



## SCHOOL INFORMATION

Thaden School  
800 SE C Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712

479-268-5321  
thadenschool.org

CEEB/ACT Code 040051  
NCAA High School Code 851799



## LEADERSHIP

**Clayton K. Marsh**  
Founding Head of School

**Lisa Herschbach**  
Deputy Head of School

**Michael Maloy**  
Dean of Academics

**Jessica Bonnem**  
Dean of Faculty

**Phil Hooper**  
Director of College Counseling  
phooper@thadenschool.org

**Sabrina Strickland**  
College Counselor  
sstrickland@thadenschool.org



## FACULTY

**57** Faculty  
**79%** Master's Degree  
**23%** Doctorate Degree  
**21** States and **5** Countries  
**21%** Of Color



## STUDENTS

**277** Students from **16** Cities  
and Towns  
**95+** Sending Schools  
**81%** Need-Based Indexed Tuition  
**33%** Of Color



## CLASS OF 2022

**20** Students  
**4:1** Student/Faculty Ratio  
**10:1** Student/Counselor Ratio  
**3.25–3.73** GPA Middle 50% Range  
**3.42** GPA Mean

# THADEN SCHOOL

## PROFILE FOR COLLEGES 2021-22



### MISSION

Thaden School's mission is to provide a balanced and challenging education that ignites in our students a passion for discovery and learning, prepares them to succeed in college, and inspires them to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and responsible global citizenship.



### HISTORY

With the generous support of the Walton Family Foundation, Thaden School, an independent co-educational day school serving Northwest Arkansas, opened in the fall of 2017 with 50 students and will grow to serve approximately 550 students in Grades 6 through 12. The school is named in honor of Louise McPhetridge Thaden (1905-1979). Born and raised in Bentonville, she was a proud Arkansan and one of the greatest aviators of her time. Thaden School's 30-acre downtown campus has a rich history, including serving as the site of Bentonville High School when Louise McPhetridge was a student there in the 1920s. Her pioneering and innovative spirit inspires our efforts to create a school that gives students roots and wings as they build strong foundations and soar to new heights in pursuit of their dreams.



### ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Thaden School is a Provisional Member of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). We expect to receive full ISACS accreditation by 2023. We are members of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC), Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS), National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), and the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC).



### STUDENT ACCOLADES

Each year our students earn international, national, and regional distinction.

- Two of the 28 students in the Class of 2021 were awarded **National Merit Scholarships**. Three others were recognized.
- Two members of the Class of 2022 attended **Arkansas Governor's School**.
- Four students were awarded scholarships by the highly-selective **National Security Language Initiative for Youth** to pursue immersive foreign language study overseas.
- Two students were among the top 20 finalists in a field of 6,000 submissions to the 2019 **NPR Student Podcast Challenge**.
- Out of 2,200 submissions to the **Arkansas Young Artists Association** Competition and Convention, eight students received 13 awards, including three first-place awards.
- One student received an excellent rating at the **All-State Choir Solo & Ensemble** competition.
- Student-athletes on the **Track and Field, Volleyball, Baseball, and Cross Country** teams earned state-level recognition, including two state champions for Track and Field.
- Five students organized to form the **world's first competitive high school gravel cycling team**.



## NOTABLE FEATURES OF OUR CURRICULUM

### SIGNATURE PROGRAMS, INTENSIVES, AND COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Thaden School's commitment to interdisciplinary understanding finds expression in our three signature programs – Meals, Reels, and Wheels – where students combine multiple fields of study and engage with community partners in ways that foster a strong sense of civic responsibility. Immersive two-week intensive courses, independent studies, and Community-Based Learning (CBL) courses provide further opportunities for students to form and investigate their own questions from many perspectives.

### ADVANCED COURSES

Thaden School has not adopted the College Board's Advanced Placement curriculum because our required course of study, consistent with our mission, is designed to prepare students for success at even the most challenging colleges and universities. Most of our core departments and programs, including English, Mathematics, Computer Science, History, Social Sciences, World Languages, and Visual and Performing Arts, offer advanced courses that are especially challenging and comparable to college-level work. **Of the more than 90 courses offered at Thaden School, approximately 18% are accelerated and/or equivalent to college-level;** these advanced course offerings are denoted on the transcript with an asterisk (\*).

### THE SENIOR THESIS

The senior thesis allows students to conduct in-depth exploration of a topic of personal interest. It requires close collaboration between the student and a faculty advisor, and sometimes a community partner as well. In keeping with Thaden School's philosophy that education takes place both within and outside the classroom, seniors may design, with faculty approval, a project of comparable scope to a one-credit course. The thesis culminates in a formal presentation or performance and is graded on a pass/no credit basis.



## STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

Thaden School employs a standards-based grading system whose purpose is two-fold: 1) to accurately and effectively communicate student mastery of core academic competencies; and 2) to focus students on learning and growth rather than the accumulation of points. In each class, students receive ratings on a 1-4 scale of their academic skills and habits. Those ratings are then translated into letter grades.

The highest possible letter grade is an A; the minimum passing grade is a D; a grade of No Credit (NC) equals failure. Some coursework, including Physical Education, is taken on a pass (P) or No Credit (NC) basis.

Thaden School does not compute class rank or report GPA on the transcript.



## CALENDAR AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Thaden School's calendar is divided into trimesters. To graduate from Thaden, a student must complete a minimum of 26 credits; one credit is equivalent to a year-long course. Students must carry no fewer than six courses and no more than seven courses during any one trimester. Our graduation requirements are designed to ensure that all students build a strong and balanced foundation across all major disciplines while giving them the freedom to explore and develop specific interests as they advance in their course of study.

### SUMMARY OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| English                         | 4 credits |
| Math and Computer Science       | 4 credits |
| Science                         | 3 credits |
| History and Social Sciences     | 3 credits |
| World Languages                 | 3 credits |
| Visual and Performing Arts      | 2 credits |
| Signature Programs              | 2 credits |
| Wellness and Physical Education | 2 credits |
| Additional and Advanced Courses | 3 credits |



## CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND MATRICULATIONS

American University, Arizona State University, Augustana College, Bard College, Baylor University, **Boston College**, Butler University, **Carleton College**, Case Western Reserve University, Centre College, Clemson University, Colgate University, Colorado State University, Columbia College Chicago, **Creighton University**, Denison University, Drexel University, Elon University, Fairfield University, Fordham University, **Furman University**, George Washington University, **Georgia Institute of Technology**, **Georgia State University**, Hartwick College, Hendrix College, Lake Forest College, Lewis & Clark College, Northeastern University, **Northwest Arkansas Community College (3)**, Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University, Pace University, **Pitzer College**, Providence College, **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**, **Rhodes College**, Rochester Institute of Technology, Ryerson University, Saint Louis University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Seton Hall University, Sewanee: The University of the South, **Smith College**, Southwestern University, St. Olaf College, Stevens Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, Temple University, Texas Christian University, Trinity University, **Tufts University**, Tulane University, **University of Arkansas (4)**, University of British Columbia, University of California Davis, University of California Santa Cruz, **University of Central Arkansas**, **University of Colorado Boulder**, University of Dallas, University of Denver, University of Glasgow, University of Kansas, University of Missouri, **University of Missouri Kansas City**, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of Oregon, University of Puget Sound, **University of Redlands**, **University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts**, University of Tulsa, University of Victoria, Vassar College, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, **Wellesley College**, Westminster College, Xavier University