



## 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 Marsh**  
 Founding Head of School

**Lisa Herschbach**  
 Deputy Head of School

**Michael Maloy**  
 Director of Upper School

**Hannah Bahn**  
 Director of Studies

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

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



## FACULTY

**39** Faculty  
**59%** Master's Degree  
**21%** Doctorate Degree  
**26** States and **5** Countries  
**20%** Of Color



## STUDENTS

**250** Students from **13** Cities  
 and Towns  
**15** Average Class Size  
**36** Student-Led Clubs and Activities  
**80%** On Need-Based Indexed Tuition  
**38%** Of Color



## CLASS OF 2021

**29** Students  
**24%** Met 2021 National Merit  
 Scholarship Program Entrance  
 Requirements  
**5:1** Student/Teacher Ratio  
**15:1** Student/Counselor Ratio



# THADEN SCHOOL

## PROFILE FOR COLLEGES 2020-2021



## 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 reach approximately 500 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 currently an Associate Member of the Arkansas Non-Public School Accrediting Association (ANSAA) and a New School Services member of the the Independent School Association of the Central States (ISACS). We expect to receive provisional ISACS accreditation by 2021 and full accreditation by 2023.

We are members of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS), Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC).



## STUDENT ACCOLADES

Each year our students earn regional, national, and international distinction. In 2019-2020, a student placed first and the school team placed fourth overall in the National MATHCOUNTS competition; two students were among the top 20 finalists in a field of 6000 submissions to National Public Radio (NPR)'s Student Podcast Challenge; four students were awarded scholarships by the highly-selective National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) to pursue immersive foreign language study overseas; two students had artwork included in the Young Arkansas Artists Exhibition; two students won top honors in the Bentonville Film Festival-Samsung Create Competition; the Track and Field team won both the JV and Varsity divisions at their regional invitational; the JV Girls' Volleyball team swept their conference championship; and five Thaden students organized to form the world's first competitive high school gravel cycling team.



## 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. The average course load is six-and-a-half courses per trimester; 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



## 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. Year-end capstone Intensives projects and other forms of independent study, as well 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 70 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.



## TRANSCRIPT AND GRADING SCALE

Thaden School follows a trimester schedule and records grades in early December, early March, and late May. Midterm grades are not reported on the transcript however faculty provide comprehensive standards- and competency-based feedback and assessment; students receive letter grades as well as ratings on their progress toward meeting specific transdisciplinary learning goals for each course.

Learning goals are divided into two categories: Skills (Factual Knowledge, Conceptual Understanding, Procedural Technique, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Creativity/Originality); and Habits (Preparation, Initiative/Perseverance, and Collaboration).

Grades and ratings are assigned based on four levels of accomplishment: Beginning (1), Approaching (2), Meeting (3), and Exceeding (4). Numeric ratings are expressed in letter grades according to this scale:

### GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Range
A	>3.50
A-	3.25-3.49
B+	3.0-3.24
B	2.75-2.99
B-	2.50-2.74
C+	2.25-2.49
C	2.00-2.24
C-	1.75-1.99
D	1.50-1.74
NC (No Credit)	<1.49

The highest possible letter grade is an A; the minimum passing grade is a D; a grade of No Credit (NC) equals failure. Students not earning minimum passing grades in required courses must repeat those courses before advancing. With faculty permission, students receiving a low grade may repeat a course but will earn no additional credit. Some coursework is taken on a pass (P) or No Credit (NC) basis, including all Grade 9 coursework and Physical Education and Wellness classes.

In order to motivate students to challenge themselves and validate their growth and development over time, final course grades are determined using a graduated scale that places increasing weight on a students' work as the course progresses.

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



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, Thaden School enacted a distance learning plan beginning on March 30. All courses continued to meet on a modified daily schedule during the spring trimester. Thaden School's approach to grading and assessment maintained high expectations of all students while providing greater flexibility during this unusual time. When calculating final grades for upper school students, faculty were asked to consider logistical challenges inherent in the transition to distance learning and were given freedom to make equitable adjustments they deemed appropriate.