Elite Scholars Academy
Cambridge AICE Pathway

Information for Eighth Graders & Families
Entering Ninth Grade in 2027–28

7923 Fielder Road, Jonesboro, GA
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CAMBRIDGE

College Starts Here

What Is Cambridge?

https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/usa/about-cambridge-international-us/the-cambridge-pathway/

Cambridge at ESA

- Cambridge AS Level courses begin in ninth grade at ESA.
- AS Level courses are typically one year long.
- Cambridge AS courses use a **5.0 GPA scale**, just like AP courses.
- AICE means Advanced International Certificate of Education.
- Students can earn an additional AICE Diploma and may earn college credit through qualifying exam



Why Choose Cambridge?

Build skills for college

Practice researching, writing and explaining your ideas with evidence.

Take on a challenge with support

Start advanced courses in ninth grade and build confidence over time.

5.0 weighted GPA scale

ESA weights Cambridge courses on a 5.0 scale, just like AP.

Earn an additional diploma

Pass the required Cambridge exams to earn the AICE Diploma alongside your high school diploma.

$$ Save on college tuition

If your college awards credit for your Cambridge exams, you may pay for fewer courses.

Two Graduation Pathways

Blended Pathway

AP + Cambridge with elective choices

AICE Diploma Pathway

AP + planned Cambridge diploma sequence



Both pathways meet high school requirements and offer opportunities to earn college credit.

A Ninth-Grade Schedule

Blended Pathway

- Cambridge English General Paper
- Geometry
- Biology I Honors
- AP Human Geography
- Two elective spaces

AICE Diploma Pathway

- Cambridge English General Paper
- Geometry
- Biology I Honors
- AP Human Geography
- Cambridge Psychology
- One elective space

Sample six-course schedules. Prior credits and graduation requirements affect placement.

AICE Pathway Course Plan

Ninth Grade Entry: 2027–28

Subject	9th 2027–28	10th 2028–29	11th 2029–30
Mathematics	Geometry	Advanced Algebra	AP Precalculus
English	**English General Paper (AS)**	**English Language (AS)**	**Literature in English (AS)**
Science	Biology I Honors	Pre-AP Chemistry	**Environmental Management (AS)**
Social Studies	AP Human Geography	AP World History	AP US History
AICE Elective Options	**Psychology**	**Thinking Skills** **Classical Studies** **Global Perspectives** **Spanish Language**	**Global Perspectives*** **Thinking Skills** **Spanish Language**

Grade 10: choose 1 of 4 electives. Some students take 2.
Global Perspectives: required in grade 11 if not taken in grade 10.
Classical Studies: grade 10 only; exam in fall of grade 11.
Spanish: Cambridge Pre-Advanced Spanish 2 + teacher recommendation.

Earning the AICE Diploma

Earn at least 7 AICE credits within 25 months, including the required AS Level Global Perspectives & Research credit and at least one credit from each of Groups 1, 2 and 3.

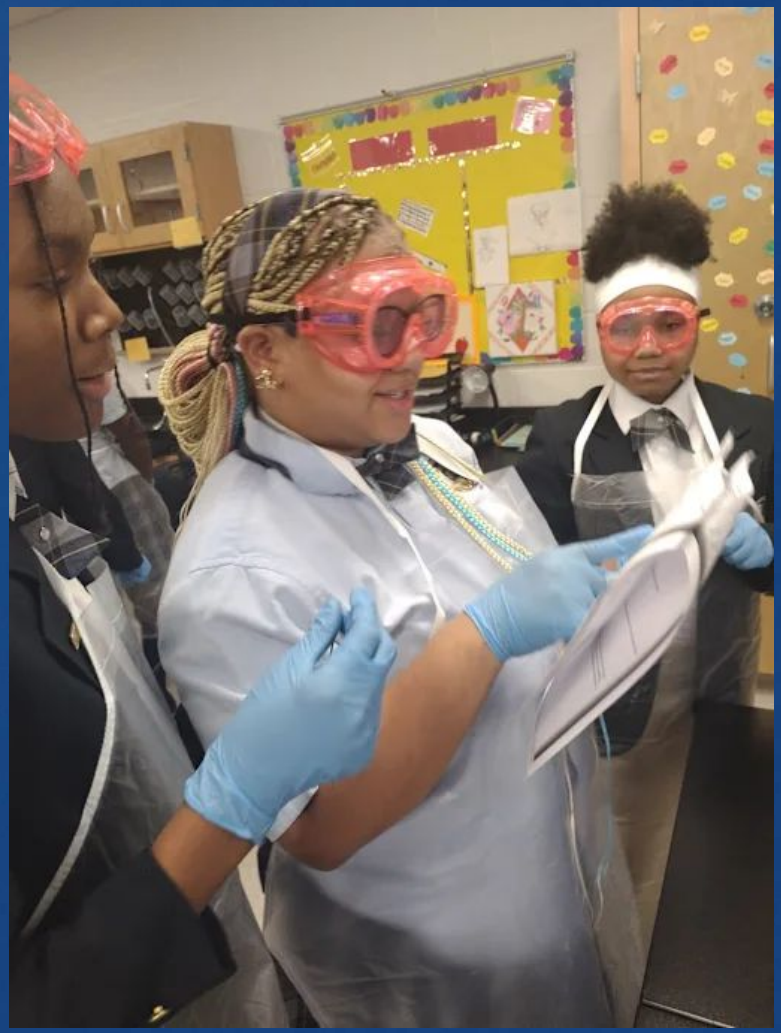
Group 1 Math & Science	Group 2 Languages	Group 3 Arts & Humanities	Group 4 Interdisciplinary Studies
Psychology*	English Language	Classical Studies	English General Paper
Environmental Management*	Spanish Language	Literature in English	Thinking Skills

AS Level = 1 AICE Diploma credit
A maximum of 2 Group 4 credits can count toward the diploma

*Psychology and Environmental Management can count in Group 1 or 3, once per subject.

What Will Students Do?

- Read closely and compare different viewpoints.
- Build clear arguments using reliable evidence.
- Apply knowledge to unfamiliar questions and real-world problems.
- Investigate questions, share findings and improve through feedback.



Expectations & Support

Student Habits

- Use a planner and track deadlines.
- Read and study consistently.
- Practice writing with evidence.
- Use feedback to improve.
- Ask for help early.

When Work Gets Difficult

- Contact the teacher with specific questions.
- Review feedback and missed concepts.
- Ask about available extra help.
- Include your family in the plan.
- Contact the coordinator about pathway concerns.

Cambridge Success at ESA

6 ESA scholars: the first in Georgia's history to earn the AICE Diploma

AS Level exam pass rates, 2025–26*

AS Level Subject	ESA	U.S. National
English General Paper	93%	67%
English Language	73%	53%
Psychology	62%	44%
Thinking Skills	91%	61%
Global Perspectives & Research	97%	75%
Environmental Management	63%	59%
Spanish Language	45%	96%
Classical Studies (2024–25)	100%	70.7%

*Classical Studies: 2024–25. Other subjects: 2025–26.
Results vary by subject and cohort.

In Our Students' Words

Mayra Angel

AICE Diploma Recipient



Future goal
Psychology and clinical social work

"This pathway taught me perseverance and dedication, broadened my perspective, and challenged me to become more thoughtful in everything I do."

Denzel Garcia Padilla

AICE Diploma Recipient



Future goal
Mechanical engineering and robotics

"The experience shaped me into a well-rounded thinker and master of time management."

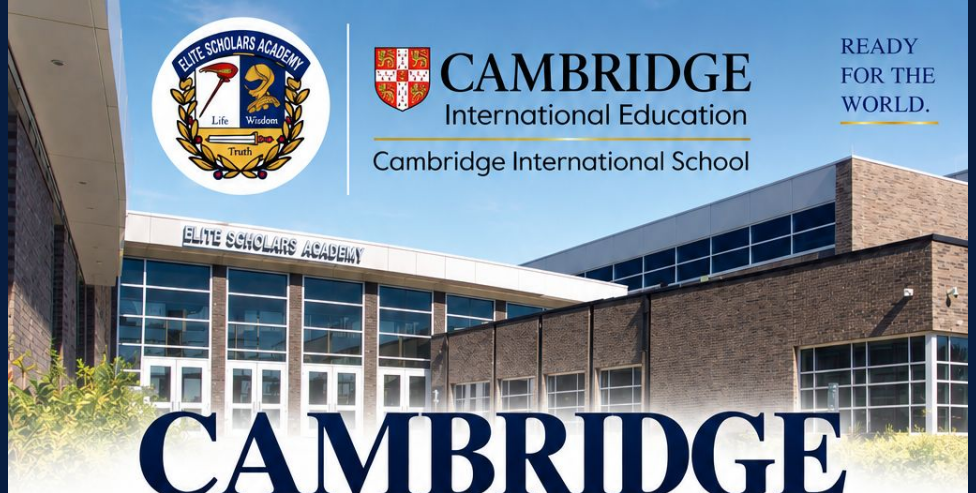
AICE, AP & Dual Enrollment

- AP courses remain part of both ESA pathways.
- ESA's AICE plan begins in ninth grade and targets completion by the end of junior year.
- Dual enrollment may be available in junior and senior years, depending on eligibility and the course plan.

AP®

CollegeBoard





ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY
Life Wisdom Truth

CAMBRIDGE
International Education
Cambridge International School

READY FOR THE WORLD.

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

AT ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY

A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION. BRIGHTER OPPORTUNITIES.

Attention 8th Grade Parents!

Would you like to learn more about the Cambridge International Program and our AICE Diploma Pathway?

Join us for an Information Session to discover how Cambridge provides a rigorous, globally recognized education that prepares students for success in high school, college, and beyond.

AICE DIPLOMA
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED. COLLEGE-READY. REAL-WORLD PREPARED.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST 6 AICE DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS!

RIGOROUS ACADEMICS
College-level courses that build critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

COLLEGE PREPARATION
Earn college credit opportunities and develop the skills for future success.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
Understand diverse cultures and become informed, responsible global citizens.

REAL-WORLD SKILLS
Be curious, creative, and innovative as you explore new ideas and solve problems.

PREPARED LEARNERS
Confident, responsible, reflective, and engaged in their learning and community.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
6:00 PM

VIA ZOOM
Join from the comfort of your home!

Scan the QR code to register or click the link below.

REGISTER HERE

https://clayton-k12-ga-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/1WkXOOdlQoSbXQR_ONLOvQ

Royal Knights
AT ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY
COLLEGE STARTS HERE.

Application Timeline

- Applications open: Friday, November 6, 2026
- Application deadline: Tuesday, December 15, 2026
- Notifications: January 2027 via email only
- Parent–Student Acknowledgement form: sent home for signatures in January 2027



Scan to Apply
2027–28 AICE Pathway

Open the 2027–28 AICE Application

Questions & Next Steps

Apply & Explore Cambridge

2027–28 AICE Pathway Application

Cambridge Course Offerings & Descriptions

Scan the QR code or select a link.

Dr. Justin Spurley
Magnet/Cambridge Coordinator
justin.spurley@clayton.k12.ga.us

Reference: Blended Course Plan

Ninth Grade Entry: 2027–28

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Mathematics	Geometry	Advanced Algebra	AP Precalculus
English	English General Paper (AS)	English Language (AS)	AP English Language
Science	Biology I Honors	Pre-AP Chemistry	AP Environmental Science or AP Chemistry
Social Studies	AP Human Geography	AP World History	AP US History
Electives	Requirements and interests	Requirements and interests	Requirements and interests

Planning guide. Placement depends on prerequisites and course availability.

Reference: College Credit

- Check the college's policy for the exact AS Level exam.
- Review the score required and the college course awarded.
- Ask whether the credit meets a major, general education or elective requirement.
- Send official Cambridge results when the college requires them.
- Overlapping AP, AICE and DE courses may not earn duplicate credit.

Search Cambridge Recognition & Credit Policies

College Credit from AS Exams

- Qualifying AS exam scores may earn college credit. Each college sets its own policy.
- Check the required score and college course awarded for each AS subject.
- Ask how credit applies to your intended degree. Overlapping credits may count only once.
- Send official Cambridge results as required by the college.

Individual qualifying exams may earn credit without the full AICE Diploma.

KSU AS Level Credit Policy

Cambridge Credit Search