



Virginia Episcopal School Academic Profile 2023-2024

CEEB CODE: 471305



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

VES is a college preparatory, coeducational, boarding (70%) and day (30%) school serving students in grades 9 – 12. Located in the foothills of Lynchburg, Virginia, we take advantage of our city and natural surroundings to expand our campus beyond our beautiful 160 acres. We have 250 enrolled students—55% male, 45% female and 23% international. Students benefit from small classes, with a student-teacher ratio of 6:1. Among our 45 teaching faculty, 80% hold advanced degrees and 10% hold a doctoral degree. And 82% of our faculty live on campus, bringing added value to our student experience.

TOWARD FULL STATURE

Inspired by the school’s founding motto, Toward Full Stature is an intentional four-year journey to help students identify and realize their full potential academically, athletically, spiritually and ethically.

Our Portrait of a VES Graduate guides students to live into this ideal by developing the knowledge, skills, character and learning mindsets necessary to succeed in college and life beyond.

Our Academic Philosophy guides our classroom practice. At VES, our faculty are designers, and we are committed to an Academic Philosophy in which:

- Dynamic questions shape our content, experiences, perspectives, and outcomes.
- Intellectual playfulness drives our practice.
- Creative thinkers and producers are our goal—committed to making beautiful work and communicating effectively, with one another and throughout the world.

HONOR CODE

The underlying principle that governs the life of any member of the VES community is the school’s Honor Code, developed by the first class of VES students in 1916. “One shall not lie, steal, cheat, or tolerate that behavior in any other member of the community” is a simple code that instills the moral and ethical values by which all members of the VES family live.

FINANCIAL AID

For the 2023-24 school year, VES awarded \$2.55 million in need-based financial aid to 32% of the enrolled student body.

ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Among its professional organization affiliations, VES is a member of:

- Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- The Association of American Boarding Schools (TABS)
- Virginia Council for Private Education
- National Association of College Admissions Counselors
- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools
- National Association of Episcopal Schools

GARTH AINSLIE – HEAD OF SCHOOL

MIMI CSATLOS – DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

AMY KOUDELKA – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

MATT PORTER – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

ESTHER JOHNSON –

ADMIN. ASST. TO COLLEGE COUNSELING & TESTING COORDINATOR

LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

The Honor Committee and Counselor Body provides opportunities for seniors to lead the school. The Honor Committee is elected by students to promote and uphold the Honor Code. The Counselor Body is appointed by the Head of School based on student and faculty votes. Counselors serve as Resident Advisors on dorm and help in every aspect of daily school life. In addition, each year a member of the senior class who has been elected to the Student Council is appointed to serve as Student Body President, acting as a liaison between the student body and the administration.

VES offers many avenues through which students in all grade levels can lead their peers, strengthen communities, and grow as individuals. Junior Resident Advisors, Service Learning Coordinators, Student Government Representatives, Team Captains, Club Leaders, and Chapel Speakers are just some of the many titles our students hold as they learn to lead on campus

Participation in an afternoon activity each season is a requirement for graduation. Students may sign up to be part of a sports team, in a fine arts program, and/or a member of a wide variety of special interest clubs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

In our increasingly interconnected world, it's essential that our students become global citizens and leaders with cross-cultural understanding and respect.

VES brings the world to our campus, which is a meeting place for diverse perspectives and global cultures. Each year, we welcome students from many countries, including the Czech Republic, China, Germany, Mexico, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, Vietnam and other locales. Faculty also hail from around the globe. This integration of various cultures is an enriching experience for us all. And through a diverse range of speakers, the arts and cultural events, we explore why it is so important to seek out, empathize with and value varied perspectives.

DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Advanced Studies Program

Students may be approved to pursue the Advanced Studies program in a specific discipline if they have completed the most advanced course in that discipline and if they wish to explore a related topic in greater depth. Advanced Studies students complete a rigorous application process, gain the support of a faculty mentor, and set their own deadlines and goals as they develop a project to present to the VES community. Grades are based on the final project, the presentation and on their process, especially their ability to work independently and display mature habits of mind as they pursue their goals.

Science & Math Advanced Consortium

This course is year-long, senior academic offering and is considered a core academic class (.5 credit Math, .5 credit Science). The course provides rigorous interdisciplinary study in a collaborative and project-based setting. The course quickly moves toward a student-driven format with an emphasis on design thinking, culminating in a year-end group project presented to the school community. Rising seniors who have excelled in advanced math or science coursework may apply to take this class.

9th Grade ARCH Collaborative

The 9th Grade ARCH Collaborative provides an interdisciplinary introduction to four subject areas that students can apply across their VES experience and future studies. 'A' stands for the Arts, which students engage with through a quarter-long Introduction to the Arts course; 'R' stands for Reasoning, which is the focus of their quarter in the Critical Thinking course; 'C' represents their study in Computer Science I; 'H' stands for quarter of the year during which students focus on Health and Life Skills.

The ARCH Collaborative enriches students' learning in core subject areas while exposing them to other aspects of our curriculum that may spark a new interest, talent or passion to pursue further over the course of their VES career.

AP Program

VES offers 17 AP courses. While students must meet requirements to enroll in certain AP courses, others are open to any interested student. All 10th and 11th grade students enrolled in AP classes are required to sit for the exam; 12th graders may opt out of the AP exams if the college they choose to attend will not honor AP credits; the average score earned is 3. Over the past three years, VES students have been recognized by the AP Scholar Program as:

SCHOLARS 79

SCHOLARS WITH HONOR 24

SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION 71

AP Course Cap

The number of AP courses in which a student can enroll is capped as follows: 10th Graders - 1 AP (highly accelerated math or foreign language students may petition for 2 AP classes this year), 11th Graders - 3 APs (may petition for 4), 12th Graders - no limit. We believe the cap will encourage students to delve deeply into their academic interests and make balanced decisions about their schedules. In 2020, it was decided that our AP Arts courses will not be counted toward the AP cap so that students with special talents in the arts can pursue their interest without having to limit their AP options in core academic areas.

GRADE STRUCTURE

VES reports grades in percentages and uses a 10-point scale when determining letter grades (100 to 90 is an A, 89 to 80 is a B, etc.). If necessary, please use the traditional 4.0 scale to convert our unweighted percentage-based averages into the scale preferred by your institution. VES does not weight grades or report class rank.

SAT SCORES

These averages represent the scores earned by our Class of 2023 who took the SAT at any time over their careers at VES, including those who opted instead to submit ACT scores to colleges, and those who applied using test-optional plans. These numbers also include the 20% of our class for whom English is not their native language.

MID-50%

ERWB: 550 - 720

MATH: 510 - 750

TOTAL: 1070 - 1420

ACT SCORES

These averages represent the scores earned by our Class of 2023 who took the ACT at any time over their careers at VES, including those who opted instead to submit SAT scores to colleges, and those who applied using test-optional plans. These numbers also include the 20% of our class for whom English is not their native language.

MID-50%

COMPOSITE: 20 - 29

In the Class of 2023, approximately 50% of our seniors opted not to submit their SAT or ACT scores with their applications.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & COURSE OFFERINGS

Each student must earn 19 credits to graduate. All VES students must carry a course load of at least five classes per term. Students must choose at least four core classes each year (though five is expected), and they may choose from a variety of electives each term. **Advanced courses in each subject are noted in bold.**

ENGLISH

(4 CREDITS REQUIRED)

English Seminars
(11th and 12th grade courses):

- Literature as Art
- Classic Literature and Contemporary Adaptations
- Experimental Literature: Toys Writers Play With
- The Uncanny: Gothic Horror
- The Art of the Personal Essay
- The Essential Stories

- Poetry Across the Curriculum
- American Writers
- Essential Journeys: Exploring the World and the Self
- English 9: Culture & Identity
- English 10: Communities & Power
- AP Literature & Composition**
- AP Language & Composition**

SCIENCE

(3 CREDITS REQUIRED, INCLUDING BIOLOGY AND EITHER CHEMISTRY OR PHYSICS)

Biology

Honors Biology

AP Biology

Chemistry

Honors Chemistry

AP Chemistry

Human Anatomy & Physiology

Physics

Physics in the Modern World

AP Physics

AP Environmental Science

Intro to Sports Medicine

Science & Math Advanced Consortium

Biomedical Science

MATHEMATICS

(3 CREDITS REQUIRED, INCLUDING ALGEBRA I, GEOMETRY, ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY)

Algebra I

Geometry

Honors Geometry

Algebra II/Trigonometry

Honors Algebra II/Trig

Math Analysis

Honors Math Analysis

Statistics

AP Statistics

Calculus

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

Multivariable Calculus

Linear Algebra

Science & Math Advanced Consortium

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

(1 CREDIT REQUIRED)

Introduction to the Arts

Ceramics I & II

Advanced Ceramics

Digital Photography

Studio Art I & II

AP Studio Art

Portfolio Development

Glee Club

Chamber Ensemble

Stage Combat

Jazz Ensemble

Vocal Ensemble

AP Music Theory

Video Production I & II

Acting

Technical Theater

Advanced Performance

Public Speaking

HISTORY

(3 CREDITS REQUIRED, INCLUDING U.S. HISTORY; THIRD CREDIT CAN INCLUDE 2 ONE-TERM COURSES)

Global Cultures

Modern World History

AP World History

US History

AP United States History

US Government

AP Comparative Government

AP US Government & Politics

Gender and Ethnic Studies

Economics

Legal Studies

Psychology

International Relations

COMPUTER SCIENCE

(.5 CREDIT REQUIRED)

Computer Science I -
Collaboration & Design

Computer Science II -
Programming & Web Design

Computer Science III -
Body Recognition Programming

**Computer Science IV -
App Development**

WORLD LANGUAGES

(2 CREDITS REQUIRED IN THE SAME LANGUAGE)

French I-V

AP French Language & Culture

Spanish I-V

Honors Spanish III & IV

AP Spanish Language & Culture

Spanish VI: Advanced Seminar

RELIGION

(.5 CREDIT REQUIRED)

New Testament

World Religions I

World Religions II



FIVE-YEAR COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Students in the Virginia Episcopal School classes of 2019-2023 enrolled in colleges and universities throughout the United States and world, including:

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| American University | Haverford College | University of Alabama (7) |
| Anahuac Mayab University (3) | High Point University | University of California, Berkeley (4) |
| Anderson University | Howard University (2) | University of California, Davis |
| Appalachian State University (6) | James Madison University (7) | University of California, Irvine (2) |
| Auburn University (2) | Johns Hopkins University (3) | University of California, San Diego |
| Barnard College | Lehigh University | University of California, Santa Barbara (3) |
| Bellarmino University | Liberty University (2) | University of Colorado Boulder |
| Birmingham-Southern College | McGill University | University of Delaware |
| Boston University (2) | Milliken University | University of Georgia (3) |
| Brigham Young University | Minerva School | University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (3) |
| Campbell University | Mississippi State University | University of Kentucky |
| Case Western Reserve University (3) | New York University (6) | University of Lynchburg (6) |
| Central Virginia Community College | Norfolk State University | University of Mary Washington (2) |
| Clemson University (6) | North Carolina Central University | University of Miami |
| Coastal Carolina University | North Carolina State University (8) | University of Mississippi (7) |
| Colby College | North Carolina State University
(2 yr. Agricultural Institute) | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (11) |
| College of Charleston (3) | Northeastern University | University of North Carolina at Wilmington |
| Columbia University | Ohio State University (2) | University of Pennsylvania |
| Cornell University (3) | Pace University | University of Richmond (2) |
| Dartmouth College | Pennsylvania State University (2) | University of South Carolina (12) |
| Davidson College | Princeton University (2) | University of Southern California (3) |
| Denison College | Purdue University | University of Tennessee |
| Dickinson College (3) | Randolph-Macon College | University of Utah |
| Drexel University (3) | Rhodes College | University of Virginia (24) |
| Duke University | Rice University | University of Washington (2) |
| East Carolina University (4) | Roanoke College (2) | Vanderbilt University |
| Elon University (9) | Rollins College | Vassar College |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | Savannah College of Art and Design (3) | Virginia Commonwealth University (3) |
| Fairmont State University | Sciences Po - Paris, France | Virginia Military Institute |
| Furman University (2) | Sewanee: University of the South (4) | Virginia Tech (13) |
| Frostburg State University | Simmons College | Wake Forest University (7) |
| George Mason University (4) | Skidmore College | Washington College |
| Georgetown University | Southern Methodist University (3) | Washington and Lee University (9) |
| George Washington University | Stevens Institute of Technology | Washington University, St. Louis (2) |
| Gettysburg College | Swarthmore College (3) | Wellesley College (2) |
| Guilford College | Tufts University (2) | West Virginia University |
| Hampden-Sydney College | Tulane University (2) | William & Mary (10) |
| Harford Community College | | Wofford College (5) |