School Profile 2026-27

OUR SCHOOL MISSION

We empower students to explore their passions, find purpose, and become the best versions of themselves.

OUR VISION

Inspiring the students of today to build a better tomorrow.

OUR SCHOOL MOTTO

Fax mentis et cordis incendium gloriae.
The spark that kindles the mind and heart illuminates a lifetime.

Lancaster Country Day School is a coeducational, nonsectarian independent school for students from Preschool through 12th grade. The school provides a rigorous college preparatory academic program in an atmosphere of warmth and support. Small classes, individual attention, and a broad range of extracurricular and athletic programs, combined to offer numerous opportunities for personal growth and discovery. In addition, the school enables its students to undertake meaningful work in the community and encourages an ethic of service, as well as a commitment to social justice. The school seeks students of character and ability from diverse ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, and geographical backgrounds. Students come from a five-county area known for its unusual blend of industry, diverse agricultural economy, tourism, and institutions of higher learning.

SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The school operates on a trimester system with final exams at the end of the year. Students are advised to take six courses per trimester, with the general guideline that a student should take five challenging academic courses and one practicum (music, theatre, or art). In the Upper School, the minimum requirements for graduation are:

English - 4 Years (Including American Studies, World Civilization I And II)

History - 3 Years (Including American Studies, World Civilization I And II)

Arts - 2 Years

Math - 3 Years (Including Algebra I, Geometry Or Honors Geometry, and Algebra II Or Honors Algebra II, plus one additional credit in Mathematics)

Foreign Language Study Through Level III of a Language

Lab Sciences - 3 Years (Including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)

Total of 2.5 Credits of Physical Education earned through Sports Team Participation or LCDS Fitness Classes or their equivalents

EXPLANATION OF GRADING SCALE

LCDS courses are not weighted; the GPA includes all courses except physical education. Students are not ranked. Because LCDS is a college preparatory school, students are evaluated in a rigorous manner in terms of academic achievement.

A'S 90-100	B'S 80-89	C'S 70-79	D'S 60-69
A 93—100 (4.0)	B+ 87—89 (3.33)	C+ 77—79 (2.33)	D+ 67—69 (1.33)
A- 90—92 (3.67)	B 83—86 (3.0)	C 73—76 (2.0)	D 63—66 (1.0)
	B- 80—82 (2.67)	C- 70—72 (1.67)	D- 60—62 (0.67)
			F BELOW 60

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UPPER SCHOOL HUMANITIES AT LCDS

In 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, LCDS students take a blended, interdisciplinary class for English and history credits. The courses are World Civilizations I (9th grade), World Civilizations II (10th grade), and American Studies (11th grade). Students receive 2.0 credits for each class to show its connection to both English and history. In 11th grade only, an Honors section is offered and is taught at an equivalent level to an AP course. Course descriptions can be found online at **lancastercountryday.org/experience/college-counseling**

SIGNATURE SCIENCE CURRICULUM: MOLECULAR GENETICS

LCDS has partnered with Stanford University's School of Medicine to offer the StanX class. This will appear on the transcript with two courses: Research in Molecular Genetics (0.67 to show Trimester 1 and 2) and Projects in Molecular Genetics (0.33 to show Trimester 3). In this advanced discovery-based course, students engage with graduate-level research utilizing transposon biology to engineer and characterize novel transgenic fruit fly lines for global genetic research. Coursework emphasizes direct lab work, including larval brain dissection and fluorescent microscopy, alongside primary literature review and presentation. The course culminates in an academic conference for students who have engaged in similar research around the globe, and teaches essential skills in open-ended research, reading and analyzing scientific papers, communication, collaboration, and preparedness for graduate-level research pursuits. Admission is selective through a competitive application and departmental approval, and is only open to Juniors and Seniors. LCDS is the only school in Pennsylvania to offer this program.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE (OCS)

A designation of Outstanding Community Service – noted on a student's transcript – is awarded to students who have undertaken more than 50 hours of supervised community service in a single year and have completed a reflection essay. Students can earn OCS over multiple years.

OUTCOMES

One hundred percent of LCDS graduates are accepted to four-year colleges or universities. A five-year list of acceptances and enrollments is located on the school website.

RIGOROUS COURSES

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Advanced Placement courses are available to Juniors and Seniors who fulfill prerequisites. Students are advised to take no more than two or three of these courses per year. The following AP courses are offered at LCDS.

- BIOLOGY
- CHEMISTRY
- CALCULUS AB
- CALCULUS BC
- COMPUTER SCIENCE A
- COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES
- ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
- HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
- MICROECONOMICS
- MUSIC THEORY
- PHYSICS 1
- SPANISH LANGUAGE
- CHINESE LANGUAGE
- STATISTICS

ADVANCED/TERMINAL COURSES

Though not AP courses, these classes are offered as advanced or terminal courses in different academic departments and carry similar rigor to AP courses.

- MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS
- GLOBAL ISSUES
- ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
- MOLECULAR GENETICS

GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Global Education Program prepares students to thrive in a culturally diverse, interconnected world. World Civilizations I and II (required humanities courses) provide a global and historical foundation. More than half of students in grades 10–12 engage in travel courses, exchanges, or academic trips during their time in the Upper School. Yearlong travel courses integrate real-world, curriculum-based experiences and require prerequisites and a competitive application.

Highlights include: Global Issues students who attend the THIMUN Conference in the Netherlands or Qatar; the Spanish Civilization & Culture course trip to Spain; and a Science of Hawaii course, which explores geology and marine biology and concludes with a trip to Hawaii. We also offer exchange programs with partner schools in Spain and South Africa.

STAFF

EMILIE D. KOSOFF
HEAD OF SCHOOL

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SCHOOL CODE

CEEB/HIGH SCHOOL CODE 392115

ACCREDITED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND MIDDLE STATES COMMISION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ENROLLMENT

LOWER SCHOOL
239 STUDENTS
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5

MIDDLE SCHOOL
112 STUDENTS
GRADES 6 - 8

UPPER SCHOOL
160 STUDENTS
GRADES 9 - 12
41 SENIORS