



The  
Northwest  
School

1415 Summit Avenue · Seattle, WA 98122 · 206.682.7309  
[northwestschool.org](http://northwestschool.org)

2025-2026

# Profile for Colleges

CEEB Code: 481127

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## Community Profile

- 360 students 6-12
- 254 Upper School students
- Class of 2026: 78 students

### Upper School Diversity

- 85% domestic
- 15% international
- 14% of domestic students identify as students of color
- Students of color comprise 44% of total student body
- 21% of Upper School students receive need-based financial assistance

The Northwest School is an independent, co-ed day and boarding school for students in grades 6-12, located in a historic building in the Capitol Hill/First Hill neighborhood of Seattle, WA.

### Accreditation

The Northwest School is accredited by the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS) and approved by the Washington State Board of Education.

## Our Mission

The Northwest School offers a faculty who engage each student in sequential, cross-disciplinary study in the Humanities, Sciences, and the Arts.

We are a diverse community of people who challenge each other to learn in a healthy, creative, and collaborative atmosphere of respect for ourselves, others, and the environment.

We graduate students with historical, scientific, artistic, and global perspective, enabling them to think and act with integrity, believing they have a positive impact on the world.

## Our Program

We offer an interdisciplinary liberal arts program which includes an expansive study of humanities, the arts, world languages, mathematics and natural sciences. Our students learn to read critically, write cogently, think broadly, and solve complex problems.

### Humanities Program

Students pursue an integrated and sequential study of world civilizations in grades 9-11, fulfilling English and social science requirements in a double-credit course. The program incorporates history, literature, philosophy, and art through weekly lectures, discussion seminars, and writing tutorials. In grade 12, students complete a trimester-long civics course and two history/cultural studies electives to complete Northwest's social science requirement, as well as three trimester-long English electives.

### Global Perspective

We believe that having an in-depth understanding and appreciation of different cultures prepares students for a diverse and interconnected world, and our distinctive population gives all our students, regardless of their country of origin, direct access to global perspectives right on our campus. We provide several opportunities for Upper School students to develop into global citizens, including short-term educational programs in countries which recently included Spain, Costa Rica, Japan, Morocco, and Cambodia, and a third-trimester study away program at one of our partner schools in Taipei, Taiwan; Angers, France; and Seville, Spain.

### Arts Emphasis

Believing that experience in the arts is essential to creative work and problem-solving across all disciplines, The Northwest School offers over 50 courses in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. Courses are taught by professional artists who are also expert teachers. Students generally take two arts electives each year.

### Living Our Values

Northwest's curriculum and co-curricular activities are centered on our core values of social justice, environmental sustainability, and global engagement. We foster an understanding that responsibility for the needs of the community does not lie with one individual or group, but with every student. While students are encouraged and supported to grow as leaders in school and community life, many traditional leadership roles, such as an elected student government, do not exist. Similarly, the school does not confer academic or departmental awards upon students.

# Curriculum

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<b>Humanities</b>	Humanities 9 Humanities 9-ELL	Humanities 10 Humanities 10-ELL	<b>Humanities 11</b> <b>Humanities 11 - Transitional</b>	<b>Civics</b> · <i>single-trimester class taken by all students</i>  Humanities 12 · <i>trimester-long Social Studies Electives:</i> <b>Africana Studies</b> <b>Introduction to Political Science</b> <b>Media Studies</b> <b>Modern Latin American History</b> <b>Prison Studies</b>  Humanities 12 · <i>trimester-long Language Arts Electives:</i> <b>Creative Writing</b> <b>Japanese Literature</b> <b>Latin American Art and Literature</b> <b>Postcolonial Literature</b> <b>Shakespeare Studies</b>
<b>Math</b>	Geometry Algebra I Algebra II Pre-Calculus	Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus <b>Calculus</b>	Algebra II Math Analysis Pre-Calculus <b>Calculus</b> <b>Advanced Calculus</b>	Statistics Pre-Calculus <b>Calculus</b> <b>Advanced Calculus</b> <b>Advanced Topics in Mathematics</b>
<b>Science</b>	Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry	<b>Advanced Biology</b> <b>Advanced Biology: Environmental Science</b> <b>Advanced Chemistry</b> <b>Physics</b> <b>Physics with Calculus</b>
<b>Modern Languages</b>	Chinese I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> French I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <b>V</b> , & <b>VI</b> Beginning Grammar/ Writing-ELL	Chinese I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> French I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <b>V</b> , & <b>VI</b> Intermediate Grammar/ Writing-ELL	Chinese I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> French I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <b>V</b> , & <b>VI</b> English Comp & Advanced Grammar-ELL	Chinese I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> French I, II, III, <b>IV</b> , & <b>V</b> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <b>V</b> , & <b>VI</b> <b>Advanced English Composition</b> <b>Advanced Spanish Tutorial</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Electives</b>	<i>Courses include:</i> Advanced Art * Advanced Choir * Advanced Theatre Production * Ceramics Choir Computer Science Principles Concert Band * Costume Design I	Creative Contemporary Dance Drawing Graphic Design House Band * Intermediate Studio Art Jazz Band * Journalism Latin Social Dance	Line Dance and Lindy Hop Peer Mentoring Performance Lab Performing Dance Ensemble 1 * & 2 * Photography Popular Musics Programming I & II * Radio and Recording Arts *	Sculpture Songwriting and Guitar Stage Design and Technology String Orchestra * Video & Animation Vocal Collective * Watercolor and Related Media
<b>Physical Education</b>	The two-year physical education requirement may be fulfilled by P.E. classes, outdoor education, dance, fitness, or team sports.			

The courses in **bold** represent the most rigorous courses and are considered above an honors level.

\* Indicates an audition- or portfolio-based admission to the class

Course Descriptions are available at [www.northwestschool.org/our-programs/upper-school-curriculum](http://www.northwestschool.org/our-programs/upper-school-curriculum)

## Academic Calendar

The Northwest School operates on a trimester calendar. The school day generally consists of four 75-minute classes on a rotation. A daily flex period allows for faculty/student conferences, advisory, a weekly community meeting, and student interest groups.

## Diploma Requirements

The Northwest School requires the following minimum course of study in the Upper School:

**Humanities** – 4 years

**Mathematics** – 3 or 4 years\*

**Science** – 3 or 4 years\*

**Modern Languages** – 3 or 4 years\*

**Visual & Performing Arts** – 4 years

**Physical Education** – 2 years

*\* Most seniors take a fourth year of study in Modern Language, Math, and Science. All seniors must take a fourth year of study in two of the three: Modern Languages, Math, or Science*

## Discipline & Disclosure

The Northwest School takes seriously our mission to graduate students who “think and act with integrity.” Conversations about ethical conduct are proactive, and discipline is viewed as a restorative and educational process. The College Counseling office does not disclose student disciplinary records in the college application process, as we believe that the responsibility of such disclosure rests with the student. In the fall of 12th grade, all seniors and parents/guardians sign and submit a document titled *The Northwest School Certification of Honorable and Ethical Behavior in the Admissions Process*, indicating their agreement with the following:

- Students will be the sole authors of their college applications.
- Students will respect the terms of binding Early Decision plans.
- Students will abide by colleges' score reporting policies.
- Students will honestly answer disciplinary questions on college applications.
- Students understand that offers of admission are contingent upon successful completion of high school work.
- Students will commit to matriculate at one college at a time.

## Honors Coursework

All students follow a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. While no courses are titled as such, all coursework at The Northwest School is taught at or above the honors level. The courses in **bold** on the Curriculum grid are considered above honors level.

## Grading

Written evaluations and grades are given at the end of each term. All grades are unweighted and included in the student's cumulative NWS GPA.

## Statement on Testing

It has been challenging for many years for Seattle-area students to access national testing locations in the metro area, and these challenges were only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the small class sizes at The Northwest School and the diminishing number of students who have opted to sit for official standardized tests in the admissions process, the Northwest School College Counseling office no longer has reliable or comprehensive testing information to share with colleges. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about standardized testing for Northwest School students.

# College Matriculation The Northwest School classes of 2021-2025\*

American University · 1	Georgetown University · 1	Roosevelt University · 1	<b>University of Denver</b> · 2
<b>Amherst College</b> · 1	Goldsmiths, University of London · 1	Saint Louis University, Madrid · 1	University of Hawaii at Manoa · 1
Art Center College of Design · 1	Gonzaga University · 1	San Diego State University · 1	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign · 2
Bard College · 1	Hamilton College · 2	<b>Santa Clara University</b> · 9	University of Massachusetts (Amherst) · 1
Barnard College · 2	Haverford College · 2	Savannah College of Art and Design · 1	University of Miami · 1
Bates College · 1	Hawai'i Pacific University · 1	<b>School of the Art Institute of Chicago</b> · 1	<b>University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)</b> · 2
Bellevue College · 1	Howard University · 1	School of Visual Arts · 1	University of New Haven · 1
Belmont University · 2	Kalamazoo College · 1	Sciences Po Paris · 1	University of Oregon · 3
Beloit College · 1	Kenyon College · 1	Scripps College · 4	University of Puget Sound · 1
Bentley University · 3	Lawrence University · 1	<b>Seattle University</b> · 9	University of Richmond · 2, 2
<b>Berklee College of Music</b> · 2	<b>Lehigh University</b> · 2	Skidmore College · 2	<b>University of San Diego</b> · 3
<b>Boston College</b> · 1	Lewis & Clark College · 4	<b>St. Olaf College</b> · 1	<b>University of San Francisco</b> · 2
<b>Boston University</b> · 4	Loyola Marymount University · 5	Swarthmore College · 2	University of Southern California · 7
Bowdoin College · 1	Loyola University Chicago · 1	<b>Syracuse University</b> · 4	University of St Andrews · 1
Brown University · 1	<b>Macalester College</b> · 3	Temple University · 1	University of Toronto · 2
<b>Bryn Mawr College</b> · 3	Marymount Manhattan College · 1	The New School · 4	University of Vermont · 1
<b>California College of the Arts</b> · 1	McDaniel College · 1	The Ohio State University · 1	<b>University of Victoria</b> · 1
<b>California Institute of the Arts</b> · 1	McGill University · 2	The University of Edinburgh · 1	<b>University of Virginia (Main Campus)</b> · 2
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) · 1	<b>Middlebury College</b> · 3	The University of Texas at Austin · 2	University of Washington (Bothell Campus) · 1
Carleton College · 6	Millsaps College · 1	Trinity College Dublin · 3	<b>University of Washington (Seattle)</b> · 3, 3
Carnegie Mellon University · 2	Montana State University · 1	<b>Tufts University</b> · 7	<b>University of Wisconsin (Madison)</b> · 3
<b>Case Western Reserve University</b> · 1	Mount Holyoke College · 1	<b>Tulane University of Louisiana</b> · 3	University of Wyoming · 1
Chapman University · 3	Muhlenberg College · 2	Union College · 2	<b>Ursinus College</b> · 1
Claremont McKenna College · 2	<b>New York University</b> · 11	University College Dublin · 2	Vanderbilt University · 1
<b>College of Charleston</b> · 1	<b>Northeastern University</b> · 3	University of Arizona · 1	<b>Vassar College</b> · 8
Colorado State University (Fort Collins) · 2	Northwestern University · 1	<b>University of British Columbia</b> · 4	<b>Villanova University</b> · 2
Connecticut College · 1	Oberlin College · 3	University of California (Berkeley) · 1	<b>Washington State University</b> · 1
Cornell University · 3	<b>Occidental College</b> · 10	<b>University of California (Davis)</b> · 2	<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> · 3
Culinary Institute of America · 1	<b>Olin College of Engineering</b> · 1	<b>University of California (Irvine)</b> · 5	Wellesley College · 1
<b>Dartmouth College</b> · 2	<b>Oregon State University</b> · 5	<b>University of California (Los Angeles)</b> · 3	Wesleyan University · 4
<b>Denison University</b> · 1	Oxford College of Emory University · 2	University of California (Riverside) · 2	<b>Western Washington University</b> · 7
DigiPen Institute of Technology · 2	<b>Pace University (New York City)</b> · 1	<b>University of California (San Diego)</b> · 9	<b>Whitman College</b> · 1, 3
Eckerd College · 1	<b>Parsons School of Design at The New School</b> · 3	<b>University of California (Santa Barbara)</b> · 2	Willamette University · 4
<b>Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne</b> · 1	<b>Pepperdine University</b> · 3	<b>University of California (Santa Cruz)</b> · 4	<b>Williams College</b> · 2
<b>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott)</b> · 1	<b>Pitzer College</b> · 11	University of Colorado Boulder · 3	Worcester Polytechnic Institute · 1
Emerson College · 1	Pomona College · 4		
<b>Emily Carr University of Art &amp; Design</b> · 1	Purdue University (Main Campus) · 1		
Emory University · 3	<b>Reed College</b> · 4		
Fordham University · 1	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute · 1		
<b>George Washington University</b> · 3	Rochester Institute of Technology · 1		

\* *bolded institutions represent at least one member of the class of 2025*

**99% of the class of 2025 indicated plans to enroll in a 4-year college or university.**