



## SCHOOL INFORMATION

**Thaden School**  
 800 SE C Street  
 Bentonville, AR 72712  
 479-268-5321  
 thadenschool.org  
 CEEB/ACT Code 040051  
 NCAA High School Code 851799



## LEADERSHIP

**Clayton K. Marsh**  
 Founding Head of School

**Jessica Bonnem**  
 Head of Upper School

**Phil Hooper**  
 Director of College Counseling  
[phooper@thadenschool.org](mailto:phooper@thadenschool.org)

**Jessica Williams**  
 Associate Director of College Counseling  
[jwilliams@thadenschool.org](mailto:jwilliams@thadenschool.org)



## FACULTY

**49** Faculty  
**84%** Master's Degree  
**27%** Doctorate Degree  
**18** States and **8** Countries  
**18%** Of Color  
**7:1** Student/Faculty Ratio



## STUDENTS

**324** Students from **20** Cities and Towns  
**100+** Sending Schools  
**74%** Need-Based Indexed Tuition  
**32%** Of Color  
**100%** Admitted to Four-Year Colleges



## CLASS OF 2024

**41** Students  
**20:1** Student/Counselor Ratio  
**3.18–3.82** GPA Middle 50% Range  
**3.46** GPA Mean  
**2** National Merit Semifinalists

# THADEN SCHOOL

## PROFILE FOR COLLEGES 2023-24



### MISSION

Thaden School's mission is to provide a balanced and challenging education that ignites in our students a passion for discovery and learning, prepares them to succeed in college, and inspires them to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and responsible global citizenship.



### HISTORY

With the generous support of the Walton Family Foundation, Thaden School, an independent co-educational day school serving Northwest Arkansas, opened in the fall of 2017 with 50 students and has grown to serve approximately 320 students in Grades 6 through 12. The school is named in honor of Louise McPhetridge Thaden (1905-1979). Born and raised in Bentonville, she was a proud Arkansan and one of the greatest aviators of her time. Thaden School's 30-acre downtown campus has a rich history, including serving as the site of Bentonville High School when Louise McPhetridge was a student there in the 1920s. Her pioneering and innovative spirit inspires our efforts to create a school that gives students roots and wings as they build strong foundations and soar to new heights in pursuit of their dreams.



### ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Thaden School is a fully accredited member of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and a provisional member of the Arkansas Nonpublic Accrediting Association (ANSAA). We are members of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC), Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS), National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), and the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC).



### STUDENT ACCOLADES

Each year our students earn international, national, and regional distinction:

- Three graduates earned **full four-year scholarships** through the **QuestBridge** National College Match program. Another earned the prestigious **Jefferson Scholarship**, covering the full cost of attendance plus expenses at the University of Virginia.
- Five students participated in the **National Security Language Initiative for Youth** summer programs. Another earned a full scholarship for **The Paideia Institute's Living Latin in Rome** High School program.
- One student auditioned for and was selected to perform in a small mixed choir at the **Sydney Opera House**.
- Two students won **first place** and a third won **second place** for art pieces entered in the Arkansas Young Artist Association Competition.
- One student was one of only two students out of 500 participants recognized for **Excellence in Leadership and Ethics** at the **West Point** Summer Leader Experience.
- Five students formed the **world's first competitive high school gravel cycling team**.
- One student was recruited as a **Division I NCAA Track and Field athlete** and earned a scholarship to compete at the University of Montana.
- Two students were among the **top 20 finalists** in a field of 6,000 submissions for the **2019 NPR Student Podcast Challenge**.



## NOTABLE FEATURES OF OUR CURRICULUM

### SIGNATURE PROGRAMS, INTENSIVES, AND COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Thaden School's commitment to interdisciplinary understanding finds expression in our three signature programs – Meals, Reels, and Wheels – where students combine multiple fields of study and engage with community partners in ways that foster a strong sense of civic responsibility. Immersive two-week Intensive courses, independent studies, and Community-Based Learning (CBL) courses provide further opportunities for students to form and investigate their own questions from many perspectives.

### ADVANCED COURSES

Thaden School has not adopted the College Board's Advanced Placement curriculum because our required course of study, consistent with our mission, is designed to prepare students for success at even the most challenging colleges and universities. Most of our core departments and programs, including English, Mathematics, Computer Science, History, Social Sciences, World Languages, and Visual and Performing Arts, offer advanced courses that are especially challenging and comparable to college-level work. **Of the more than 90 courses offered at Thaden School, approximately 21% are accelerated and/or equivalent to college-level;** these advanced course offerings are denoted on the transcript with an asterisk (\*)

### THE SENIOR THESIS

The senior thesis allows students to conduct in-depth exploration of a topic of personal interest. It requires close collaboration between the student and a faculty advisor, and sometimes a community partner as well. In keeping with Thaden School's philosophy that education takes place both within and outside the classroom, seniors may design, with faculty approval, a project of comparable scope to a one-credit course. The thesis culminates in a formal presentation or performance and is graded on a pass/no credit basis.



## CLASSES OF 2021, 2022, AND 2023 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND MATRICULATIONS

The last three years, our 72 graduates were accepted to 160 colleges and universities and **matriculated to 47 colleges and universities in 23 states and one foreign country:**

Agnes Scott College, Alfred University, American University, Arizona State University, **Arkansas Tech University**, Auburn University, Augustana College, Austin College, Bard College, **Bates College**, Baylor University, Biola University, **Boston College**, Boston University, Bryn Mawr College, Butler University, **Carleton College**, Carthage College, Case Western Reserve University, **Centre College**, Chaminade University of Honolulu, Chapman University, Clemson University, Colgate University, College of Charleston, **College of the Holy Cross**, **Colorado State University**, Columbia College Chicago, Columbus College of Art & Design, **Creighton University**, Davidson College, Denison University, DePaul University, Dickinson College, Dillard University, **Drake University**, Drew University, Drexel University, ADA Business School Barcelona, Eckerd College, Elon University, Fairfield University, Fordham University, **Furman University**, George Washington University, **Georgia Institute of Technology**, **Georgia State University**, Gonzaga University, Hampton University, Hartwick College, **Hendrix College**, Howard University, **IE University Madrid**, **Iowa State University**, Jackson State University, **John Brown University**, **Kansas City Art Institute**, **Kansas State University**, Kenyon College, Lafayette College, Lake Forest College, Lawrence University, **Lehigh University**, Lewis & Clark College, Linfield University, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University Chicago, Lyon College, Marquette University, **Middlebury College**, Milwaukee Inst. of Art & Design, Minneapolis College of Art & Design, Missouri Univ. of Sci. & Technology, Mount Saint Mary's University, Muhlenberg College, Northeastern State University, Northeastern University, **NW Arkansas Community College**, **Northwest Missouri State University**, **Occidental College**, Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University, Oregon State University, Otis College of Art Design, Pace University, **Pacific Northwest College of Art**, Pennsylvania State University, Pepperdine University, **Pitzer College**, **Point Park University**, **Pomona College**, Providence College, **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, **Rhodes College**, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rockhurst University, Rollins College, Ryerson University, **Saint Louis University**, Saint Louis University Madrid, Sarah Lawrence College, Savannah College of Art & Design, Seton Hall University, Sewanee: University of the South, **Smith College**, Southwestern University, **Spelman College**, St. Olaf College, Stevens Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, Temple University, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, **Trinity College**, Trinity University, **Tufts University**, Tulane University, **United States Air Force Academy**, **University of Arkansas**, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, University of British Columbia, University of California, Davis, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Santa Cruz, **University of Central Arkansas**, **University of Colorado Boulder**, University of Dallas, University of Denver, University of Glasgow, University of Iowa, **University of Kansas**, University of Memphis, University of Missouri, University of Missouri, Kansas City, **University of Montana**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University of North Carolina, Asheville, University of North Dakota, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, **University of Puget Sound**, **University of Redlands**, **University of Southern California (Film)**, University of Tennessee, University of Texas at Dallas, **University of Texas at Austin**, University of Tulsa, University of Victoria, **University of Virginia**, Vassar College, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Wartburg College, Webster University, **Wellesley College**, **Western New England University**, Westminster College Missouri, Whitman College, Whittier College, Xavier University of Louisiana



## CALENDAR AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### CALENDAR

Thaden School's calendar is divided into trimesters. To graduate from Thaden, a student must complete a minimum of 26 credits; one credit is equivalent to a year-long course. Students typically take seven courses during any one trimester.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Our graduation requirements are designed to ensure that all students build a strong and balanced foundation across all major disciplines while giving them the freedom to explore and develop specific interests as they advance in their course of study.



## STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

Thaden School employs a standards-based grading system whose purpose is two-fold: 1) to accurately and effectively communicate student mastery of core academic competencies; and 2) to focus students on learning and growth rather than the accumulation of points. In each class, students receive ratings on a 1-4 scale of their academic skills. Those ratings are then translated into letter grades.

The highest possible letter grade is an A; the minimum passing grade is a D; a grade of No Credit (NC) equals failure. Some coursework, including Physical Education, is taken on a pass (P) or No Credit (NC) basis.

### GPA MEAN BY QUARTILE

First Quarter:	3.90	As a college preparatory school where all students apply and gain admission to four-year colleges, we do not report class rank or GPA on the school transcript.
Second Quarter:	3.71	
Third Quarter:	3.39	
Fourth Quarter:	2.79	