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VISION: *A community where students are **celebrated** for their **individuality**, known, valued and supported, and **empowered** to achieve **academic excellence**.*

School Overview

Established in 1980, The Independent School is an independent, coeducational college preparatory school of 400 students from our Early Learning Center through 12th grade. The Independent School provides a personalized and holistic learning environment where individuals are valued and an enthusiasm for lifelong learning is fostered. As a school, we seek to empower, equip, challenge, and motivate students in their learning, and we create opportunities for authentic learning experiences within academically challenging courses.

Mission

To provide a superior, independent, college preparatory education, serving a diverse student population in a safe, supportive community, conducive to the intellectual, emotional, and physical growth of each independent student.

Graduation Requirements

The academic year is divided into two semesters, and students take a minimum of six courses for credit per semester. A minimum of 25 credits is required for graduation. Full-year courses receive one credit, with a grade in the fall and spring semesters. Single semester courses receive 0.5 credit. Credits shown below are minimum requirements by subject area, for students that attend all 4 years.

- Language Arts - 4
- Mathematics - 3.5
- Sciences - 3
- Social Sciences - 3.5
- World Languages - 2
- Physical Education - 1.5
- Fine Arts - 1

Courses

All Independent School courses are college preparatory by design and content. Honors (GES) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are designated on the student's transcript and receive a weighting of .5 upon completion. [Catalog](#)

AP Courses

- AP Art History
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Physics
- AP Statistics
- AP US History
- AP US Government
- AP Human Geography
- AP Pre-Calculus
- AP Psychology
- AP Research
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Seminar & AP Capstone
- AP English Language
- AP English Literature

Class Rank

The Independent School consciously refrains from ranking its students, fostering a culture of collaboration and personal growth rather than competition. This philosophy allows each student to flourish at their own pace and encourages a supportive learning environment. Students in the top 25% of the class have unweighted GPAs ranging from 3.89-4.00.

Grading Scale *

A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	4.0
B+	87-89	3.5
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	3.0
C+	77-79	2.5
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	2.0
D+	67-69	1.0
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	1.0

**Participation in athletics was historically recorded on transcripts, however it is not included in the cumulative GPA. Beginning in '24 - '25 participation in athletics will no longer be recorded on transcripts.*

Honors – A Deeper Learning Initiative

Honors courses are designed as rigorous foundational courses for 9th and 10th graders. They prepare students for advanced learning opportunities in their 11th and 12th grade years, including Advanced Placement (AP) and/or dual credit opportunities. Honors courses require students to pursue research of their choosing (a Point of Learning or POL), to write a research paper, and to deliver a presentation in front of their class at the end of the semester. Once called *GES* for “Garvey Excellence Series,” this year we return to using the term *Honors*.

Dual Credit

Through partnerships with Friends University, Newman University, and Wichita State University, we offer college credit for a variety of courses. Dual credit courses will be marked as such in the course catalog description. This credit is awarded due to the high level of content, the rigor of these courses, and the credentials of the teachers leading them.

World Languages

Our proficiency-based Spanish program places students in the class that best matches their individual fluency level, according to the American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Using the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) and alternating curricula, students’ linguistic growth is tracked throughout the program. This allows students to repeat or skip proficiency levels while always engaging in new, unique content. Our upper-level students regularly earn the Global Seal of Biliteracy.

Extracurriculars

Students have the opportunity to pursue their interests through a wide array of activities and organizations. Activities include Bio Club, Environmental Action Club, Girl Talk, International Thespian Society, Literary Champions, E-Sports, Debate, Forensics, National Honor Society, Multicultural Club, Scholars’ Bowl, STEM Club and Student Council.

Service & Leadership

Students are required to complete 50 hours of community service to graduate. Leadership opportunities include Student Council and the [Renaissance Leadership](#) program. Additionally, students lead clubs and can be involved in the planning of annual activities such as Founder’s Day, Panther Night Lights, Homecoming, and Prom.

Athletics

Approximately 85% of Upper School students participate in at least one of the 10 sports offered: basketball, bowling, cheer, cross country, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling. Our students regularly achieve local and state honors.

Fine Arts

Students participate in a variety of fine arts activities including theatrical productions, art challenges, art shows, and music concerts. Artists, thespians, and musicians routinely earn honors, including Scholastic Art awards, musical theater Jester awards, outstanding ratings at regional and state music festivals, and ribbon recognition at regional visual art shows.

Student Demographics and Achievement

2026: 18 seniors

7 attended universities out of state

11 attended Kansas universities

National Merit: 1 finalist

AP students: 45 schoolwide

scores 3+: 84%

2025: 24 seniors

7 attended universities out of state

17 attended Kansas universities

National Merit: 1 finalist

AP students: 50 schoolwide

scores 3+: 91%

2024: 24 seniors

6 attended universities out of state

17 attended Kansas universities

AP students: 49 schoolwide

scores 3+: 63%