



Innovation Academy High School Profile 2023-2024

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ABOUT US

FCS Innovation Academy opened in 2021 as a Magnet STEM high school in Alpharetta, GA. Our mission is to provide relevant experiences that foster authentic learning, so our students can succeed in a rapidly changing world. We utilize design thinking, project-based learning, research, and inquiry to provide the necessary skills and foster a passion for ongoing learning. These skills and passion will allow students to address complex issues in a collaborative setting to solve real-world problems. Students are immersed in a rigorous and supportive environment that promotes the transdisciplinary connections between career pathways, STEM fields, and the humanities.

CAREER PATHWAYS AT IA

| Areas of Study in Health Science | Areas of Study in Engineering | Areas of Study in IT |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Biotechnology, Patient Care, Surgical Tech, EMT | Engineering Technology, Robotics | Computer Science, Game Design, Cybersecurity, Embedded Computing |

CROSS-CURRICULAR INSTRUCTION

Our freshman start by taking introductory classes in all three of our career pathways; thus begins their introduction to cross-curricular problem solving. Students work on **real world challenges like delivering medical supplies to areas where first responders cannot reach**. Health Sciences experts determine what needs to be included in the first response kit. Engineers work on the specs needed for the box of supplies that are delivered via drone, and information technology specialists program the drones.

Students are taught Design Thinking (DT) as one of many tools in their problem-solving toolkit. Design Thinking is a method that uses a cyclical process to solve problems with the user in mind. DT uses a series of steps that create specific work in each phase. Although we are a STEM school, we pride ourselves on our humanities and emphasize the empathy and understanding components of Design Thinking as absolutely essential to the process.

RESEARCH – REQUIRED 11TH GRADE

Research is a big focus for our students. Every student takes an IA Research course their junior year where they are encouraged to collaborate in teams to complete their **Pinnacle Project**.

Students can also pursue the **AP Capstone pathway** which starts with 10th graders taking AP Seminar combined with 10th grade ELA requirements. AP Seminar is followed by IA Research in 11th, and AP Capstone in 12th. The AP Capstone course is exclusively independent research with no help allowed from the instructor. Students must score a 3 or above in at least four AP courses and at least a 3 in AP Capstone and AP seminar to earn the AP Capstone designation. *The Class of 2024 was permitted to take AP Research as 11th graders.*

UNIQUE COMMUNITY-FOCUSED-AND-SPONSORED EXPERIENCES

During Flex Fridays, our students participate in learning events supported by our community partners like Rocket Day (sponsored by Lockheed Martin) during which students built and launched hundreds of rockets, and Raspberry Pi Day and Hackathon where students focused all day on personally designed software projects. Students also go on field trips into the community to explore real world problems that a community member needs resolved. They follow up after these field trips by presenting a potential solution after implementing the Design Thinking process.

FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| English | 4 |
| Mathematics | 4 |
| Science | 4 |
| Social Studies | 3 |
| Health & Personal Fitness | 1 |
| Fine Arts/ World Language | 3 |
| Electives | 4 |

Total Credits: 23

ADDITIONAL IA MAGNET REQUIREMENTS

Magnet Enrichment Hours: A requirement for our magnet seal is for students to engage in unique opportunities to gain experience hours, which provide deep, authentic cross curricular learning in STEM pathways.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90–100 ♦ B = 80–89 ♦ C = 70–79 ♦ F = 69 or lower
Transcripts with weighted grades (W) include seven quality points added to passing grades for all honors, AP, and college courses.

Accreditation: Cognia

CEEB Code: 110387

NCAA Number: 853204

AVERAGE STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

| | SAT | ACT | PSAT |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| FCS Innovation Academy* | 1300 | 27.4 | 1202 |
| Fulton County Schools | 1101 | 23 | -- |
| Georgia | 1052 | 21.6 | 1037 |
| Nation | 1028 | 20.3 | 1010 |

*All FCS IA scores are for the class of 2024. ACT Georgia score is for graduating class of 2022. ACT national score is for Sept. 22 to Aug.-23 score reports. PSAT national score for 11th graders for fall 2021 test.

AP EXAMS STATISTICS (SPRING 2023)

855 out of 1150 students took 2,071 AP exams
 77% of students at IA took at least 1 AP course
 AP Score Pass Rate: 87%
 27% of test-takers scored 5 or higher
 58% scored 4 or higher
 85% scored 3 or higher

AP AND COLLEGE COURSES OFFERED

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| AP Biology | AP Physics 1 |
| AP Calculus AB | AP Physics C: Mechanics |
| AP Calculus BC | AP Physics C: Electricity |
| AP Chemistry | AP Pre-Calculus |
| AP Comparative Government | AP Psychology |
| AP Computer Science A | AP Research |
| AP Computer Science Principles | AP Seminar (With English Lit) |
| AP English Language and Composition | AP Statistics |
| AP English Lit and Composition | AP United States Government and Politics |
| AP Environmental Science | AP United States History |
| AP Human Geography | AP World History: Modern |
| AP Music Theory | Georgia Tech Math |
| AP Macro Economics | Georgia Tech Computer Science |
| AP Micro Economics | |

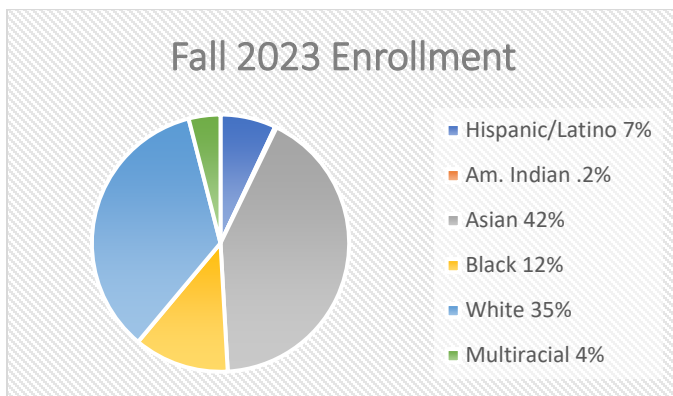
We encourage students to take fewer AP courses, so they have a richer experience in those classes that they do take. Students were required to sign rigor contracts if they chose to take a combination of 3 or more honors, Dual Enrollment, or AP classes.

STUDENT BODY

FCS Innovation Academy is home to students in the North Fulton area, which includes the following high schools: Alpharetta HS, Cambridge HS, Centennial HS, Chattahoochee HS, Johns Creek HS, Milton HS, North Springs HS, Northview HS, Riverwood HS, and Roswell HS.

Schoolwide Enrollment: 1451

Class of 2024 Enrollment: 270



SCHOOLWIDE ACCOLADES

PSAT/National Merit:

National African American Recognition Award (NAARA), 4 Students Awarded in 2022
 National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA), 1 student awarded in 2022

DNA Club: Awarded a Chrysalis Research Grant from the Entomological Society of America for their pollen analyst project (Spring '22)

IA Robotics Club: 2nd Place and Rookie All-Star award at Dalton Regional; Engineering Award at State Finals; 1st Place in all 3 Categories at Fulton County Hovercraft Competition. ('21-'22); Placed 28th in GA/SC State Finals Competition

AP Honor School 22-23:

AP School of Distinction, AP STEM School, AP STEM Achievement School

Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST):

Atlanta Competition
 Individual Awards- 1st Place Level 3 Quran Memorization, 3rd Place Business Venture, 2nd Place Boys' Soccer, 2nd Place Girls' Soccer. ('21-'22)

IA Future Business Leaders of America

(FBLA): 1st Place for Online Individual Testing in the State of Georgia. ('21-'22)

CLUBS & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

We encourage our students to embrace their passions and creativity, develop their leadership skills, and find a way to take a break from their academic day. Students are invited to participate in their pathway club and honors societies and are limited to joining two additional IA clubs.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 21st Century Leaders | Gay Straight Alliance | Photography |
| Academic Bowl / Quiz Bowl | Girls in STEM Ambassadors | Physics |
| Active Minds | Hack for Impact | Pickleball |
| Agricultural Science Club | Hats for Hope | Professional Networking Club |
| Alternative Politics | HOSA | RC race car |
| Art | Hot Wheels | Real time strategy & retro gamers |
| Astronomy | IA Around the Globe | Red Cross Club |
| Baking & Cooking | IA Beacon | Rhythm Games |
| Bee Keeping | IA Design Thinking | Robotics |
| Beta | IA Pinnacle Review | Run IA |
| Biology Olympiad | IA Positivity Project | Science Finds |
| Biomedical Engineering club | IA Venture Business Club | Science National Honor Society |
| Black Student Union | Interact | Science Olympiad |
| CAHS | Investment Club | Society of Women Engineers |
| Chess Club | Jewish Student Union | South Asian Student Assoc. |
| Closing the Divide | Key Club | South Asian Student Association |
| Cricket | Lego / Minecraft | Spanish Honor Society |
| Cybersecurity | Literary | Student Council: 11 & 12 |
| Digital Design | Math Team | Student Council: 9 & 10 |
| DNA Club | Mock Trial | Student Library Advisory Board |
| Drama | Model UN | Student Volunteer Clubs |
| Dungeons and Dragons | Mountain Biking | Table tennis/Ping pong |
| Environmental Stewardship | Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Soc.) | TechAlpharetta |
| Fashion | Music | Technology Student Association |
| Feel 3D Club | Muslim Student Association | Thrift and Gift |
| Fellowship of Christian Athletes | National Society of Black Engineers | UNICEF |
| Feminism Empowers Me | Oragami | Unified Champions |
| Fitness and Sports Activities | Paper Bridges | United For Change |
| Games/strategy board games | | Veeranatyam: Indian Dance |
| Gameshow | | Video Creation |