



NORTH SHORE COUNTRY DAY

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2024-2025 School Profile

North Shore Country Day is a coeducational, college preparatory school of 510 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: 510 — 180 in lower school, 135 in middle school and 195 in upper school. Students come from 47 different ZIP codes throughout the Chicagoland region and 45% identify as students of color.

FACULTY: 85 — 80 % with advanced degrees; average teaching experience of 15 years. Average upper school class size of 12; 7:1 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 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 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 courseload, students are encouraged to take no more than two AP courses in 11th grade and three in 12th grade.

HUMANITIES	SCIENCE /MATH	WORLD LANGUAGES
AP English Literature and Composition	AP Calculus AB	AP French Language and Culture
AP U.S. History	AP Calculus BC	AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP U.S. Government and Politics	AP Statistics	AP Spanish Literature and Culture
AP African American Studies	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Chinese Language and Culture
AP Art and Design	AP Computer Science A	
AP Drawing	AP Chemistry	
AP Music Theory	AP Biology	
	AP Physics I	
	AP Environmental Science	

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	YEAR COURSES	SEMESTER COURSES	ADVANCED/AP COURSES	
ENGLISH Four credits required	English: Ninth Grade English: 10th Grade English: 11th Grade English: 12th Grade		AP English Literature Advanced Open Creative Writing Independent Study	
SOCIAL STUDIES Three credits required, including one year of U.S. History	Human Geography Modern History U.S. History	Law in American Society Microeconomics Macroeconomics Philosophy of Ethics Global Women's Issues Open Entrepreneurship Lab Comparative World Religions Holocaust & Human Behavior Gender & Sexuality Studies Activism in Sports	AP U.S. History AP U.S. Government & Politics AP African American Studies Advanced Topics in African-American Studies Advanced Topics in Latinx Studies Advanced Open Entrepreneurship Lab Independent Study	
MATHEMATICS Three credits required	Algebra I Geometry 10 Algebra II 10 Pre-Calculus 10 Algebra III	Intro to Computer Science I Intro to Computer Science II	Geometry 15 Algebra II 15 Pre-Calculus 15 Calculus Advanced Open Computer Science AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A AP Statistics Multivariable Calculus Independent Study	
SCIENCE Three credits required, including one year each of Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Physics: Conceptual Chemistry 10 Biology 10	Psychology I Psychology II Food Chemistry and Molecular Gastronomy Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology I Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology II Science & Public Policy Engineering: Research, Design & Development	Physics: Quantitative Advanced Topics in Physics Chemistry 15 Biology 15 AP Physics I AP Chemistry AP Biology AP Environmental Science Advanced Open Research Independent Study	
WORLD LANGUAGES Three credits required	Chinese I-V French I-V Spanish I-V		AP Chinese Language & Culture AP French Language & Culture AP Spanish Language & Culture AP Spanish Literature & Culture Chinese: Special Topics French: Special Topics Spanish: Special Topics Independent Study	
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS Two credits required	Instrumental Ensemble	Chorus Drawing and Painting Fashion and Fabric Design The Art of Film Functional Ceramics Mixed Media Introduction to Theatre Direction Studio Lighting Design	Acting Ensemble Visual Studies Art Productions Digital Design Fashion Design Photography Character Design for Animation & Illustration	AP Music Theory Advanced Open Studio: Music Advanced Open Studio: Theater Advanced Open Studio: Visual Art AP Art and Design AP Drawing

ALSO REQUIRED: Theater — During the four years of upper school, students are required to perform onstage in at least one production and participate on or offstage in a second. **Interim Week** — Students must participate in Interim Week each year, and at least one must have 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.

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 teachers 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 early 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 traditional 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 each 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 Souqs 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 their 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 studies are opportunities for juniors and seniors to design and pursue investigation in an area of specific interest that goes beyond the curricular 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: quorum sensing, creative writing, history and performance of musical theater, impact of SnapChat on teenagers and bee behavior.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAMS NSCD is a participating school of School Year Abroad, providing homestay programs in China, France, Italy and Spain. NSCD is also a sending school with The Mountain School, Alzar School, High Mountain Institute, School for Ethics and Global Leadership, The Island School, and has sent students to Idyllwild Arts Academy and The Outdoor Academy.

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.I.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 Our athletics program enriches the lives of NSCD students through both full participation and excellence in sports. There is a place for all athletes in the sport of their choice regardless of skills or ability in our no-cut environment. While at the same time, we push all our athletes to seek personal and team excellence. Approximately 92% 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 Our upper school performing arts classes and rehearsals challenge students to develop fully in areas of critical thinking, language, social development, emotional awareness and self-identification. Each year, students can choose courses in instrumental and vocal music, acting and technical theater, as well as several concerts and four different theatrical productions in which to participate, including a full musical production and a children's play geared for a lower school audience.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION: 2020-2024

The following colleges and universities enrolled the 2020-2024 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

Babson College

Barnard College

Bates College

Beloit College

Boston College

Boston University

Bowdoin College

Carthage College

Champlain College

Chapman University

Claremont McKenna College

Clark University

Clemson University

Colby College

Colgate University

College of the Holy Cross

Colorado College

Columbia University

Davidson College

Denison University

DePaul 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

George Washington University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Gettysburg College

Hamilton College

Harvard University

Harvey Mudd College

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

McGill University

Miami University

Michigan State 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

Santa Clara University

Sarah Lawrence College

Skidmore College

Southern Methodist University

Stevens Institute of Technology

Syracuse University

Temple University

Texas Christian University

The University of Edinburgh

The University of Texas at Austin

Trinity College

Tulane University

Union College

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Connecticut

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 Virginia

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Vanderbilt University

Vassar College

Virginia State University

Wake Forest University

Washington University in St. Louis

Wesleyan University

Western Michigan University

William & Mary

Williams College

Yale University



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