



# PLANO ISD ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Innovative  
Interdisciplinary  
Inspirational

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**Accreditation**  
Texas Education Agency

## Mission Statement

To build a community of learners empowered to collaborate and compete in a rapidly changing world.

## About Our School

In the fall of 2013, Plano ISD Academy High School opened with 255 9th and 10th graders. Over the years, our school has been as large as 400 9th-12th grade students. Learners apply to the school and are selected by lottery. This is an innovative, project-based learning community committed to fostering a professional environment and inspiring creativity. With an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics (STEAM) and interdisciplinary connections, student learning is anchored in real world experiences that require continuous collaboration with others, both inside and outside the school.

## Class of 2023 Profile

Total number of graduates: 86  
Top 10% GPA distribution: 4.3045-4.4745  
% Attending College: 89.5%  
Attending 4 Year University: 88.6%  
Attending 2 Year College: 8.6%  
Tech/Work/Military Svc. /Other: 2.9%

## Academic Rigor

Academy High School curriculum includes rigorous content-based standards while requiring a multidisciplinary focus on critical thinking, communication skills, and research skills. Academy has created a site-based curriculum unique to the campus and its mission. Learners have the opportunity to earn fifteen concurrent enrollment hours with Collin College while in attendance. Learners also have the opportunity to extend knowledge in specific contents by choosing Advanced Placement.

## About Our Community and District

Plano is a suburban city of approximately 290,500 residents located just north of Dallas. The Plano Independent School

District comprises three early childhood schools, 44 elementary schools (K-5), thirteen middle schools (6-8), six high schools (9-10), three senior high schools (11-12), one 9-12 high school, and a Special Programs Center. Academy High School is one of three academy programs within Plano ISD and is a 9-12 campus. Plano ISD serves the residents of 114 square miles in the southwestern corner of Collin County. The district enrollment is approximately 50,000 students.

## Extracurricular Activities

Learners have the ability to participate in extracurricular activities during the school day. Club formation and campus activities are driven by learner interest and initiation. They foster mixed grade level interaction and offer a forum for learners to share and pursue their collective passions.

## Rank in Class

Class rank is based on cumulative averages from grades 9-12. Correspondence and online courses are not computed into class rank. Final rank in class and grade point average are determined at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the Senior year. Plano ISD Academy High School does not rank learners beyond the Top 10%. Learners in the Top 10% will have a certificate of rank provided with their transcript.

## GPA and Grading System

Academy High School uses a proficiency-based grading system providing learners with specific feedback focused on academic growth. Learners receive narrative feedback on formative and summative assessments, enabling them to improve their submitted work, extend their inquiry and reflect. Scoring is based on demonstration of learning evidence. Grades are given at the end of each semester. Course scores are documented as A+, A, B+, B, C or F on the transcript. All high school courses are counted equally on a 4.5 weighted grade point scale. There are no additional grade points given to AP courses.



Plano ISD Plano Academy High School students graduate under the Foundation/Endorsement Plan. This plan includes:

- English - 4 Credits
- Math - 4 Credits
- Science - 4 Credits
- Social Studies - 4 Credits
- Fine Arts - 1 Credit
- Foreign Language - 2 Credits
- Physical Education - 1 Credit
- Communication - 1 Credit of Debate
- Elective/Endorsement Choices - 5 Credits

**Portrait of an Academy Graduate**

**Sense of Self** - Prepared to take on challenges and problems with enthusiasm and integrity; has a strong understanding of his/her place in the world and the ability to adapt to challenges and change.

**Learner** - Is an enterprising risk taker who voraciously innovates solutions; an open-minded, curious information-seeker, he/she understands self as a learner.

**Collaborator** - Leaves a positive footprint on peers and community; knowing when to lead and when to follow, he/she is a productive collaborator.

**Connected** - Engages in issues beyond his/her community with a sense of local, national and global responsibility; has strong communication and networking skills.

AHS Graduates earn the STEM and Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsements with an opportunity to obtain the Arts & Humanities Endorsement by taking 4 years of a language other than English. All Academy graduates earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

**Current Course Offerings**

Courses are embedded within interdisciplinary projects. Projects are inquiry-based and extend over four-nine week grading periods. Learners work in collaborative teams for each project.

**English:**

English I, II, III, IV

**Math:**

Algebra I  
Algebra II  
Geometry  
Statistics and Data Analysis  
Pre-Calculus  
Calculus  
Mathematics of Engineering & Problem Solving  
Math Independent Studies

**Science:**

Physics  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Environmental Systems  
Scientific Research & Design

**Social Studies:**

World Geography  
World History  
U.S. History  
Economics  
American Government\*

**Foreign Language:**

Spanish I, II, III, IV, V  
French II, III, IV, V

**Engineering:**

Engineering Design & Presentation  
Engineering Design & Problem Solving  
Principles of Manufacturing  
Principles of Applied Engineering

**Art:**

Art & Media Communication I  
Art & Media Communication II  
Art II-III

**Technology:**

Web Design  
Computer Science I  
Principles of Information Technology  
Practicum in Information Technology  
Digital Media

**Additional Courses:**

Foundations of Personal Fitness  
AVID I-II

**Concurrent Enrollment Credit:**

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to enroll in 12 hours of college credit courses.

**GPA Scale:**

A+	4.5
A	4.0
B+	3.5
B	3.0
C	2.0
F	0

\*AP Extension Courses: Beginning 2023-2024 with no additional grade points awarded.

**Plano ISD Academy High School Internship (30 Hours):** A rich, authentic experience in a professional environment in which the learner has a demonstrated interest.

**Senior Capstone Project:** A culminating year-long scientific research and design project driven by academic interest. Learners generate an original research question or idea to solve a problem or contribute to society. Their research is shared during a public presentation.