



Houston Academy

2019-20 MIDDLE SCHOOL PROFILE

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Founded in 1970, Houston Academy (HA) is southeast Alabama's premier college preparatory school. HA is the only independent school in the region that focuses on college preparation and global education. HA attracts students from "the Wiregrass," which is the moniker for an approximately 250,000-person region that encompasses north Florida, southwest Georgia, and southeast Alabama. Students who come to Houston Academy seek a well-rounded educational experience that includes a strong emphasis on challenging academics, community involvement, athletics, and the arts.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION, CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

Houston Academy's Middle School is a nurturing community that helps young learners develop the necessary skills needed to reach their highest potential and achieve academic and personal success.

- We believe a rigorous academic experience is of high priority and helps students acquire skills needed to overcome adversity and thrive as they prepare for the demands of high school and beyond.
- We believe a self-aware student relentlessly strives to build skills in listening, organization, comprehension and use of technology.
- We believe tasks requiring creativity, innovation and collaboration are valuable and relevant.
- We believe the ability to communicate clearly, both in written and verbal format, is fundamental and worthy of attention across the curriculum.
- We believe it is the responsibility of all adults within the community to work together to consistently nurture values such as honor, diligence and respect.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY

Houston Academy's middle school has 31 faculty members. 100% of teachers have Bachelor's degrees. 62% percent of HA's faculty hold advanced degrees and have taught for an average of 21 years. 7 faculty members hold a PhD. The student-teacher ratio is 10:1.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vince Janney
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Houston Academy

An Independent College Preparatory Institution

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; the school holds memberships in the National Association of Independent Schools, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Southern Association of Independent Schools, College Board, National Honor Society, National Association of College Admissions Counselors, Southern Association of College Admissions Professionals, Alabama Association of Independent Schools, and the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

Houston Academy is a co-educational day school for preschool through twelfth grade. The school was founded in 1970 to fill the community need for a college preparatory school to serve the Dothan area and surrounding towns. The nineteen acre campus is located in one of Dothan's residential areas.

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Dothan is a progressive community of approximately 67,000. It offers cultural and recreational activities as well as a community college and a four year university.

MISSION STATEMENT

Houston Academy is an independent college preparatory institution. Our mission is to prepare all our students for the responsible participation in a global society by providing an excellent learning environment and opportunities to achieve their highest academic, social and creative potential.

TECHNOLOGY

Houston Academy is committed to providing the best technology resources and solutions in support of the school's mission and the Strategic Plan. At the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, an initiative began that provided students in grades 5-8 MacBook laptops for use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Faculty utilize Smart boards, document cameras, Smart Response Systems, LCD projectors, curriculum based software, digital microscopes, and subscription based educational programs to enhance students' knowledge. School-wide wireless network covers the campus, providing network and internet access to all classrooms and learning areas. State-of-the-art technology tools integrated into the curriculum offer Houston Academy students a comprehensive 21st century education.

Our mission...

is to prepare all our students for responsible participation in a global society by providing an excellent learning environment and opportunities to achieve their highest academic, social, and creative potential.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Houston Academy enrolls qualified students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, or physical handicap. The school encourages prospective parents to schedule a campus tour with the Director of Admissions before initiating the application process.

Students seeking admission must submit a completed application form along with the \$75 non-refundable application fee. Applicants should submit the Academic Reference Forms, provided in the Houston Academy packet or on the website, to their current classroom teacher for completion. These reference forms and an official transcript should then be forwarded from the previous school to the Director of Admissions at Houston Academy.

New student testing to measure ability levels is required of all applicants for grades 5-8. After the application is received, applicants will be notified as to the date and time for the testing.

The Admissions Committee will review and evaluate the application materials and tests of all applicants. Those who meet the criteria for admission will be offered a contract provided openings are available. Priority will be given to qualified siblings and children of alumni. In situations where there are no openings, qualified applicants' names will be placed in a waiting pool to be considered for the next opening. Admission will be offered to applicants in the waiting pool as openings become available.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Students in grade 5-8 meet daily between 8:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. After-school care is available for students in grades 5 from 3:15-5:30. Tuition does not cover the cost of extended day care. To enroll for this service, contact the Head of Middle School.

TUITION

Tuition for grades 5-8 is \$12,066.

Payment options are available. Financial assistance through Facts Tuition Management is available to all students on the basis of demonstrated need. Application instructions are available at the school.

TECHNOLOGY FEE

Grades 5-8 MacBook laptop - \$450

STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Houston Academy sponsors a variety of clubs and activities, including some options that are initiated by students, to pursue a particular interest. Students are encouraged to participate in school activities as an important aspect of a well-rounded education. Some clubs and activities that have occurred in the past include spelling bees, Big Brother/Big Sister, Television Production Team, Student Government Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Computer Club, Art Club, Junior Scholars' Bowl, archery, robotics, intramural athletics, and world languages clubs.

ADVISORY

Middle Schools that work well are those that are characterized by a foundation of good relationships between students and their educators. Since the relational aspects are central, an advisory system is in place to help develop, promote, and maintain those positive relationships. The program focuses upon the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, psychological, and ethical development of students.

ATHLETICS

Students in grades 7 and 8 are also eligible to participate in athletics. Houston Academy adheres to the student-athlete requirements as established by the Alabama High School Athletic Association

PERFORMING & FINE ARTS

To help live up to its mission, Houston Academy offers a variety of performing and fine arts options for its middle school students to pursue. Students can learn to express their creative potential through visual arts, drama, chorus, and band.

COURSE OF STUDY

5th Grade

English • Reading • Mathematics
History • Science
Art/Chorus/Band/Technology/Spanish
Physical Education/Guidance/STEAM

6th Grade

English • Reading • Mathematics
History • Science • STEAM
Art/Chorus/Band
Technology/Latin / Spanish
Physical Education

7th Grade

English • Pre-Algebra CP or Honors • Life Science • Geography
Spanish Ia, French Ia, Latin Ia
Physical Education/Chorus/Band/Drama/Art

8th Grade

English • Physical Science • World History I
Pre-Algebra, Algebra I Honors, or College Preparatory
Spanish Ib, French Ib, Latin Ib • Digital Media
Physical Education/Chorus/Band/Drama/Print Design 8/Art