1689 William Penn Charter School

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2026-2027 PROFILE

MISSION STATEMENT

Quaker principles and practice continue to guide William Penn Charter School, a Friends school founded in 1689.

Within a school community that honors difference, we seek that of God in each person. We value scholarship and inquiry. With excellence as our standard, we challenge students in a vigorous program of academics, arts and athletics. Through global connections, civic engagement and a focus on environmental sustainability, we inspire students to be thinkers, collaborators, innovators and leaders. We educate students to live lives that make a difference.

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Penn Charter has a long history of access and, in its fourth century, is more diverse than ever.

An urban school located on a 47-acre green campus in the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia, Penn Charter is just five miles from the business and cultural resources of one of the nation's largest and most complex cities. Our Center for Public Purpose, built on a rich tradition of service, engages PC students in community-based work addressing some of the city's most pressing social issues.

The school seeks to enroll young people of diverse faiths, races, backgrounds and talents. Families reside in 108 zip codes, across county and state lines and in heterogeneous neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia. More than a third of our students receive financial aid; more than a third identify as people of color. Buddhism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Protestantism, Quakerism and more are represented.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Founded in 1689 by William Penn and the Religious Society of Friends, and operating under three charters granted by Penn, Penn Charter is the oldest Quaker school in the world.

- Quaker, coeducational college preparatory day school.
- Admission is highly selective and determined by school record, standardized test scores, a personal interview and teacher recommendations.
- Pre-K to 12 enrollment: 1000 students, from 108 zip codes.
- Upper School enrollment: 462, with 108 students in the Class of 2027. 36 percent of Upper School students are people of color.
- Penn Charter's financial aid budget in 2026-27 is $16.7 million. 50 percent of Upper School students receive financial aid.
- Upper School faculty: 79. Average Upper School class size: 14. Student-teacher ratio: 5.5:1.
- Student conduct is guided by an Honor Code.
- Students reflect in Quaker Meeting for Worship each week.

Data as of August 5, 2026.

DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate, students must complete 40 units with this distribution. One unit equals one semester of course work.

English	8 units
Social Studies	6 units
Math	7 units
Science	6 units
Language and Culture*	6 units
Religion	2 units
Visual Arts	1 unit
Performing Arts	1 unit
Computer Science	.5 units
Health & Physical Education	2.33 units

**Majority of students fulfill 2 of 6 units in grade 8.*

GRADING

- Penn Charter does not rank students.
- PC reports a weighted GPA. Advanced and Advanced Studies course weighting equals .3.
- Passing grades range from A to D-. F denotes failure.
- **HONORS:** an unweighted GPA of 3.0 with no grade lower than a B-.
- **HIGH HONORS:** an unweighted GPA of 3.65 with no grade lower than B-.

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society is dedicated to honoring scholastic achievement in secondary schools; Penn Charter was one of the original seven schools invited to join. Half of the Cum Laude recipients are honored at the end of junior year. The other half receive recognition in the spring of senior year.

CURRICULUM FEATURES

ADVANCED STUDIES INITIATIVE

Penn Charter has moved beyond the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) program in favor of our own rigorous advanced courses that provide for innovative teaching and deeper exploration of content areas. Last year, the Advanced Studies curriculum replaced the AP curriculum. Advanced Studies courses, designated as such on the transcript, provide the most demanding instruction a student can take in the PC curriculum. Students study curricula comprised of college preparatory, advanced and Advanced Studies.

For colleges and universities using the **STARS**, advanced courses should be viewed as honors courses, and Advanced Studies courses should be viewed as college- or university-level courses.

ADVANCED COURSES

Enrollment in **advanced courses** requires faculty approval.

Due to the structured nature of the freshman and sophomore year curriculum, students typically do not have the opportunity to take **Advanced Studies** courses until their junior year. Enrollment in these courses requires faculty approval. History, English, and Language and Culture courses require assessment test for placement.

The senior year English sequence includes English XII or Advanced English XII for first semester (1 credit) and English Special Topics (with no Advanced option) for second semester (1 credit).

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Advanced Studies: Computer Programming Python
Advanced Studies: Computer Programming Java
Advanced Studies: Computer Science Principles

SOCIAL STUDIES
Advanced Evolution of the Global World
Advanced Studies: African American Studies
Advanced Studies: American Political History (11)
Advanced Studies: Art History
Advanced Studies: East Asian Studies
Advanced Studies: Inventing Rome's Past
Advanced Studies: Modern American History (11)
Advanced Studies: Psychology
Advanced Studies: U.S. Government and Politics

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY
Advanced Studies: Philosophy

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Advanced Spanish, Level III
Advanced Spanish, Level IV
Advanced Spanish, Level V
Advanced Studies: Spanish-Speaking World Today
Advanced Chinese, Level V
Advanced French, Level V
Advanced Latin, Level V
Advanced Latin, Level VI

ENGLISH
Advanced Creative Writing: Short Form
Advanced Creative Writing: Long Form
Advanced English XII
Advanced Studies: American Literature (11)

MATHEMATICS
Advanced Geometry
Advanced Algebra II
Advanced Precalculus A
Advanced Precalculus AA
Advanced Studies: Calculus AB
Advanced Studies: Calculus BC
Advanced Studies: Linear Algebra
Advanced Studies: Statistics and Data Science

SCIENCE
Advanced Biology
Advanced Chemistry
Advanced Physics
Advanced Studies:Environmental Science
Advanced Studies: Experimental Biology
Advanced Studies: Engineering
Advanced Studies: Modern and Classical Physics
Advanced Studies: Physics – Electricity and Magnetism

VISUAL ARTS
Advanced Ceramics
Advanced Graphic Design
Advanced Documentary Filmmaking
Advanced Studies: Art Portfolio

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Three certificate programs – **Global Cultures and Language, Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability,** and **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice** – offer engaged students the opportunity to integrate different aspects of the Upper School program around a particular focus and passion in their junior and senior years. The main components of certificate work are approved coursework, major projects, minimum number of hours of activity credit and a Senior Comprehensive Project. Enrollment requires faculty approval. A completed certificate demonstrates high academic achievement and is awarded during graduation ceremonies.

INDEPENDENT STUDY & SYMPOSIUM

Qualified students may opt to take independent study courses in subjects not covered in the curriculum. They present their work at an annual symposium attended by teachers, classmates and guests. Independent studies may not be used to fulfill graduation requirements and must be approved by the student's parent, advisor, the department head involved and the director of Upper School.

SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT

The Senior Comprehensive Project (SCP) provides students the opportunity to participate in a program that integrates traditional academic disciplines with "real world" settings, issues and topics. It is required and occurs during May of senior year. During the SCP, students work approximately 20 hours per week, read related material, maintain a daily journal, serve the Philadelphia community, and make a final presentation to the Upper School community.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

When students exhaust the curriculum offerings in a particular discipline they are able to access more advanced courses through One Schoolhouse, a nonprofit accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. For course credit fulfillment, students may enroll in online courses through Educere, a local virtual learning platform.

ARTS, ATHLETICS & CLUBS

Arts and athletics are cocurricular programs, engaging every student at points in their high school career. Upper School has four **visual arts** studios, including a digital lab, plus an IdeaLab makerspace. More than 200 students are active in the **performing arts**; Upper School offers 12 instrumental and choral ensembles and two theater productions in a 625-seat theater. Penn Charter competes in the **Inter-Academic League**; founded in 1887, the Inter-Ac is the oldest interscholastic athletic league in the United States. The PC Quakers field 18 sports. Nearly 40 student-led and student-inspired **clubs** provide exploration in a range of topics, including cultural identity, food security, environmental stewardship, ethical behavior, microfinance, service, social justice, student publications and more.

CLASS OF 2027 JUNIOR-YEAR GRADE DISTRIBUTION

TITLE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	Total
Advanced Studies: Computer Science Principles	5	2	2	1									10
English XI	24	34	13	12		1		1					85
Advanced Studies: American Literature	8	7	1										16
American Studies, English	2	2	1	2	1								8
Advanced Creative Writing: Short Form	12												12
Advanced Creative Writing: Long Form	5	2	1										8
Chinese, Level I	1	1			2	1							5
Spanish, Level I	22	4	4	2	3	1		1					37
Spanish, Level II	49	8	14	7	3	1	5				1		88
Chinese, Level III	8	1	1	1									11
Latin, Level III	6	1	5				2						14
Spanish, Level III	10	20	6	7	2	1	1						47
Advanced Spanish, Level III	20	1		2									23
French, Level IV	6	2	1	4	1								14
Chinese, Level IV	11	5	1	1		1							19
Latin, Level IV	12	2	1										15
Spanish, Level IV	24	12	3	3									42
Advanced Spanish, Level IV	6	4	1										11
Advanced Studies: Spanish-Speaking World Today	5	3	2										10
Algebra II	10	10	8	8	5	2	3	5	1	2			54
Advanced Algebra II	26	10	5	2	7	1							51
Functions and Trigonometry	1		1	2	1								5
Precalculus	15	10	5	8	8	4		1					51
Advanced Precalculus A	9	8	6	9	1								33
Advanced Precalculus AA	13	2	2	1									19
Calculus	27	19	10	11	2	2	4						75
Advanced Studies: Statistics and Data Science	7	5	2	1	1			1					17
Advanced Studies: Calculus AB	11	13	8	6			1	1	1				41
Advanced Studies: Calculus BC	11	5	3	3		1							23
Chemistry	16	14	3	7	2	2	4	1	1				50
Advanced Chemistry	35	17	7		6								65
Advanced Studies: Environmental Science	6	3	3	1									13
Earth and Space Science	3	4	2	4	2	1	1						17
Advanced Studies: Experimental Biology	41	1	4										46
Human Anatomy and Physiology	27	1											28
Advanced Studies: Chemistry	2	4											6
Botany: The Study of Plants	14												14
Biotechnology	6				1								7
Engineering: Computer-aided Design and Modeling	9	4	1		1								15
Physics	12	5	2	6	3	2							30
Advanced Physics	32	8	4	7									51
Advanced Studies: Modern and Classical Physics	6	12	4	3			1						26
U.S. History	5	10	3	6					1				25
American Studies, Social Studies	2	2	1	2	1								8
Advanced Studies: American Political History	20	17	3										40
Advanced Studies: Modern American History	12	6	1										19
Advanced Studies: African American Studies	7	5	5										17
Penn: His School, State and City		3		4	2								9
Introductory Economics	12	6	5	4									27
American Foreign Policy (21st Century)	7	2	1										10
Global Issues	7			1									8
Peace, Justice and Social Change	16	3											19
The Fabric of Power	8	2	1		1								12
Advanced Studies: Art Portfolio	4												4

TITLE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	TOTAL

Penn Charter's college list reflects the diversity of interests in our student body.

The Class of 2026 enrolled at 77 colleges and universities across the United States. Ninety-two percent of the students are attending a top-choice college.

FIVE-YEAR COLLEGE MATRICULATION (2022-2026)

Albright College
American University (6)
Amherst College (4)
Arcadia University
Arizona State University (3)
Bard College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College (4)
Boston University (5)
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University (2)
Brown University (2)
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University (8)
Carleton College
Catawba College
Catholic University of America (3)
Chapman University (2)
Chestnut Hill College
Clemson University (3)
Coastal Carolina University (2)
Colby College
Colgate University (3)
College of the Holy Cross
College of New Jersey
College of Wooster
Columbia University (3)
Commonwealth University (2)
Connecticut College (2)
Cornell University (7)
Dartmouth College (5)
Davidson College (2)
DePaul University
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University (14)
Duke University (10)
Duquesne University (3)
Edinburgh Napier University
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fairfield University (4)
Fairleigh Dickinson University (2)
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College (8)
Georgetown University (3)
George Washington University (8)
Georgia Institute of Technology
Goucher College
Hamilton College (2)
Harcum College
Harvard University (5)
Haverford College (2)
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Holy Family University
Howard University (5)
Indiana University Bloomington (2)
Ithaca College (3)
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University (3)
Kenyon College
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Lafayette College (7)
Lehigh University (8)
Liberty University
Long Island University-Post
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College
Loyola Marymount University (2)
Loyola University Maryland (5)
Lycoming College
Lynn University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University (2)
Merrimack College
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Millersville University of Pennsylvania (2)
Monmouth University
Moravian University
Morehouse College
Muhlenberg College (2)
New York Institute of Technology
New York University (4)
Niagara University
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (2)
Northeastern University (4)
Northwestern University (5)
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University at Columbus (3)
Olin College of Engineering
Penn State Harrisburg
Penn State University Park (23)
Pratt Institute
Princeton University (3)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (3)
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College (2)
Rutgers University - Camden
Rutgers University - New Brunswick (2)
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University (6)
Savannah College of Art and Design
Siena University
Skidmore College (2)
Smith College (2)
Southern Methodist University (3)
Springfield College
St. John Fisher University
St. John's University
St. Olaf College
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Stanford University (2)
Stetson University
Swarthmore College (3)
Syracuse University (9)
Temple University (6)
Texas Tech University
Towson University
Trinity College (2)
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University (6)
Tulane University (12)
Union College
United States Air Force Academy (2)
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy (2)
University of Alabama
University of Arizona (2)
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Cruz (2)
University of California-Los Angeles (2)
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder (4)
University of Connecticut (3)
University of Delaware (3)
University of Florida (2)
University of Georgia
University of Glasgow
University of Louisville
University of Maryland, College Park (2)
University of Miami (3)
University of Michigan (6)
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus (2)
University of Mississippi (2)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Notre Dame (4)
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania (44)
University of Pittsburgh (8)
University of Richmond (7)
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina-Columbia (3)
University of Tampa (3)
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto
University of Vermont (8)
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison (3)
Ursinus College (8)
Vassar College
Villanova University (11)
Virginia Tech (4)
Wagner College
Wake Forest University (13)
Walnut Hill College
Washington University in St. Louis (2)
Washington and Lee University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University (4)
West Chester University of Pennsylvania (10)
West Virginia University
Widener University (6)
William & Mary (3)
Williams College (3)
Winthrop University
York College of Pennsylvania (2)