



# Florence High School

**FLORENCE**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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Superintendent: Dr. Jimmy Shaw

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CEEB Code: 011126  
Principal: Dr. Christopher Westbrook

## Community Profile

The city of Florence, Alabama, is located in Northwest Alabama with a population of approximately 43,000. Florence sits as the county seat of Lauderdale County, Alabama, situated on the shores of the Tennessee River. Florence is home to the University of North Alabama. Florence is the largest of 4 cities that make up the area known as “The Shoals”. Florence and “The Shoals” have a rich history in music, arts, architecture, and education, that forms the backbone of the community. Our community demographics are as follows: White/Caucasian: 73%, Black/African American: 19%, Asian: 1%, Two or more races/other: 7%.

## School Profile

Florence High School (FHS) serves as the city of Florence’s public high school as part of the Florence City School System. FHS abides by the mission of the Florence City School System which is: Empower students to explore, create, challenge, innovate, and lead. The school colors for FHS are royal blue, silver, black, and white. The mascot is a falcon.

## Enrollment

The total enrollment at Florence High School is 1075 students in grades 10-12. Enrollment demographics for Florence High School are currently as follows: White/Caucasian: 47%, Black/African American: 26%, Hispanic/Latino: 16%, Asian: 2%, Two or more races/other: 9%. The Florence Freshman Center which holds all of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students has a total enrollment of 331 students.

## Curriculum

With more than 300 course offerings, FHS provides the most extensive curriculum of any high school, public or private, in Northwest Alabama. Students may choose from among 21 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and eight Honors courses in the areas of science, mathematics, English, foreign languages, and social studies. AP Courses offered at FHS are listed below:

- |                                      |                                 |                               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| * English Language and Composition   | * Statistics                    | *Biology                      |
| * English Literature and Composition | * Chemistry                     | * Physics (1)/Physics (2)     |
| * United States History              | * United States Gov. & Politics | * Microeconomics              |
| * Studio Art/2D Design               | * Studio Art/3D Design          | * Calculus (AB)/Calculus (BC) |
| * Precalculus                        | * Spanish Language & Culture    | * AP Seminar                  |
| *Latin                               | * Computer Science Principles   | * Computer Science A          |
| *Environmental Science               |                                 |                               |

In addition to opportunities for students to earn college credit by successful completion of AP courses and AP examinations on campus, students may also gain college credit through dual enrollment at The University of North Alabama, The University of Alabama, Northwest Shoals Community College, and Auburn University. Many students take dual enrollment courses online, but we also teach 19 dual enrollment courses on campus with FHS teachers who are also contracted to teach with Northwest Shoals Community College. Those courses are listed below:

- |                                |                           |                                    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * Intermediate College Algebra | * Precalculus Algebra     | * English Composition 1            |
| * English Composition 2        | * Medical Terminology     | * Long Term Care Nursing Assistant |
| * United States History 1      | * United States History 2 | * Human Growth and Development     |
| * ARC Welding Technology       | * Carbon Pipe Welding     | * SMAW Fillet/OFC Welding          |
| * SMAW Fillet/PAC/CAC Welding  | *Introductory French      | *Introductory Spanish              |
| *Network Communications        | * Network Security        | *Mechatronics/Industrial Safety    |

The Florence Academy of Fine Arts (FAFA) allows students to select from three major divisions of study: Digital Arts, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. The FAFA curriculum includes over 120 course offerings.

Students may also choose from approximately 66 Career/Technical Education Courses in 12 different field of study. As part of our Career/Technical Education program, we also have three work-based learning programs that allow students to receive real-world training while in high school. Our Career Technical Programs are listed below:

- |                          |                                       |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| *Agriscience             | * Business Education                  | * Public Safety         |
| * Computer Science       | * Cosmetology                         | * Education & Training  |
| * Engineering & Robotics | * Family & Consumer Sciences/ Fashion | * Game Design/Animation |
| * Health Science         | * Hospitality & Tourism/Culinary      | * Welding               |

Florence Virtual School allows students to complete online courses with highly qualified FHS instructors while accommodating a variety of nontraditional schedule needs.

### Minimum Requirements for Graduation

A total of 24 credits are required for graduation.

English	4 credits	Fine Art/Career Tech/or Foreign Language	3 credits
Math	4 credits	Physical Education	1 credit
Social Studies	4 credits	Health Education	0.5 credits
Science	4 credits	Career Preparedness	1 credit
		General Electives	2.5 credits

### Class Rank & Grading Scale

All courses are included in computing GPA and class rank. Grades are weighted in honors, dual enrollment, and AP courses.

Grades	Basic	Honors & Dual Enrollment	AP
A = 90-100	4.0	5.0	6.0
B = 80-89	3.0	4.0	5.0
C = 70-79	2.0	3.0	4.0
D = 60-69	1.0	2.0	3.0
F = 0-59	0	0	0

### Future Plans – Class of 2025

4-year college	40%	Armed Forces	5%
2-year college/Technical	20%	Employment/Other	35%

### Student Assessments

On the 2025 ACT (American College Test), FHS students’ average composite score exceeded the state average composite score by 0.6 (Florence 18.6, State 18, National 19.9). In addition to the ACT, students also have the opportunity to take the PSAT (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade), PreACT (10<sup>th</sup> grade), and ACT WorkKeys (12<sup>th</sup> grade).

### Seal of Biliteracy

Florence City Schools awards the Seal of Biliteracy to qualifying students in accordance with state and national guidelines. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, district, or state in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The class of 2025 was the first graduating class with students who are awarded this distinguished honor. 13 students earned this honor with our first cohort.

### Diploma Distinctions

In addition to the Alabama Academic Diploma standards, Florence High School students may also pursue one or more of the following Diploma Distinctions:

- The **Advanced Placement Distinction** requires students to earn three credits in Honors courses; seven credits in AP courses; two credits in a single foreign language and two additional foreign language credits; Algebra 1 with Probability, Algebra 2 with Statistics, geometry with Data Analysis, and one additional advanced math course; Biology, Chemistry, and two additional advanced science courses
- The **Academic Honors Distinction** requires students to earn two credits in Honors courses; three credits in AP courses; two credits in a single foreign language; Algebra 1 with Probability, Algebra 2 with Statistics, geometry with Data Analysis, and one additional advanced math course; Biology, Chemistry, and two additional advanced science courses
- The **First 30 Distinction** requires students to complete a minimum of 30 college credit hours earned through dual enrollment courses and a minimum of two credits in a single foreign language.
- The **Early College Associates Degree** recognizes students who have completed all requirements for an Alabama High School Diploma and for the specified college Associate Degree.
- The **Career & Technical Education Distinction** requires students to earn three credits in a chosen area of Career Technical Education with at least two of those credits completed within a single area; successful completion of a CTE Credentialing Assessment.
- The **Athletics Distinction** requires students to participate four years in a single sport, earn four credits in athletic physical education, and earn at least one credit from the following NCAA/Division 1 approved courses: Psychology/Sociology, foreign language, Sports Medicine, Food and Nutrition, Anatomy and Physiology, Sports Management
- The **Florence Academy of Fine Arts Distinction** requires students to complete seven credits in Fine Arts, four in their area of specified study, and three from other Fine Arts curriculum; participation in all regional and state competitions and activities for the declared area of study.