



Thayer Academy

SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-23

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HEAD OF SCHOOL

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ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL
FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
& WELL-BEING

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UPPER SCHOOL DIRECTOR

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MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

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CO-DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

Cicity Shaw
CO-DIRECTOR,
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Christine Woods P '25, '27
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

Founded in 1877 by a bequest of General Sylvanus Thayer, Thayer Academy's mission is to inspire a diverse community of students to moral, intellectual, aesthetic, and physical excellence so that each may rise to honorable achievement and contribute to the common good.

Thayer is a community where students are known, connected, and prepared for the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead. Located in Braintree, Massachusetts, the independent coed day school serves students in grades 5-12 and is committed to excellence in scholarship, athletics, the arts, leadership, and service. To fulfill this commitment, the Academy is laser-focused on nurturing authentic student engagement and well-being.

A member of the National Association of Independent Schools and the Association of Independent Schools in New England, Thayer is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and has had a chapter of the Cum Laude Society since 1930. The Academy competes athletically in the ISL and NEPSAC and boasts 79 sports teams, including 26 varsity teams. Easily accessible via the MBTA's Red Line and five dedicated bus routes, Thayer draws students from 83 communities, several countries, and a wide range of backgrounds.

Thayer's 34-acre campus includes 10 buildings, 54 classrooms, 11 athletic fields (including five synthetic turf fields), 10 science labs, three gyms, two libraries, two theaters, and two dining halls. Its Center for the Arts includes the 550-seat Hale Theater as well as dance, visual arts, choral, and instrumental studios; there are also videography and pottery studios on campus.

Thayer has invested more than \$70M in facilities enhancements in recent years. It has fully renovated the Upper School library; established four 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; established a Collaborative Design Lab; renovated the Fish Center for Physical Fitness; added a Computer Science & Robotics Wing; and opened the 86,000-square-foot Thayer Sports Center — home to Valicenti Ice Rink.

Unveiled this fall, the new Middle School building adds 12,000 square feet of learning space and features: digital media, marine biology, and collaborative design labs; a performing arts suite; a visual arts suite; additional classrooms; and the multistory Forum, designed as a community gathering space. Thayer also opened a new Health & Wellness Center to further its commitment to student engagement and well-being, underscored by the Academy's recent advising program partnership with Project Wayfinder, a pioneer of social and emotional learning developed at Stanford University.

The Academy's signature programs are vital and varied. At the Upper School, a Scholars-in-Residence program brings leading practitioners and academics to campus to work with students and teachers in a more sustained way across all disciplines. An Independent Science Research (ISR) class offers juniors the opportunity to research and later intern at Boston-area labs. Thayer recently has partnered with Beneath The Waves, a marine science nonprofit; there is now a dedicated research lab on campus in which students contribute to both BTW field and lab work. The Global Scholars Capstone Program provides greater engagement in global public policy issues for students, who are recognized as Global Scholars at graduation.

Thayer publishes *Voice*, a student-run, award-winning publication. There are approximately 80 student activities, clubs, and community service opportunities across all grades. Community service programs include: the Holiday Toy Project, Special Olympics, and Hope for Haiti. Academic teams include Mathletes, Model UN, and the Physics/Robotics Team. Students enjoy cultural exchanges with sister schools in China, France, and India. Study-abroad opportunities include trips to the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Italy, Peru, Quebec, and Spain.

Thayer has made a firm commitment to strengthen the school culture to affirm the value of our BIPOC students. All 9th graders take "Anti-Racism: Introduction," an interdisciplinary seminar designed to take a thorough look at racism and develop anti-racist skills. All 10th graders take "The Common Good: An Introduction to Social Justice," a broader exploration of social justice issues.

ENROLLMENT

The Academy has an enrollment of 502 students in grades 9-12 and 216 in grades 5-8 for the 2022–23 school year. Twenty-five percent of the student population are students of color.

COSTS

Tuition is \$53,820 per year for Middle School and \$56,295 per year for Upper School. Thirty-five percent of Thayer students receive financial aid, which totals more than \$8.5 million.

FACULTY

There are 99 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**

2021-22 / 2022-23 Academic Years: The Upper School returned to its traditional academic schedule. Students are expected to take at least five academic courses per semester. Full-year courses are one credit, and semester-long courses are half a credit. Courses are conducted entirely in person and on campus. The complete range of Thayer's activities, including sports, arts, and clubs, are in full operation as well.

2020-21 Academic Year: At the Upper School level, Thayer implemented a block schedule that resembled a college model. Students typically took three one-credit academic courses each semester, emphasizing greater depth of study at a faster pace. The grading system and the calculation of the GPA remained 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, and by the spring all classes were meeting in person. These changes enabled the school to follow the state's health guidelines and practice safe physical distancing while continuing to deliver effective in-person instruction. The model also allowed students to take an additional sixth academic one-credit course.

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 16 AP courses available, along with honors sections in English, history, mathematics, sciences, computer science, and world languages. AP English courses and U.S. History are offered to juniors only. Seniors may select from a variety of courses, including AP courses, honors courses, a Global Scholars Capstone Program, and 88 electives in English, history, mathematics, sciences, computer science, world languages, and the arts.

**SCIENCE
CURRICULUM**

All Thayer students in the 9th and 10th 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 11th 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 & Physiology, Astronomy, Astrophotography, Earth Science, AP Environmental Science, Independent Science Research (ISR), Marine Science, Robotics, and Systems & Structures. More information regarding the content of Integrated Science can be provided, if requested.

**GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS**

Twenty-one academic credits plus one course in Health & Wellness each year.

Minimum requirements:

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of world language
- 3 credits of history
- 3 credits of math
- 3 credits of science
- 1/2 credit of Anti-Racism & Social Justice
- 1/2 credit of The Common Good
- 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 2023
HONOR ROLL %**

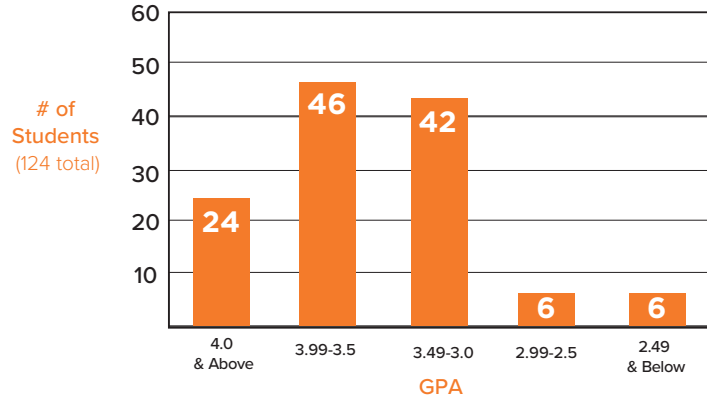
51% High Honors (90% average and above); 30% Honors (85-90% average).

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 the 9th grade, using Thayer Academy coursework only. AP and honors courses are weighted an additional 0.5 points in the calculation. There are **124 students** in the Class of 2023. The average cumulative GPA is 3.54.

CLASS OF 2023 - GPA DISTRIBUTION

Cumulative GPA through Junior Year



STANDARDIZED TESTING CLASS OF 2022

ACT: Middle 50% Range: Composite 23-29

SAT: Middle 50% Ranges: EBRW 580-670, M 540-660

COVID-19 impact: across all schools, many students took standardized tests only once, resulting in lower-than-usual average scores for the SAT

NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM

National Merit Scholars for the Class of 2023:

- 7 Commended Students

ADVANCED PLACEMENT POLICY

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

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

SPRING 2022 AP EXAM STATISTICS

In May 2022, students took 360 AP exams. AP exams resulted in the following designations:

- 21 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 11 AP Scholars with Honor
- 24 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 student learning. All students are issued MacBook Air laptops, maximizing opportunities for learning and resource sharing anywhere and at any time. All classrooms have audio-visual systems and Owl conference systems. The Hanflig Technology Center promotes the advancement of technology in learning and teaching.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION - Classes of '18, '19, '20, '21, and '22 (three or more enrollments in **bold**)

Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Assumption University
Babson College
Barnard College
Bates College
Becker College
Belmont University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Catawba College
Catholic University of America
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Columbia College, Chicago
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Eckerd College
Elmira College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Emory University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Hamilton College
Hartwick College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Howard University
Indiana University
Jacksonville University
Johns Hopkins University
Keene State College
Keiser University
Kenyon College
King's College, London
Lafayette College
LIM College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Marist College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
Nazareth College
New York University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oglethorpe University
Paul Smith's College
Penn State University
Pitzer College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Regis College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams 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
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College
Sewanee: The University of the South
Skidmore College
Southern Methodist University
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 Boston Conservatory at Berklee
The College of William and Mary
The New School
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Union College
United States Coast Guard Academy
United States Military Academy at West Point
University of California, San Diego
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Hartford
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Maine
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
Wheaton College
Whittier College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University