

that he/she has mastered the state’s academic standards for the grade or course. (ARS 15-342(11)).

#### Promotion Requirements:

To move to the next grade, scholars must meet the following standards:

- **Attendance:** Attend school at least 11% of the days enrolled at Paideia for the current school year. Students with more than 10% attendance infractions are at risk of retention in the same grade for the coming school year. Students with 12% or greater attendance infractions are candidates for retention.
- Meet **Arizona Standards** in Reading and Math: Student academic proficiency is measured frequently throughout the year using Paideia’s Curriculum-Based-Assessment in reading and math. Students who score below 64 “on grade level” are candidates for retention.
- NWEA MAP **Achievement** Test: Paideia student academic achievement in reading, math and language use is measured in August, February and May. Students scoring below the 30<sup>th</sup> achievement percentile in any of these academic areas are candidates for retention.
  - Grades K-2 are assessed in Reading and Math only
  - Grades 3-8 are assessed in Reading, Math and Language Use.
- **Arizona’s Academic Standards Assessment:** Students take the Arizona state assessment in April. Those who score below level 2 are candidates for retention.
- Risk of Retention:
- Parents of students who are identified at risk of retention are required to meet with the teacher and create a success plan to help the student overcome the deficits and promote to the next grade level.
- Students who do not make satisfactory growth and/or who continue to accumulate attendance infractions will be retained in the same grade level the next year.

Any scholar failing to attain and maintain the academic standards of Paideia as described in its charter – achieve “Meets Standards” in all core academic courses – is provided with several layers of academic intervention – small group learning, peer tutoring, special education services. Intervention continues until scholar has reached acceptable levels of mastery.

## Grades and Academic Progress: 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>

### Unit of credit

A unit of credit is defined by the North Central Association as the amount of credit awarded for the successful completion of a course, which meets at least 40 minutes daily, five days per week, 120 hours per year. Classes must meet for a minimum of 36 weeks, or the equivalent amount of time within the school year. One unit of credit is granted to scholars who receive a passing grade in a course that meets for one period during the entire academic year. One-half unit of credit is granted to scholars who receive a passing grade in a one-semester course.

### Course Grading

All courses taught for credit receive a letter grade or a pass/fail option. Percentage Letter Grade point value is listed below. Scholars must complete the syllabus requirements for the course with a 70%



proficiency and within the timeframe of the course to be awarded high school credit. A grade of Incomplete requires prior approval from the Principal. A one-week time limit is placed on all incomplete grades unless the Principal gives permission for an extension. No credit is earned for “D” or “F” grades. Honors courses are weighted based on the Honors category. Dual credit courses earn regular GPA weight. Scholars in grades 9-12 who fail to meet the standards of any required course will become credit deficient and become at risk of not graduating with their cohort.

Percentage	Grade	GPA Regular	GPA Honors
90%-100%	A	4.0	5.0
80%-89%	B	3.0	4.0
70%-79%	C	2.0	3.0
60%-69%	D	2.0	2.0
Below 60%	F	1.0	1.0
W or W/D	W or W/D	0.0	0.0
Pass Fail	P/F	NA	NA

### Policy on acceptance of transfer credit

The acceptance of credit from other schools is not automatic and is based on a variety of factors:

- the accreditation status of the sending school,
- the similarity between the previous course content and the Paideia Liberal Arts Academy course content,
- the number of days/hours for which the previous course met, and the scholar’s grades in the course(s).

No transfer credit will be given for “D” or “F” grades or the equivalent percentage. Transcript analysis along with the transferring school’s course syllabus, catalog or other similar information is completed by the Paideia Liberal Arts Academy school counselor to determine transfer of credit.

### Core Course Sequence Grades 9-12

Grade	English Language Arts	History/Humanities	Science	Math
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I	Ancient History and Civilizations	Integrated Science	Algebra I
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II	World History	Biology	Geometry
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III American Literature	American History / US Government	Chemistry	Algebra II
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV or Creative Writing	Economics	Physics or Anatomy / Physiology	Pre-Calculus or Statistics

### Graduation Requirements – Paideia Liberal Arts Academy

Paideia Liberal Arts Academy scholars are required to fulfill basic Arizona Graduation requirements in core and elective credits as outlined in the following table to include meeting all Arizona state testing requirements for graduation.

## Required Core and Elective Credits for Graduation

	Paideia Liberal Arts Academy Graduation Requirements <i>(General Diploma / Liberal Arts Advanced Diploma*)</i>	Arizona Graduation Requirements
English	<b>4 credits</b> <i>Completion of 2 honors seminars*</i>	<b>4 credits</b>
Mathematics	<b>4 credits</b> <i>Completion of 2 honors seminars*</i>	<b>4 credits</b>
Science	<b>3 credits</b> <i>4 credits w/ 3 labs*</i>	<b>3 credits</b>
Humanities Social Studies	<b>2 credits</b> <i>3 credits*</i>	<b>2 credits</b>
Fine Arts/Career and Technical Education (CTE)	<b>2 credits</b> <i>3 credits*</i>	<b>2 credits</b>
Physical Education	<b>1 credit</b>	<b>1 credit</b>
Health	<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>0.5 credit</b>
Electives	<b>5.5 credits</b> <i>2 years of world language*</i>	<b>5.5 credits</b>
<b>Total for graduation</b>	<b>22 / 25</b>	<b>22</b>

## Additional Graduation Requirements:

In addition, all Paideia Liberal Arts Academy scholars are required to successfully complete annual capstone projects and publication of the senior meditations journal:

### Annual Capstone Projects:

The Paideia Liberal Arts Academy Capstone projects are based on Steven Covey's "The 8<sup>th</sup> Habit: Find my Voice and Help Others find Theirs." Capstone projects are developed during the scholar's advisory period and also require much time out-of-school to complete. There are four questions that guide the capstone journey:

- "Find My Voice" questions:
  - Freshman Focus - What need do you sense in your family, community and the world?
  - Sophomore Focus - Do you possess a true talent that, if nurtured through learning, can meet the need?
  - Junior Focus - Does the opportunity to meet the need tap into your passion?
  - Senior Focus - Does your conscience inspire you to take action and become involved?

**Freshman Project:** Freshman scholars are required to complete the **My Voice ECAP planning form**. This project will guide the scholar to discover talents, interests, learning style and passions in planning their high school journey. Scholars will be introduced to the four "Find My Voice" questions and focus on the first question:

- "What need do I sense in my family, community, world?" The culminating project will identify a range of needs that interest the scholar along with why that need is important to solve and possible solutions.



**Sophomore Project:** The sophomore project continues developing the freshman project by focusing on the second question:

- “What true talent do I have that if nurtured through learning can meet the need identified in the freshman project?” The culminating project will include the scholar’s exploration of learning styles and what is needed to learn and where to go to gain the knowledge to make an impact on the need identified in the Freshman project.

**Junior Project:** The junior project builds on the previous years of development by exploring the question:

- “Does the opportunity to meet the need tap into my passion to act?” The scholar more deeply explores social impacts and ramifications of inaction to the need identified. The culminating project is an outline of action to be accomplished in the senior project.

**Senior Project:** The senior project culminates with targeted internships and action research within the area of need, learning and passion identified in the previous years. Scholars will tap into the final question:

- How does my conscience inspire me to take action and become involved?

### **Meditations Journal:**

All Paideia scholars are exposed daily from Kindergarten to graduation to ideas that provoke critical thinking and deep pondering. These ideas might be sparked through thought-provoking quotes, short stories, pictures or music. Scholars spend one full week on a single idea. Every morning all Paideia scholars reflect or meditate on the presented idea. These reflections or meditations are recorded in their personal Meditations Journal. This daily habit develops the skill of thinking deeply and slowly pondering ideas and principles. During the scholar’s senior year, she will explore through previous meditations and create a final meditations journal representing her intellectual journey to graduation. The meditations journal will be published by the school with one copy given to the scholar at graduation and one copy placed in the Paideia library.

### **Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement Courses**

Only scholars who have met the following criteria are eligible to enroll in dual enrollment and/or advanced placement courses:

- Successfully completed all freshman coursework to include Freshman project
- Maintained an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
- Maintained at least 91% attendance to include absences and tardies
- Have cleared/restored any Code of Conduct infractions with the Dean of Students

### **Health Office & Medical Services**

Our school supports and reinforces the health and well-being of each scholar. The school nurse and Paideia staff manage scholars’ illnesses and accidents that occur at school. The nurse administers medication, treatments, keeps health records, and arranges vision and hearing screenings.