

Welcome to the Upper School

New Family Orientation,
August 2026





Our Mission

Through excellence in education, Charlotte Country Day School develops the potential of each student by fostering intellectual curiosity, principled character, ethical leadership, and a responsibility to serve.

Nidhi McVicar

Head of Upper School



Upper School Student Life

Natalie Hutchinson
Dean of Students

Brendan Cole
Dean of Students





Program Goals

- Foster relationships with students so they feel seen, heard, and valued
- Create an environment of positive and meaningful experiences
- Advance opportunities for students to grow as leaders

Class Dean Structure

Brendan Cole

Dean of Students, 9th Grade Class Dean

Vicky Waldthausen

10th Grade Class Dean

Tameka Woodard

11th Grade Class Dean

Natalie Hutchinson

Dean of Students, 12th Grade Class Dean



Student Life:

Class Retreats
Student Clubs
Spirit Week
Morning Meetings & Assemblies

Service Learning
Diversity Awareness Forum:
7 Affinity Groups & Clubs



Important Policies

- Affirmation of Community
- Attendance
- Dress Code
- Cell Phones

Attendance



- If students have a free period first or last block, they may arrive at 9:00 or leave at 2:05. They must still sign in/out.
- If a student has a planned absence from school, student contacts all teachers & advisor; parent/caregiver contacts Ms. Carey.
- If a student is out sick, late, or needs to leave early, parent/caregiver contacts Ms. Carey.
- Students who miss 10 classes in any one subject area, will receive a letter home. Students who miss 15 classes may lose course credit.
- peggy.carey@charlottecountryday.org or 704-943-4670

2026-27 Upper School Dress Code



T-Shirts, regardless of fabric, may be worn every day (except for Dress-Up Days).



Small (quarter-sized holes and rips in jeans are permitted. Large rips and fully exposed areas (knees, thighs, etc.) are not permitted.



Clothing must appropriately cover the chest, back, and sides. Undergarments should not be visible.



Structured athletic shorts with a button and fly are permitted every day. Other athletic shorts are not permitted.



Hoodies and sweatshirts are permitted every day.



Shorts and skirts must provide appropriate coverage and fit. Undergarments or the lack thereof should not be visible.



Crop tops, tank tops, strapless tops/dresses, exposed midsections, and sheer clothing are not permitted.



Athletic skirts (i.e. shorts built in) are not permitted.



Sweatpants, pajamas and other sleepwear are not permitted.



Joggers (with structured fabric and tapered or cuffed ankles) and leggings (with appropriate coverage of hips, front, and backside) are permitted every day.



Cell Phones

- Cell phone use is not permitted indoors
- If used indoors, cell phones will be turned into the US Office
- Students may retrieve them at 3:15

Upper School Counselors



Samantha Bosco
Director of Counseling, US
(M-Z)

Mallika Rajan
Upper School Counselor (A-L)



Crisis Response & Student Safety



Risk assessment



Immediate student support



Coordination with administration and community agencies



Mental Health Resources



Individual and group counseling



Community referrals



Family support and education



Student Advocacy



Advocating for student needs



Supporting equitable access and opportunity



Promoting



Family & Stakeholder Collaboration



Parent communication



Teacher consultation



Community partnerships

 AI-generated content

Confidentiality and Protecting Student Safety

Counselors default to upholding and respecting student confidentiality **except** in specific situations



Confidentiality exceptions — privacy may be broken in the following situations:

Student is or may be
in imminent danger

Student expresses a
desire to harm
themselves or others

Student is
experiencing sexual,
physical, or emotional
abuse*

Counselor
is subpoenaed by a court
of law

Advisory Program



- Weekly meetings- community building, intentional conversations, academic support
- Ninth-grade experience: 18 advisors in the cohort that meet regularly to address common concerns specific to the 9th-grade experience
- Advisory grades 10-12: multi-grade level experience
- Expectations of Advisor: Communicate, Connect, Monitor, Support, Advocate
- **Primary point of contact**

Tanya Andrysiak

Upper School Director of Studies



Transitions...

- New students in grades 9-11
- Students new to high school
- Students new to Country Day
- Students new to Charlotte
- Students returning to Charlotte/Country Day
- Students new to North Carolina
- Students new to the United States

- All can find great options in our Academic Program!

Likely a part of those transitions...

- The first few weeks may seem *overly easy* or *overly difficult*.
- If work is taking too long (or isn't happening at all?)
 - Talk with your child about the process *and* product
 - Reach out to the advisor for clarification
- Have your child show you what they have learned
 - They can log in to their Microsoft Surface
 - They can show you OneNote and **Canvas**
 - They can show you the planner



Focus on Skills

- Students **asking for help** and clarification is common here – it shows **investment**, not weakness.
- **Self-advocacy is a crucial life skill.** Strike a good balance between being involved and allowing your child to take ownership of their own experience.
- **Process** is an important part of learning, not just producing a final product. Be careful of “fixing” things for the outcome and missing the process!
- Establish **regular routines** at home.

The Student Planner

Monday, September 15	Tuesday, September 16	Wednesday, September 17
Cycle Day 7	Cycle Day 1	Cycle Day 2 Assembly
Department Choir Meeting 11:50 am		Spirit Week Prep Back to School Night 6:30 pm (HPG)
C (8:00-9:05)	A (8:00-9:05)	F (8:00-9:00)
(9:05-9:35) Club Meetings Group I	(9:05-9:35) Advisory Meetings	(9:00-10:00) Spirit Week Prep
D (9:35-10:40)	B (9:35-10:40)	G (10:00-11:00)
E (10:45-11:50)	C (10:45-11:50)	A (11:05-12:05)
(11:50-12:15) 2nd Flex	(11:50-12:15) 2nd Flex	(12:05-1:10) Lunch
(12:15-1:00) Lunch	(12:15-1:00) Lunch	
F (1:00-2:05)	D (1:00-2:05)	B (1:10-2:10)
G (2:10-3:15)	E (2:10-3:15)	C (2:15-3:15)
Notes:	Notes:	Notes:

Thursday, September 18	Friday, September 19	Notes/Weekend
Cycle Day 3	Cycle Day 4	
	DAF Retreat 8:00 am-3:15 pm (Dance Room)	
D (8:00-9:05)	B (8:00-9:05)	
(9:05-9:35) Club Meetings Group II	(9:05-9:35) Club Meetings Group III	
E (9:35-10:40)	C (9:35-10:40)	
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English	Science	Math
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D (9:35-10:40)	B (9:35-10:40)	G (10:00-11:00)
French	History	Studyhall /Free
E (10:45-11:50)	C (10:45-11:50)	A (11:05-12:05)
Choir	English	Science
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Science	Math	
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Important Dates (in the planner!)

August

- Class Retreats
- Yearbook photos

September

- Add/Drop ends
- All-School Convocation
- Back-to-School Night
- 1st set of Progress Reports

October

- Last dates to drop courses
- Pre-ACT/PSAT
- Spirit Week
- Faculty Work Day (no classes)
- Midterm Grades and Comments

Also in the planner...

Charlotte Country Day School 2026–2027 Exam Schedules

Note:

- No students may take exams early.
- Specific course dates will be posted. “History 2” correlates with specific classes, not a level or a 2nd History class.
- *Please do not schedule departure for vacation prior to 12/19 or 5/27!*

December 2026*

Thursday, December 10

8:30 AM English

Friday, December 11

8:30 AM Science I

Monday, December 14

8:30 AM History I

1:00 PM Science II

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 AM MCL I

1:00 PM History II

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 AM Math I

1:00 PM MCL II

Thursday, December 17

8:30 AM Math II

1:00 PM Conflicts

Friday, December 18

8:30 AM Conflicts

1:00 PM Conflicts

May, 2027*

Thursday, May 20

8:30 AM Math

Friday, May 21

8:30 AM History

Monday, May 24

8:30 AM MCL

1:00 PM Math/History Conflicts

Tuesday, May 25

8:30 AM Science

1:00 PM MCL Conflicts

Wednesday, May 26

8:30 AM English

1:00 PM Conflicts

For more information...

1

Reach out to
your child's
advisor

2

Check the
weekly memo

3

Check
Bucsnet

We're
Ready!

