

College Counseling

School Profile

2025-26



Lancaster Country Day School is a coeducational, nonsectarian independent school for students from Preschool through 12th grade. The school provides a rigorous college preparatory academic program in an atmosphere of warmth and support. Small classes, individual attention, and a broad range of extracurricular and athletic programs, combined to offer numerous opportunities for personal growth and discovery. In addition, the school enables its students to undertake meaningful work in the community and encourages an ethic of service, as well as a commitment to social justice. The school seeks students of character and ability from diverse ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, and geographical backgrounds. Students come from a five-county area known for its unusual blend of industry, diverse agricultural economy, tourism, and institutions of higher learning.

Head of School
Emilie D. Kosoff

Head of Upper School
Traci Osterhagen Brock

Director of College Counseling
Michelle O'Donnell

Associate Director Of
College Counseling
Emily Herbert

SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The school operates on a trimester system with final exams at the end of the year. Students are advised to take six courses per trimester, with the general guideline that a student should take five challenging academic courses and one practicum (music, theatre, or art). In the Upper School, the minimum requirements for graduation are four years of English (including American Studies, World Civilizations I and II), three years of history (including American Studies, World Civilizations I and II), three years of math (including Algebra I, Geometry or Honors Geometry, and Algebra II or Honors Algebra II, plus one additional credit in mathematics), foreign language study through level III of a language, three years of lab sciences (including biology, chemistry, and physics), and a total of two years in the arts. A total of 2.5 credits of physical education earned through sports team participation or LCDS fitness classes or their equivalent are also required.

UPPER SCHOOL HUMANITIES AT LCDS

In 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, LCDS students take a blended, interdisciplinary class for English and history credits. The courses are World Civilizations I (9th grade), World Civilizations II (10th grade), and American Studies (11th grade). Students receive 2.0 credits for each class to show its connection to both English and history. In 11th grade only, an Honors section is offered and is taught at an equivalent level to an AP course. Course descriptions can be found online at lancastercountryday.org/experience/college-counseling.

CEEB/High School Code: 392115
Accredited By The Pennsylvania
Association Of Independent Schools

Enrollment

Lower School
243 Students
(Preschool-Grade 5)

Middle School
107 Students
(Grades 6-8)

Upper School
178 Students
(Grades 9-12, 51 Seniors)

725 Hamilton Road, Lancaster, PA 17603
(P) 717-392-2916
(F) 717-509-9071
lancastercountryday.org

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Advanced Placement courses are available to Juniors and Seniors who fulfill prerequisites. Students are advised to take no more than two or three of these courses per year. The following AP courses are offered at LCDS:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- English Literature and Composition
- Human Geography
- Microeconomics (new in 2025-26)
- Music Theory
- Physics 1
- Spanish Language
- Statistics

ADVANCED/TERMINAL COURSES

Though not AP courses, these classes are offered as advanced or terminal courses in different academic departments and carry similar rigor to AP courses:

- Multivariable Calculus
- Global Issues
- Organic Chemistry

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GRADING SCALE

LCDS courses are not weighted; the GPA includes all courses except physical education. Students are not ranked. Because LCDS is a college preparatory school, students are evaluated in a rigorous manner in terms of academic achievement.

EXPLANATION OF GRADING SCALE

A's 90-100	B's 80-89	C's 70-79	D's 60-69
A 93-100 (4.0)	B+ 87-89 (3.33)	C+ 77-79 (2.33)	D+ 67-69 (1.33)
A- 90-92 (3.67)	B 83-86 (3.0)	C 73-76 (2.0)	D 63-66 (1.0)
	B- 80-82 (2.67)	C- 70-72 (1.67)	D- 60-62 (0.67)
			F BELOW 60

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

A designation of Outstanding Community Service – noted on a student’s transcript – is awarded to students who have undertaken more than 50 hours of supervised community service in a single year and have completed a reflection essay.

GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Global Education Program prepares students to thrive in a culturally diverse, interconnected world. World Civilizations I and II (required humanities courses) provide a global and historical foundation. More than half of students in grades 10-12 engage in travel courses, exchanges, or academic trips during their time in the Upper School. Yearlong travel courses integrate real-world, curriculum-based experiences and require prerequisites and a competitive application.

Highlights include: Global Issues students who attend the THIMUN Conference in the Netherlands or Qatar; the Spanish Civilization & Culture course trip to Spain; and a Science of Hawaii course, which explores geology and marine biology and concludes with a trip to Hawaii. We also offer exchange programs with partner schools in England, Spain, and South Africa.

OUTCOMES

One hundred percent of LCDS graduates are accepted to four-year colleges or universities. A five-year list of acceptances and enrollments is located on the school website.

OUR SCHOOL MISSION	We empower students to explore their passions, find purpose, and become the best versions of themselves.
OUR VISION	Inspiring the students of today to build a better tomorrow
OUR SCHOOL MOTTO	<i>Fax mentis et cordis incendium gloriae.</i> The spark that kindles the mind and heart illuminates a lifetime.