



Dominion School, Inc.
School Profile 2023-2024
1545 Dranesville Rd.
Herndon, VA 20171
www.dominionschool.com

Dominion was founded in 1996 and is committed to educating its students with “knowledge, truth, and wisdom” through the classical model. Dominion seeks to instill in each student a lifelong love of learning and to prepare each student for admission to selective colleges and universities. Dominion is a non-denominational, co-educational institution, currently enrolling approximately 340 students, grades K-12.

Dominion prepares its graduates for selective college and university admissions through a demanding, liberal arts-based course of study. In addition to standard core courses, students develop highly refined critical thinking and rhetorical skills, culminating in a senior thesis. Dominion’s unique academic program is characterized by:

- Emphasis on persuasive writing and speaking
- Intensive study of the western tradition and its global interactions
- A concentration in the history of mathematical, scientific and philosophical ideas
- A Harkness (Socratic, round-table) teaching environment
- Exploration of classical literature (see attached reading list samples)

Admission Guidelines

Students are admitted to Dominion on the basis of three major criteria: Academic ability, family compatibility with the school’s values, and student ability to positively contribute to the school culture.

Dominion’s curriculum is designed for college-bound students of average or above average ability. Prospective students take the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE), and an average to high stanine is required for admission. Dominion’s admission policy and process are need-blind, and approximately 15% of the operating budget is designated for need-based tuition assistance.

Faculty

The 2023-2024 upper school faculty consists of thirteen full-time and six adjunct core course instructors, approximately two-thirds of whom hold advanced degrees.

Senior Thesis

As a condition of graduation, seniors must write, orally present, and defend a 10,000-15,000-word thesis before a panel of faculty members, experts in the fields of topics being presented, and an audience of students, parents, and community leaders. Students research an approved subject and are mentored by faculty throughout the process. The Senior Thesis is the capstone of the rhetorical skill gained over four years.

Curriculum Overview & Graduation Requirements

	9	10	11	12
Math Required: 4 credits (including Algebra II)	Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry	Geometry, Algebra II, or Pre-Calculus	Algebra II, Statistics, Pre-Calc., Honors Pre-Calc, or AP® Statistics	Statistics, Pre-Calculus, AP® Statistics, or AP® Calculus AB
Science Required: 3 lab sciences	Biology	Environmental Science or Physics	Chemistry	Anatomy & Physiology
Humanities: History Required: 4 credits	Ancient	Medieval	American/ Government	Modern European
Humanities: Literature Required: 4 credits	Ancient	Medieval	American/ Government	Modern European
Language Required: 3 credits	Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III	Spanish IV (elective)
Christian Studies Required: 2 credits	New Testament Survey	Church History	Old Testament: Literature & Theology	New Testament: Literature & Theology
Logic/Rhetoric Required: 2 credits	Formal Logic	Rhetoric: Fundamentals of Persuasion	Junior Thesis	Senior Thesis
Enrichment Required: 4 enrichment credits, including 2 in the fine arts and 0.5 credits in Athletics/Physical Education	Athletics/ Physical Education, Drama, and/or Art	Athletics/ Physical Education, Drama, Art, and/or Music	Athletics/ Physical Education, Drama, Art, Music, and/or Aesthetics	Athletics/ Physical Education, Drama, Art, Choral Music, Strings Ensemble, Apologetics, and/or Business Internship (usually in lieu of Spanish IV), and/or Aesthetics
Seminar Required: 2 credits	Required	Required	Required	Required

Seminar is a half-credit required course for all Dominion upper school students. It includes a series of lectures and reflections from leading business executives, thinkers, and government officials from Washington, D.C.

All Dominion students study Latin in grades 3 through 8. For students who earn a B or better, high school credit is given for Latin I, Latin II, and Algebra I courses taken in middle school at Dominion. In the case of Latin, the student was granted high school credit only if he/she began at Dominion with sufficient time to complete the entire curriculum. High School Latin is represented as Latin I & Latin II; these subjects will not appear on the transcripts of students who did not receive high school credit.

Median SAT Score:

1330

Grading Scale:

A+	97-100	4.3	C+	77-79	2.3
A	93-96	4.0	C	73-76	2.0
A-	90-92	3.7	C-	70-72	1.7
B+	87-89	3.3	D+	67-69	1.3
B	83-86	3.0	D	64-66	1.0
B-	80-82	2.7	F	63 or below	0

Advanced Placement Courses:

Dominion offers AP Statistics and AP Calculus AB. A one-half quality point “bump” is assigned to “honors” courses which the school deems especially reflective of its academic values in order to encourage students with strong aptitude and/or academic motivation to seek the most rigorous course of study. Students will receive a one quality point “bump” for Advanced Placement ® courses.

Other Pertinent Academic Policies

- a. Credit is awarded on the basis of the frequency with which a course meets in a one- or two-week period.
 - 1) All core courses (English and history; math; science; foreign language) are awarded 1 full credit (these credits are not divisible).
 - 2) Other required or elective courses may meet on a half-time basis and may be offered for less than 1 full credit. Quality points for less than full credit courses are calculated proportionally.
- b. All full-time students must maintain a full schedule of at least five classes, regardless of the number of credits earned or the number of classes in the daily or weekly schedule.

Ranking Policy

Dominion does not rank students.

Fine and Performing Arts

Dominion emphasizes instruction in the fine and performing arts throughout the curriculum as an expression of our commitment to an integrated, artistically-informed understanding of the world. Students in the upper school are required to enroll in a fine arts course for at least four semesters, and they elect music performance, theater, or studio art courses during the course of a high school education at Dominion.

College Acceptances & Matriculations

- Auburn University
- Baylor University (Honors Program)
- Belmont University
- Berry College
- Bridgewater College
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Butler University
- Catholic University
- Charleston Southern University
- Christopher Newport University
- The Citadel
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of William and Mary (Honors Program)
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Covenant College
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Ferrum College
- Flagler College
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Gardner-Webb University
- Geneva College
- George Mason University (Honors Program)
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Gordon College
- Grove City College
- Hampden-Sydney College
- Hillsdale College
- Hope College
- Indiana University
- James Madison University (Honors Program)
- Johns Hopkins University
- The King's College
- Lab Institute of Merchandising
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Marshall University
- Messiah College
- Old Dominion University
- Radford University
- Randolph-Macon College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rice University
- Roanoke College
- The Savannah College of Art & Design
- Shenandoah University
- St. John's College (Annapolis)
- Swarthmore College
- Taylor University
- Temple University
- Tulane University
- United States Military Academy at West Point
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Evansville
- University of Georgia
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Memphis
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee
- University of Virginia (Honors Program)
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
- Washington and Lee University
- Westmont College
- Wheaton College

A Sampling from the Dominion Humanities Reading List

Ancient and Classical Studies

	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>
Aristotle	<i>Constitution of Athens</i>
Augustus	<i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i>
Cicero	<i>First Oration Against Catiline</i>
Herodotus	<i>Histories</i>
Homer	<i>The Iliad, The Odyssey</i>
Lewis	<i>Till We Have Faces</i>
Plato	<i>The Trial & Death of Socrates,</i> <i>Republic</i>
Polybius	<i>The Histories</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Othello, Julius Caesar, Antony</i> <i>& Cleopatra</i>
Tacitus	<i>Germania & Agricola</i>
Thucydides	<i>Peloponnesian War</i>
Virgil	<i>The Aeneid</i>

Modern European Studies

Romantic Poets	
Tennyson	
Dickens	<i>Great Expectations</i>
Dostoyevsky	<i>Crime & Punishment</i>
Equiano	<i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of</i> <i>Olaudah Equiano</i>
Hitler	<i>Mein Kampf (excerpts)</i>
Hugo	<i>Les Miserables</i>
Lewis	<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
Locke	<i>The Two Treatise of Government</i>
Marx	<i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Milton	<i>Paradise Lost</i>
Orwell	<i>Animal Farm</i>
Remarque	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>
Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Stevenson	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll &</i> <i>Mr. Hyde</i>

Medieval Studies

	<i>Beowulf</i>
	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>
	<i>Transcripts from the Trial of Joan of</i> <i>Arc</i>
	<i>Qur'an (excerpts)</i>
	<i>Rule of St. Benedict</i>
Augustine	<i>Confessions, City of God</i>
Bainton	<i>Here I Stand</i>
Cantor	<i>In the Wake of the Plague</i>
Chaucer	<i>The Canterbury Tales (excerpts)</i>
Dante	<i>Inferno, Purgatorio</i>
Lewis	<i>The Great Divorce</i>
Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Merchant of Venice</i>
Tuchman	<i>A Distant Mirror</i>

American Studies

	<i>Selected Poetry, Essays, Speeches, Short</i> <i>Stories & Letters</i>
Douglass	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick</i> <i>Douglass</i>
Ellis	<i>Founding Brothers</i>
Faulkner	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>
Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Hansberry	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
Hemingway	<i>In Our Time</i>
Hurston	<i>Barracoon</i>
McCarthy	<i>The Road</i>
Mitchell	<i>Gone With the Wind</i>
Paine	<i>Common Sense</i>
	<i>The Federalist Papers</i>
Powers	<i>The Yellow Birds</i>
Robinson	<i>Gilead</i>
Twain	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry</i> <i>Finn</i>
Washington	<i>Farewell Address (excerpts)</i>