



## STATISTICAL PROFILE

Faculty with postgraduate degrees: **87%**  
Demographic draw: **60-mile radius**  
Full time students: **65**  
Senior class size: **15**  
Approximate full time student-teacher ratio: **5: 1**  
Male/female student ratio: **25: 40**  
Students from underserved ethnicities: **12%**  
Students who will be 1<sup>st</sup> gen. college: **14%**  
Students on financial aid: **70%**  
Mean SAT (2025) compared to Virginia: **1123/1112 (VA)**  
Mean ERW (2025) compared to Virginia: **603/567 (VA)**  
Mean Math (2025) compared to Virginia: **520/544 (VA)**

## REGISTRAR

**Erin Coogan**  
ecoogan@communityhigh.net

While our Registrar sends the transcripts and school reports, attached counselor letters are written by the student's Senior Counselor.

## SENIOR COUNSELORS

**Josh Chapman**  
Academic Director  
jchapman@communityhigh.net

**Les Epstein**                      **Warren Fry**  
lepstein@communityhigh.net    wfry@communityhigh.net

## MAIN OFFICE

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🌐 [www.communityhigh.net](http://www.communityhigh.net)

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# COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND ACADEMICS

## School Profile 2025-2026

*Founded in 2002, Community High School of Arts and Academics is a secular, independent preparatory high school located in Roanoke, Virginia. Our student body is capped at 65, and our curriculum is rich in arts and seminar-based instruction. Though CHS is not a free school, our tuition is only \$7,000 and is free for families making under \$60,000.*

## EVALUATION

**CHS does not use a grading scale, either numeric or letter-based, to evaluate our students.** All classes are offered Credit/No Credit and each student's acquired knowledge and skills are described narratively and in detail for each class, each semester on our transcripts.

We hope the additional nuance inherent in our evaluation is more helpful to you than a letter or number, though we understand the relative difficulty this may present those whose institutions require comparative quantitative data such as grade point averages. If such information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact our Registrar, [Erin Coogan](mailto:Erin.Coogan).

**We do not rank our graduates.**

## Academic Rigor

At CHS, we believe an **independent school** should offer an **independent curriculum**. For that reason, we do not offer IB or AP curricula. Instead, most of our classes are structured like 200 or 300 level college courses rather than typical high school survey courses. Readings are difficult and frequent, and assessment is based on research, writing, presentation, discussion and project execution as well as testing. We believe that our classes therefore offer a more thorough preparation for college coursework.

Unless specifically noted, **ALL** Humanities, Science and Arts courses should be assumed to be college preparatory in design and difficulty.

Please see students' secondary school reports for evaluation of their individual schedule's rigor compared to other seniors.

## STATEMENT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Community High School believes that writing is a mode of critical thought, and therefore strictly and specifically forbids the use of Large Language Models by students or faculty in composition. We take care to ensure that students' work is entirely their own, including application essays. Our faculty hold themselves to the same standard; all evaluations and letters of recommendation are written entirely by faculty themselves.



## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS STATISTICS 2021-PRESENT

Community High School Graduates: **78**

Graduation Rate: **99%** (78/79)

Students who applied to college as seniors: **91%** (71/78)

Enrolled in a 4-year program: **92%** (62/67)

Enrolled in a 2-year program: **7%** (5/67)

Students at a Virginia college: **70%** (47/67)

Students at a non-Virginia college: **30%** (20/67)

Students attending a liberal arts college: **57%** (36/67)

Students attending a university: **33%** (22/67)

Students attending arts school: **6%** (4/67)

Students attending community college: **7%** (5/67)

## STATEMENT OF FOUNDING

Community High School was founded in 2002 by a group of experienced independent school educators and professors from Virginia Tech, Washington & Lee, and Hollins University. Together, they designed a school that would more thoroughly prepare students for a liberal arts education and a fulfilling adulthood, rooted in progressive traditions derived from higher education, museum schools, John Dewey, Quaker schools and arts conservatories. From the outset, we've been committed to providing a quality progressive preparatory education to independent critical thinkers regardless of their economic circumstances.

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VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

*The original CHS Standard Diploma was designed to be equivalent to the Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma. Beginning with the Class of 2029, we updated our requirements to more closely align with changes to the Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma.*

*Students in the Classes of 2026, 2027, and 2028 will graduate under the Current Diploma, with the option of meeting the increased requirements and having it noted on their transcript.*

## CURRENT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

This CHS diploma is equivalent to the Virginia Standard Diploma.

**Science:** 8 required (6 lab), 10 recommended

**Math:** 6 required, 8 recommended (through Algebra II)

**Humanities:** 14 required, 16 recommended (including US History A, B, and C)

**Foreign Language:** 6 in 1 language or 8 in 2 languages, 8 recommended

**Fine Arts:** 6 required

**Elective:** 6 required, 2 of which must be Physical Education

*With the exception of lab sciences, 1 credit reflects 1 semester's work.*

Department	Required	Recommended for college bound students
Science	8 total (6 lab)	10
Math	6	8
Humanities	14	16
Foreign Language	6 in 1 or 8 in 2	8
Fine Art	6	8
Elective	6	6
Total	46 (48)	56

## NEW DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

The new CHS diploma is equivalent to the Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma.

**Science:** 10 credits (6 from a lab science)

**Math:** 8 credits (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II)

**Humanities:** 16 credits (including US History sections A, B, and C)

**Foreign Language:** 6 credits in 1 language or 8 credits in 2 languages

**Fine Arts:** 8 credits

**Physical Education & Health:** 2 credits

**Freshman Seminar:** 2 credits

*With the exception of lab sciences, 1 credit reflects 1 semester's work.*

Department	Credits
Science	10 (6 lab)
Math	8
Humanities	16
Foreign Language	6 in one lang. or 8 in two lang.
Fine Art	8
Physical Education & Health	2
Freshman Seminar	2
Total	52 (54)

## DUAL ENROLLMENT & COLLEGE CLASSES

The majority of our faculty are qualified to teach dual enrollment courses, but offering dual enrollment would require us to limit our offerings to the basic broad surveys taught at Virginia community colleges. Upperclassmen do sometimes take college courses; when they do so, it is on a college campus from college faculty and alongside college students.

**Grades from college classes are sent separately by the college.**

# MISSION & CURRICULUM

## MISSION

Community High School is a small, secular, independent, college preparatory high school grounded in the liberal arts, founded with a commitment to seminar-based classes, and located in Roanoke's city center. Our Mission is to develop creative and independent problem solvers with diverse backgrounds and abilities who will be scientifically and culturally literate, globally conscious, locally engaged citizens.

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## CURRICULUM

Community High School was founded by college and university faculty trained in the liberal arts tradition. At CHS, we hire teachers whom we presume to be wise, humble, and curious, and we trust them to develop and pilot their own courses as professors at liberal arts colleges do. For more information on our full curriculum, see [here](#).

### HUMANITIES

Our Humanities courses are generally offered by semester and conducted in small, multi-age seminars. The predominant model is that of a college. Instead of English 9, 10, 11, and 12, for example, courses this year include The Ottoman Empire, Ancient Mayans and their sacred text Popul Vuh, and South African Theater and Resistance. Every student is also required to complete three one semester US History courses, covering Early America, the 19th Century, and the 20th and 21st Centuries.

### MATH AND SCIENCE

Most of our Math and Science courses are yearlong and aligned in content if not pedagogy with those offered in peer institutions. In addition to those, we also offer special topic classes on subjects as diverse as Paleoanthropology, Video Game Design, Botany, and Zoology.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE

At CHS, we currently offer Spanish and Latin. We routinely offer classes from the introductory level through advanced literature and humanities courses. In Spanish, students in our advanced levels consistently attain the Global Seal of Biliteracy and in Latin, many place highly on the National Latin Exam.

### FINE ARTS

Courses in the Arts are core classes, and are required and weighted like all others. Evaluation is based not on natural affinity, but on progress in creative thinking, risk-taking, sustained work ethic, the full execution of ideas, discipline and precision in that execution, collaboration and openness to critique, and the acquisition of skill.

### INTERNSHIPS & INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Sophomores and above can pursue additional interests through credit-bearing Internships and Independent Studies. These are student-driven and have ranged from internships in animal-assisted therapy to auto mechanics, to independent studies in novel writing and growing a pizza.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to regular activities throughout the year, all students engage in three full days of required, school-wide community service projects. For more information on our Community Outreach, visit our [website](#).

## EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

CHS itself does not have athletic teams. Many arts programs that would be extracurricular at other schools are curricular at CHS. The extracurriculars we offer tend to be student-driven, quirky and creative, but are no less serious for that. For example, we have an avid D&D club, 'Zine club, and an organizing role in Roanoke's Daisy Art Parade.

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**Below is a range of colleges that have accepted our students in the past 4 years; institutions where students currently attend are highlighted.**

**Appalachian State**  
Belmont University  
Beloit College  
Bennington College  
Berea College  
Boston University  
**Bridgewater College**  
Bryn Mawr College  
**Champlain College**  
**Christopher Newport Un.**  
Clark University  
College of the Atlantic  
**College of William & Mary**  
**College of Wooster**  
**Davidson College**  
Drew University

Earlham College  
**Elon University**  
Emory & Henry College  
**George Mason University**  
George Washington Un.  
Goucher College  
Hawai'i Pacific University  
**Hendrix College**  
Hofstra University  
**Hollins University**  
Ithaca College  
**James Madison University**  
Longwood University  
Marymount Manhattan  
Marymount University  
Occidental College

Oglethorpe University  
**Old Dominion University**  
Parsons School of Design  
Radford University  
**Randolph College**  
Randolph-Macon College  
Reed College  
**Roanoke College**  
Salem College  
Sav. College of Art & Design  
Skidmore College  
St. John's College  
**St. Olaf College**  
Susquehanna University  
**Syracuse University**  
UNC Asheville

**Université de Lyon**  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Kentucky  
**Un. of Mary Washington**  
University of Pittsburgh  
**University of Richmond**  
University of Tennessee  
**University of Virginia**  
University of Wyoming  
Ursinus College  
**VCU**  
**VCU School of the Arts**  
**Virginia Military Institute**  
**Virginia Tech**  
**Virginia Western**  
**Warren Wilson College**