Upper School
GRADES 9–12

Inspiring confidence, igniting leadership:
CDS is where you discover who you are and who you can become.
Welcome to Carolina Day

“The Carolina Day Upper School is human centered and puts students first. Everything we do is about helping our graduates reach beyond self while making sure we’ve nurtured good humans along the way. We blend rigor with fun within the classroom while also creating opportunities outside the classroom that students don’t traditionally get in other schools. As a result, Upper School students leave Carolina Day with strong leadership and entrepreneurship skills but also with emotional intelligence and empathy that deepens the connection with their community. They leave here with distinction, already having made their mark on the world, already understanding their path forward, so that when they graduate they can take their ideas and turn them into something the world needs, something that will fill their cup.

We support our students exploring beyond the walls of the classroom in order to try something new and be innovative, so that life beyond high school is not an overwhelming mystery, nor a puzzle they have to figure out before they can engage with the world as purposeful adults.”

MARGOT MOSES
Upper School Principal

At Carolina Day School, the tight-knit community combined with the opportunities to learn help students grow, not only in the classroom but in the real world. As a smaller school, students get to know almost everyone and form meaningful relationships with each other. These connections foster an environment of collaboration rather than competition.”

~ Chase Locascio, Student Body President
Education for a Lifetime

At Carolina Day, we believe a well-rounded liberal arts education goes beyond the textbook. Encouraging exploration, developing leadership skills, and inspiring curiosity are built into everything we do. Upper School students will go well beyond learning facts and figures, they will uncover their true strengths while becoming empathetic citizens of a global community.

Our Upper School students receive focused, individualized attention and instruction. The Upper School experience is all about becoming a compassionate leader in a community of peers who care deeply about the world around them. Your opinions, passions, and ideas don’t just belong in essays or presentations. They belong in your local and global communities, and the CDS Upper School will help make that happen. With a tight-knit school community, student-run clubs and organizations, leadership programs that connect students to real-world businesses and nonprofit organizations, a wide range of arts, athletic, and service oriented extracurriculars, and classes that invite innovation and creativity, Carolina Day’s Upper School is a place where you can learn how to make your goals a reality.

Find your purpose. Make a difference. Lead the way.
Carolina Day’s small class sizes create an engaging learning environment and makes it easier for students to ask for help. The teachers here genuinely care about our academics and take the time to get to know each and every one of us. They always encourage us to meet with them outside of class with any questions. Their passion for teaching makes students eager to learn."

~ CECILY HEYE, Student Body Vice President
“Carolina Day was the first academic place where I felt free. It was a safe space for me to learn. In the future, I want to be able to create those kinds of feelings in my classrooms.”

~ PRESTINA SMITH ’06,
CDS Alumna
Graduation may seem far away, but Upper School students are always thinking about the future and the day when they cross that commencement stage and start their adult lives. What kind of person will you be? Will you feel ready to take on the challenges of a rapidly changing world? Will you be ready to affect meaningful change in the ways you care about most? We think about that day, too. The Carolina Day Portrait of a Graduate is our blueprint for fostering prepared and compassionate leaders, so that when you turn your tassel, you will be an innovative, authentic leader with all the tools to contribute to whatever cause you set your mind to.
A Community of Honor

Our tight-knit community of students, faculty, and staff unite under the banner of our Honor Code and Pledge. At the beginning of each year, we gather together in a symbolic ceremony to reaffirm our commitment to the code and pledge, signing our names in a ledger book that has been used for decades to record the dedication of our community to compassion, integrity, and scholarship. The principles we hold dear came from Upper School Honor Council students, who led an initiative in 2020 to create an up-to-date Honor Code that represents student voices and values. It has guided our whole school community ever since and will continue to guide us into the future.

Honor Code

Carolina Day School is a community of honor. We are bound together by a shared commitment to uphold the values of compassion, integrity, and scholarship.

Honor Pledge

In my commitment to be a member of the Carolina Day community, I pledge to:

• treat all individuals, personal property, and physical spaces with care and respect.
• be honest and honorable at all times with my words and actions.
• practice integrity in my relationships and academic work.
• hold members of the community to our high standards of honor.
• accept full responsibility if my actions do not meet these community standards.
Students select from a wide variety of traditional college preparatory, honors, and AP courses, as well as numerous semester electives. Additionally, students have at least one open period each day when they can work with peers, seek extra help from teachers, or conduct independent or collaborative research. Our classes engage students intellectually by stimulating their creativity and curiosity. A culture of trust, respect, and close faculty/student relationships creates an atmosphere of safety and personal well-being, leading to student academic success and personal growth. Upper School is first and foremost a place where it is safe to be yourself—to stretch and grow. Here they can explore what they love and find the support needed to take risks: intellectually, creatively, athletically.
Journey to College

The CDS College Counseling Program works closely with students, parents, faculty, and staff to provide a comprehensive approach to the college exploration and application process. While most individualized counseling occurs in the junior and senior years, we provide a number of forums for freshmen, sophomores, and their parents to learn about the college admissions process. Through individualized meetings with students and parents, we guide students through the process of identifying colleges that fit each student’s academic, career, and personal goals. We assist students throughout the college application process by facilitating a standardized testing strategy, college trips and representative visits, college applications, interview preparation, essay topic brainstorming and review, and financial aid and scholarship applications.

College Exploration Timeline

Our college application process begins in Grade 9 and progresses to a CDS Sophomore College Trip, followed by individual coaching and guidance. Our dedicated college counselor has close relationships with colleges and universities across the nation. Our process includes individual college counseling meetings with students and parents, as well as workshops on affording college and other topics. We organize a vigorous college representative visit schedule for students to meet directly with college admission representatives on our campus. Our graduate college list includes 83 different institutions to which CDS graduates have matriculated.

Left to right: Upper School College Counselor Jessica Browning meets with a student to discuss the college application process. The sophomore trip provides students with an overview of a variety of colleges and universities. Awareness of different types of schools is an important step in a student’s college exploration process.

To learn more about the Upper School at Carolina Day, visit carolinaday.org or call 828-407-4442.
College Acceptances 2017–2023

Agnes Scott College
Alaska Pacific University
Alfred University
American University*
Amherst College
Anderson University
Anglo-American University*
Appalachian State University*
Arizona State University
Auburn University*
Austin Peay State University
Bard College
Barnard College*
Bates College
Baylor University
Belmont Abbey College
Belmont University
Berea College
Berry College
Blue Ridge Community College*
Boise State University
Boston College
Boston University*
Bowling Green State University*
Bryant University
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute
Campbell University
Carleton College
Carson-Newman University
Case Western Reserve University*
Centre College*
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clark University
Clemson University*
Coastal Carolina University*
Colby College*
College Of Charleston*
Colgate University
Colorado College*
Colorado State University*
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University*
Connecticut College
Cornell University*
Dartmouth College*
Davidson College*
Daviot University*
Dekalb College
Depaul University*
Dickinson College*
Drew University
Drexel University*
Duke University*
Duke Kunshan University*
Earlham College
East Carolina University
East Tennessee State University
Eckerd College*
Eliot University*
Emerson College*
Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
Florida Southern College
Florida State University*
Fordham University
Full Sail University*
Furman University*
Gardner-Webb University
George Mason University
George Washington University*
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Glasgow Caledonian University
Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Greensboro College
Grinnell College
Guilford College*
Guilford Technical Community College
Hamilton College*
Hartwick College
Harvard University
Haverford College*
Hendrix College
High Point University*
Hofstra University
Hollins University
Howard University
Indiana University
Indiana University, Bloomington
Iowa State University
James Madison University*
Kennesaw State University
Kenyon College
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lander University
Lees-McRae College*
Lehigh University
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lewis & Clark College*
Louisiana State University*
Loyola Marymount University*
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Macalester College
Marist College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Mars Hill University
MIT*
McGill University*
Mason University
Methodist University*
Miami University (Ohio)*
Michigan State University
Middlebury College*
New York University*
North Carolina A&T University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University*
Northeastern University
Northern Vermont University, Johnson
Northwestern University*
Occidental College
Oglethorpe University*
Ohio University*
Oklahoma State University
Oxford College Of Emory University*
Pace University*
Pace University, New York City*
Parsons School of Design*
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Pfeiffer University
Piedmont College
Pratt Institute*
Princeton University*
Purdue University
Queen’s University (Canada)
Queen’s University of Charlotte*
Radford University
Rhodes College
Ringling College of Art and Design*
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology*
Rollins College*
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Edward’s University*
Saint Mary’s College of California
Salisbury University
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College*
Savannah College of Art and Design*
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Seattle University
Skidmore College*
Smith College*
Southern Methodist University*
Southwestern Community College*
Stanford University*
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University*
SUNY at Albany
Swarthmore College*
Temple University
The American University Of Paris
The College of Wooster*
The New School
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama*
The University of Alabama, Huntsville*
The University of Tampa*
The University of Tennessee*
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
The University of the South*
Towson University
Trinity College
Trinity University*
Tufts University*
Tulane University*
Tusculum College
United States Naval Academy*
University Of Arizona
University Of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley*
University of California, Davis
University Of California, Irvine*
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego*
University Of California, Santa Cruz
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Canterbury*
University of Cincinnati
University Of Colorado
University Of Colorado, Boulder*
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Dundee
University Of Georgia*
University of Glasgow
University Of Kansas
University Of Kentucky
University of Louisville*
University of Lynchburg
University Of Maine
University Of Maryland
University Of Massachusetts, Amherst
University Of Massachusetts, Boston
University Of Miami*
University Of Michigan*
University Of Mississippi
UNC Asheville*
UNC Chapel Hill*
UNC Charlotte*
UNC Greensboro*
UNC Wilmington*
University of Notre Dame*
University of Oregon*
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina*
University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie*
University of South Florida
University of Stirling
University of the West of Scotland
University of Toronto*
University Of Utah
University Of Vermont*
University Of Virginia
University Of Virginia’s College at Wise
University Of Washington
University Of Wisconsin
University Of Wisconsin, Eau Claire*
University Of Wisconsin, Madison
Ursinus College*
Vanderbilt University*
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute And State University*
Wake Forest University*
Warren Wilson College*
Washington And Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Western Carolina University*
Western Colorado University
Western Washington University
William and Mary
Williams College*
Williamette University
Wingate University*
Wofford College*

*CDS students attending
House System
The House System in the Upper School fosters a sense of community and connection among students and teachers. At the start of the school year, each Upper School student is assigned to one of four Houses: Bell, Cardinal, Highlander, or Pines. Students actively participate in friendly competition throughout the year, accumulating points for their respective House through various activities, including House Games, acts of service, attending art and athletic events, upholding the Honor Code, and engaging in Spirit Days.

Community Meetings
Student-run community meetings are twice weekly gatherings where all Upper School students and teachers come together to celebrate individual accomplishments, listen to senior speeches, get excited for upcoming events, and announce any club or organization initiatives.

Advisories
Upper School students belong to academic advisories, a structured and personalized support system in which each student is assigned to a dedicated faculty advisor. Advisors meet with their advisees both in groups and individually to provide academic and school-life support. Advisories allow for students to create close bonds with both teachers and peers while providing an extra layer of academic, social, and emotional support.

Healthy Relationships
Teaching high school students about healthy relationships is a proactive measure that not only protects them from potential harm but also empowers them to cultivate fulfilling and respectful connections throughout their lives. Our Healthy Relationships program, led by our skilled school counselor in partnership with Our VOICE and Helpmate, equips students with essential tools to build meaningful and respectful connections. Topics covered include setting classroom expectations, understanding body language, addressing harassment, bystander responsibility, consent, and respecting boundaries, among others.

“I was always encouraged to explore my passions and interests.”
~ MADISON HUFFMAN ’20, CDS Alumna

Student Life
Discover our student-first and student-lead community.

Above: Students form a human tunnel to celebrate and support their peers at a special event.

Above: New members of Cardinal House pose for a picture after the yearly House Sorting.
Beyond the Classroom

Extracurriculars & After School

Discover a world of opportunities through athletics, extracurriculars, clubs, student government, and so much more.

Athletics
We’re proud of our athletic program with teams that reach and win state championships and individual athletes who consistently shatter personal records. Our athletes have signed with collegiate athletic programs at Princeton, Dartmouth, MIT, and more. Athletics at Carolina Day aren’t just for record-breakers, though. We pride ourselves on nurturing scholar-athletes who take their schooling seriously, so our program offers both competitive and non-competitive development teams. Students who want to be involved with CDS athletics without playing a sport can join one of our support teams in sports media, sports management, and sports medicine.

- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Track and Field
- Field Hockey
- Tennis
- Golf
- Basketball
- Swim Team
- Lacrosse Clinic
- Baseball
- Agility Training

Clubs
Clubs in the Upper School aren’t just for after school. Many clubs meet during school hours to ensure our students have a class schedule that is helpful, interesting, productive, and energizing.

- Art Club
- Book Club
- Black Student Union
- Chess Club
- Environmental Club
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Fencing
- Gaming Club
- Girl Up Club
- GSA
- Investment Club
- Lunch with Will (Shakespeare)
- Outdoor Exploration Club
- Society of Literature, Art, Music, and Media
- Social Media Athletics
- Spanish Book Club
- Student Ambassadors
- Trivia Club
- Writing Mentors
- You Belong

Student Government
With elected members serving as student advocates, Student Government allows students to shape the school based on their collective voice, honing leadership skills in line with CDS curriculum.

Special Courses
Many of our special courses, such as performing arts, speech & debate, and others, have extracurricular components. There are so many ways in which to engage beyond the classroom!
Annie and Sandy onstage during Lower School's production of Annie.
Meet the Upper School Faculty

CDS teachers are experts in their fields, dedicated to helping Upper School students become well-rounded and empathetic leaders with a strong and multi-lensed foundation. Many of our teachers have advanced degrees either in education or specialized fields, participate regularly in professional development, and interact with students outside of the classroom. They also constantly learn from one another in Professional Learning Communities that meet regularly through the school year. These communities are think tanks where our faculty brainstorm the best and most innovative teaching practices, education technology, involvement opportunities, school-wide culture, and more to make the Upper School a place where students aren’t just well-prepared—they’re inspired.

**Upper School Administration**

Margot Moses, Principal | B.A. Trinity College | M.A. Columbia University

David Hertzinger, Interim Assistant Principal | B.A. Augusta State University | M.A. Southern Wesleyan University

Phyllis Armstrong, Registrar | College Counseling Assistant

Jessica Braketa, Academic & Social-Emotional Counselor | B.S. Colorado State University | M.A. UNC Charlotte

Jessica Browning, Director of College Counseling | B.A. Wesleyan University | M.A. University of San Diego

Kim Carr, Administrative Assistant

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To learn more about the Upper School at Carolina Day, visit carolinaday.org or call 828-407-4442.
We Look Forward to Meeting You

Let’s get started.

Join us for an Open House.
You are invited to attend our informational events to hear from administration, faculty, current students and parents about the Carolina Day community, culture, curriculum, and programs. Check out carolinaday.org/visit for a wide variety of opportunities to get to know us.

Tuition & Fees
Our Tuition & Fee schedule for the current year can be found at carolinaday.org/admission/ tuition. Our tuition covers many expenses, such as textbooks, activity fees, local field trips, lab/studio fees, as well as PSAT and ERB testing. It’s worth noting that tuition for the upcoming year is established in January and typically sees a moderate annual increase. Your investment in education paves the way for a brighter future!

Application
We invite you to submit an application at carolinaday.org/apply which creates an account on My CDS, a user-friendly system that streamlines the application process for our families. Through your My CDS account, you will be able to receive notifications from CDS, learn about CDS admission events, and apply and track your progress toward application completion.

Annual Giving
Annual giving is a vital source of support for Carolina Day programs, materials and opportunities that allow students to experience an exceptional education. Parent participation at a level consistent with your ability is a key component of community involvement.

Financial Aid
Financial aid awards are available to applicants to grades K–11 and are based on need. Financial aid and admission are separate processes, but must be done simultaneously if a family anticipates needing aid. Visit the Tuition & Financial Aid page of our website for more information.

To learn more about the Upper School at Carolina Day and how our students are learning for life, visit our website at carolinaday.org or call 828-407-4442.
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