



THADEN SCHOOL

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Class of 2025

40
Students

7:1
Student to
Faculty Ratio

20:1
Student to College
Counselor Ratio

CEEB/ACT Code:
040051

NCAA High School Code:
851799

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COLLEGE PROFILE

Our Mission

Our 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.

Curriculum Guide

Calendar and Graduation Requirements

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.

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 and Computer Science, History and 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 (*).

Standards-Based Grading

Thaden School employs a standards-based grading system whose purpose is to accurately and effectively communicate student mastery of core academic competencies. Our curriculum, instruction, and assessment are grounded in six essential skills: Factual Knowledge, Conceptual Understanding, Procedural Technique, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Creativity & Originality. These six skills are embedded in every discipline and are integral to evaluating student growth and mastery.

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.

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.

Notable Features of Our Curriculum

Community-Based Learning

Community-Based Learning (CBL) courses are where students combine multiple fields of study and engage with community partners in ways that foster a strong sense of civic responsibility. These courses provide further opportunities for students to form and investigate their own questions from many perspectives and address real world issues in Northwest Arkansas. Courses with a CBL component are listed on the students' transcripts with (CBL). Example courses include: Food and Community: Harvest Festival; Literature of Immigration; Climate Advocacy.

Intensives

After classes have concluded in May, the entire student body engages in a two-week experience that allows for the development of creative interdisciplinary course offerings that are complementary to but distinct from Thaden's core curriculum. Intensives use a wide range of pedagogical methods – from seminar-style discussions to hands-on activities – that collectively enhance students' versatility as problem solvers who can work creatively and collaboratively in a rapidly changing world. Example Intensives include: Epidemiology: An Exploration of Ancient and Modern Disease Outbreaks; Native American Self-Representation: Page and Screen; Nature Writing in Northwest Arkansas.

Senior Thesis

Grade 11 students can submit a thesis proposal that undergoes a highly vetted process amongst members of the professional community. The thesis process requires close collaboration between the student and a faculty advisor, and sometimes a community partner. If a student's proposal is accepted, they will work during their Grade 12 year to investigate, research, produce, refine and create the agreed upon deliverable. All students participating in a Senior Thesis will publicly defend their work in front of a panel of expert faculty members and an audience of their peers. A Senior Thesis project is comparable to the scope of a one-credit course.

Signature Programs

Thaden School's commitment to interdisciplinary understanding finds expression in our three signature programs – Meals, Reels, and Wheels.

Meals

The curriculum of the Meals program invites students to examine the food system and foodways from multiple perspectives. Through hands-on learning in the greenhouse, vegetable gardens, and teaching kitchen, students deepen their understanding of science, sustainability, community, and culture. Interdisciplinary collaborations explore the intersections between food, science, and culture to help students cultivate healthier, more connected foodways in their communities. Example courses include: Food Advocacy; Culinary and Cultural Roots of the South; Mexican Cuisine and Gardening (taught in Spanish).

Reels

In order for students to stand out in our modern world, they need to be able to tell their stories. The Reels program engages not only the humanities and creative arts, but also the technical, commercial, and cultural forces that mold visual storytelling. Equipped with a campus soundstage, an editing lab, and indoor and outdoor screening spaces, our facilities provide multiple platforms for the creation and study of film, photography, podcasts, and other forms of media. Our Reels program teaches students to create, capture, interpret, and change the world around them. Example courses include: Podcasting; International Cinema; Film Theory.

Wheels

The Wheels program leverages our region and campus's extensive network of bike trails, pump track, mountain bike skills course, and professional grade bike shop while helping form meaningful connections to math, physics, history, urban planning, and other fields of study. Students investigate the design and mechanics of the bicycle in order to grow their problem-solving skills while cultivating an ethos of repair and self-reliance. Wheels is where the bicycle serves as a vehicle for learning about humanities, science, mechanics, and community to help students discover a sense of agency and citizenship. Example courses include: Urban Studies; Trail Building as Conservation; Bike Advocates in Action.

Our Students

336
Students

20
Cities and Towns

100+
Sending Schools

71%
Need-Based
Indexed Tuition

35%
Person of Color

Our Faculty

54
Faculty

75%
Master's Degrees

22%
Doctorates

21
States and DC

20%
Person of Color

Core Curriculum

Note: not all courses are offered every year

Subject	Year-Long Core Courses	Trimester-Long Courses	Advanced Courses
<p>ENGLISH 4 credits required</p> <p>The required sequence in Grades 9-12 (English I, II, III, IV) fulfills this four-credit requirement.</p>	<p>English I: Journeys and Transformations English II: Individuals and Communities English III-A: Money and Power English III-B: Love and Loyalty English III-B: Love and Loss English IV-A: Tragedy English IV-B: Comedy</p>	<p>The Bible as Literature: Genesis and Mark Creative Writing: Memoirs and Personal Essays Creative Writing: Poetry Creative Writing: Short Fiction Critical Reading and Writing Film Theory Hardboiled Literature and Film Myth in Music Post-War Literature and Film Writers' Room Yearbook: The Screech (2/3)</p>	<p>Dante's Inferno: Reimagining Hell and Poetry* (1/3) Moby-Dick* (2/3) The Modern Indian Novel* (1/3) Strangers in a Stranger Land: Literature of Immigration* (CBL) (1/3)</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE 4 credits required</p> <p>The required sequence in Grades 9-11 (Algebra I-II and Geometry) fulfills three credits of this four-credit requirement. Algebra I taken in Middle School counts as one Upper School math credit.</p>	<p>Algebra I Algebra II Accelerated Algebra II with Precalculus Geometry Introduction to Computer Science Precalculus Programming I Quantitative Reasoning Robotics Statistics</p>	<p>Introduction to Cryptography</p>	<p>Calculus I* Calculus II* Multivariable Calculus* Programming II* Programming III*</p>
<p>HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 3 credits required</p> <p>The required sequence in Grades 9-11 (Modern World History, US Government and Economics, US History) fulfills this three-credit requirement.</p>	<p>Big History Digital Literacy Globalization and Its (Dis)Contents: Contemporary Global Issues Modern World History Modern World History, 1500-present Native American Studies Psychology Sociology United States Government & Economics United States History</p>	<p>20th Century American Art The 2024 Presidential Election (2/3) Ancient Rome Civic Engagement: The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service (CBL) Climate Advocacy (CBL) The Culinary and Cultural Roots of the South (CBL) The Culinary and Cultural Roots of Western Civilization Design Thinking for Social Issues (CBL) The Fundamentals of Peacebuilding Literature of Immigration (CBL) The Middle East: Questions for US Policy Peace and Conflict Studies The Rule of Law Running a Political Campaign (CBL) Urban Studies (CBL) Women's History</p>	<p>Africa Since Independence* (1/3) Modern Latin America* (1/3) US-China Relations: Past, Present, and Future* (1/3) Incarceration in America* (CBL) (1/3) International Human Rights* (1/3) Studies in International Trade* (1/3) Powering America: Energy in History* (1/3)</p>
<p>SCIENCE 3 credits required</p> <p>The required sequence in Grades 9-10 (Inquiries in Biological and Environmental Sciences, Inquiries in Chemical and Physical Sciences) and one additional year-long course fulfills this three-credit requirement.</p>	<p>Astronomy Inquiries in Biological and Environmental Sciences Inquiries in Chemical and Physical Sciences Plant Sciences (CBL) Robotics</p>		<p>Advanced Chemistry* Chemistry II* Advanced Physics* Physics II* Molecular Genetics* Anatomy and Physiology*</p>
<p>WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES 3 credits required</p> <p>Students must study the same language for at least two consecutive years in the Upper School. World language study in Middle School may count for up to one credit.</p>	<p>Introduction to German Language and Culture Latin I, II, and III Mandarin I, II, and III Spanish I, II, and III</p>	<p>Ancient Rome Mexican Cuisine and Gardening Myth in Music</p>	<p>Latin IV* and V* Mandarin IV* and V* Spanish IV* and V* Spanish Literature* (1/3)</p>

Additional Courses and Electives

Subject	Trimester-Long Courses		Advanced Courses
<p>SIGNATURE PROGRAMS 2 credits required</p> <p>Students may choose elective courses in three areas: Meals, Reels, and Wheels.</p>	<p>The Art and Science of Bicycle Maintenance (CBL) Bike Advocates in Action (CBL) Bike Co-op (CBL) Bikes Mean Business – Fashion, Carbon Fiber, and Beyond (CBL) (2/3) Cooking for the Community (CBL) Cooking Methods The Culinary and Cultural Roots of Western Civilization The Culinary and Cultural Roots of the South (CBL) The Culture and Craft of Bicycle Mechanics Cycle Mechanics and Design I Delicious Art Director’s Journey Documenting Foodways Film Festival (CBL) Film Theory Food Advocacy (CBL) Food and Community: Harvest Festival (CBL) Hardboiled Literature and Film</p>	<p>International Cinema Introduction to Film Scoring and Foley Introduction to Signature Programs Market Garden (CBL) Mexican Cuisine and Gardening Mountain Biking in NWA (CBL) Photography Podcasting Post-War Literature and Film Preserving the Harvest Ready, Set, Grow! Reels Showcase (CBL) Running a Political Campaign (CBL) Short-Form Video Production I Sustainable Table (CBL) Thaden Menu Development (CBL) Trail Building as Conservation (CBL) Trail Mechanics and Design (CBL) Urban Studies (CBL) (2/3) World Cuisine Writers’ Room</p>	<p>Short-Form Video Production II* Reels Mentorship Lab* (CBL) (1/3) Culinary Operations* (1/3) Cycle Mechanics and Design II* (CBL) (1/3) Northwest Arkansas Profiles* (1/3)</p>
<p>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS 2 credits required</p> <p>Students may choose elective courses in three areas: music, theater, and visual arts.</p>	<p>Acrylic Painting The Art of Nature (CBL) Beat Making: Explorations in Sound Production Ceramics Choir (2/3) Choral Ensemble Color, Drawing, and Illustration Community Murals (CBL) Delicious Art Drawing Empty Bowls (CBL) Fiber Arts Instrumental Ensemble (2/3) Instrumental Studio Introduction to Film Scoring and Foley Introduction to Harmony and Musicianship Introduction to Theater Arts Jazz Studio Modern Music Ensemble (2/3) Mixed Media Sculpture</p>	<p>Myth in Music Nerikomi One-Act Play Paper Arts Performance Workshop (2/3) Printmaking Sculptural and Functional Ceramics (2/3) Slipcasting Sound Affects (CBL) Sound Production Stagecraft Survey of Rock and Roll Theater Arts I Ukulele Ensemble Visual Art I Visual Art II: Two-Dimensional Art Visual Art II: Three-Dimensional Art Vocal Studio, I, & II Vocal Styles in Musical Theater</p>	<p>Advanced Studio Art* (2/3) Art History* (CBL) (1/3) Sustained Investigation: 2-D Art* (1/3) Sustained Investigation: 3-D Art* (1/3) Visual Art III* (1/3) Visual Art IV* (1/3)</p>
<p>WELLNESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2 credits required</p> <p>Students in Grades 9 and 11 are required to take a one-trimester Wellness course. Students must earn one Physical Education (PE) credit each year in the Upper School by taking a one-trimester PE elective or by participating on a Thaden athletics team.</p>	<p>Outdoor Activated Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) Program Physical Education: Lifetime Sports Physical Education: Outdoor Education Physical Education: Mindful Movement Physical Education: Strength and Conditioning Physical Education: General Wellness I Wellness II Wellness: Special Topics</p>		
<p>ADDITIONAL COURSES 3 credits required</p> <p>This requirement may be fulfilled by taking elective courses in any field of study at Thaden School.</p>			

Thaden School College Acceptances and Matriculations (2021-2024)

Note: bold indicates matriculations for 2021-2024

Agnes Scott College
Alfred University
American University
Amherst College
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Arkansas Tech University
Auburn University
Augustana College
Austin College
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Baylor University
Biola University
Boston College
Boston University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of Technology
Carleton College
Carthage College
Case Western Reserve University
Centre College
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Chapman University
Chatham University
Clark University
Clemson University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of Wooster
Colorado College
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
Duke Kunshan University
EADA Business School
Barcelona
Eckerd College

Elon University
Fairfield University
Flagler College
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Gonzaga University
Grinnell College
Hampden-Sydney College
Hampton University
Hartwick College
Haverford College
Hendrix College
Hofstra University
Howard University
IE University, Madrid
Illinois Institute of Technology
Iowa State University
Jackson State University
Jacksonville 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
Loyola University Maryland
Lyon College
Macalester College
Marquette University
Middlebury College
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Minneapolis College of Art & Design
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Montana State University
Moravian University
Mount Holyoke College

Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles (Women's College)
Muhlenberg College
Northeastern State University
Northeastern University
Northwest Arkansas Community College
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
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
Pomona College
Princeton University
Providence College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rockhurst University
Rollins College
Rutgers University
Ryerson University
Saint Louis University
Saint Louis University Madrid
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Smith College
Southwestern University
Spelman College
St. Edward's University
St. Lawrence University
St. Olaf College

Stevens Institute of Technology
Stockton University
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Trinity College
Trinity University
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
United States Air Force Academy
University College Dublin
University of Alabama
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
University of Arkansas at 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 Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Dallas
University of Denver
University of Glasgow
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Memphis
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of Missouri, Kansas City
University of Montana
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of New Mexico

University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Dakota
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of Stirling
University of Tennessee
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Tulsa
University of Victoria
University of Virginia
University of West Florida
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Virginia Polytechnic University
Wartburg College
Washington University in St. Louis
Webster University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western New England University
Westminster College
Westminster College Missouri
Whitman College
Whittier College
William & Mary
Wofford College
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana