



North
Cross
School

Why North Cross School

By sending your child to North Cross School, you can expect the following:

We will know your child personally, keep them safe, and will welcome them into our diverse community.

- North Cross School's classes are small, typically with 14 students or less. Our student-to-teacher ratio of 8:1 is less than half of public school alternatives.
- We have 462 students and one honor code: *"I will not lie. I will not steal. I will not cheat."* There are no locks required on student lockers.
- Students of all races, ethnicities, and religions are warmly appreciated.
- This year we have 14 international students on campus from three continents and seven countries. Each of these students went through the same admissions process as our local students, pays tuition, and participates in all aspects of our school life. In most cases, these students will be with us for a minimum of two years and will graduate with a North Cross School diploma.
- Distinct from our international students, we periodically invite students to visit our campus as part of a cultural exchange program. Last summer we hosted fifteen students from China for a week. Currently we have five students visiting from Guatemala for a six-week session. Exchange students are not officially enrolled at North Cross School. They are not allowed to participate in interscholastic sports, and they do not receive grades for their schoolwork.

We will place your child in a competitive academic environment where they will be individually challenged to do their best and rewarded with well-justified confidence in their academic abilities.

- Twenty AP Scholars in 2011–2012, representing more than a quarter of the graduating class.
- Twenty-two percent of our Class of 2012 scored over 1400 on their SATs. Ninety percent of these graduates began as students in our lower school.
- Fifty-six percent of our seventh grade students qualified for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.
- Lower school national test scores consistently demonstrate high class averages at North Cross School. Our average student scores better than eighty-five percent of the students taking the test nationally.
- Four students in the Class of 2013 were named National Merit Commended Scholars and each scored a perfect 800 on one section of the SAT (one in math, two in verbal, and one in writing).
- Advanced Placement courses are offered in Calculus AB and BC, Chemistry, Comparative Government and Politics, English Literature and Composition, French Language and Culture, Latin, Physics B, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature and Culture, United States Government and Politics, United States History, and World History.
- We recently completed a \$300,000 campus-wide technology upgrade. This project included upgraded wireless access, new servers and switches, and Promethean interactive whiteboards.
- Our upper school "one-to-one computer initiative" is now in its fourth year. All upper school students are required to use iPads. Three quarters of all upper school texts are currently electronic in nature.

We will develop your whole child with a curriculum that places a strong emphasis on participation in the arts. This is a hallmark of a good independent school education and we consider this an absolute priority.

- We maintain a Fine Arts faculty with six members representing the equivalent of five full-time teaching positions.
- All lower school students take art and music. Four levels of instrumental music and three levels of choral music begin in fourth grade.
- Fourteen students were All-District Chorus (nine students) and Band (five students) last year. Five students were recently chosen for the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra.
- Every school year, in each division, students are offered the opportunity to participate in performances — as part of the orchestra, a class play, or a school-wide drama production.

We will provide your child opportunities to participate in athletics, to succeed at the highest level, and to learn the value of individual effort in support of team goals.

- All lower school students have physical education daily.
- The School fields 32 teams in 13 sports to ensure that all students find a sport and an ability level.
- Last year, 54 students were named to All-Conference teams and 30 were named to All-State teams.
- Ninety percent of all middle and upper school students compete in interscholastic athletics.
- Our Carter Athletic Center (CAC) is a 62,000 square-foot wellness center that provides students and the community a state-of-the-art athletic facility. Exercise and swimming classes are offered regularly for our own students, and classes and lessons are given seven days a week.

CAC Amenities include:

- Three basketball/volleyball/badminton courts
 - Indoor track
 - Cardio equipment
 - Heated six-lane, 25-yard indoor pool
 - Squash and racquetball courts
 - Free weight room
 - Cybex strength training equipment
 - Over 25 group exercise classes per week
 - Spacious group exercise studio
 - Outdoor tennis courts
 - Free fitness orientation with membership
 - Nationally certified personal trainers
- The CAC is home to the CCA Marlins, a nationally-recognized and highly-competitive swim team.
 - So far in 2012-13, our fall teams, both girls and boys, have finished high in their conferences. Boy's soccer won a state championship, girl's volleyball finished second in their conference and was a semi-finalist in the state tournament, girl's field hockey won their conference title, and football finished their season ranked fourth in their conference. Three of our coaches earned Coach of the Year honors.
 - In 2011–12, nine teams earned a top-ten finish in their conference, and two coaches earned Coach of the Year honors.
 - Six of our eight varsity teams eligible for state competition reached the state championship or semi-finals during the 2011–2012 school year.

- We have won six state championships in the past five years: boy's soccer (2012), football (2011, 2008), boy's lacrosse (2010), and volleyball (2010, 2009).
- One-third of the graduates of the Class of 2012 are playing collegiate interscholastic sports this year. Five are competing at the Division-I level.
- Team sports are available starting with the sixth grade and varsity sports begin in the eighth grade.
- Our experienced coaching staff includes former NFL players and Division I college athletes, individuals who have been named NCAA Coach of the Year, Virginia Coach of the Year, and Conference Coach of the Year.

We will develop character, instill values, create respect for others, and teach your children how to lead and serve.

- All students abide by an Honor Code that is enforced by a student-directed Honor Council.
- One hundred percent of middle and upper school students take part in community service.
- Our advisory system includes three meetings a week in advisory groups at the middle school level and frequent advisory lunches at the upper school level. All full-time faculty members serve as advisors to groups with less than 12 students.
- All lower school students take part in Project Charlie, a robust anti-bullying program that focuses on kindness, awareness of individual differences, and empathy.
- Opportunities for leadership are offered through athletic teams, student government, Honor Council, the North Cross Players (drama troupe), and various academic clubs.
- Daily, each of our students have multiple meaningful adult interactions.
- In each classroom, students are given the opportunity to regularly present to their peers, to other students, and to other adults.
- All seniors are required to complete a significant research project. As part of the DeHart Project, students complete academic research, interviews, and experiential field work that culminates in a polished 12–15 minute presentation attended by their peers and members of the school community.

We will expand your child's understanding to include a global perspective and appreciation of the role our culture plays in the broader world.

- We currently enroll 14 international students from three continents and seven countries. These students reside with local families and actively participate in all aspects of our school culture. In most cases these students will enroll for a minimum of two years and graduate with a North Cross School diploma.
- Additionally, we host several foreign exchange students during our academic year. Exchange students are with the School for shorter periods of time, stay with local families, and participate in our academic programs on a pass/fail basis, but do not participate in our interscholastic athletic programs.
- All students from age three through 10th grade are required to study one of three foreign language offerings, five days a week. Ninety percent of our students study foreign language.
- The Horace G. Fralin Program for Global Studies offers a four-year progression of advanced coursework (including several required AP courses), travel, and seminars. Students who successfully complete the established requirements will earn the designation of "Global Studies Scholar" on their diploma and transcript.
- International study opportunities this summer include a D-Day/WWII experience in northern Europe, language immersion opportunities in Spain, a classical experience in ancient Rome, and a French language experience while trekking the classic Tour du Mont Blanc.

We will remain focused as a college preparatory school. You can expect your child will be accepted into a selective or highly-selective college consistent with their interests and abilities.

- One hundred percent of all North Cross graduates are accepted to a college or university of their choice.
- Recent graduates have attended 14 of the top 20 universities as identified by *US News and World Report*. Students have been accepted at 17 of these 20 universities.
- Graduates of the Class of 2012 are attending Amherst (one), Davidson (one), Georgetown (one), Stanford (one), University of Virginia (three), Washington and Lee (two), and William and Mary (two).
- We have well-established cultural exchange programs, viewed favorably by college admissions departments.
- Our full-time college counselor, small graduating classes (30–40 students), and close faculty relationships provide ample personal attention during the college admissions process.
- Average North Cross School SAT scores are 200 points above the national average and 120 points above the regional average, making our graduates notable to all in-state colleges and universities. We regularly have 10–20 percent of our graduating class accepted to the University of Virginia, ranked second among public universities nationally.
- Approximately 40 percent of last year’s graduating class went to out-of-state colleges and universities, destinations that include Amherst, College of Charleston, Davidson, Drexel, Georgetown, High Point, Kentucky, Michigan State, St. Mary’s College (Maryland), Stanford, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.