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Paideia (pronounced pie-day-uh) is a Greek word whose meaning has changed through the centuries so that it has no literal translation. It reflects the conscious pursuit of a series of educational goals in a community. It conveys the concept of the intellectual, artistic, and moral development of a young person.

About Paideia : The Paideia School, 501(c)(3), is one of the nation's leading progressive schools and one of just a few progressive schools in the Southeast. Founded in 1971, by a group of parents who wanted an individualized, creative and intellectually stimulating education for their children, it serves students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Located on 16 acres in in-town Atlanta, The Paideia School is grounded in a [framework of values](#) that include, among others, excellence and hard work, learning as a lifelong process, social responsibility and respect for diversity. The Paideia School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS).

Enrollment: 1001 total; 450 in the High School; 108 in the Class of 2025. The school actively recruits students from a racial, cultural, and socioeconomic cross-section of the community; 42% students of color.

Faculty: Of the high school teaching faculty of 45, 87% hold graduate degrees. 33% faculty of color. The student-teacher ration is 7:1 and the average class size is 15. Each student has a faculty advisor with whom they meet regularly.

School and Student Life

Paideia is not a school without rules, but most students like its sense of freedom. Some freedoms are small: for example, no hallway passes, no bells telling students to stop what they are doing or that they are late, and no dress code. Others are more substantial: the freedom to appropriately plan a course of study, open expression in the classroom, the freedom from undue pressure to conform, and the opportunity to take risks in a supportive community. The faculty promotes this freedom because we believe it creates a more humane climate in our school, and we wish to foster self-responsibility.

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities throughout the year. In **athletics**, over half of Paideia students compete in 11 sports in the A Division of the Georgia High School Association, including baseball, basketball, cross-country, esports, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, and volleyball, along with ultimate. Participation in the **internship program** strengthens community stewardship and deepens learning through volunteerism and civic involvement. Students' efforts in over 90 internships positively impact the Atlanta community and communities elsewhere. Each student must complete 60 hours of service to graduate, but many volunteer more of their time. Almost all students participate in a range of **student activities**. Elected positions include the Student Steering Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, and the Honor Council. Clubs are open to all, meet regularly, and include newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, Mock Trial, Volunteer Paideia, The Fems, Amnesty International, Robotics, and Academic Bowl, among many others. Participation in the **arts** is robust; Over 40% of high school students participate in chorus, jazz ensemble, or orchestra. Also popular are our musical and drama productions, which attract many students who perform under faculty direction or in entirely student-run shows. More than a quarter of the high school take visual art classes. Students regularly win top awards in local, state, and national juried exhibitions of drawing and painting, sculpture, jewelry making, and photography.

The Paideia School is an equal opportunity educational institution; it does not discriminate in admissions or employment.

Special Characteristics of Paideia

Our Schedule: Long terms and Short Terms

Paideia's academic schedule and course structure differ from many schools. Our academic year starts with the fall long term which continues through the beginning of December. In January, we have a three and a half week short term. The second long term starts in February; it is followed by a second short term beginning after the first week in May and goes until the summer break.

Short Term

During short term, students generally take fewer courses that meet for longer periods during the day. Students choose from various options to explore a specific topic in greater depth, pursue an interest independently, address world issues or have more time for the arts. This long term/short term schedule is, after all, only a variation in the school calendar, but its effect on the program is dramatic. Short terms provide settings for courses rarely found in most high schools and opportunities for students to explore artistic, intellectual, and career interests. Recent short term offerings include: 3D Modeling, Musical Improvisation, Fish!, Green Home Design, Women and Wellness, Three Faces of Antigone, Rescuers of the Holocaust, The Mental Game for Athletes, Mexican Immigration and Border Culture.

Seminars

Paideia values academic excellence and our course offerings reflect that philosophy. Our courses emphasize creative expression and problem solving that go beyond established bodies of knowledge. **Our most demanding courses are Seminars (designated with an HH on the transcript) which include a limited number of AP courses where it suits our curriculum.** Seminars are taught at an introductory college level. Seminars are selective and require a faculty recommendation and are only open to students in 11th and 12th grade.

- Students who have taken as many as six to eight Seminars have challenged themselves significantly.
- It is rare for a student to take an honors course or Seminar in 9th or 10th grade.

Seminar Offerings 2024-2025

English: Age and Experience, Future is Female+, Heaps of Broken Images, In Author Words: Creative Writing and Publishing, Modern British and Irish Literature, Seriously Funny: World Tour, The Story of Community,

Math: AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, Computer Science, Precalculus, Vector Calculus

Languages: Adv. Francophone Culture and Civilization, Adv. Topics in French Expression, Adv. Topics in Spanish Expression, Adv. Topics in Spanish Lit and Film

Science: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Physics C, Epidemiology: Disease, Medicine and the Modern World, Humans and the Environment, Medical Botany, Neuropsychology

Social Studies: Black History, Empire in Question, Freedom and Justice in American Law, Medieval Africa and the World, Modern America: History and Politics, Out of the Cave: An Introduction to Philosophy, Plagues and People: Disease and the Course of Human History, What in the World Religion is that?!? The "Stuff" of Faith, Women in the Ancient World: 10,000 BCE to 500 CE

Other Academic: Music Theory

Important Academic Notes

- The Paideia School does not rank students.
- Honors and Seminar course grades are not weighted in determining a student's GPA
- On transcripts, Seminar courses will be designated with an HH after the course title.
- Honors courses are offered in French 3, Precalculus, Spanish 3, and Statistics/Calculus.
- Academic short term courses appear on the transcript and grades are included in the GPA.
- Course grades in the arts, music, physical education and internships are not included in a student's GPA; nor are non-academic short term courses.
- Graduation Requirements: English (4 years), Math (3 years), Languages (2 Years), Science (3 Years), Social Studies (3 Years), Arts (2 Years)

You can find full course listings and descriptions here: <https://www.paideiaschool.org/academics/high-school/curriculum>

Advanced Placement Testing for the 2023/24 year:

157 students took 256 exams in 21 subjects. 72% of the scores were 3 or better; 47% of the scores were 4 or 5.

SAT Scores - Class of 2024 (72 % of class)

Middle 50%	Evidence Based Reading/Writing	640-760
Middle 50%	Math	580-740

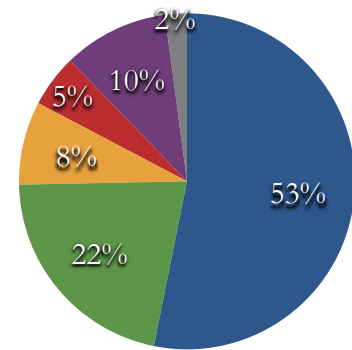
ACT Scores - Class of 2024 (43 % of class)

Middle 50%	Composite	27 - 31
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In the **Class of 2025**, 16 of 108 seniors have received recognition by the National Merit Scholarship program. Six are National Merit Semifinalists.

The Graduates of the classes of 2023 and 2024 enrolled at the following colleges and universities:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agnes Scott College (2) American University Amherst College Appalachian State University (3) Auburn University (2) Bard College Barnard College (2) Berry College Boston College (2) Boston University Bowdoin College Brandeis University Brown University (6) Bryn Mawr College (2) California Institute of Technology Carleton College Case Western Reserve University Clemson University (3) Colgate University College of Charleston Colorado College Colorado School of Mines Cornell University (2) Dartmouth College Davidson College (2) Drexel University Duke University (5) Elon University (3) Emory University (13) Flagler College Florida State University (2) Furman University George Washington University (4) Georgia Institute of Technology (17) Georgia State University (4) Howard University (4) Indiana University (2) Kennesaw State University (2) Lehigh University Loyola Marymount University (2) McGill University Middlebury College Morehouse College (2) New York University (4) North Carolina State University Northeastern University (4) Oberlin College (3) Occidental College (4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio University Oxford College of Emory University (2) Pitzer College Pomona College Pratt Institute Presbyterian College Purdue University (2) Rhode Island School of Design Roosevelt University Sewanee: The University of the South Skidmore College Smith College Southern Methodist University Spelman College (4) Stanford University (3) Swarthmore College Syracuse University The Ohio State University The University of Alabama The University of Tampa The University of Tennessee Tulane University of Louisiana (10) Tuskegee University United States Air Force Academy University College Dublin University of California, Los Angeles University of California, San Diego University of California, Santa Barbara University of Colorado Boulder (3) University of Georgia (25) University of Iowa University of Kentucky (2) University of King's College University of Miami University of Michigan (4) University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) University of Mississippi University of Oregon (2) University of Pennsylvania (2) University of South Carolina University of Southern California University of St Andrews (2) University of Vermont (2) University of Virginia University of Wisconsin (Madison) Vanderbilt University (3) Vassar College (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State Univ. (2) Warren Wilson College Washington and Lee University (2) Wellesley College Wofford College (2) Worcester Polytechnic Institute (2) Yale University (4) |
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- South
- Northeast
- Midwest
- Mid-Atlantic
- West/Pacific Northwest/Southwest
- International