



THE SCHOOL

Founded in 2008 as a model secondary school, Loudoun School for Advanced Studies was the first co-educational and secular independent high school in Loudoun County. We added a middle school in 2012 to provide a stronger foundation for younger students. Our school was formerly known as Ideal Schools High School and Loudoun School for the Gifted. In 2019, we moved to our new campus to accommodate a growing student population.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

The Loudoun School for Advanced Studies offers a rigorous academic program, designed to challenge and inspire students, along with an accepting social environment. We encourage our students to read widely and think critically so that they will confront complex, real-world problems with optimism, creativity, and determination.

CEEB 470138

**Accredited by
AdvancED (SACS)**

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ENROLLMENT

High School:32
Middle School:36

**FACULTY &
ADMINISTRATION**

Teaching Faculty:.....14
Faculty with Advanced
Degrees:.....11
Faculty with PhDs:.....4
Student-Faculty Ratio:...4:1
Average Class Size: ... 8-10

**GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS**

(Advanced Diploma)
English4
Foreign Language3
Mathematics4
Social Science4
Laboratory Science4
Electives7
Total26

SAT MEAN

Reading/Writing706
Math742

ACT MEAN35

ACADEMIC POLICY AND GRADING SCALE

- LSAS does not rank students.
- The standard academic load is five core academic courses per semester plus electives.
- Weighted and unweighted GPA is reported on the official transcript.
- Since 2017-2018, LSAS reports course grades on the transcript using the 100 point scale to promote transparency. End-of-term/end-of-year GPA will be based on the 4-point scale.
- GPA is calculated on a 4-point scale.
- GPA is weighted by an additional 1.0 for AP courses and 0.5 for Advanced classes.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

- Courses at LSAS are taught at an Honors-comparable level.
- Some courses are designated "Advanced" to represent an additional level of rigor.
- Courses are one or two semesters long.
- Students engage in discussion-based seminar classes.
- Courses are designed around college-level texts.

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES 2021-2022

English

- American Classics: Moby Dick

Social Science

- Philosophy Wars (Advanced)

Laboratory Science

- AP Physics C: Mechanics and E&M

Mathematics

- AP Calculus BC
- Linear Algebra with Applications

Foreign Language

- AP French
- Spanish 4

Electives

- Biochemistry (Advanced)
- AP Computer Science Principles

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- LSAS is not AP-driven.
- Teacher recommendation and strong academic standing are required for AP enrollment.
- LSAS offers AP courses in subjects where the curriculum meets our expectations.

AP offerings for 2021-2022:

- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Physics C: Mechanics
- Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- Physics 1
- French
- Computer Science Principles

Previous AP offerings (2018-2021):

- Biology
- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Chemistry
- Spanish
- US History
- 2D Art & Design
- Drawing

AP Results (for 2020 - 2021):

- 96% of AP tests taken resulted in scores of a 3 or higher.

ACADEMIC MILESTONE PROJECTS

(details on page two)

- Tenth Grade Research Seminar: Investigation & Outreach
- Eleventh Grade Individual Study (Optional): Personal Goals and Deep Study
- Senior Research and Practicum: Professional Readiness and Leadership

GRADING SCALE

A..... (93-100)= 4.0	C..... (73-76)= 2.0
A-..... (90-92)= 3.7	C-..... (70-72)= 1.7
B+..... (87-89)= 3.3	D+..... (67-69)= 1.3
B..... (83-86)= 3.0	D..... (64-66)= 1.0
B-..... (80-82)= 2.7	F..... (below 64)= 0.0
C+..... (77-79)= 2.3	

RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As a school, we were well prepared for the shift to full online learning in early March 2020, and didn't lose any learning time in the transition. Classes in the spring of 2020 were run in real time online with each student required to be on camera and participate as they would if we were still in the physical space. Teachers used Google Meet to present material, hold class discussions, and give assessments. Students followed their same schedule and classes continued through the rest of the school year, covering all planned material, including the entirety of AP class curriculum. High school students were given the option to take a number grade of a P/F for their spring semester. During Spring 2020, all onsite clubs and activities were cancelled. In the fall of 2020, we offered students the ability to attend school in person or virtually (with the flexibility to do either as needed). Students who chose to attend class online joined using a Zoom link. There were cameras and monitors in each classroom, allowing for full participation and communication between students and staff online and in the physical space. Due to the need for social distancing and limitations of classroom size and staff, we did not offer as many electives and other advanced level courses as we would in a normal school year. Clubs and activities have resumed and students are encouraged to be involved and active. This fall (2021), we have returned to in-person learning and all activities are being held on campus.

HIGH SCHOOL OBJECTIVES AND MILESTONE PROJECTS

This section sets forth: (1) our high school program objectives in five areas, (2) our daily advisory period, and (3) specific milestone projects in our academic program, with the goal of independent and original work.

Program Objectives

1. Knowledge & Reasoning

- Enduring learning in academic courses
- Deep dive into college-level content in core academic subjects
- Evidence of independent investigation and sophisticated reasoning about complex questions and problems

2. Academic Skills & Work Habits

- Define and pursue personal academic and civic goals
- Work independently towards learning more about and achieving these goals for intrinsic reasons
- Be self-reliant

3. Networking & Communal Learning

- Seek honest feedback to work towards mastery
- Present work orally, and prepare work to reach audiences outside the school
- Work with experts outside of school to conduct research and to build "professional" networks
- Work to develop poise

4. Justified Optimism & Self-Reliance

- Act on the principle that positive change can happen, and that you can initiate or participate in long-term efforts to make positive change

5. Social Awareness & Emotional Intelligence

- Introductions, courtesy, gratitude, eye contact, respect (includes listening), etiquette, appropriate language, dressing for success, conflict

Advisory

During each school day, the whole school community gathers to discuss a topic raised by either a student or a faculty member. Topics are often drawn from recent headlines, whether that means global politics, the sciences, or the arts. This time is an opportunity for both teachers and students to share their interests and passions. In the past, students have discussed their summer internships, announced new clubs, highlighted local causes, and challenged their peers to trivia contests. We believe advisory is a daily reminder that the school is also an intellectual community.

Milestone Projects

Tenth Grade Research Seminar: Investigation & Outreach:

The tenth-grade milestone prepares students to engage in self-directed learning. In a semester-long seminar, each student develops an independent research project of their own design. During regular class meetings, students learn research methods, discuss their progress, and receive feedback from a faculty mentor. At the conclusion of the course, each student delivers a formal presentation to the school community.

Junior and Senior Independent Study (Optional): Leadership, College Readiness, and Life-Long Learning

In the eleventh and twelfth grades, students have the opportunity to earn one or two course credits for an optional independent study. They must prepare and defend an original proposal to a panel of faculty and then fulfill the conditions of their proposal. Based on the college model, this independent study requires each student to design a reading list, timetable, and final product. Regular one-on-one meetings with a faculty mentor support student learning and accountability. Juniors are encouraged to build on their work during senior year, with the goal of exploring a future college major or career path. We want our students to learn how experts work and think. Seniors who pursue outside internships have the opportunity to treat their work as an independent study. Students present their work to the school community at the end of the year.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Allegheny College
- American University
- Baylor University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western University
- Christopher Newport University
- Clemson University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Cornell University
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Eckerd College
- George Mason University (Honors College)
- Gettysburg College
- James Madison University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kenyon College
- Middlebury College
- NC State University
- Oberlin College
- Occidental College
- Pepperdine University
- Purdue University
- Reed College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Stetson University
- The New School
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of California San Diego
- University of Richmond
- University of Tennessee
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- Ursinus College
- Vassar College
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Tech)
- William & Mary
- Williams College