



Thayer Academy

Inspiring students since 1877

SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

William T. (Ted) Koskores
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Highley Thompson
UPPER SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Galen McNemar Hamann
MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Thad Robey
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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

Thayer Academy students thrive in an environment distinguished by rigorous academics, a supportive culture, and a vibrant community. Thayer's unique schedule allows students to participate in a balanced program of academics, athletics, arts, and service.

This independent, coeducational day school for students in grades 5-12 is located in the historic district of Braintree, Massachusetts. The school was established by the bequest of Sylvanus Thayer, "Father of the U.S. Military Academy" at West Point and founder of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College. Thayer is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and the Association of Independent Schools in New England, is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and has had a chapter of the Cum Laude Society since 1930. Easily accessible from the Red Line, the commuter rail, and five Thayer buses, Thayer draws students from 76 communities, three countries, and a wide range of backgrounds—which further enriches and differentiates the student experience.

Thayer's mission "to inspire a diverse community of students to moral, intellectual, aesthetic and physical excellence" is evident in Thayer students pursuing a rigorous academic schedule while also participating in the school's rich arts offerings and athletic tradition. The Thayer Middle School program includes experiential learning, outdoor education, visual arts, coding, and robotics as it prepares students for a demanding Upper School curriculum. Thayer Academy offers students numerous opportunities to challenge themselves academically and personally with 15 AP classes, 85 electives, 26 varsity-level sports with 85 teams, 10 different arts subject offerings, and over 30 activities, including five academic teams. A large percentage of students participate in Thayer's musicals, plays, bands, chorus, and dance performances each year.

Thayer Academy's Middle and Upper Schools occupy 10 buildings and a 34-acre campus. Over the past decade, the Academy has invested \$46+M in facilities enhancements designed to serve all areas of school life. In the academic realm, the Academy has fully renovated both the Middle and Upper School Libraries; established four important student support areas—the Hale Learning Center, the Benelli Writing Center, the Pulsifer College Counseling Center, and the Hanflig Technology Center; updated all science labs; and, most recently, established a Collaborative Design Lab for creative, student-directed projects in both divisions and added a new Computer Science & Robotics Center. The Academy has a Center for the Arts which includes a 550-seat theater, as well as dance, visual arts, choral, and instrumental studios; in addition, the Middle School theater was recently renovated. Thayer also completely renovated its art gallery and its videography and pottery studios. The athletics program has been enhanced by the newly opened Thayer Sports Center and Arthur T. Valicenti Rink, Hospitality Pavilion, three turf fields, the full renovation of two gymnasiums, and the addition of the Fish Center for Physical Fitness. The Academy also significantly improved important community areas through the completion of a new Student Commons, Senior Lounge, and Admissions Office.

Students live the Thayer mission to "contribute to the common good" through various all-school community service activities, such as volunteering at local shelters, food banks, and other nonprofit agencies. Students run many on-campus service clubs. They work with special needs children and adults from St. Coletta's School, Cardinal Cushing, Friendship Home, and Special Olympics. Other clubs work with children and adults at Father Bill's Homeless Shelter, Cradles to Crayons, Habitat for Humanity, and Birthday Wishes. In the SALSA Club, students speak with students at local elementary schools about living substance-free. Students also tutor children from Boston schools through Project RISE and Project DEEP. Global citizenship is central to Thayer's mission. Students have the opportunity to travel to, and have cultural exchanges with, our sister schools in China, France, India, and the Bahamas. Other study-abroad opportunities include trips and programs in Italy, Greece, Spain, Peru, Ecuador, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic for educational and community service experiences. In addition, students can enter Thayer's Global Scholars Program, which combines academic learning with real-world international and multicultural experiences. Global Scholars take courses with diverse perspectives, participate in travel opportunities, and complete a capstone project their senior year.

Thayer has made a firm commitment to strengthen the school culture in ways that affirm the value of our Black students and all our students of color. The curriculum now includes a new 9th grade World History course which deepens students' understanding of the economic, political, social, and intellectual aspects of systemic racism and provides a broader context for what is happening today. And all students take Antiracism & Social Justice, an interdisciplinary seminar designed to provide space for a thorough look at racism and to develop practical antiracist skills.

ENROLLMENT The Academy has an enrollment of 507 students in grades 9-12 and 190 in grades 5-8 for the 2020–2021 school year.

COSTS Tuition is \$51,800 per year. Thirty-five percent of Thayer students receive need-based financial aid, which totals \$7.7 million.

FACULTY There are 108 academic faculty members, 68% of whom have master's degrees or beyond. The student-faculty ratio is 6:1. The average academic class size is 14 students.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

2020-2021 Academic Year: At the Upper School level, Thayer has implemented a block schedule that resembles a college model. Students typically take three one-credit academic courses each semester, emphasizing greater depth of study and a faster pace. The grading system and the calculation of the GPA remain the same as in prior years. The Upper School started the school year in a hybrid model with students alternating days of on-campus learning and at-home remote learning. A small number of students opted into a full-time remote program. The new model allows for a complete return to campus or an easy transition to a fully remote schedule should conditions with the virus shift. These changes have enabled the school to follow the state's health guidelines and practice safe physical distancing while continuing to deliver effective in-person instruction. At the Middle School level, existing space combined with the addition of modular classrooms allowed the students to begin the academic year in person.

2019-2020 Semester 2: Thayer did not reopen campus after spring recess, and students finished the semester through remote online learning. Courses covered the majority of the planned material with some alteration to assessments to accommodate the mode of education and to sustain equity among the student body. At the Upper School level, Thayer continued to issue grades on its standard grading system as described in the Profile. School days were not cancelled, and the academic year was not shortened. The spring athletic programs were cancelled as were other school clubs and activities.

CURRICULUM

All courses are college preparatory. There are 15 AP courses available to juniors and seniors, along with honors sections in English, history, mathematics, sciences, computer science, and foreign languages. Seniors may select from a variety of courses, including 85 electives in English, history, languages, mathematics, sciences, and the arts. AP English courses are offered to juniors; seniors are offered honors courses during first semester.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM

All Thayer students in the ninth and tenth grade are required to take Integrated Science, an interdisciplinary curriculum that combines biology, chemistry, and physics into major themes that include energy conservation, the atomic nature of matter, and systems, among others. Before specializing as biologists, chemists, or physicists, students develop the knowledge and skills needed for all three disciplines, and they are better able to understand the relevance of what they are learning and see the applicability of scientific thinking. In eleventh grade, the majority of students take a more specialized course in biology, chemistry, or physics; the AP level is available in those subjects for junior and senior year. Other science electives are also available, including Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy, Astrophotography, Earth Science, AP Environmental Science, Independent Science Research (ISR), Marine Science, Robotics, and Systems & Structures. We can provide more information regarding the content of Integrated Science, if requested.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Twenty and a half academic credits plus one course in Health & Wellness each year.

Minimum requirements:

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of foreign language
- 3 credits of history
- 3 credits of math
- 3 credits of science
- 1/2 credit of Antiracism & Social Justice
- 1 credit of arts
- 3 credits of electives

Senior Project: In May, all seniors are required to participate in a four-week community service or career-oriented project, either on or off campus.

JUNIOR YEAR CLASS OF 2021 HONOR ROLL %

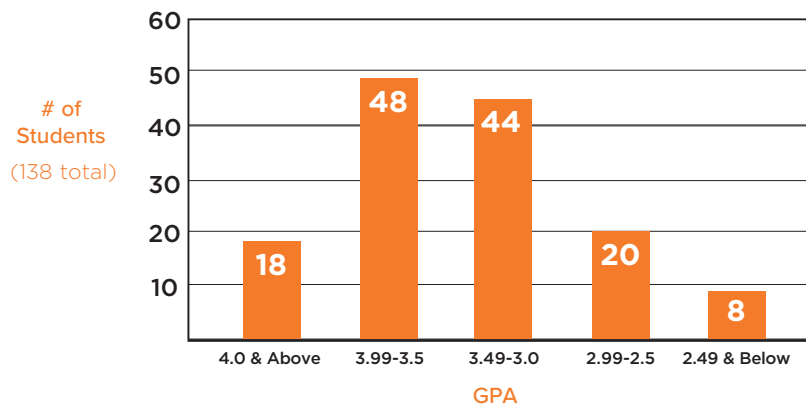
47% High Honors (90% average and above); 35% Honors (85-90% average).

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

A cumulative, weighted GPA on a 4.00 scale is calculated each semester, taking into account only major academic subjects taken at Thayer Academy. The GPA is cumulative from grade nine, using Thayer Academy coursework only. AP and honors courses are weighted plus 0.5 points in the calculation. There are **138 students** in the class of 2021. The average cumulative GPA is 3.40.

CLASS OF 2021 - GPA DISTRIBUTION

Cumulative GPA through Junior Year



**STANDARDIZED TESTING
CLASS OF 2020**

ACT
Middle 50% Range: Composite 22-28

SAT
Middle 50% Ranges: EBRW 610-700, M 570-680

**NATIONAL MERIT
PROGRAM**

National Merit Scholars for the Class of 2021:
· 7 Commended Students

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT
POLICY**

Thayer offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in the following areas:

Biology	French Language
Calculus AB	Latin
Calculus BC	Physics C
Chemistry	Spanish Language
Computer Science A	Statistics
English Language	U.S. Government & Politics
English Literature	U.S. History
Environmental Science	

**SPRING 2020
AP EXAM STATISTICS**

In May 2020, 306 exams were taken; 257 scored 3 or better (84%)
AP exams resulted in the following designations:

- 4 National AP Scholars
- 21 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 12 AP Scholars with Honor
- 32 AP Scholars

COLLEGE MATRICULATION 99% of Thayer students attend four-year colleges (see matriculation list on next page).

**ACADEMIC
TECHNOLOGY**

Thayer Academy has extensive technological resources to supplement students' learning. Thayer has implemented a student MacBook Air laptop program, expanding project-based learning across the disciplines. All classrooms have audio-visual presentation systems to enhance the classroom learning experience. The Hanflig Technology Center is staffed with five full-time technology professionals and has a classroom dedicated to digital training.

In addition to the student laptop program, the technology center supports more than 300 computers on campus, as well as a new Computer Science & Robotics Center, a Graphic Design Studio, and two Collaborative Design Labs. The Computer Science program has a high-performance computing lab and virtual desktop interface for both on and off campus creativity. The fully-outfitted Robotics Lab incorporates all skill sets, engineering design, programming, construction, communication, and field trials. In the Graphic Design Studio, students use Adobe Creative Suite on large monitors to create communications materials. The Collaborative Design Labs in the Upper and Middle Schools work with students to create design-thinking projects utilizing state-of-the-art equipment.

Thayer also offers and supports many additional software applications for students such as: MySchoolApp Learning Management System, Google Suite for Education, Zoom, Thayer Video Server, TigerCloud, Digital Language Lab, Naviance, Scoir, GarageBand, Sim Bio, Flipgrid, TigerGuides, Poll Everywhere, Quizlet, and Explain Everything.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION - Classes of '16, '17, '18, '19, and '20 (three or more enrollments in **bold**)

American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Assumption University
Babson College
Bates College
Becker College
Belmont University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Bridgewater State University
Brown University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Colby College
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of William & Mary
Colorado College
Columbia College Chicago
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Emory University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Gordon College
Hamilton College
Hartwick College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College

Keene State College
Kenyon College
King's College London
Lafayette College
Lasell University
Lehigh University
Lesley University
LIM College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Manhattan College
Marist College
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Middlebury College
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
Nazareth College
New York University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Nova Southeastern University
Pace University, New York City
Pennsylvania State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Regis College
Rhode Island College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Roosevelt University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Michael's College
Salve Regina University
Santa Barbara City College
Santa Clara University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Skidmore College
Southern New Hampshire University
Springfield College
St. Lawrence University
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
SUNY College at Plattsburgh
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
The Catholic University of America
The George Washington University

The Johns Hopkins University
The New School - All Divisions
The University of Alabama
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of Tampa
The University of Texas
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College - NY
United States Coast Guard Academy
United States Military Academy
University College Dublin
University of British Columbia
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Hartford
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of Southern California
University of Southern Maine
University of St. Andrews
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Wheaton College
Whittier College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University