



Thayer Academy

SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-24

Chris M. Fortunato P '26, '28
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Peter Brooks
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL
FOR ACADEMICS

Jed W. Wartman P '30
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL
FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
& WELL-BEING

**Maureen Sullivan
Keleher P '24, '26, '28, '29**
UPPER SCHOOL DEAN OF FACULTY

Kristan Gately P '28
UPPER SCHOOL DEAN OF STUDENTS

Galen McNemar Hamann P '31
MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Thad Robey P '17, '19
CO-DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

Cicily Shaw
CO-DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

Christine Woods P '25, '27
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
COLLEGE COUNSELING

Founded in 1877, 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 evolving 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 prioritizes authentic student engagement as the foundation of learning excellence.

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 six dedicated bus routes, Thayer draws students from over 80 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, audio production, and pottery studios on campus.

The Academy's signature programs are forward-thinking, 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) program offers juniors the opportunity to research and later intern at Boston-area labs. Thayer partners with Beneath The Waves (BTW), a leading marine science nonprofit, and houses 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. The school has recently launched an entrepreneurship program and expanded its array of leadership community/public speaking offerings.

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 Drive, Special Olympics, and Hope for Haiti. Academic teams include Mathletes, Model UN, Mock Trial, and the Physics/Robotics Team. Students enjoy cultural exchanges with sister schools in China, France, and India. Study-abroad opportunities include trips to locations such as the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Italy, Peru, Quebec, and Spain.

Thayer's commitment to belonging and the preparation of its students includes an array of DEIB-focused programs, classes, trainings, and resources. Examples include: (1) all 9th graders participate in an interdisciplinary seminar "Anti-Racism: Introduction;" (2) all 10th graders take "The Common Good: An Introduction to Social Justice," a broader exploration of social justice issues; (3) and a team of DEIB professionals oversee affinity, interest, and alliance groups; school-wide initiatives; and a DEIB student lounge.

Thayer has invested more than \$70M in state-of-the-art facilities in recent years, including: the development and enhancement of signature academic centers (the Hale Learning Center, the Benelli Writing Center, the Pulsifer College Counseling Center, the Hanflig Technology Center, a Collaborative Design (prototyping) Lab, and a Computer Science & Robotics Wing); the updating of all science labs; the renovation of the Fish Center for Physical Fitness; the opening of the 86,000-square-foot Thayer Sports Center; the transformation of Thayer Middle School; and the establishment of a new Health & Wellness Center to further the school's commitment to social, emotional, and physical well-being.

ENROLLMENT The Academy has an enrollment of 510 students in grades 9-12 and 222 students in grades 5-8 for the 2023–24 school year. Twenty-five percent of the student population are students of color.

COSTS Tuition is \$56,780 per year for Middle School and \$59,390 per year for Upper School. Thirty-five percent of Thayer students receive financial aid, which totals more than \$9 million (\$36,447 average grant).

FACULTY There are 106 faculty members, 67% of whom have master’s degrees or beyond. The student-faculty ratio is 7:1. 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 were expected to take at least five academic courses per semester. Full-year courses were one credit, and semester-long courses were half a credit. Courses were conducted entirely in person and on campus. The complete range of Thayer’s activities, including sports, arts, and clubs, returned to 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.

CURRICULUM All courses are college preparatory. There are 18 AP courses available, along with honors sections in computer science, English, history, mathematics, sciences, visual arts, 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 community service, cultural immersion, or career-oriented project, either on or off campus.

**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 **137 students** in the Class of 2024. The average cumulative GPA is 3.54.

**STANDARDIZED TESTING
CLASS OF 2024**

ACT: Middle 50% Range: Composite 24-31

SAT: Middle 50% Ranges: EBRW 580-700, M 540-690

**NATIONAL MERIT
PROGRAM**

National Merit Scholars for the Class of 2024:

- 3 Commended Students
- 1 Semifinalist

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT
POLICY**

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

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

**SPRING 2023
AP EXAM STATISTICS**

In May 2023, students took 397 AP Exams. AP Exams resulted in the following designations:

- 26 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 16 AP Scholars with Honor
- 35 AP Scholars

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Ninety-nine percent of Thayer students attend four-year colleges.
(see matriculation list on next page)

COLLEGE MATRICULATION - Classes of '19, '20, '21, '22, and '23 (three or more enrollments in **bold**)

Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Assumption University
Babson College
Barnard College
Bates College
Belmont University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Boston College, Woods College of Advancing Studies
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
California Polytechnic State University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catawba College
Catholic University of America
Champlain College
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
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
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, Bloomington
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
John Cabot University
Johns Hopkins University
Keiser University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
LIM College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Maryland
Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Morgan State University
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Norwich University
Nova Southeastern University
Oglethorpe University
Paul Smith's College
Penn State University
Pitzer College
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Regis College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Roanoke College
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 Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Skidmore College
Southern Methodist University
Southern New Hampshire University
St. Lawrence University
Stanford University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY College at Plattsburgh
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
The Boston Conservatory at Berklee
The New School
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Union College
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 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 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 Puget Sound
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Utica University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
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
William & Mary
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University