



DUKE SCHOOL

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3716 Erwin Road, Durham, NC 27705  
www.dukeschool.org

*Duke School is an independent preschool (three-year-olds) through eighth-grade project-based school. Founded in 1947 as the lab school at Duke University and independent since the mid-1980s, we are celebrating 75 years in progressive education.*

## ABOUT DUKE SCHOOL

The non-sectarian school serves c. 500 students from preschool through 8th grade on a 20-acre campus. Most students live in Durham or Chapel Hill. The school has accreditation from the Southern Association of Independent Schools.

Duke School graduates matriculate at a variety of area independent and public schools, as well as boarding schools in NC and beyond. It is not uncommon for a Duke School alum or two to earn the valedictorian or salutatorian distinction at an area high school in any given year, and there are typically two alums among the student body at the North Carolina School of Science and Math.

## OUR PROGRAM

Inquiry and discovery are hallmarks of our pedagogy, and at each grade level, one of the three projects yearly features design thinking as a key component. Our core academic curriculum features both systematic instruction and integrated project work.

Duke School has competency benchmarks at each grade level in all curricular areas. These benchmarks are based on standards set by national professional organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Teachers set goals based on ongoing assessments of each child.

Readers and writers learn in the workshop model, our young mathematicians discover procedures and algorithms through collaborative problem-solving, and all students enjoy lab-based science following the Next Generation science standards. Social studies incorporate the National Council for the Social Studies standards, while the Learning for Justice social justice standards pervades our program to ensure a sense of belonging for all. Our social-emotional curriculum is based on Social Justice Standards (MS) and Developmental Designs (LS), the four pillars of which are autonomy, competence, relationships, and fun. Duke School alumni develop skills in critical thinking, collaboration, project design and management, and more.

## ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Duke School has competency benchmarks at each grade level in all curricular areas. Teachers set goals based on ongoing formal and informal assessments of each child.

Teachers report student progress in the four core subject areas mid-year and at the end of the year. These reports comprise a checklist of growth toward benchmarks and a narrative. Teachers also complete a Learner Profile for each student, which describes student performance in three domains: Commitment to Academic Growth, Participation in a Learning Community, and Effective Functioning as a Student. Middle school students participate in two regularly scheduled conferences with their parents and advisor.

## THE EIGHTH-GRADE CAPSTONE PROJECT

Eighth graders spend the last three and a half months of their careers designing and carrying out their own projects. Topics have ranged from building a clock to designing a piece of street art (left: art designed by Noah Andrews '19 for their Capstone), from researching Jewish food in the South to investigating paradoxes, and more. Each student conducts significant research, seeks guidance from an expert in the field, determines a way to make an impact with their new knowledge and skill, and culminates the effort with a twenty-minute presentation to teachers, parents, and peers. Alumni regularly report that they surpass their high school peers in planning and executing projects of significant scope as well as in delivering presentations.

One alum notes, "The Capstone project is your final chance to create a toolkit that will set you up for all your future endeavors. You don't quite realize everything you learn from Duke School until after you graduate."

### Lisa Nagel

Head of School

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### Cherie Bowen

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### Steven Mercado

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Middle School Director

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## MISSION AND IDEALS

Our mission is to inspire learners to boldly and creatively shape their future and to inspire the next generation of problem solvers for our complex world.

Here are the ideas we live by:

- Learners are the center of a dynamic and collaborative learning, inquiry, and discovery process.
- Intellectual curiosity through project-based learning propels learners to explore multiple paths to creative solutions.
- A deep love of learning and respect for our community forms bold, critical thinkers for life.



## DUKE SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

- Area high school teachers appreciate Duke School alumni for their engagement, autonomy, and willingness to see teachers as guides and partners.
- Over 70% of Duke School alumni matriculate to highly selective colleges (Barron's College Rankings).
- Educators from around the country learn about the project approach at Duke School's Educators' Institute.



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## HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES | CLASSES 2017-2024

### LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Cedar Ridge High School - IB Program  
Chapel Hill High School  
Carrboro High School  
Durham School of the Arts  
East Chapel Hill High School  
Eno River Academy  
Green Level High School  
Jordan High School  
J.D. Clement Early College High School  
Leesville Road High School  
Middle Creek High School  
North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics  
Research Triangle High School  
Riverside High School - STEM Program  
South Granville High School  
Voyager Academy  
Woods Charter School

### AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Camelot Academy  
Cardinal Gibbons  
Carolina Friends School  
Cary Academy  
Durham Academy  
St. Mary's School  
Trinity School  
Montessori School of Raleigh

### BOARDING & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Chatham Hall  
Christ School  
Dwight School  
Northfield Mount Hermon  
Phillips Exeter Academy  
St. Andrew's School  
St. Paul's School  
The Loomis Chaffee School  
The Madeira School  
The Taft School  
Virginia Episcopal School  
Woodberry Forest School

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## COLLEGE MATRICULATION | DS CLASSES 2012-2020

Amherst College (5)  
American University  
Appalachian State University (4)  
Barnard College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brown University (3)  
California College of the Arts  
California Institute of Technology  
Carleton College (2)  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University (2)  
Clemson University (2)  
College of Charleston  
Colorado College  
Columbia University  
Dartmouth College (2)  
Davidson College (4)  
Depaul University  
Drexel University  
Duke University (12)  
Elon University (5)  
Emerson College  
Emory University (3)  
Furman University  
George Washington University (2)  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Goucher College  
Guilford College (2)  
Johns Hopkins University

Loyola Marymount University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Miami University  
Middlebury College (3)  
Muhlenberg College  
New York University (3)  
New York University - Shanghai  
North Carolina State University (15)  
Northeastern University (3)  
Oberlin College (3)  
Ohio State University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pepperdine University  
Princeton University (5)  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Rice University  
Rochester School of Technology  
Savannah College of Art & Design  
Sciences Po Paris  
Scripps College (2)  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Stanford University  
Texas Christian University  
Tufts University (2)  
Tulane University (2)  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley (2)  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Colorado, Boulder (3)

University of Hawaii  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Michigan (4)  
University of North Carolina at Asheville (3)  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (33)  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (6)  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro (4)  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington (5)  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Rochester (3)  
University of Sheffield  
University of St. Andrew's  
University of South Carolina (3)  
University of Southern California  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington (3)  
University of Wisconsin (2)  
Vanderbilt University (3)  
Vassar College (4)  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (7)  
Wake Forest University (5)  
Washington University at St. Louis  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University (5)  
William & Mary