

THE SCHOOL

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

ACADEMIC FOCUS

Loudoun School for Advanced Studies offers a rigorous academic program designed to challenge and inspire students in an inclusive social environment. Students are encouraged to read widely and think critically so they will confront complex, real-world problems with optimism, creativity and determination.

CEEB: 470138

Accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools-Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA- CESS)

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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 Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Enrollment (DE) courses, and 0.5 for Advanced classes.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

- **All courses at LSAS are taught at a Honors-comparable level, unless otherwise stated.**
- Some courses are designated as "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 2023-2024

English

- AP Language & Composition

Social Science

- World War II

Laboratory Science

- AP Chemistry

Mathematics

- AP Calculus BC
- Multivariable Calculus

Foreign Language

- AP French

Electives

- AP Computer Science A
- AP Music Theory

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

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

AP offerings for 2024-2025 include

- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- French Language & Culture
- English Language & Composition
- Music Theory

Additional prior AP offerings (2020-2024)

- 2-D Studio Art and Design
- Biology
- Computer Science Principles
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Physics 1
- Physics C: Mechanics
- Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- Spanish Language & Culture

AP Results (for 2023-2024)

- 77% of AP tests taken resulted in a score of 3 or higher.

GRADING SCALE

A+.....(98-100).....	4.3
A.....(93-97).....	4.0
A-.....(90-92).....	3.7
B+.....(87-89).....	3.3
B.....(83-86).....	3.0
B-.....(80-82).....	2.7
C+.....(77-79).....	2.3
C.....(73-76).....	2.0
C-.....(70-72).....	1.7
D+.....(67-69).....	1.3
D.....(64-66).....	1.0
F.....(below 64).....	0.0

ENROLLMENT

High School.....	21
Middle School.....	13

FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION

Teaching Faculty.....	15
Faculty with Advanced Degrees.....	9
Faculty with PhDs.....	3
Student-Faculty Ratio...:	4:1
Average Class Size.....	6

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Virginia Advanced Studies)	
English.....	4
Foreign Language.....	3
Mathematics.....	4
Social Science.....	4
Laboratory Science.....	4
Electives.....	7
Total.....	26

SAT MEAN

Reading/Writing.....	675
Math.....	658

HIGH SCHOOL OBJECTIVES, AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS; PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONE PROJECTS

This section sets forth (1) our high school program objectives in five areas, (2) accolades and recognitions our school and students have achieved in the past academic year, (3) our Signature courses, advisory period, and independent study opportunities, and (4) specific milestone projects in our academic program, with the goal of fostering 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 Skill & 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 toward mastery
- Present work orally, and prepare work to reach audiences outside the school

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 resolution

Awards and Recognitions

Loudoun School for Advanced Studies was recognized with Platinum distinction on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll

Four students received recognition in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program, one Semifinalist, and three Commended.

Program Highlights

Signature Courses

Topic-driven courses emulate the experience of an advanced college seminar: we explore a specialized subject with high-level material, open-ended discussion, challenging assessments, and cumulative projects. Signature Courses are designed to show how rich and compelling deep learning can be. They reflect both the expertise of our teachers and the intellectual ambition of our students. We believe that no other secondary school in the region offers comparable courses, with the focus and rigor of college course-work. By delving into complex topics, students build a real love of inquiry, overcome their fear of uncertainty, and discover their intellectual independence.

Advisory

Every day the entire 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, and may feature guest presenters. This time is an opportunity for both teachers and students to share their interests and passions. Throughout the past year, advisories included such topics as "Salman Rushdie: Writing as a death-defying act", "The Implications of ChatGPT in Schools and Beyond", "Measuring the Shape of the Universe", and "Peace and Conflict Resolution." We believe advisory serves as a reminder that school is also an intellectual community.

Independent Study

Provides an opportunity for students to pursue a subject or project of interest beyond the normal curricular offerings, under the mentorship of a faculty advisor.

Milestone Projects

Eleventh Grade Deep Dive

In the eleventh grade, students have the opportunity to earn up to one course credit for this independent study. They must prepare and defend an original proposal 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 their Senior Internship.

Senior Internship: Leadership, Career and College Readiness

We want our students to learn how professionals work and think. With this in mind, the goal of the Senior Internship is to explore a future college major or career path through hand-on, relevant work experience. Seniors participate in outside internships and are given the opportunity to treat their work as an independent study. Students reflect on their work in a presentation to the school community at the end of the semester.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Schools in **bold** represent matriculation by the most recent graduating classes (2023 & 2024)

Alleghany 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 University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Macalester College
Marymount University
Middlebury College
Misericordia University
Mt. St. Mary's University
NC State University
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Old Dominion University
Pepperdine University
Purdue University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Sarah Lawrence College
The New School
Temple University in Japan
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Diego
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
Ursinus College
Vassar College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech)
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
William & Mary (James Monroe Scholar)
William & Mary / St. Andrews Joint Degree Programme
Williams College
Wooster College