

# 2020-21 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Upper School's mission is to give our students a broad and deep learning experience that will help cultivate critical thinkers, astute readers and writers, and mindful citizens eager to participate in the wider world.

Upper School students have a range of opportunities to explore and learn outside the classroom. These include varsity sports, the performing and studio arts, studying at partner schools from South Africa to China, and participating in The Hague International Model United Nations conference as one of only 10 schools in the U.S. invited to the one of the world's largest and most eminent Model United Nations assemblies.

The Upper School provides a superior college preparatory education where, starting in Middle School, counselors begin helping students and parents think about what colleges might be the best fit. This effort continues and deepens from ninth grade on as counselors and students work together to find schools that suit each individual's talents, interests, and goals. The counselors are actively involved in every aspect of the college application process, providing support and guidance throughout to students and their parents.

## HARKNESS LEARNING

In Upper School classrooms, the distinctive Harkness Tables are home to a distinctive way of teaching and learning. The Harkness method emphasizes student-led discussion rather than traditional lecturing, fostering lively and self-confident participation.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

Country Day offers 15 AP courses with additional advanced studies in Physics, Chemistry and Multivariable Calculus.

## WORLD CIVILIZATIONS

World Civilizations is a two-year, interdisciplinary course that's an immersive introduction to the humanities in Upper School. While grounding students in the fundamentals, World Civilizations provides a richer experience by exposing students to texts that span millennia and cultures, and speak to a common human essence.

## GLOBAL PROGRAMS

The Global Education Program strives to prepare students to live, work, and flourish in a world that is culturally diverse and politically and economically interdependent. More than half of sophomores, juniors, and seniors participate in year-long travel courses such as Model United Nations, international service, study abroad or cultural exchanges with partner schools such as Westonbirt School in Tetbury, England, among others. Destinations for student travel have included China, Peru, Nepal, The Netherlands, South Africa and Scotland, to name just a few.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Country Day is deeply committed to connecting students to the world around them. We believe this is important for students of all ages, but especially for Upper Schoolers. They are encouraged to engage in a wide variety of community service projects, whether large or small, local or international. Upper School students who complete individual projects can earn an "Outstanding Community Service" designation, which is included on their transcripts when applying to college.

**The Upper School curriculum provides a broad and deep learning experience that will help students become:**

- Critical thinkers
- Astute readers and writers
- Conscientious citizens

# 100%

*of Country Day graduates are accepted to four-year colleges, and the rigor of the LCDS curriculum and support of our teachers ensure they're exceptionally well prepared when they get there.*



## 2020-21 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### COLLEGE COUNSELING

The college counseling process is about learning who you are and where you want to go. Because our college counselors know our students as individuals, they can help each one find schools that best suit their unique personalities, strengths, and goals.

At LCDS, the college advising process begins informally in our Middle School. College counselors meet with parents in sessions covering everything from college athletics to course selection. As students reach Upper School, they begin meeting more regularly with the college counselors to work on self-reflection and goals, and they begin using Cialfo, our college counseling search and submission platform, which follows them through their Upper School years.

In the junior year, students begin working one-on-one with their assigned counselor on all aspects of their college search process, from identifying a list of colleges to refining essays to practicing interview skills to thoughtfully completing applications and discerning where to enroll.

### TRAVEL COURSES

Learning takes Upper School students all around the world. Lancaster Country Day is one of only 10 schools in the U.S. invited to participate in The Hague International Model United Nations conference held annually in The Netherlands, Qatar and Singapore. With 3,500 high school students from across the world, THIMUN is one of the largest and most eminent Model United Nations assemblies, and is an accredited non-governmental organization with the U.N. Other travel courses include Spanish Civilization and Culture, which complements advanced language and culture study with a trip to Spain, and The Science of Hawaii, which combines studies of geology and marine biology with a visit to see these environments firsthand.

### ARTS

In Upper School, students are free to explore all the disciplines or to study a single one in-depth. Classes in acting, drawing, photography, ceramics, creative dance, orchestra, choir, and music theory allow students to discover new passions or enhance long-held interests.

### US SUMMER PROGRAMS

We are now offering a growing number of full-year and trimester courses for credit in the summer including Honors Chemistry, Honors Geometry, Biology, Organic Chemistry, Physics and PE Body Fit.



### ATHLETICS

LCDS is a member of the PIAA's Lancaster-Lebanon League, which allows our varsity athletes to compete for League, District and State championships, and to earn individual and team honors. In addition to the twelve varsity sports teams Country Day fields, our students can participate in co-op interscholastic sports with Lancaster Catholic and J.P. McCaskey High School.

Students also have the chance to play interscholastic sports long before they're ready for varsity teams. Lower Schoolers interested in lacrosse, for example, can suit up and hit the field beginning in third grade.

Girls: Soccer, Field Hockey, Tennis, Basketball, Squash, Lacrosse

Boys: Soccer, Golf, Basketball, Squash, Lacrosse, Tennis

Co-Op (LCHS): Girls' volleyball

Co-Op (JPM): Cross Country, Football, Swimming, Bowling, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Track & Field

### LCDS SPORTS JOIN THE (LOCAL) BIG LEAGUE

In 2018, Country Day became a member of the Lancaster-Lebanon League, realizing a decades-long dream. L-L membership means the Cougars compete against local schools in a formal way as part of the larger Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. The upshot is that our kids have to travel much less to play familiar, consistent competition in real games instead of scrimmages.



LANCASTER  
COUNTRY DAY  
SCHOOL

*The Right Choice.*

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