

Renaissance School Profile

Phone: 434.984.1952

Email: office@renaissanceschool.org

418 East Jefferson Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
www.renaissanceschool.org
CEEB Code: 470438

Administration

Head of School: Dr. Sara C Johnson
Executive Assistant to the Head of School: Charles Bodden
Director of Finance and Operations: Lady Keller
Dean of Academics: Bethany Farris, CFA
Director of Admissions and Student Support: Richelle Claiborne

Facts and Statistics

Total Enrollment (grades 9-12): 52
Total Enrollment (class of 2026): 6
Total Faculty: 20

Mission Statement

The Mission of Renaissance School is to provide curious and engaged students a rich, interdisciplinary learning environment focused on critical thinking, creativity, civic engagement, and collaboration. Through small class sizes, a dynamic curriculum, and differentiated teaching, Renaissance School fosters student achievement and academic success while developing a sense of independence and responsibility. Renaissance School cultivates a diverse community of learners where differences are celebrated. The experience of diversity allows our community to build a culture that strengthens understanding and value for differences.

Vision Statement

In an environment where learning and ideas are celebrated, we nurture high school students to develop a holistic and strong sense of self for a life of deep insight, creativity, excellence, civic engagement, and social responsibility.

Selection

The selection process is led by the Director of Admissions. The application includes essays, a parent questionnaire, a student questionnaire, prior school transcript(s), English teacher recommendation, math or science teacher recommendation, parent interview, student interview, and a brief presentation. Renaissance School also reserves the right to administer the Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test.

Renaissance School admits students of any race, religion, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded or made available to students in the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, scholarship programs, or other school-administered programs. Both scholarship and achievement inform our admission process.

Financial Aid

Renaissance School offers tuition assistance for families with a demonstrated need. The School's efforts to be generous with assistance are balanced by its mission to maintain financial solvency and meet operating expenses. Consistent with national standards for independent schools, tuition assistance shall not exceed 20% of the School's total income from tuition. 40% of our student body receive tuition assistance.

Grading Scale

| <i>Letter Grade</i> | <i>Numerical Equivalent</i> | <i>Honors Point Value</i> | <i>Non-Honors "S" Point Value</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A+ | 99-100 | 4.8 | 4.3 |
| A | 93-98 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| A- | 91-92 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| B+ | 89-90 | 3.8 | 3.3 |
| B | 83-88 | 3.5 | 3.0 |
| B- | 81-82 | 3.5 | 3.0 |
| C+ | 79-80 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| C | 73-78 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| C- | 71-72 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| D+ | 69-70 | 1.8 | 1.3 |
| D | 66-68 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
| D- | 65 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
| F | 0-64 | 0 | 0 |

Calculation of Grade Point Average

All courses are honors (H) level or above. Classes without the "(H)" indication refer to "standard" level course work and are weighted on the non-honors scale. The grade-point average is calculated every semester and documented on the student's transcript.

Class Rank

Renaissance School does not rank due to the small size and high caliber of our student body.

Advanced Placement Courses

No AP courses are offered at Renaissance School. Renaissance School provides students with the opportunity to take AP tests in most subject areas at any grade level. Renaissance School students interested in taking AP exams prepare independently with faculty mentors while also taking the subject class. AP scores above 3 are noted on transcripts. Renaissance School encourages dual enrollment for students who are ready to pursue college level credit at the University of Virginia or Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Distinction

A and B level students are encouraged by their teachers to initiate independent work outside the normal course material to further their ability to apply and integrate course concepts. Successful completion of this independent and interdisciplinary project may be awarded Distinction, the school's highest academic honor. Distinctions are identified with an * and will be listed with the course grade for the semester on their transcript.

Community Service

Renaissance School students and faculty develop and participate in community service projects throughout the year. These projects emphasize stewardship and may include work to support the community, protect the environment, or establish responsible social infrastructure. Our location in downtown Charlottesville affords the school partnerships with fellow non-profit organizations within walking distance of the school.

Diploma Requirements

All students are required to complete the below course requirements. Student athletes training year-round for more than 10 hours per week may waive the physical activity requirements. Credits are earned at the semester point (.5 per semester).

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| English | 4 credits |
| History | 3 credits |
| Mathematics | 3 credits |
| Sciences | 3 credits |
| Foreign Language | 3 credits of one language or 2 credits each of two languages |
| Physical Activity | 2 credits or 2 non-school sponsored sports |
| Innovative Arts | 5 credits (3 distinctive credits) |
| Independent Studies | 2 credits |
| College Counseling | 3 credits |
| Electives | 5 credits |

Additional Curriculum Requirements

Renaissance School requires all students to participate in non-credit school-wide activities. These requirements are designed to promote the values of lifelong learning and learning outside of a school setting.

Ninth Week is a longstanding tradition at Renaissance School. For one week each semester, faculty and students leave the familiar environs of the School and take advantage of the educational opportunities in the world at large. In the fall semester students focus on community service and local outreach, while in the spring semester students explore locations outside of Virginia, but within the United States.

All students enroll in **Arts Practicum** courses. Arts Practicum refers to the class block on Wednesdays from 3:00 until 4:00 pm. During this time, faculty and students participate in non-graded classes and workshops. Each spring semester all students participate in our Community Partners Program during the Arts Practicum time. During this program students go to local businesses and learn from the staff and representatives of those businesses. Community Partnership courses in the past have included filmmaking, music recording, youth literacy, and entrepreneurship.

Independent Studies

The Independent Studies programs during the junior and senior years are intensive and cross-disciplinary, leading to a major presentation or exhibition of work. Working closely with an academic advisor, juniors select a topic of interest and prepare a proposal of study, including research, interviews, writing and class performance, all leading to a detailed presentation before the entire school community. Seniors take independent research one step further. As seniors, students are allowed more freedom to explore areas of interest. Guided by a faculty mentor, seniors explore a particular subject in-depth, carrying out much of their work independently. Senior Thesis students present their work in the form of a 20-page (minimum) thesis paper, a thesis defense with Renaissance School faculty, and a presentation to the entire community.

Standardized Testing

Renaissance School students have the opportunity to take PSATs and SATs during the school year. All courses at Renaissance School meet or exceed the Standards of Learning set forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia and VAIS.

We do not publish our averages due to our small size. Our school averages are available upon request.

Recommended Course Load

Ninth and tenth grade students are encouraged to take a full course load of 9 classes. Eleventh grade students are encouraged to take 8-9 classes including independent study and college counseling. Twelfth grade students are encouraged to take 7-8 classes including Senior Thesis and College Counseling.

Recent College Matriculation

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| American Academy of Dramatic Art | Morehouse College |
| American University | New York University |
| Appalachian State University | Northeastern University |
| Bard College | Oberlin College |
| Bennington College | Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts |
| Berklee College of Music | Pennsylvania State University |
| Boston College | Rensselaer Institute of Technology |
| Boston University | Rhode Island School of Design |
| Brandeis University | Rose Hulman Institute of Technology |
| Brown University | Rutgers University |
| Bryn Mawr College | Saint John's College |
| Carnegie Mellon University | Sarah Lawrence College |
| Claremont McKenna College | Savannah College of Art & Design |
| Clemson University | School of Visual Art, NYC |
| College of Charleston | Stanford University |
| College of William & Mary | Sterling College |
| Colorado College | Trinity College |
| Columbia University | Tufts University |
| Corcoran School of Art | University of British Columbia |
| Cornell University | University of California, Santa Cruz |
| Dartmouth College | University of Chicago |
| Dickenson College | University of Colorado at Boulder |
| Drexel University | University of Connecticut |
| Duke University | University of Kings College |
| George Mason University | University of Minnesota |
| Goucher College | University of Montana |
| Guilford College | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill |
| Hampden-Sydney | University of Oregon |
| Hampshire College | University of Pennsylvania |
| Haverford College | University of St. Andrews, Scotland |
| Harvard University | University of Southern California |
| High Point University | University of Virginia |
| Ithaca College | University of Waterloo |
| James Madison University | Vassar College |
| Johns Hopkins University | Virginia Commonwealth University |
| Loyola University | Virginia Tech |
| Macalester College | Washington University |
| Maine College of Art | Wellesley College |
| Mary Washington University | Wesleyan University |
| Maryland Institute College of Art | Whitman College |
| McGill University | |
| Middlebury College | |
| Mount Allison University | |