



Dominion School, Inc.
School Profile 2024-2025
1545 Dranesville Rd.
Herndon, VA 20170
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 17% of the operating budget is designated for need-based tuition assistance.

Faculty

The 2024-2025 upper school faculty consists of eleven full-time and thirteen adjunct core course instructors, approximately half 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, Honors Pre-Calc	Algebra II, Statistics, Pre-Calc., Honors Pre-Calc, or AP® Calculus AB	Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP® Statistics, AP® Calculus AB, or Trigonometry
Science Required: 3 lab sciences	Biology	Introductory Physics	Honors College Physics or Anatomy and Physiology	Chemistry
Humanities: History Required: 4 credits	Ancient	Medieval History; American Government	Modern European	American
Humanities: Literature Required: 4 credits	Ancient	Medieval	Modern European	American
Language Required: 3 credits	Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III, Spanish III Honors	Honors Spanish IV (elective)
Christian Studies Required: 2 credits	Church History	New Testament Survey	New Testament: Literature & Theology; Apologetics	Old Testament: Literature & Theology
Logic/Rhetoric Required: 2 credits	Rhetoric: Fundamentals of Persuasion	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	Apologetics and Athletics / Physical Education, Drama, Art, Choral Music, Strings Ensemble	Aesthetics and Athletics / Physical Education, Drama, Art, Choral Music, Strings Ensemble
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:

With a median class size of 12, Dominion's median SAT scores have fallen between 1250 and 1350 every year since inception of the school.

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
- Calvin College
- Catholic University
- Charleston Southern University
- Christendom College
- 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
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Ferrum College
- Flagler College
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida State University
- Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Gardner-Webb University
- Geneva College
- George Mason University (Honors Program)
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Gordon College
- Grove City College
- Hampden-Sydney College
- High Point University
- 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
- Miami of Ohio
- Old Dominion University
- Palm Beach Atlantic
- Patrick Henry College
- 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 Arizona
- University of Connecticut
- University of Evansville
- University of Florida
- 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)
- Villanova University
- 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

Aristotle	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
Augustus	<i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i>
Cicero	<i>First and Second Oration Against Catiline</i>
Herodotus	<i>Histories</i>
Hesiod	<i>Theogony and Works and Days</i>
Homer	<i>The Iliad, The Odyssey</i>
Lewis	<i>Till We Have Faces</i>
Livy	<i>The Rise of Rome (Excerpts)</i>
M. Aurelius	<i>Meditations</i>
Plato	<i>The Trial & Death of Socrates, The Republic</i>
Plutarch	<i>Greek Lives</i>
Polybius	<i>The Histories (Excerpts)</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
Suetonius	<i>The Twelve Caesars</i>
Tacitus	<i>Germania & Agricola (Excerpts)</i>
Thucydides	<i>The Peloponnesian War (Excerpts)</i>
Virgil	<i>The Aeneid</i> <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh; Enuma Elish; Code of Hammurabi</i>

Modern European Studies

Dostoyevsky	<i>Crime & Punishment</i>
Equiano	<i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano</i>
Hobbes	<i>Leviathan</i>
Hugo	<i>Les Miserables</i>
Lewis	<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
Locke	<i>Two Treatises of Government</i>
Marx	<i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Milton	<i>Paradise Lost</i>
Remarque	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>
Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Stevenson	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i>
Wiesel	<i>Night</i>
<i>Poetry from Blake, Byron, Coleridge, Donne, Herbert, Shakespeare, Shelley, Spenser, Tennyson, Wordsworth</i>	

Selected Poetry, Essays, Speeches, Short Stories, Historical Records & Letters

Medieval Studies

Augustine	<i>Confessions; City of God (Excerpts)</i>
Anselm	<i>Proslogion</i>
Aquinas	<i>Summa Theologica (Excerpts)</i>
Bainton	<i>Here I Stand</i>
Benedict	<i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i>
Boethius	<i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>
Cantor	<i>In the Wake of the Plague</i>
Chaucer	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i>
Dante	<i>Inferno, Purgatorio</i>
Hildegard	<i>Ordo Virtutum</i>
Lewis	<i>The Great Divorce</i>
Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i>
Petrarch	<i>The Ascent of Mont Ventoux</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Merchant of Venice</i>
Tuchman	<i>A Distant Mirror</i> <i>Beowulf</i> <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> <i>Qur'an (excerpts); Hadith (Excerpts)</i> <i>Two Lives of Charlemagne</i> <i>Chronicles of the Crusades</i>

American Studies

Douglass	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
Ellis	<i>Founding Brothers</i>
Faulkner	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>
Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Robinson	<i>Gilead</i>
Hamilton, et al	<i>Federalist Papers</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>
Paine	<i>Common Sense</i>
Powers	<i>The Yellow Birds</i>
Robinson	<i>Gilead</i>
Twain	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Washington	<i>Farewell Address (excerpts)</i>

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