



Verdugo Academy – High School



High School Independent Study Grades 9-12

Verdugo Academy is the high school independent study program offered by Glendale Unified School District and is available to students attending grades 9 through 12. This program is offered as an option for students needing an alternative learning environment in which to succeed.

The program works best for students who are self-motivated, are avid readers, and who work well independently. Parental supervision of student work completion is also a factor contributing to student success. Students wishing to attend Verdugo Academy must pass a reading and writing test to assure that they have the skills to succeed in independent study.

Courses of Study

The Verdugo Academy curriculum is the same high quality course of study offered at schools in the Glendale Unified School district. *It is not an alternative curriculum.* The same state-approved texts and instructional materials used in District schools are provided free of charge to students in this program.

Verdugo Academy teachers work one-on-one with students to provide an individualized approach to each student's needs and learning styles. Teachers maintain communication with parents and are generally available to answer questions throughout the day by phone or email. Parent-teacher meetings are also arranged to address questions or issues that may arise along the way.

Students generally find the program to be quite challenging and families should be aware that this is not a tutorial program. Students spend a limited time with their respective teachers and are not taught in a classroom setting with other students.

Verdugo Academy provides students with all the requirements for graduation as well as a wide selection of electives. However, Verdugo Academy does not offer AP or Honors classes or math beyond Algebra II. Students wishing to take advanced classes such as Calculus or electives not offered at Verdugo Academy may complete these courses at other locations while attending Verdugo Academy. (*See Additional Course Offerings below*)

Nearly all Verdugo Academy courses are concentrated into 4-week blocks, and students are required to finish a 5-credit class every 20 school days. Students are able to finish courses in this short time period since they only complete one or two courses at a time. Generally, students take a 4-week course, such as English 10-1, but also take concurrently a second long-term course such as geometry. The long-term course usually lasts about 12 weeks and includes such subjects as algebra, biology, and Spanish. In this way, students are able to finish the courses they need for graduation while keeping the same pace of course completion as students at the comprehensive high schools.

Verdugo Academy courses are aligned to state and national standards of educational excellence, and are parallel in quality and scope to curriculum provided for students enrolled in traditional classroom settings in the Glendale Unified School District.

Additional Course Offerings

Students wishing to complete work outside of Verdugo Academy to broaden their selection of courses may consider the following:

Glendale College classes – are open to 9th through 12th graders with a GPA of 2.0 or better and must be approved by a school administrator. GCC fees will apply and must be paid by the family. In addition to GCC, students may attend other community colleges throughout the LA area.

Adult Education – Seniors may take classes concurrently at Adult Ed and some juniors may also qualify.

ROP classes – allow students to acquire job skills and are available to all students in the Glendale School district. These classes are offered at different sites in the community and begin each semester starting in September, February and at the start of the summer session.

Private Lessons — Student work in private classes such as music, sports, foreign language, or another activity that is part of the high school curriculum may qualify for school credit. The outside teacher must document the number of hours each week that the student engaged in the activity. When 60 hours of work are accounted for, a student may be awarded 5 credits on a Credit / No Credit basis. This option requires written pre-approval from a school administrator.

Admission

Students may enroll in the Verdugo Academy independent study program at any time during the school year. Participation is voluntary and is open to any family that resides in Los Angeles County or any adjacent county. Students must pass an English test with a reading score within 2 years of their grade level. For example, a 9th grader must be able to read at a 7th grade level, or better, to be considered for admission into this program.

Transfer from Glendale Schools

Students attending Glendale schools who are interested in enrolling at Verdugo Academy must consult their school counselor to begin the transfer process.

Transferring mid-semester

Students should be advised that transferring to Verdugo Academy mid-semester could result in the loss of credit for courses underway at the regular school. Although every effort is made to give credit for work already completed, Verdugo Academy may not offer an equivalent course in independent study, or work completed to date may not be sufficient to warrant transfer credit. For these reasons, students who are passing their courses at the regular high school are encouraged to complete the semester before transferring to Verdugo Academy. Partial course credit may be applied for students transferring at the end of the quarter, but such credit is determined on a case-by-case basis.

For More Information...

We invite parents and students in the community to consider the Verdugo Academy program as a dynamic individualized option for achieving students' educational goals.

Interested families may contact Verdugo Academy administrators at 818-247-4805.