601 Catoctin Circle, NE
Davis Cottage #613
Leesburg, VA 20176
www.loudounschool.org
Phone: 703-956-5020

Loudoun School for Advanced Studies

2026-2027 School Profile

HISTORY

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, LSAS became a non-profit institution in the summer of 2025.

MISSION STATEMENT

We serve exceptional students whose needs are not adequately met in traditional public education by creating an inclusive academic community where they develop a deep sense of belonging and curiosity, are empowered to think critically, and discover true meaning in their learning, so they can face the world with courage, kindness, and confidence.

CURRICULUM & GRADING

- ***All courses at LSAS are taught at an 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-style classes.
- LSAS does not rank students.
- Weighted and unweighted GPA is reported on the official transcript.
- GPA is weighted by an additional 1.0 for Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Enrollment (DE) courses, and 0.5 for Advanced classes.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Range	Points
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

HIGHEST LEVEL COURSES

2025-2026 & 2026-2027

- English
  - AP Literature & Composition
- Social Science
  - Philosophy Wars
  - Behave & Consciousness
  - Protest & Dissent
  - Political Leadership
- Laboratory Science
  - AP Biology
  - AP Physics 1
  - AP Physics C: Mechanics and E&M
- Mathematics
  - Multivariable Calculus
  - AP Calculus BC
  - Statistics
- Foreign Language
  - AP French Language & Culture
  - AP Spanish Language & Culture
- Electives
  - AP Art History

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.
- Offerings vary from year-to-year, depending on student interest and teacher availability.
- In 2026, 85% of AP tests resulted in score of 3 or higher.

CEEB: 470138

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

Meghan Marinos
Head of School
mmarinos@loudounschool.org
240-446-7952

Sarah Derr
Academic Director
sderr@loudounschool.org
703-956-5020 ext. 105

Marta MacNamara
Director of Admissions
mmacnamara@loudounschool.org
703-956-5020 ext. 103

ENROLLMENT

High School.....11
Middle School.....21

FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION

Teaching Faculty.....12
Faculty with Adv. Degrees.....7
Faculty with PhDs.....2
Student-Faculty Ratio.....3:1
Average Class Size.....6

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English.....4
Foreign Language.....3
Mathematics.....4
Social Science.....4
Laboratory Science.....4
Electives.....7
Total.....26

SAT MEAN (2024-2026)

Total.....1344
Math.....686
Reading & Writing.....658

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

Knowledge & Reasoning

Develops strong critical thinking skills and engages in deep investigation and sophisticated reasoning about complex questions and problems.

Academic Skill & Work Habits

Defines and pursues personal academic and civic goals. Works independently towards learning more about and achieving these goals for intrinsic reasons. Demonstrates self-reliance.

Networking & Communal Learning

Seeks honest feedback to work toward mastery. Effectively presents work orally, and has prepared work to reach audiences outside the school.

Justified Optimism & Self-Reliance

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

Social Awareness & Emotional Intelligence

Demonstrates appropriate etiquette, active listening skills, and conflict resolution. Looks for the good in others.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Signature Courses

These topic-driven courses emulate the experience of an advanced college seminar, exploring a specialized subject or theme with high-level material, open-ended discussion, challenging assessments, and cumulative projects. They reflect both the expertise of LSAS teachers and the intellectual ambition of students. By delving into complex topics, students build a real love of inquiry, overcome their fear of uncertainty, and discover their intellectual independence.

Advisory

Each afternoon, the entire school gathers to learn, engage, and build community during advisory. Advisory sessions often include individual student- or faculty-led presentations about particular interests and passions, current event discussions, or games and challenges that encourage students to collaborate within groups. A recurring favorite activity is Cake Time, where the students sit in a circle and share baked goods while actively working together to solve problems that affect the school community. Opportunities for social emotional learning and community service round out the advisory schedule.

Independent Study

Independent study provides an opportunity for students to pursue a subject or project of interest beyond the normal curricular offerings. Independent studies typically require each student to design a reading list, timetable, and final product to be presented to the full school. Regular one-on-one meetings with a faculty mentor support student learning and accountability.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized with Platinum distinction on the 2025 AP School Honor Roll.
- 1 student commended in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Awarded 2026 Best School, Best High School Teacher, and Best Middle School Teacher by Ashburn Magazine.
- Received an A+ and 2026 Best Schools rating from Niche.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Classes of 2023-2026 in bold.

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
Mount St. Mary's University
Mount Holyoke
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
St. John's College
The New School
Temple University in Japan
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Virginia (Rodman Scholar)
Ursinus College
Vassar College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
William & Mary (James Monroe Scholar)
William & Mary / St. Andrews Joint Degree Programme
Williams College
Wooster College