



Program Overview

Discover your individual
path to excellence





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Academy of Thought and Industry: The future of middle and high school education.



The future of school isn't about moving from one set of exams to the next. It's about becoming the person you want to be, and feeling fulfilled and supported along the way.

The Academy of Thought and Industry (ATI) is a Montessori-inspired middle and high school. Our unique program is rooted in a curriculum that emphasizes thinking and doing, to acquire deep knowledge and understanding. Students unlock their potential with the help of individualized coaching, low student to teacher ratios, and a supportive school community. They learn how to set goals and how to achieve them; they fall in love with learning; they combine deep rigorous academic study with the freedom to pursue projects based on interest, passion, and curiosity.

We believe that students, in the right environment, are capable of extraordinary learning and extraordinary work: and we help unlock that potential at ATI.

We Are Reimagining Adolescent Education

Most middle and high school students are not happy at school.

We want to change that.



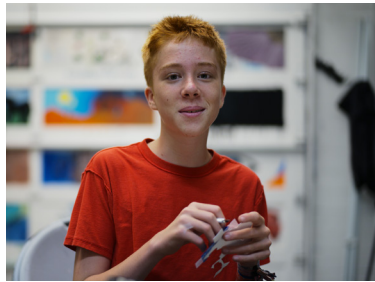
- [A 2020 study by Yale researchers](#) found that nearly three-quarters of students report negative feelings towards school.
- According to a [2016 Gallup student poll](#) of nearly one million students, enthusiasm for school dropped dramatically between fifth grade and twelfth grade.
- [In another large-scale 2003 study](#), students were asked to record, several times a day, what they were doing and how they were feeling. The results revealed that children were unhappiest while they were at school, and happiest when out of school.

Now more than ever, students are feeling tired, stressed, and bored. They need an educational option that is appropriate for their developmental stage, and tailored to their individual needs.

We Offer a Classical Education With a Modern Approach

Too often, parents and students face a choice between traditional schools—lacking flexibility and individualization or “progressive schools” that fall short in delivering deep knowledge and an intentional curriculum.

At ATI, we combine deep study of core subjects with a focus on real-world exploration and application. This transforms the school experience from disengaged participation to thriving and passionate learners who have an ever-increasing capacity for individual exploration.



We are not a traditional school

Traditional schools are at odds with the needs of the adolescent: you are forced to conform to a system that emphasizes standardization and memorization. Instead of learning about your own unique needs as a growing, changing, striving individual, traditional schools teach you to meet the needs of the system itself.

We are not a progressive school

Progressive schools often allow you free reign to choose your own pursuits, moving from project to project, but without that deep attention to knowledge that would fully unlock your mind's potential. They tend to emphasize choice, but without the structure needed to learn, integrate, and apply knowledge.

We are the third option

We pursue the union of thought and industry, of the mind and the hand. Our students don't just memorize— they understand, apply, and integrate knowledge. Lessons are motivated by the world, and students apply their knowledge in pursuit of their own passions in the world.



A Montessori-inspired Middle and High School

Dr. Maria Montessori, Italian physician and revolutionary educator, is best known for her pioneering work in early childhood. While she wrote on the needs of the adolescent stage of development, she did not create a fully formulated system for educating at this stage. Her vision was centered on what she called “Erdkinder,” or land-children. She imagined students leaving home in middle school to live on a rural farm, working collaboratively and achieving complete economic independence.

Today, most of our families aren’t living a rural lifestyle - and the concept of Erdkinder doesn’t feel realistic or practical. But what are the essential components of this vision of secondary education, and what could a modern Erdkinder look like?

Principle #1

Real work in the real world

Montessori’s revolutionary contribution to education is the recognition that work is fundamental to all human beings, as a source of both utilitarian benefit and enduring meaning. All children seek out real work: but somewhere in the educational system, we are taught that work is undesirable. ATI seeks to encourage, and if necessary rekindle, the natural love of work.

Principle #2

Serve as a productive member of the community

Montessori called adolescents “social newborns.” Teens are searching to find not just their own personal identity, but also their place in the world. Students want both the security of a community, and a place in the community where they are needed and valued.

Principle #3

Independence emerges out of both choice and rigor

Traditional education may be rigorous, but it can ignore the needs of the individual student. Progressive options may emphasize choice, but without the structure needed to apply knowledge. Montessori education in adolescence utilizes similar strategies to early childhood: mixed age classes based on skill and interest; uninterrupted work cycles to promote deep focus and agency; and developmentally appropriate work and materials that expand beyond the classroom and into the real world.

A Letter from Laura Mazer, Executive Director

Welcome to the Academy of Thought and Industry: we're so glad you're here! ATI is education not as it has been, but as it can be: something designed specifically for adolescents, something designed for life.

Adolescence is a period of intense physical and emotional growth.

You are transitioning from childhood to adulthood—from depending on your parents, family, and teachers to a space where you decide your own path. What an exciting journey, occasionally overwhelming, potentially fraught, inevitably profound. No matter where you spend these years, you emerge on the other side having changed dramatically.

In many ways, traditional schools are at odds with the needs of this period of change: you're forced to conform to a system that has at its core not your needs as a growing, changing, striving, individual—but the needs of the system itself. Progressive schools often allow you free rein to choose your own pursuits, skipping from project to project, but without that deep attention to knowledge that would fully unlock your mind's potential.





The alternatives are: rigid structure where knowledge is abstracted from application, or free structure where applications are abstracted from knowledge.

The Academy of Thought and Industry is the third option. Here, we pursue the union of thought and industry, of the mind and the hand. Our students don't just memorize— they understand, by integrating and applying at every step.

At ATI, there is no conflict between the intellectual and the practical. Our students take film-making classes to actually make movies. They take economics courses because they are starting their own businesses—or more abstract economics because they want to understand the theories that make up the society in which they participate. One of our middle school classes in New York is running a thriving compost business; a high school student in Texas has a professional photography studio with international clients. You might be asking:

Who are these incredible teenagers?

In some ways, our students are extraordinary. In other ways, they are the most natural and healthy people of all: they are unusual only in that they are actualizing the potential that is perfectly, universally ordinary. At ATI, you get to explore this period of transition into adulthood with graduated agency: each step you take here will open up greater choices, greater possibilities, and greater independence. But you will always have behind you the support and care of your coach, your guides, and your ATI community. Here, you can fully explore your own rapidly expanding self.

We can't wait to meet you.
Laura Mazer, MD, MHPE

Our Core Difference

01



Curriculum designed around thought and industry

Our curriculum combines a deep reverence for knowledge with an emphasis on individual interests, exploration, and instruction. Unlike traditional, classical approaches that emphasize rote memorization or standardized testing, ATI believes that knowledge is fundamentally practical. The ability to understand the world, participate in a discussion, solve a problem, or make decisions for your future—these are the reasons it is so crucial to understand history, learn to love literature, apply math in a practical and tangible way. And the curriculum doesn't stop in the classroom: students take this approach into entrepreneurship, outreach, visual and performing arts, internships, and more. It is this fusion of deep knowledge (thought) applied to real-world problems (industry) that captures our approach.

02



1:1 Coaching

Adolescence is a period of intense physical and emotional growth. Students have the ability to set their own goals, sometimes for the first time, and to explore their own values, and control their own schedules—and these tasks are challenging at any age! While the increasing independence and freedom is both desirable and necessary, it requires support and planning. Every student at ATI is paired with a coach, a supportive guide who serves as thought partner and mentor. The coach's role, over the course of the school years, is to make herself obsolete: as the student gains the social, emotional, and cognitive skills to enable her to serve as her own coach going forward. This is not a tutor or a guidance counselor; the coach is a powerful and unique partner to help each student unlock his or her full potential.

03



Close-knit community

Adolescence is a time for social development and the exploration of a student's place in the larger world. At ATI, students and guides work together to co-create the school community in mixed age classrooms. This includes writing school constitutions, planning morning and afternoon meetings, and creating traditions. Each student helps define the school's culture. But outside each small school is a bigger community, and our students actively engage there, too. Each school is connected to the local community: students in New York volunteer in Central Park; students in Austin have internships with the local Congressman and in the Botanical Gardens. And connecting them all is the ATI network: opening up the resources of a global network with the community of a small local school. Students in Florida take digital art taught by a professional animator in Los Angeles; groups of students can collaborate for competitions, entrepreneurship, or interest groups. The ATI community combines the benefits of a small school with the resources of a global network.

Middle School Curriculum

Middle School (Years 1-3)				
Literature & Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on “Developing Empathy” • Study on “Persuasion” • Study “Acting with Integrity” • Analysis workshop • Creative writing workshop + Literary study on “Celebrating your Unique Traits” • Creative writing workshop + Literary study on “Self-Efficacy” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on “Standing Up for Your Values” • Study on “Justice” • Study on “Overcoming Adversity” • Analysis workshop • Creative writing workshop + Literary study on “Treating Others with Dignity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on “Seeking the Truth” • Study on “Questioning Authority” • Study on “Dangers of Conformity” • Analysis workshop • Creative writing workshop + Literary study on “Determination Toward a Purpose” • 8-week capstone project 	
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Big History Story of the World • Early Humans • Cities, Societies, Empires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Webs • US: Colonial Period • US: Revolutionary and Early Republican Period • US: Post-Civil War Modernization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The First Global Age • The Long 19th Century • The Great Convergence and Divergence • Math and Science Capstone or MS History Immersive 	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Earth Science: The Way the Earth Works • Introduction to Biology: The Way Life Works • Introduction to Matter: The Way the Universe Works 	Physical Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter and Its interactions • Waves I • Waves II • Energy I • Energy II • Motion and Forces 	Earth Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth’s Surface and Navigation • The World’s Greatest navigators • Climate Change • The Earth and the Moon • Extreme Weather Events • Earth and Energy Sources • Earth and Energy Sources II • The Water Cycle 	Life Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Classification • Introduction to Engineering Design • Genetics/Order and Information • Cell Theory • Ecosystems and Energy Flow • Human Origins • Botany and Inheritance I • Botany and Inheritance II • Embryology and CRISPR
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area and Surface Area: The Shape of Space • Introducing Ratios: The Craft Code of Cooking • Unit Rates and Percentages: Making Money Grow • Fraction and Decimal Arithmetic: Part, Piece, Portion • Expressions and Equations: The Beauty of Balance • Positive and Negative Numbers: Order, Distance, Depth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale Drawings: You are the Designer • Introducing Proportional Relationships: Frames and Snapshots • Measuring Circles: Welcome to Euclid • Proportional Relationships and Percentages: You are the Designer...and now the Architect • Operations and Integers: Floats and Anchors • Expressions, Equations, Inequalities: Balancing the Scale • Angles, Triangles, Prisms: You are the Architect...and now the Builder! • Probability and Sampling: Games of Chance, Experiments of Probability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigid Transformations and Congruence: The Geometry of PacMan and Minecraft • Dilations, Similarity, Slope: Amazing Coasters • Linear Equations and Systems: Money Math 101 • Functions and Volume: Math in the Gym, Math on the Court • Exponents and Scientific Notation: Solar System Math 	
Culture and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language: Verbal and Non-verbal • Social Organization: Family & Governance • Customs: Beliefs, Attitudes, Values, Faith, Religion, Tradition, Rituals, and Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression: Music, Dance, Art, Literature, Poetry, Theatre, • Culminating Project in Culture & Communication 		

High School Curriculum

High School			
Literature: How Stories Shape our Lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Literature study on “Dangers of Conformity”Literature study on “Justice”Literature study on “Seeking the Truth”Literature study on “Identity and Society”Literary analysis workshop with choice textsArgumentation workshop with choice texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creative writing workshop + Literary studyCritical lens + choose:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Human NatureAmbitionSelf-efficacyDefining good and evilFreedom, Power, Responsibility to OthersCapstone Project	
Liberal Arts: Understanding the Human Condition		<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Sources of KnowledgeSex and Gender in Human LifeHuman Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Sources of MoralityRace in Human LifeModern Science and Human Nature
Science	Earth Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">Earth’s MaterialsSculpting Earth’s SurfacesForces WithinEarth’s Epic HistoryEarth’s SystemsEarth’s Place in the Universe	Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chemistry of LifeThe CellGeneticsEvolutionary ProcessesBiological DiversityEcology	Chemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Basics of ChemistryAll About MatterReaction ChemistryPhysics and Chemistry Bridge Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding the Math Behind MovementNewton: The Genius the Explained ForcesOur Lives and Our MachinesThe Science of ArtFrom Lightning to CarsSo, Everything Was Wrong, Einstein?
History	World History <ul style="list-style-type: none">How Life Came to BeEarly HumansAgriculture and CivilizationExpansion and InterconnectionAccelerationsHistory and Literature	American History <ul style="list-style-type: none">Colonial-American EraFrom American Revolution to the US RepublicWestward, Expansion, US Civil War and RepublicIndustrial Revolution, Gilded Age and Progressive EraWorld War I, Great Depression and World War IIPost-World War II Economic, Social and Political Change	
Math (Cont.)	Algebra I <ul style="list-style-type: none">Expressions and Equations: Expressions for Solving LifeGraphing Functions: Graphs That Rule the WorldExponential Functions: Hollywood Stylin’Quadratic Functions: Let’s Go to SpaceTransformations: More Than Meets the EyeMeasurements and Dimensions: From Mechanics to PhysicistsModeling		Geometry <ul style="list-style-type: none">Logic: Win Every Argument...EverIntro to Geometry: Our World of ShapesTransformations: Video Games We Are Obsessed With.Similarity: The Matching GameModelingCircles: From Earth Quakes to GPS

<p>(Cont.) Math</p>	<p>Algebra II - Trigonometry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequences: Financing Your Way to Success • Quadratic and Rational Functions: Roller Coasters of Functions • Complex Numbers: How Complex Can We Get? • Exponential Functions: Medical Math • Transformations: Transforming Our World • Trigonometry: Periodic Math 	<p>Pre-CalculusP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions and Models: Creating More Efficiency • Periodic Functions: Radio Frequencies • Applications of Trigonometry: Aerospace and The Bermuda Triangle • Data Fitting: Ending Pandemics • Vectors and Conics: Nasa and Mars 	<p>re-Calculus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions Graphs and Models: • Differentiation and its Application: • Exponentials and Logarithms • Integration and its Application
<p>Acquired Languages</p>	<p>Spanish I / French I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language basics: everyday items, basic sentences, gender and number agreement, colors. • Greetings and introductions: greetings, family relationships, question words, clothing. • Work and school: locations and time, present tense, body parts, reflexive verbs, numbers. • Shopping: compound sentences, directions, comparatives. 	<p>Spanish II / French II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel: directions, the imperative, weather language, ordinal numbers. • Past and Future: past tense, future tense, indirect object pronouns, imperfect tense. • Friends and social life: direct and indirect objects, calendar terms, numbers, possession. • Dining and vacation: expressing emotions, food and restaurant language, sequencing events. 	



Coaching program

Every student at ATI is paired with a coach throughout the educational process. This coaching program is unique and impactful. Working with developmental psychologists and philosophers, we have built a program that explicitly teaches those elements of growing up so rarely named: the elements of self-knowledge, of habits of character, of crafting your own life as a capable and joyful adult.

Students are coached towards three interrelated but flexible mindsets. A coach helps the student internalize these, so that they leave ATI ready to thrive in the world at large:

01 Self worth

That her life is hers to live on her own terms. In other words, she is the ultimate authority on what goals to pursue, without external permission or validation.

02 Self-efficacy

That she is capable of, and responsible for, shaping and directing her own life through self-directed work.

03 Self-creation

Finally, that she feels capable of, and responsible for, actively monitoring and managing her own thoughts, emotions, motivations, and mindset.

ATI graduates face a changing and unpredictable world. They will require the ability to manage, direct, and when needed, retrain their own psychology.

Throughout schooling, coaches scaffold the process by which the teen becomes the preparer and manager of their own environment, building self-awareness, and increasing agency over time.

This process is tailored to each individual student, recognizing that everyone will have unique strengths and challenges.



Globally Connected Network

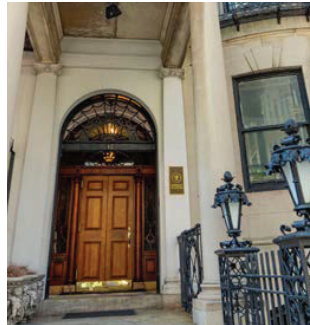
Every ATI school, in-person or online, is a tight-knit community that is also connected to a global network. The network allows you to learn from industry experts, take part in unique electives, find mentors in your field and connect with peers around the country and world.



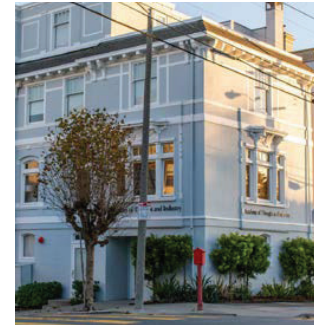
Virtual School
Learn from anywhere



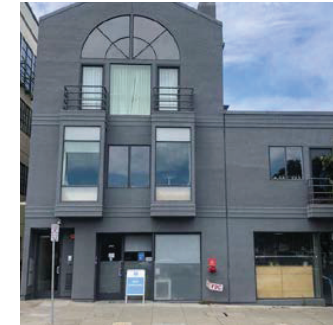
**Austin,
Texas**



**Museum Mile,
New York**



**San Francisco,
California**



**Fort Mason,
California**



**Hollywood Beach,
Florida**



**Chantilly,
Virginia**



**North Scottsdale,
Arizona**



**Toronto,
Canada**

Virtual School: Study anytime, anywhere

The only difference between our brick-and-mortar schools and our virtual school is that one is.... well, virtual.

ATI virtual brings our middle and high school programs wherever you are. Students experience the same immersive curriculum led by expert guides as our brick & mortar campuses, with the benefits of the broader ATI network. Whether you are often on-the-move or looking for a high-fidelity online alternative, we're delivering personalized education directly to you.



What we are

- Live, small classes
- Flexible schedules
- Open work periods
- Close-knit, supportive community

What we are not

- Prerecorded lectures
- Rigid schedules
- Hours of zoom time
- Isolated learning

Learn more about our virtual school here

Serving both middle and high school students, our virtual school delivers a powerful education for independence through our:

- Montessori-based curriculum
- Coaching program designed by experts
- Individualized approach to learning
- Flexible and student-led work supported by guides and coaches

Our virtual students receive quarterly packages of materials, from science lab kits to journals that support them in their learning.



Right from the start, the ATI admissions team wanted to talk to my daughters directly – it had nothing to do with me. They wanted to hear about my girls' dreams, fears, strengths, weaknesses. The program is built around children. Why you think about middle school in general, it tends to assume so much control over children and be adult-led. When my daughters had their first day of school, Sarah said, "Mom, these guides trust us. None of my teachers have ever talked to me like I am capable before."

- **Jessie B.**

Virtual school Parent

After ATI: Where are our graduates now?

The ultimate goal at ATI is to create students who thrive: living happy, fulfilled, productive lives.

That requires students who can identify their own values, set specific goals, and learn how to achieve them. Our students leave prepared for a variety of paths in life, and our responsibility is to support them in identifying and starting that path.

Many of our students choose to pursue higher education, and to date we have a 100% placement rate for college-bound seniors. In addition to their coach and guides, students work with a full-time, licensed college counselor to guide them through the application process.

Here's where you can find some of our recent graduates:



Bates

Start your journey with us



1. Attend a School Tour

We have a range of opportunities for interested families and students to learn about all of our ATI programs, talk to our staff, and begin the admissions process.

Schedule a school tour with us to get an opportunity to meet our faculty on campus in-person or virtually, visit a class, and have your questions answered.



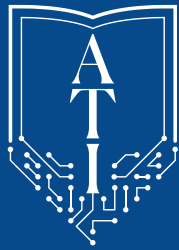
2. Sign up for a shadow day

After visiting our campus and/or meeting with our school leaders, we invite students interested in attending ATI to sign up for a Shadow Day as a way to experience the school firsthand, connect with current students and staff, and be a part of our learning community.



3. Apply

After completing a Shadow Day successfully, select students will be invited to formally apply for admission to ATI. We are accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year, and can also consider transfer applicants for the 2022-23 school year on a limited basis.



Academy of Thought & Industry

Discover your individual
path to excellence

thoughtandindustry.com