of six Houses, each associated with one of our core virtues. Induction ceremonies will take place at the beginning of the school year. Our house system brings opportunities for leadership, competition, and camaraderie while fostering school tradition, culture, and spirit. We believe this offers our students a unique sense of belonging and identity as they pursue *the greater things*.



HOMER HOUSE OF COURAGE



VIRGIL HOUSE OF MODERATION



AUSTEN HOUSE OF PRUDENCE



DICKENS HOUSE OF JUSTICE



TOLKEIN HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP



LEWIS HOUSE OF RESPONSIBILITY



UPPER SCHOOL CLUBS

Consistent with its mission and vision to provide a classical, liberal arts education, ACA schools seek to assist students in cultivating the moral and intellectual virtues and developing their characters in such a way that they regard themselves and others within the context of their shared humanity. ACA schools thus welcome respectful discussions, disagreement and debate among students and staff, where students may cultivate the virtues of courage, moderation, and justice by treating all with respect, listening attentively, and disagreeing with civility. To develop students to be productive members of civil society, and to avoid divisions within the student body, ACA does not permit student-led or outside groups that are non-curricular. Clubs are student-led and must be approved by administration as being relevant to the curriculum.

Current Upper School Clubs:

- Archery Club
- Competitive Chess Club
- Journalism Club
- Louisa May Alcott Society
- National Honor Society
- Yearbook Club
- School Play (Fall)
- School Musical (Spring)
- Boys Volleyball Club



ATHLETICS

Our growing athletics program includes the competitive sports listed below. We offer sports based on student interest and facility/coach availability. If our school does not offer a sport, your student is eligible to join the team at their zoned public school.

Please contact our Athletics Director, Mr. Rump, with any questions.



Middle School:

Boys and Girls Cross Country
Girls Volleyball
Boys Soccer
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys and Girls Track and Field
Girls Soccer
Boys and Girls Golf
Boys and Girls Archery

High School:

Girls Volleyball
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys and Girls Track and Field
Boys and Girls Archery





2024-2025 Tentative Athletic Schedule

High School Sports		
Sport	Start Date	End Date
Girls Volleyball	8/12	11/2
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)	8/12	10/26
Basketball (Boys and Girls)	11/18	02/22/2025
Track and Field	02/24/2025	5/10/25
Middle School Sports		
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)	8/12	10/05
Girls Volleyball	8/12	10/05
Boys Soccer	8/12	9/27
Boys Basketball	10/07	12/13
Girls Basketball	01/06/2025	03/14/2025
Girls Soccer	03/17/2025	05/02/2025
Track and Field	03/17/2025	05/10/2025
Golf	04/01/2025	05/01/2025



Please contact Mr. Rump, Athletic Director, at alex.rump@nc.ascentcolorado.org with any questions.

AFTER SCHOOL KINDNESS

We have partnered with After School Kindness to provide on-campus care for students aged 5 - 12 care following school hours. Please [click here](#) to learn more.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Summer office hours are Wednesdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In August, you will receive a *Back-to-School Packet* with details regarding carline procedures, class assignments, lunch information, back-to-school events, and any other relevant logistical information.

Archer Days, our Back-to-School events, will be held on August 21 and 22nd.

Archer Days includes:
New Family Orientation
Kindergarten Orientation
Meet-the-Teacher

Grammar School students will find out which teacher they have.

Upper School students will receive their schedules.

Enjoy food trucks, field games and plenty of opportunities for community building.

Details coming in August.

Please be on the lookout for *The Arrow*, our newsletter, for summer communications!



Enjoy the Summer!