THADEN
SCHOOL

Michael Maloy
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Class of 2026

39
Students

7:1
Student to Faculty Ratio

20:1
Student to College Counselor Ratio

CEEB/ACT Code:
040051
NCAA High School Code:
851799

800 SE C Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
(479) 268-5321
thadenschool.org



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 School

48
Lower School Students

160
Middle School Students

175
Upper School Students

23
Cities and Towns

64%
Need-Based Indexed Tuition (71% Upper School Students)

36%
Person of Color (33% Upper School Students)

Our Faculty

58
Faculty

72%
Master's Degrees

21%
Doctorates

23
States and DC

22%
Person of Color

Core Upper School Curriculum 2022-2026

Note: not all courses are offered every year

Area of Study	Core Courses (Year-long)	Elective Courses (1 Trimester unless indicated)	
ENGLISH 4 credits required	English I: Journeys and Transformations English II: Individuals and Communities English III-A: Money and Power English III-B: Love and Loyalty English IV-A: Tragedy English IV-B: Comedy	The Bible as Literature: Genesis and Mark Creative Writing: Children's Literature Creative Writing: Community Stories (CBL) Creative Writing: Memoirs and Personal Essays Creative Writing: Poetry Creative Writing: Short Fiction Creative Writing: Speculative Fiction Film Theory	Hardboiled Literature and Film Myth in Music Post-War Literature and Film Writers' Room Yearbook (2 trimesters) **Advanced English Courses** Dante's Inferno: Reimagining Hell and Poetry*
MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE 4 credits required Algebra I taken in Middle School counts as one Upper School math credit.	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II	Accelerated Algebra II with Precalculus (Year-long) Precalculus (Year-long) Programming I (Year-long) Quantitative Reasoning (Year-long) Robotics (Year-long) Small Business Management (CBL) Statistics (Year-long)	**Advanced Mathematics and CS Courses** Calculus I* (Year-long) Multivariable Calculus* (Year-long) Programming II* (Year-long)
HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 3 credits required	Modern World History United States Government and Economics United States History	The 2024 Presidential Election (2 trimesters) Agents of Change (CBL) (2 trimesters) Agora: Discourse and Debate Ancient Rome Big History (Year-long) Civic Engagement: MLK 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 (CBL) Film History The Fundamentals of Peacebuilding Literature of Immigration (CBL) The Middle East: Questions for US Policy Native American Studies	Peacebuilding: Theory and Action (CBL) (2 trimesters) Psychology (Year-long) The Rule of Law Running a Political Campaign (CBL) Urban Studies (CBL) (2 trimesters) Women's History **Advanced History and Social Science Courses** Africa Since Independence* Ethics* Modern Latin America* Philosophy* Religious Studies* US-China Relations: Past, Present, and Future*
SCIENCE 3 credits required.	Inquiries in Biological and Environmental Sciences Inquiries in Chemical and Physical Sciences	Ecology and Environmental Science (CBL) Plant Sciences (CBL) (Year-long) Robotics (Year-long)	**Advanced Science Courses** Advanced Chemistry* (Year-long) Advanced Physics* (Year-long) Anatomy and Physiology* (Year-long) Molecular Genetics* (Year-long)
WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES 3 credits required World language study in Middle School may count for one Upper School world language credit.	Latin I, II, III Mandarin I, II, III Spanish I, II, III	Ancient Rome Myth in Music Mexican Cuisine and Gardening	**Advanced World Languages and Cultures Courses** Latin IV* and V* (Year-long) Mandarin IV* and V* (Year-long) Spanish IV* and V* (Year-long) Latin American Literature: Political Journeys* Latin American Literature: Social Examinations*

Area of Study

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS
2 credits required

All courses are trimester-long unless otherwise indicated

Meals Courses
Cooking for the Community (CBL)
Cooking Methods
The Culinary and Cultural Roots of Western Civilization
The Culinary and Cultural Roots of the South (CBL)
Delicious Art
European Roots of Arkansas Cuisine (CBL)
Food Advocacy (CBL)
Food Entrepreneurship (CBL)
Food and Community: Harvest Festival (CBL)
The Hidden World of Seeds
Market Garden (CBL)
Mexican Cuisine and Gardening
Preserving the Harvest
Ready, Set, Grow!
Sustainable Table (CBL)
Thaden Menu Development (CBL)
World Cuisine

Reels Courses
Directing and Acting for Camera
Director's Journey
Documentary Filmmaking (CBL)
Documenting Foodways
Film Festival (CBL)
Film History
Film Theory
Hardboiled Literature and Film
International Cinema
Introduction to Film Scoring and Foley
Narrative Filmmaking (2 trimesters)
Photography
Podcasting
Post-War Literature and Film
Reels Showcase (CBL)
Screenplay Adaptation
Short-Form Video Production I (Year-long)
Writers' Room

Wheels Courses
Agents of Change (CBL)
Agora: Discourse and Debate (2 trimesters)
The Art and Science of Bicycle Maintenance (CBL)
Bike Advocates in Action (CBL)
Bike Co-op (CBL)
Cycle Mechanics and Design I
Mountain Biking in NWA (CBL)
Running a Political Campaign (CBL)
Trail Building as Conservation (CBL)
Trail Mechanics and Design (CBL)
Urban Studies (CBL) (2 trimesters)

Advanced Signature Program Courses
Culinary Operations*
Cycle Mechanics and Design II* (CBL)
Reels Mentorship Lab* (CBL)
Short-Form Video Production II* (Year-long)

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
2 credits required

All courses are trimester-long unless otherwise indicated.

Music Courses
Beat Making: Explorations in Sound Production
Beginning Drum Set and Percussion
Beginning Guitar and Bass
Beginning Piano
Choral Ensemble
Introduction to Songwriting
Instrumental Ensemble (2 trimesters)
Instrumental Studio
Introduction to Film Scoring and Foley
Jazz Studio
Modern Band
Modern Music Ensemble (2 trimesters)
Myth in Music
Survey of Pop Music
Survey of Rock and Roll
Vocal Styles in Musical Theater

Visual Arts Courses
Acrylic Painting
The Art of Nature (CBL)
Ceramics
Color, Drawing, and Illustration
Community Murals (CBL)
Delicious Art
Drawing
Empty Bowls (CBL)
Fiber Arts
Mixed Media Sculpture
Nerikomi
Paper Arts
Printmaking
Relief Printmaking
Sculptural and Functional Ceramics (2 trimesters)
Slipcasting
Watercolor Painting

Theater Courses
Acting Techniques
Black Box Theater
Original One-Act Play
Scene and Character
Stagecraft

Advanced Visual and Performing Arts Courses
Advanced Studio Art* (2 trimesters)
One-Act Play*
Performance Workshop* (2 trimesters)

WELLNESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
2 credits required

All courses are trimester-long unless otherwise indicated.

Wellness Courses
Wellness I (Grade 9)
Wellness II (Grade 11)
Wellness: Special Topics (Grade 11)
Peer Leadership Seminar (CBL) (Year-long)

PE Courses
Physical Education: Climbing
Physical Education: General
Physical Education: Lifetime Sports
Physical Education: Mindful Movement
Physical Education: Outdoor Education
Physical Education: Outdoor Leadership
Physical Education: Strength and Conditioning

Thaden Athletics Teams
Cross Country (fall)
Golf (fall)
NICA (fall)
Tennis (fall)
Volleyball (fall)
Basketball (winter)
Gravel Cycling (winter)
Enduro Cycling (spring)
Soccer (spring)
Track and Field (spring)
XC MTB (spring)

Thaden School College Acceptances and Matriculations (2021-2025)

Matriculations

Amherst College
Arkansas Tech University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Boston College
California Institute of Technology
Carleton College
Centre College
Chapman University
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado State University
Creighton University
Dartmouth College
Drake University
Eckerd College
Furman University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Gonzaga University
Grinnell College
Hendrix College
IE University, Madrid
Iowa State University
John Brown University
Kansas City Art Institute
Kansas State University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Middlebury College
Monmouth University
New York University
Northwest Arkansas Community College
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern University
Occidental College
Oxford College of Emory University
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Saint Louis University
Smith College
Spelman College
Stanford University
St. Edward's University
St. Olaf College
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
United States Air Force Academy
University of Arkansas
University of Central Arkansas
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Denver
University of Miami
University of Missouri, Kansas City
University of Montana
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Southern California
University of Texas, Austin
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Western New England University

Sample of Additional Acceptances

Adelphi University
Agnes Scott College
American University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Arkansas State University
Auburn University
Austin College
Baylor University
Boston University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)
Case Western Reserve University
Clark University
Clemson University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Cornell University
Davidson College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Dillard University
Drexel University
Elon University
Emerson College
Fairfield University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
George Washington University
Hampton University
Haverford College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Ithaca College
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Linfield University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Macalester College
Marquette University
Michigan State University
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
Missouri State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Otis College of Art and Design
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rutgers University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Sewanee
Southern Methodist University
St. Lawrence University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Trinity University
University College Dublin
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of California, San Diego
University of Cincinnati
University of Connecticut
University of Dallas
University of Georgia
University of Glasgow
University of Houston
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Memphis
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina
University of North Carolina, Asheville
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of Stirling
University of Tennessee
University of Tulsa
University of Victoria
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Webster University
Wesleyan University
Western Carolina University
Whitman College
Whittier College
Wichita State University
William & Mary
Wofford College
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana