Trinity School
of Durham and Chapel Hill

2026-2027 Upper School Profile • CEEB 341-039

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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 630 Trinity graduates are making a difference in their communities, workplaces, families, and church congregations.

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Accreditation
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)
Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA)

Enrollment and Quick Facts
- 641 students attend Trinity School
- 319 in Lower School (TK–grade 6)
- 107 in Middle School (grades 7–8)
- 215 in Upper School (grades 9–12)
- 53 students in the class of 2027
- Average class size of 14 students
- 8:1 student-faculty ratio
- 84.6 % of Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees

Deep, Inquiry-Based Study
Trinity's Upper School engages students in a rich, liberal arts curriculum that values depth through 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, students explore ancient and modern ideas, literature, history, art, and faith in yearlong Humanities courses. These classes meet for twice the time allotted to 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 60 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 a research assistant in a Duke University lab.

Distinctives of Trinity Graduates
In Trinity's first 17 graduating classes (636 alumni total), our seniors have been distinguished with 19 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; a Georgia Tech Stamps Gold Scholarship; a Duke University Alumni Endowed Scholar; a Robertson Scholarship; and an ROTC Scholarship at Davidson College. Other accolades include nine Division I athletic scholarships; 24 Governor's School placements; National Merit commended, semifinalist, and finalist scholarships; and more than $30 million in merit awards.

Class of 2027 (53 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	570–670
Math	530–690
Total	1120–1320

ACT Summary (Middle 50%)

English	22–33
Math	22–31
Reading	24–33
Science	26–33
STEM	25–31
Composite	23–30

Class of 2027 GPA Distribution

GPA Range	Weighted	Unweighted
4.5–4.72	15.09%	0.00%
4.0–4.49	35.85%	7.55%
3.5–3.99	30.19%	69.15%
3.0–3.49	15.09%	24.53%
2.0–2.99	3.77%	3.77%

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Class of 2027 Graduation Requirements

Trinity requires a minimum of 24 credits for a diploma, including the following:

- English (4)
- History (3)
- Mathematics (3)
- Theology Studies (2)
- Rhetoric (0.5)
- Computer Competency (0.5)
- Lab Science (3)
- Foreign Language (3)
- Visual or Performing Arts (1)
- Health and Wellness (0.5)
- Senior Capstone (0.5)

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 the class of 2027, 12 students took a total of 25 AP exams, with 60% receiving a score of 3 or higher.

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 permission from the Head 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 Head of Upper School. Members of the class of 2027 completed or are in the process of completing an average of 6 honors courses by graduation.

Course Offerings

Humanities

Humanities 9: Ancient Civilizations*
Humanities 10: Western Studies*
Humanities 11: American Studies*
Shakespeare: Comedy, Tragedy, and History*
The Fantasy of C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien*
Modern Fiction from Around the World*
Film and Literature*
African-American Literature
Literature of Modernism*
The World of Jane Austen*
Technical and Creative Writing*
The Great Philosophical Questions*
The American Civil War*
Epidemics as History Makers*
History of the Non-Western World*
US Government and Politics*
Model UN Global Studies
Economics

Math

Algebra I and II*
Geometry*
Precalculus*
Statistics*
Calculus I (Honors)
Calculus I / II (Honors)
Calculus III (Honors)
Linear Algebra (Honors)
Cryptography (Honors)
Discrete Mathematics

Science

Physics*
Chemistry*
Biology*
Anatomy and Physiology*
Chemistry II: Reactions and Energy (Honors)
Advanced Physics (Honors)
Physics of Electricity and Magnetism
Marine Biology
Ecology
Environmental Studies
Organic and Biochemistry

Visual & Performing Arts

Studio Art I, II, and III
Art Portfolio
Sculptural Ceramics
Vessel Ceramics
introduction to Photography
Performance Theatre
Advanced Performance Theatre
Musical Theatre
Technical Theatre
Instrumental Ensemble
Vocal Ensemble
Songwriting and Music Production
(Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced)

Service Learning

Servant Leadership
Literacy and the Augustine Project
Biblical Justice

Languages

Latin II*, III*, IV (Honors), and V (Honors)
Spanish I*, II*, III*, IV (Honors) and V (Honors)
Spanish Essentials I, II, and III

Engineering & Computer Science

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

Requirements & General Electives

Theology 9, 10, 11, and 12
Rhetoric
Senior Capstone
Health and Wellness
Strength and Conditioning
Yearbook
Journalism and Marketing
Academic Skills

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

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