

Class of 2023 Profile



Founded in 2013, ASPIRE Academy is a public school program designed to meet the unique needs of highly gifted students.

These students typically score in the 99th percentile in multiple domains on a nationally normed aptitude test and also demonstrate remarkable achievement in qualitative and/or quantitative domains.

Utilizing a school-within-a-school framework, ASPIRE engages students with an advanced academic curriculum, allowing them to accelerate in core subjects while equipping them with the skills needed to ensure their well-being and success.

All ASPIRE core classes are taught by specially trained teachers, so ASPIRE students learn academic content alongside their intellectual peers. Artistic and athletic passions are developed through classes and extracurricular activities offered on host campuses and attended by same-age peers.

Contact Information

Cheryl Taliaferro, Ph.D.
ASPIRE Academy District Liaison
Cheryl.Taliaferro@gcisd.net
(817) 305-4991

Alex Fingers
Grapevine High School Principal
Alex.Fingers@gcisd.net
(817) 251-5210

www.gcisd.net/aspire
#gcisdASPIRE
@GHSASPIRE

ASPIRE initially opened at Glenhope Elementary School and added a grade level each year, expanding to Cross Timbers Middle School in 2015 and to Grapevine High School in 2018. Today, ASPIRE serves 566 students in grades 1-12.

While ASPIRE students in grades 1-8 are served in all four core content areas, in grades 9-12 ASPIRE offers students two to three specialized humanities courses per year, as well as outside-of-class opportunities and specialized advising. ASPIRE students may attend either Colleyville Heritage High School or Grapevine High School. Those attending Colleyville Heritage may bus to Grapevine High for their ASPIRE classes.

ASPIRE high school students have access to a full range of Advanced Placement and post-Advanced Placement science and math courses via their home campuses, and they enroll in those classes according to their individual needs and interests. They are ranked alongside students at their home campus. The first class of ASPIRE students graduated from high school in 2022.

Enrollment

52 ASPIRE students in Class of 2023

250 ASPIRE students in grades 9-12

4,062 Total students in grades 9-12, district-wide

Signature Programs ~ ASPIRE High School

ASPIRE Symposium:

ASPIRE English 1 and English 2 classes require students to complete year-long research projects and papers in an area of personal interest. This work not only helps students refine their research, writing, and presentation skills, but it also provides them an opportunity to study more deeply in a field that could potentially become a college major or career. Students publicly present their work during an ASPIRE Symposium held in the spring.

AP Capstone:

The AP Capstone Diploma Program is part of ASPIRE Academy's offered curricula. Students in this program complete training in the responsible conduct of research that is offered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, earning a certificate that verifies they understand federal and international guidelines for ethical research. All students submit a formal research proposal to a district-level Institutional Review Board for feedback and approval prior to collecting data for their AP Research project. They are also required to consult with a mentor in their field of research for support. When they present their research to a panel for evaluation, members of the public are invited to attend. In the Class of 2022, 26% of the students chose to enroll in the ASPIRE AP Capstone courses, and 100% of them earned the full AP Capstone Diploma. In the Class of 2023, 44% of the students are currently AP Capstone Diploma Candidates.

Writing for Publication:

ASPIRE English students are encouraged to write like professionals and submit their writing for professional publication. Class assignments are structured to support this type of work, and mentoring is provided outside of class for it as well. To date, eight ASPIRE students have had their work recognized and/or published by *The New York Times* Learning Network, and three of those pieces have been included in a book published by Norton. An additional 17 pieces of work have been recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and three students have had their writing honored by the National Council of Teachers of English.

ASPIRE Student Advisory Council:

In 2021, the ASPIRE Student Advisory Council was created to provide a more direct link between students, faculty, and administration with the goal of improving the program. Students interested in membership complete an application process and interview with the faculty and the ASPIRE District Liaison. Students begin each year with a full-day Leadership Retreat and meet at least once a month with the ASPIRE faculty and District Liaison, with additional committee meetings occurring as needed. The work of this council has included writing and disseminating a student newsletter; organizing Fish Camp to orient eighth-grade students to high school; assisting eighth-grade students with high school course selection; organizing a Saturday practice SAT for middle school students; assisting with the logistics of the ASPIRE Symposium; and organizing and disseminating information about local volunteer opportunities, internships, and scholarships.

Advanced, Personalized Curricula:

ASPIRE is committed to educating students at an academic level commensurate with their demonstrated academic needs. All ASPIRE curricula - including that for Advanced Placement courses - are aligned with programming standards set for gifted students by the National Association for Gifted Children. Math students test into the level of math courses that best meet their individual needs, rather than enrolling in a math class that simply corresponds to their grade level. Approximately 50% of ASPIRE students are enrolled in a math class that is one grade level above their assigned grade, and approximately 15% are enrolled in a math class that is two or more grade levels higher. Sixth- and seventh-grade math courses are accelerated to allow all ASPIRE students to complete Algebra 1 before leaving middle school. To facilitate this practice, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 are all offered at our middle school campus. Additionally, all ASPIRE students complete at least two high school science courses while enrolled in middle school: Integrated Physics and Chemistry and Advanced Biology. Students who desire to test into higher level science classes have the option of doing that as well. Students who need to access higher level classes that are only offered on another campus are provided with transportation to do so. At the high school level, several post-AP classes are also offered, including separate Research & Design classes for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics; Multivariable Calculus; and Differential Equations. Each secondary student maintains a Personalized Learning Plan that is completed with the guidance of ASPIRE faculty to ensure they are making appropriate educational decisions.

Accomplishments ~ ASPIRE Class of 2023

National Merit Recognitions

13 Semifinalists (25%)	12 Commended (23%)	2 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars (4%)
------------------------	--------------------	---

Average SAT Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 710 EBRW • 709 Math • 1420 Composite
Average ACT Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 Reading • 30 Math • 32 English • 30 Science • 31 Composite

Advanced Placement

From 2019-2022, ASPIRE high school students have outperformed the district, state, and global exam averages in 22 subjects. Data below is for ASPIRE Class of 2023 through the end of their Junior Year.

Advanced Placement Distinctions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 AP Scholars with Distinction (46%) • 9 AP Scholars with Honor (17%) • 13 AP Scholars (25%) • 46 Total (88%) 	Advanced Placement Exams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 535 exams taken in 28 subjects • 80% score 3 or higher • 50% score 4 or higher
---	--

AP exams taken by 10+ students in class of 2023	Average Score	% of students scoring a 3 +
English Language & Composition	4.10	90%
Seminar	4.41	97%
Human Geography	3.57	80%
World History: Modern	3.77	87%
United States History	3.49	80%
Psychology	4.24	95%
Calculus AB	3.65	84%
Calculus BC	4.00	93%
Computer Science A	2.69	54%
Computer Science Principles	3.37	83%
Statistics	3.30	70%
Biology	3.75	95%
Chemistry	2.72	56%
Physics 1	2.77	59%
Physics 2	3.09	91%
Physics C: Mechanics	4.36	91%
Art History	2.97	73%

High School Courses Offered Through ASPIRE Academy

English 1 Advanced	AP Seminar	AP United States History
English 2 Advanced	AP Research	AP United States Government and Politics
AP English Language and Composition	AP Human Geography	AP Microeconomics
AP English Literature and Composition	AP World History: Modern	

College Matriculation of ASPIRE Students

The 34 ASPIRE students in the Class of 2022 matriculated to the following universities. If more than one student is in attendance at a university, the total number of students is indicated in parentheses. In total, the Class of 2022 was offered \$4.1 million in scholarship awards.

Abilene Christian University	Northwestern University	University of Texas at Arlington (2)
Brigham Young University	Princeton University	University of Texas at Tyler
Brown University	Tarrant County College	University of Texas at Austin (12)
California Institute of Technology	Texas Christian University (2)	University of Texas at Dallas
Harvard University (2)	Texas A&M University (4)	Washington University in St. Louis
Iowa State University	Trinity University	

