



## 2009-2010 HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

7255 Flying Cloud Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
Phone: 952.746.7760  
Fax: 952.746.7765  
[www.eagleridgeacademy.org](http://www.eagleridgeacademy.org)

John Howitz, Director  
[jhowitz@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:jhowitz@eagleridgeacademy.org)

Erin Johnson, College Advisor  
[ejohnson@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:ejohnson@eagleridgeacademy.org)

**Enrollment:** 300 students in grades 6-12; 23 students in the class of 2010

**Faculty:** 21 faculty members; 50% of the faculty have a Master's Degree or Doctorate

**CEEB/ACT Code:** 240699

**Calendar:** Two semesters

**Memberships:** Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, College Board, National Association for College Admission Counseling

**History:** Eagle Ridge Academy is a public charter school in the southwest Twin Cities metropolitan area dedicated to offering a rigorous classical, liberal arts curriculum. The school opened its doors on September 1, 2004 and graduated its first class in June of 2008.

**Community:** With its offerings in classical education, Eagle Ridge Academy draws from over 15 school districts and private schools throughout the Twin Cities metro area.

### Mission and Vision

The mission of Eagle Ridge Academy is to provide our students with a traditional, classical education that demands their best in academic achievement, behavior, and attitude and challenges them to attain their highest potential.

Eagle Ridge Academy will offer an academically rigorous, time-tested classical, liberal arts curriculum that:

- Prepares students to be exemplary and knowledgeable citizens
- Instills a life-long passion for learning
- Values self-discipline, respect, perseverance, and achievement
- Teaches truth, beauty and goodness
- Fosters an appreciation for the United States of America and her unique role in the world.

### Curriculum

All high school classes offered at Eagle Ridge Academy are taught at the Honors level. Eagle Ridge Academy students will have access to taking AP and CLEP exams, which are certified by The American Council on Education (ACE). In addition, students who have completed the Humane Letters program offered at Eagle Ridge Academy will qualify for ACE recommended credit. (For more information please see [www.greatbooksprogram.org](http://www.greatbooksprogram.org)). Unique aspects of the Eagle Ridge Academy curriculum include the use of the Great Books Program for grades 9-12 and Saxon Math for all grades.

In Humane Letters seminars, based on the Great Books Program, students conduct in-depth studies on some of the greatest, unabridged works of Western Civilization. In these courses, primary source documents are used in place of textbooks. The seminars combine a classical framework and the use of Socratic seminars to draw out each student's inner curiosity and passion. In an article written by Norris Archer Harrington, he describes the Socratic Method as, "...a conversation, a discussion, wherein two or more people assist

one another in finding the answers to difficult questions...The discussion method facilitates the student's quest for understanding by requiring him to answer questions on his own, to ponder the validity of what others have said or written, and (not the least of which) to give reasoned support of his own opinion to the other students in the group." Following seminars, students read and analyze texts individually, then speak and write about the citing evidence for their positions. The Humane Letters seminars are a deep, thought-provoking course of study.

**Humane Letters Sequence:**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ancient World

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rome through Renaissance and Reformation

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Middle Ages through Colonization

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Enlightenment through Postmodern World

The Saxon Math curriculum uses incremental development of math concepts and continual review of previously learned concepts, leading to overall math mastery. Students are grouped based on ability which allows students to begin coursework at their skill level and progress to the next level once mastery is obtained. Math levels include Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre Calculus (integrates topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, discrete mathematics, and mathematical analysis), and Calculus.

Science offerings include Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Biology, Conceptual Physics and Physics.

**Post Secondary Enrollments for the Class of 2009**

Four-year colleges and universities: 50%

Community Colleges: 35%

Other: 15%

**Post-Secondary Plans for the Class of 2010**

Four-year colleges and universities: 85%

Community Colleges: 10%

Other: 5%

**Extracurricular Activities**

Eagle Ridge Academy and the International School of Minnesota (also located in Eden Prairie) joined together to offer middle school and Minnesota State High School League soccer, cross-country, basketball, volleyball, track and field, sailing, golf, and tennis. Eagle Ridge Academy has a Mock Trial team and a ski and snowboarding club. Many students also participate in the annual musical, as well as Student Senate. A chapter of the National Junior Classical League began in 2007.

**Unique Aspects of Eagle Ridge Academy**

Eagle Ridge Academy was created and is governed by educators and parents. The founders created a college preparatory educational program based on true inquiry, awe, intellect, and character. The goal of Eagle Ridge Academy is not only creating smarter students, but better people, prepared to lead abundant and responsible lives as contributing members of our great country. Eagle Ridge Academy was the first public school in the southwest suburban area of the Twin Cities specifically dedicated to offering a demanding, classical liberal arts curriculum.

**Guidance Office Contacts:**

College representatives' visits may be scheduled by contacting Mrs. Erin Johnson, Instructor and College Advisor, at [ejohnson@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:ejohnson@eagleridgeacademy.org) or 952.746.7760 ext. 112.