2023-2024 School Profile

North Shore Country Day is a coeducational, college preparatory school of 540 students in junior kindergarten through grade 12, located in the Chicago suburb of Winnetka, IL. Since its founding in 1919, NSCD has been an exceptional environment for teaching and learning. With rigorous academic pursuit as the cornerstone, North Shore provides a wealth of opportunities for all our students to excel—in the classroom and the lab, on the stage and the playing field, and in their communities and beyond. The unique fellowship established across divisions and between faculty and students builds a strong learning environment.

Classes are small and provide a stimulating environment for learning and exchanging ideas. Teachers engage students in critical thinking and writing exercises and provide regular feedback on their work. The upper school fosters intellectual engagement, academic performance and personal growth. Students learn how to solve problems and analyze. They learn how to think for themselves and communicate effectively. Our students describe our school environment as demanding, accepting, engaging, dedicated, caring, intellectual, hardworking, athletic, artistic, compassionate and rigorous. The school is a member of and accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS).

STUDENTS: 540; lower school—190; middle school—135; upper school—215. Students come from 47 different ZIP codes throughout the Chicagoland region and 43% identify as students of color.

FACULTY: 85; 52% with advanced degrees; average teaching experience of 15 years. Average upper school class size of 12; 8:1 student to faculty ratio.

FACILITIES: Set on 16 acres, North Shore’s academic buildings include a state-of-the-art library featuring several types of collaborative and quiet study spaces. It is also home to the new Live+Serve Laboratory—the hub of our service-learning and community-partnership programs. A stairway, which also serves as a gathering and presentation space, connects the new library to the 20,000-square-foot Conant Science Center above. Our upper school building provides flexible and modern room arrangements including learning studios, seminar rooms, a digital media lab, community gathering and study areas. The arts center and auditorium provide 2-D and 3-D art studios, music labs, multifunction learning spaces and a 500-seat theater.

CLASS RANK AND GPA: In accordance with its mission and policies, North Shore Country Day does not rank its students nor does it offer any internal academic distinctions or awards. Individual cumulative GPAs are provided on both the transcript and secondary school report accompanying each application. GPAs are based on a 4 point system which factors in pluses and minuses (A=4.0, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, etc.). AP course grades receive a weight of .5. Only courses taken at North Shore are included on the NSCD transcript and in each student’s cumulative grade point average.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM: In order to maintain a balanced course load, students are encouraged to take no more than two AP courses in 11th grade and three in 12th grade.

HUMANITIES
AP English Literature and Composition
AP U.S. History
AP U.S. Government and Politics
AP Art and Design
AP Drawing
AP Music Theory

SCIENCE /MATH
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A
AP Chemistry
AP Biology
AP Physics
AP Environmental Science

WORLD LANGUAGES
AP French Language and Culture
AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP Chinese Language and Culture

LANGUAGES
AP French Language and Culture
AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP Chinese Language and Culture

COURSES OFFERED: A rigorous curriculum with a broad emphasis on liberal arts prepares students well for college. Each of our courses is taught at the highest level or what would be considered the honors level at many high schools; as such there are no separate designations for honors courses on our transcript. In addition to classes in English, mathematics, science and history, we offer language instruction in Spanish, French and Mandarin Chinese. An average class size of 12 students fosters extensive classroom interaction and discussion that will serve students well as they enter college.
## Upper School Courses

### Subject

#### English

- Four credits required
- English: Ninth Grade
- English: Tenth Grade
- English: Eleventh Grade
- English: Twelfth Grade

#### Social Studies

- Three credits required, including one year of U.S. History
- Human Geography
- Modern History

#### Mathematics

- Three credits required
- Algebra I
- Geometry I
- Algebra II
- Advanced Functional Analysis

#### Science

- Three credits required
- Physics: Conceptual
- Chemistry 10
- Biology 10

#### World Languages

- Three credits required
- Chinese I-V
- French I-V
- Spanish I-V

#### Fine and Performing Arts

- Two credits required
- Instrumental Ensemble
- Introduction to Piano & Music Theory

### Semester Courses

#### English

- Advanced Open Creative Writing
- Independent Study

#### Social Studies

- Law in American Society
- Macroeconomics
- Comparative World Religions

#### Mathematics

- Intro to Computer Science I
- Intro to Computer Science II
- Geometry 15

#### Science

- Physics: Quantitative
- Psychology I

#### World Languages

- AP Chinese Language & Culture

#### Fine and Performing Arts

- AP Music Theory

### Advanced/AP Courses

- AP English Literature
- AP U.S. History
- AP U.S. Government & Politics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Statistics
- AP Psychology II
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Calculus 15
- AP Calculus 10
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Statistics
- AP Psychology II
- AP Environmental Science
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- AP Psychology II
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Calculus 15
- AP Calculus 10
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Statistics
- AP Psychology II
- AP Environmental Science

### Curriculum Features

#### Daily Schedule

- The daily schedule includes four 75-minute academic blocks per day. These longer class periods allow students to practice and develop skills and strive to understand and analyze material on a deeper level. They also provide students with more flexibility to design a range of learning experiences. Each block meets four times in a seven-day rotation, at a different time throughout the cycle. This provides structured variety and evenly distributes class time lost to dismissals throughout an athletic season.

- The schedule also includes a 45-minute block each day dedicated to community time, wellness and performing arts, which incorporates Morning Ex, advisory, community gathering, physical education, health and a performing arts time once per rotation for additional rehearsal opportunities.

#### Interim Week

- One week each year is set aside from regularly scheduled classes for students to participate in an in-depth experience of educational value outside the tradition al classroom environment.

- Teachers seek to establish a learning experience that will challenge students to expand their horizons. Interim Week participation must be planned so that at least one of student’s four experiences is a community engagement program. Recent Interim offerings include:
  - Nature, Writing and Solitude: The Trout Bum Experience; Oak Terrace: Bilingual Tutoring: The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright; Arabic Soups and Service; The Actors Gymnasium; and Creative Design with a Laser Cutter.

#### Senior Service Projects

- The Senior Service Project is an opportunity for students to apply their interests, talents and skills away from NSCD classrooms. Each senior conceives and designs their own project. Students are expected to make this opportunity one that is personal, worthwhile and representative of their total North Shore experience. It is our hope that students will learn more about serving a larger community and learn something about themselves. Students commit at least 60 hours over a two-week period.

#### Service Learning

- Service is an integral part of life in the upper school, as we strive to be true to the school’s motto, “Live and Serve.” All students are encouraged to perform service throughout the time at NSCD in addition to the required Interim and Senior Service projects. The new Live-Serve Laboratory in the library is the hub of our community engagement programs. It is a creative, collaborative project space for teachers to bring their classes and for students to pursue individual passion projects, providing students with the tools to prototype ideas—such as a laser cutter and 3-D printer—and a space for multimedia production. The Live-Serve Lab also re-emphasizes the importance of project-based and service learning in our JK-12 curriculum.

### Advanced Open/Independent Study

- Advanced Open courses and independent study courses are opportunities for juniors and seniors to design and pursue investigation in an area of specific interest that goes beyond the curriculum options. Advanced Open courses are available in science, computer science, creative writing, music, theater and visual art. They challenge students to work with faculty mentors and peers to generate research questions, investigate them and present their own original work. Independent Study is available in every discipline and is designed to support students who have fulfilled the graduation requirements within a department. Recent topics and courses include quantum sensing, creative writing, history and performance of musical theater, impact of Snapchat on teenagers and bee behavior.

### Morning Ex

- Throughout the course of the year, students, faculty, alumni and visitors appear on stage to showcase academic work, present life experiences and give artistic performances to the three divisions of the school. Recent Morning Ex presentations include: a Susan Marshall ’76 Memorial Concert performance by the Neave Trio, a cutting edge chamber ensemble; “Your Eyes are a Mirror of the World,” a presentation on a faculty member’s recent sabbatical; and “Be-longing: In Silence and Outloud,” a collaboration of students and faculty in all three school divisions.

### Off-Campus Study Programs

- NSCD is a participating school of School Year Abroad, providing homestay programs in China, France, Italy and Spain. North Shore is also a sending school with The Mountain School, Ossow, High Mountain Institute, School for Ethics and Global Leadership and the Island School.

### Activities/Clubs

- By participating in activities of interest outside the classroom, students gain poise and confidence, as well as forge lifelong friendships. Upper school activities at NSCD include: Athletic Council, Community Service Club, Diller Street Journal, Environmental Club, GSA, Mirror (yearbook), P.L.L.O.W.S. (Poetry in the Literary Lives of Worldly Students), Prosody (literary magazine), Student Council, Model United Nations, SOAR (Students Organized Against Racism), Feminist Book Club and Film Club.

### Athletics

- Approximately 85% of the upper school students participate in at least one of the 17 sports offered: baseball, basketball (M/W), cross country (M/W), field hockey, golf (M/W), paddle tennis (M/W), soccer (M/W), tennis (M/W), track and field (M/W), and volleyball.

### Performing Arts

- At NSCD, fine and performing arts are an integral part of the curriculum. Opportunities include: a capella, chorus, string ensemble, fall play, winter play, spring musical, standards cabaret and the Take 10 playwriting showcase.

### Also Required:

- **Theater** — During the four years of upper school, students are required to perform on stage at least one production and participate in at least one year of athletics. Interim Week — Students must participate in Interim Week each year, and at least one must be a community engagement component. Senior Service — All 12th graders must complete a two-week Senior Service project in May. Athletics/Physical Education — All ninth graders must participate in a fall sport and all 10th and 11th graders must participate in one season of athletics. All students must also complete four credits of PE/Wellness.
COLLEGE MATRICULATION: 2019-2023

The following colleges and universities enrolled the 2019-2023 graduates of North Shore Country Day. Institutions listed in bold matriculated two or more graduates. Typically, 100% of NSCD seniors are offered admission to four-year colleges and universities.

American University
Amherst College
Auburn University
Barnard College
Bates College
Beloit College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brunel University London
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clark University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Lake County
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Columbia University
Cornell College
Davidson College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Dominican University
Drexel University
Duke University
Durham University
Earlham College
Elon University
Emory University
Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School
Fordham University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Harvard University
Haverford College
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Howard University
Illinois State University
Indiana University Bloomington
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Miami University
Middlebury College
Montana State University
New York University
North Park University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Richmond American University London
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Louis University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Southern Methodist University
St. John’s College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
The College of Wooster
The New School
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Texas at Austin
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Denver
University of Glasgow
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia State University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Western Michigan University
William & Mary
Williams College
Xavier University
Yale University