



NORTH SHORE COUNTRY DAY

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2025-2026 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: 505 — 190 in lower school, 130 in middle school and 185 in upper school. Students come from 53 different ZIP codes throughout the Chicagoland region and 48% identify as students of color.

FACULTY: 85 — 74% 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 Chinese Language and Culture
AP African American Studies	AP Computer Science Principles	
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 9 English 10 English 11 English 12		AP English Literature Advanced Open Studies: English Independent Study	
SOCIAL STUDIES Three credits required, including one year of U.S. History or AP African American Studies	Human Geography Modern History U.S. History	Topics in Global Studies (I and II) Macroeconomics Entrepreneurship Lab (I and II) Comparative World Religions Holocaust & Human Behavior	AP U.S. History AP U.S. Government & Politics AP African American Studies Advanced Open Studies: Social Studies Independent Study	
MATHEMATICS Three credits required	Algebra I Geometry 10 Algebra II 10 Pre-Calculus 10 Algebra III	Computer Science I Computer Science II Topics in Mathematics	Geometry 15 Algebra II 15 Pre-Calculus 15 Calculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A AP Statistics Multivariable Calculus Advanced Open Studies: Computer Science Advanced Open Studies: Math Independent Study	
SCIENCE Three credits required, including one year each of Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Physics 10 Chemistry 10 Biology 10	Psychology (I and II) Human Anatomy (I and II) Engineering: Research, Design & Development	Physics 15 Physics C: Mechanics Chemistry 15 Biology 15 AP Physics I AP Chemistry AP Biology AP Environmental Science Advanced Open Studies: 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 Chinese: Special Topics French: Special Topics Spanish: Special Topics Advanced Open Studies: World Languages Independent Study	
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS Two credits required	Instrumental Ensemble	Pop-Capella Touring Chorus Drawing, Painting and Mixed Media Fashion and Fabric Design The Art of Film Ceramics Introduction to Theater	Directing Studio Lighting Design Film Studies Acting Ensemble Technical Direction Visual Studies Digital Design Digital Photography Art and Adrenaline	AP Music Theory AP Art and Design AP Drawing Advanced Open Studies: Performing Arts Advanced Open Studies: Visual Arts

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 (newspaper), 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, Science Olympiad and Math Team.

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 15 sports offered: baseball, basketball (M/W), cross country (M/W), field hockey, golf (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.

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY NSCD is a member of Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of schools around the world whose mission is to reimagine learning to empower students and educators to thrive in a globally networked society. As a GOA member school, we leverage the power of this global network to amplify our programs, support and strengthen innovative teaching practices, and broaden academic opportunities for our students. Through

GOA, North Shore students may opt to take online, rigorous, credit bearing classes alongside students from more than 150 member schools representing over 30 states, six continents and more than 30 countries. GOA courses appear on the NSCD transcript. A sampling of recent options include: Abnormal Psychology, Investing 1, Introduction to Legal Thinking, Architecture, and Introduction to Branding & Marketing.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION: 2022-2025

The following colleges and universities enrolled the 2022-2025 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	Harvey Mudd College	Temple University
Amherst College	High Point University	Texas Christian University
Auburn University	Hobart & William Smith Colleges	The University of Alabama
Babson College	Howard University	The University of Edinburgh
Ball State University	Indiana University Bloomington	The University of Tampa
Barnard College	Johns Hopkins University	The University of Texas at Austin
Bates College	Knox College	Trinity College
Beloit College	Lafayette College	Tulane University
Boston College	Lake Forest College	University of California, Berkeley
Boston University	Lehigh University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Carroll University	Loyola University Chicago	University of Chicago
Carthage College	Macalester College	University of Colorado Boulder
Chapman University	Marquette University	University of Denver
Claremont McKenna College	McGill University (Canada)	University of Glasgow (UK)
Clark University	Miami University	University of Illinois Chicago
Colgate University	Michigan State University	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
College of the Holy Cross	Middlebury College	University of Iowa
Colorado College	Montana State University	University of Miami
Dartmouth College	New York University	University of Michigan
Davidson College	Northeastern University	University of Notre Dame
DePaul University	Northwestern University	University of Oregon
DePauw University	Oberlin College	University of Pennsylvania
Denison University	Occidental College	University of Puget Sound
Dickinson College	Purdue University	University of Richmond
Dominican University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of San Diego
Duke University	Rhodes College	University of Southern California
Durham University (UK)	Rice University	University of Virginia
Elon University	Richmond American University London	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Emory University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Vanderbilt University
Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School	Santa Clara University	Vassar College
George Washington University	Sarah Lawrence College	Villanova University
Gettysburg College	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Virginia State University
Grinnell College	Skidmore College	Wake Forest University
Hamilton College	Southern Methodist University	Washington University in St. Louis
Harvard College	Stevens Institute of Technology	Western Michigan University
	Syracuse University	Yale University