



OVERVIEW

- Founded in 1997
- 165 Students in Grades 5-12
- Total Upper School Pop: 100
- Student-Faculty Ratio: 6:1
- Core classes have 11 or fewer students per class with most classes at 10 or less
- Every student in the Class of 2023 was accepted to a 4-year college/university

AFFILIATIONS

- Accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS)
- Member of the National Association of College Admission Counseling
- Member of the Potomac/Chesapeake Association of College Admission Counseling
- Member of the National Association of Independent Schools

ABOUT CA

Commonwealth Academy is an independent, college-preparatory day school where students are seen, heard, and understood for exactly who they are.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Commonwealth Academy's college preparation program has a rigorous but achievable set of academic standards. Our unique approach enhances the way we teach partnered with specific accommodations/compensatory strategies our students learn to use to master their assignments. Our curriculum is periodically enhanced to reflect the special talents of each student. If a student needs an advanced challenge, we will develop coursework or a new class to promote enhanced engagement. Honors components are available for most academic classes. We offer AP Computer Programming, AP Physics, AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC. A two-week "J" term between semesters allows students to participate in cross-curricular experiential learning. Weekly clubs provide opportunities to pursue extracurricular activities.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING

It is our policy that we do not report any disciplinary actions to colleges and universities while a student is still currently enrolled. If a student leaves for any reason, they will be given a two-week period to inform all colleges/universities with which the admissions process has been initiated. After that time period, the college counseling office will inform all schools that the student is no longer enrolled.

If additional questions are received, the inquirer will be directed to speak directly to the student and/ or family member. If the specific situation warrants any further reporting, the administration will make a decision.

CLASS RANKING

Commonwealth Academy does not rank.

GRADING SYSTEM/GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Transcripts reflect yearly averages for each subject, composed of four quarterly grades and two semester exams. GPA numbers are computed on a four-point scale. Electives and studio arts classes are included. Commonwealth does weight grades an extra 0.33 for each Honors or AP class. The grading scale is located on each transcript. Quarter grades can be made available within the senior year upon request.

DIPLOMA CERTIFICATES

Students in the Certificate program pursue a passion or potential college major in greater depth than typically required to earn a Diploma or Advanced Diploma. Students work at a rigorous level in Honors-level courses and enrich their classroom lessons through internships, clubs, organizations, and outside coursework.

REQUIREMENTS

All Certificates require an individual plan agreed to by the Head of Upper School related to outside extracurricular activities/experiences, such as summer internships, coursework outside of CA, and/or participation in academic workshops/events. Additional requirements include:

STEM—ENGINEERING CERTIFICATE

- Four years of Science (including Physics)
- Four years of Math (including Calculus)
- One year of Computer Programming (will count towards club/elective)

STEM—BIOMEDICAL CERTIFICATE

- Four years of Science, including Anatomy and Physiology, and Biochemistry
- Four years of Math, including Pre-Calculus or Honors Statistics

GLOBAL LEARNING & HUMANITIES CERTIFICATE

- Two years of Honors History or Honors English
- Three years of one Modern or Classical Language or two years each of two languages

VISUAL & DIGITAL ARTS

- Three years of Art and/or Design classes with one being Honors
- Production of portfolio for review by Art and/or Design teacher

OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Every year seniors participate in an internship/work experience opportunity. This two-week work experience period allows seniors the opportunity to obtain exposure to the professional world that awaits post-Upper School and college. It can allow them to pinpoint a passion, create a network of contacts, establish a possible mentor, and put the knowledge, skills and abilities they have gained into practice. Through this program they build confidence as they master exploring a new environment, meeting new people, and expanding their understanding of a specific career field.

Examples of completed internships, classes, and programs:

- Animal Welfare League of Arlington
- Arlington Food Assistance Program
- Georgetown University: Forensics Program
- George Washington University: Biology Laboratory Internship
- Johns Hopkins University: Engineering Innovation
- Institute for Human Machine Cognition: Internship
- Long Island Aquarium
- Minneapolis College of Art & Design Courses
- Pratt Institute: Introduction to Painting and Drawing
- Red Dirt Studios
- Seoul National University: Laboratory of Neuroscience Intern
- University of Connecticut: Project Oceanology
- University of North Carolina School for the Arts
- University of Maryland: Young Scholars Program, Discover Engineering
- University of North Carolina-Wilmington: Marine Biology
- U.S. Naval Research Laboratories: Internship
- Yale Young Global Scholars

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

- Four years each:
 - English, History, and Writing
- Three years each:
 - Math and Science (including two lab courses)
- Two years each:
 - Modern or Classical Language and PE/Health
- Two electives

ADVANCED DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

- Four years each:
 - English, Math (including Algebra II and one course beyond), Science (including three lab courses), History, and Writing
- Three years of one Modern or Classical Language, or two years each of two languages
- Two years of PE/Health
- Two electives

WRITING PROGRAM

Students take four years of Writing to develop skill sets vital to college-level coursework. Writing and English courses are separate daily classes.

To learn more information, please contact our

*Director of College Counseling
Mr. Eli Clarke:*

eclarke@commonwealthacademy.org

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES 2020-2023

Adelphi University
Agnes Scott College
American Academy of Art
American University
Arcadia University
Art Academy of Cincinnati
Bard College
Berklee College of Music
Brandeis University
Bryn Mawr College
Calvin University
Canisius College
The Catholic University of America
Champlain College
Christopher Newport University
Cleveland Institute of Art
Cleveland State University
Colorado College
University of Connecticut
Davis & Elkins College
University of Delaware
University of Denver
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Eastern University
Eckerd College
Edinburgh Napier University
Elon University
University of Exeter
Flagler College
Florida Southern College
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Furman University
Gannon University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Greensboro College
Grinnell College
Hampden-Sydney College
High Point University
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Hollins University
Hood College
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
Lafayette College

Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Longwood University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Macalester College
Marist College
University of Mary Washington
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marymount Manhattan College
Marymount University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
McDaniel College
Mercyhurst University
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Mitchell College
Montserrat College of Art
Mount St. Mary's University
Muhlenberg College
NCAA Eligibility Center
University of New Hampshire
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Norfolk State University
University of North Texas
Northern Virginia Community College
Oberlin College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Old Dominion University
Pace University, New York City Campus
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania State University
Penn University of California
University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg
University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh
Prince George's Community College
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
Queens University of Charlotte
Radford University
Randolph College
Randolph-Macon College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Richmond
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rosemont College
Rowan University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University

Saint Michael's College
Saint Vincent College
Salisbury University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art & Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Shenandoah University
Skidmore College
University of Southern Maine
St. John's College, MD
St. John's University-New York
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Stetson University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stevenson University
Stonehill College
Sweet Briar College
The University of Tampa
Towson University
Trinity Washington University
Universal Technical Institute Long Beach
University of Northwestern Ohio
Ursinus College
Valparaiso University
University of Vermont
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Virginia Wesleyan University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington College
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Western Michigan University
College of William & Mary
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
York College of Pennsylvania