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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: 1019 total; 467 in the High School; 113 in the Class of 2026. The school actively recruits students from a racial, cultural, and socioeconomic cross-section of the community; 43% students of color.

Faculty: Of the high school teaching faculty of 38, 90% hold graduate degrees. 32% faculty of color. The student-teacher ration is 7:1 and the average class size is 16. Each student has a faculty advisor with whom they meet regularly.

School and Student Life

At Paideia, freedom and responsibility go hand in hand. Students move through their days without bells or passes, have freedom from undue pressure to conform, and take risks in a community that values individuality and trust. Paideia students appropriately shape their own course of study, challenging themselves in areas that support their academic pursuits. Faculty foster this climate because it inspires curiosity, creativity, and self-responsibility. We are rewarded with students who are invested in and care deeply about this school community.

Engagement is everywhere. More than half of students compete in athletics, from soccer and swimming to e-sports and ultimate frisbee. Our internship and service programs connect students with over 90 organizations in Atlanta and beyond, strengthening leadership and civic involvement.

Beyond this, clubs, the arts, and student leadership all thrive here. Students lead committees, publish newspapers, compete in Mock Trial, and explore their passions. Over 40% join one of our music ensembles, theater productions draw participants for both on- and off-stage roles, and visual artists consistently earn recognition in national juried shows.

Paideia students graduate as independent thinkers, active citizens, and engaged community members—ready to contribute thoughtfully and meaningfully to the colleges and communities they join.

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 2025-2026

English: Through the Looking Glass: Intersecting Identities, The Lonely American, Print the Legend: Literature of the American West, Identity Fraud: American Masters of Disguise, War and Peace, Promise and Compromise

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

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

Science: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1, AP Physics C, Humans and the Environment, Lab Analysis: Chemistry, Medical Botany, Neuropsychology

Social Studies: American Music in History, Big Rome: History, Myth, and Legacies, Black History, Freedom and Justice in American Law, Modern America, Morality and Power: An Introduction to Ethical and Political Philosophy, Nationalism and Identity: The Culture of Politics and Belonging, The Missing Half: Women in World History, 500 CE to Present, World Religions: "Are you in, or are you out?" How the World's Religions Approach Conflicting Beliefs

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 Precalculus 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 2024/25 year:

147 students took 253 exams in 21 subjects. 78% of the scores were 3 or better; 59% of the scores were 4 or 5.

SAT Scores - Class of 2025 (85 % of class)

Middle 50%	Evidence Based Reading/Writing	620-740
Middle 50%	Math	600-740

ACT Scores - Class of 2025 (39 % of class)

Middle 50%	Composite	25 - 30
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In the **Class of 2026**, 24 of 113 seniors have received recognition by the National Merit Scholarship program.
Twelve are National Merit Semifinalists.

The Graduates of the classes of 2024 and 2025 enrolled at the following colleges and universities:

Agnes Scott College (2)	Northeastern University	University College Dublin
Alabama A& M University	Northwestern University	University of California, Los Angeles
American University	Oberlin College (2)	University of California, San Diego
Appalachian State University	Occidental College (5)	University of Colorado Boulder (4)
Augusta University	Oglethorpe University (2)	University of Georgia (26)
Bard College	Oxford College of Emory University (5)	University of Iowa
Barnard College	Pitzer College	University of Kentucky
Berry College	Pomona College	University of King's College
Boston College (2)	Pratt Institute	University of Maryland
Boston University	Princeton University (2)	University of Michigan (2)
Brown University (7)	Purdue University	University of Oregon (2)
Carnegie Mellon University	Roosevelt University	University of Pennsylvania
Case Western Reserve University	San Diego State University	University of South Carolina(2)
Clemson University	Savannah College of Art and Design (2)	University of Southern California
Colgate University (2)	Sewanee: The University of the South (4)	University of St Andrews (2)
Colorado College	Skidmore College	University of Vermont
Colorado School of Mines (2)	Smith College	University of Virginia (2)
Cornell University (3)	Spelman College (4)	University of Washington
Dartmouth College (3)	Syracuse University	Vanderbilt University (6)
Davidson College	The College of Wooster	Vermont State University
Drexel University	The Ohio State University	Voorhees University
Duke University (3)	The University of Tampa	Wake Forest University
Elon University	The University of Tennessee	Washington and Lee University
Emory University (7)	Trinity College Dublin	Washington University in St Louis (2)
Flagler College	Tulane University of Louisiana (9)	Wellesley College
Florida State University	Tuskegee University	Williams College (2)
Fordham University (2)	United States Air Force Academy (2)	Wofford College
Furman University	United States Military Academy at West Point	Yale University (3)
George Washington University (3)		
Georgetown University		
Georgia College		
Georgia Institute of Technology (15)		
Georgia State University (2)		
Goucher College		
Harvard University		
Howard University (5)		
Indiana University		
Kennesaw State University (5)		
Kenyon College		
Lehigh University		
Loyola Marymount University		
McGill University (2)		
Miami University		
Middlebury College		
Morehouse College		
New York University (3)		

Enrollment by Region

