



TRINITY SCHOOL

of Durham and Chapel Hill

2024-2025 UPPER SCHOOL PROFILE › CEEB 341-039

4011 Pickett Road • Durham, NC 27705 • 919-402-8262 • www.trinityschoolnc.org

Mission

The mission of Trinity School is to educate students in transitional kindergarten to grade 12 within the framework of Christian faith and conviction—teaching the classical tools of learning; providing a rich yet unhurried education; and communicating truth, goodness, and beauty.

History

Trinity School was founded in 1995 by parents seeking a Christian school with an excellent college-preparatory program that integrates faith and learning. Located in the heart of Trinity's 22-acre TK–12 campus in Durham, North Carolina, Trinity's Upper School was established in the fall of 2006, with 16 students in the first graduating class (the class of 2010). Today, more than 535 Trinity graduates are making a difference in their communities, workplaces, families, and church congregations.

Peter T. Denton, Jr., PhD
Head of School
chip.denton@tsdch.org

Seth Parrish, EdD
Director of Upper School
seth.parrish@tsdch.org

Karman Kent, MA
Director of College Counseling
karman.kent@tsdch.org

Carrie Mazzeo
Administrative Assistant to
Director of Upper School and
Director of College Counseling
carrie.mazzeo@tsdch.org

Donna Clark, MA
College Counseling
Program Manager
donna.clark@tsdch.org

Accreditation
Christian Schools International (CSI)
Southern Association of Independent
Schools (SAIS)

Memberships
North Carolina Association of
Independent Schools (NCAIS)
Southern Association for
College Admission Counseling
(SACAC)
North American Coalition for
Christian Admission Professionals
(NACAP)

Enrollment and Quick Facts

- 600 students attend Trinity School
- 291 in Lower School (TK–grade 6)
- 98 in Middle School (grades 7–8)
- 211 in Upper School (grades 9–12)
- 46 students in the class of 2025
- Average class size of 14 students
- 8:1 Student-faculty ratio
- Upper School faculty hold 20 advanced degrees

Deep, Inquiry-Based Study

Trinity's Upper School engages students in a rich, liberal arts curriculum that values depth and understanding, Socratic discussion, inquiry and self-discovery, self-reflection, eloquent expression, critical and creative thinking, and the classical tools of learning. This study, grounded in Christian faith and practice, helps cultivate transformative personal and intellectual growth. In the interdisciplinary Great Books tradition, all students in grades 9–11 explore ancient and modern ideas, literature, history, art, and faith in yearlong Humanities courses. These classes meet for twice the time allotted as other disciplines and satisfy graduation requirements for both English and history. Students in Honors Humanities engage with a "big question" and, through substantial research, produce sophisticated essays, reflections in other art forms, and a public defense of their conclusions.

Senior Capstone

Each senior is required to complete a semester- or year-long independent project, involving at least 75–100 hours of work, guided by a faculty advisor in a discipline of the student's choosing. Topics have ranged from constructing a robotic arm for a UNC marine lab, to recording an album of original music, to studying the impact of humanitarian contributions on Third World development, to serving as an assistant in a Duke University research lab.

Distinctives of Trinity Graduates

In Trinity's first 15 graduating classes (535 alumni total), our seniors have been distinguished with 14 full scholarships (tuition, room, and board): four Morehead-Cain Scholarships at the University of North Carolina; a Teaching Fellows Scholarship; a Faculty Scholarship at Whitworth University; a David Bittle Scholarship at Roanoke College; a Trustee Scholarship at Loyola Marymount; US Naval Academy and US Air Force Academy appointments; and an ROTC Scholarship at Davidson College. Other accolades include seven Division I athletic scholarships; 20 Governor's School placements; National Merit commended, semifinalist, and finalist scholarships; and more than \$20 million in merit awards.

Class of 2025 (46 Students)

Because our graduating classes are small, our range of grades narrow, and our college-preparatory program rigorous, Trinity School does not rank its students. Unweighted GPAs are based on a 4.0 scale, and honors grades are weighted an additional 25 percent. An A is Trinity's highest mark.

SAT SUMMARY (MIDDLE 50%)

Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing	598–679
Math	538–683
Total	1148–1353

CLASS OF 2025 GPA DISTRIBUTION

GPA Range	Weighted	Unweighted
4.5–4.72	13.04%	0.00%
4.0–4.49	39.96%	6.52%
3.5–3.99	23.91%	58.70%
3.0–3.49	19.57%	28.26%
2.0–2.99	6.52%	6.52%

ACT SUMMARY (MIDDLE 50%)

English	24–34
Math	24–28
Reading	28–32
Science	23–29
Composite	24–30

TRINITY SCHOOL

of Durham and Chapel Hill

Class of 2025 Graduation Requirements

Trinity requires a minimum of 20 credits for a diploma, including the following:

- English (4)
- History (3)
- Mathematics (3)
- Theology Studies I and II (1.0)
- Rhetoric (.5)
- Computer Competency (.5)
- Lab Science (3)
- Foreign Language (3)
- Visual or Performing Arts (1)
- Health and Wellness (.5)
- Senior Capstone (.5)

Student Course Load

The Upper School is committed to helping students maintain a healthy experience and to balance their overall academic load, co-curricular involvements, and other commitments. Students typically take five core academic classes (humanities / English & history; math; science; and foreign language) and one or two electives. Upper School students must be enrolled in a minimum of 4 core academic classes and 5 total classes each semester and may take no more than 7 classes each semester. No more than 5 of these can be honors courses. Fall semester seniors, because of time-consuming college applications, may take no more than 6 classes (including Capstone). Students desiring course loads outside these parameters must receive written permission of the Director of Upper School.

Honors Courses

Trinity offers honors courses for students with the gifts, study habits, and attitude to do well in them. Students wishing to take more than two honors classes per semester must receive the permission of the Director of Upper School. From 2021–2025, members of the class of 2025 completed or are in the process of completing 360 total honors courses.

AP Exams Summary

Trinity does not offer AP courses. However, students with B+ or higher grades in honors courses regularly do well on AP exams. In 2024, Upper School students took a total of 20 AP exams, 15 of which received a score of 3 or higher.

COURSE OFFERINGS

HUMANITIES

Humanities 9: Ancient Civilizations*
Humanities 10: Western Studies*
Humanities 11: American Studies*
Shakespeare*
The Literature of C. S. Lewis*
The Literature of Modernism*
Film and Literature*
Technical and Creative Writing*
The Great Philosophical Questions*
The American Civil War*
Epidemics as History Makers*
US Government and Politics*
Model UN Global Studies
Economics

MATH

Algebra I and II*
Geometry*
Precalculus*
Statistics*
Calculus I (Honors)
Calculus I / II (Honors)
Independent Study in Math
Cryptology
Discrete Mathematics

SCIENCE

Physics*
Chemistry*
Biology*
Anatomy and Physiology*
Chemistry of Energy (Honors)
Advanced Physics (Honors)
Physics of Electricity and Magnetism
Marine Biology
Ecology
Environmental Studies

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Studio Art I, II, and III
Art Portfolio
Sculptural Ceramics
Vessel Ceramics
Introduction to Photography
Performance Theater
Advanced Performance Theater
Musical Theater
Technical Theater
Instrumental Ensemble
Vocal Ensemble
Music Theory and Composition
(Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced)

LANGUAGES

Latin II*, III*, IV (Honors), and V (Honors)
Spanish I, II, III*, and IV (Honors)
American Sign Language III

ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Engineering Design I, II, and III
Robotics and Advanced Robotics
Introduction to Computer Programming
Computer Science
Advanced CAD and Fabrication
Engineering Technology Ambassadors
Electronics

REQUIREMENTS & GENERAL ELECTIVES

Theology
Rhetoric
Senior Capstone
Health and Wellness
Strength and Conditioning I and II
Yearbook
Forensics
Academic Skills

SERVICE LEARNING

Servant Leadership
Literacy and the Augustine Project

**Course is offered at both college-prep and honors levels.*

Students who attended Trinity School in grades 7–8 complete the equivalent of Algebra I and Latin I.