

CHATTANOOGA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

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School and Community

The Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences (CSAS) first introduced Hamilton County to the concept of magnet schools when it opened in 1986. The building is on the National Register of Historical Places and is located close to downtown Chattanooga. The school currently serves 1005 students in grades K-12. CSAS graduated the first commencement class in 1991 and is one of 78 public schools in the Hamilton County school system. In 2006, the National Paideia Center recognized CSAS as one of the top two Paideia Schools in the United States.

Chattanooga is located in Southeast Tennessee. It is the 4th largest city in the state near the border of Georgia at the junction of four interstate highways. Chattanooga is a mid-sized city (345,545 in Hamilton County) that combines the best of large and small municipalities. Area residents enjoy the friendly atmosphere, moderate-housing costs, and easy commuting typically associated with smaller communities, but Chattanooga's cultural and recreational opportunities rival those in much larger metropolitan areas. The city has received national recognition for the renaissance of its beautiful downtown and redevelopment of its riverfront.

Faculty

With a student-teacher ratio of 16 to 1, CSAS has a talented and highly competent faculty, which fosters scholarship and citizenship. At CSAS, 68% of the 73 faculty and professional staff members hold advanced degrees. They represent a diverse group of educators who perceive lifelong learning as essential for growth and who help provide a school environment uniquely suited to a community of learners.

Students and Parents

The K-12 student body is diverse by design, with approximately 50% white, 41% black, 7% Asian, and 2% other nationalities; virtually every neighborhood in the city is represented, providing an enriching environment. The most important criterion for admission is a high level of commitment from both students and parents. Students are expected to do their best in their studies and perform community service; parents are required to volunteer at least two hours to the school per month (per family) and attend two conferences with teachers each year. All prospective students and parents are required to complete an application and participate in a conversation with members of the admissions committee.

Academic Program

Reflecting the principles of *The Paideia Proposal* authored by Mortimer J. Adler, CSAS is a truly democratic school committed to the idea of liberal education. The course of study is general, not specialized; liberal, not vocational; humanistic, not technical. As a liberal arts school, CSAS strives to simulate for its students a realistic college environment. In every discipline, three kinds of teaching and learning—didactic (lecture), coaching (skill development in small groups with tutors), and seminar (discussion, questioning)—are thoroughly integrated. Classes are intended to strengthen the skills of all our students, with the goal being 20% passive and 80% active learning. All classes are designed to meet the needs of the college-bound student. Twenty-four courses at CSAS are honors courses although no additional weight is awarded in the calculation of the grade point average. CSAS does not offer specially designated AP sections; however, a number of students choose to take AP exams each spring.

CSAS' academic year is divided into two block-scheduled terms, 90 days each. During each term students complete four courses, one of which may be an elective. Each course meets four days per week for 85 minutes and one day for 60 minutes.

Formal Socratic seminars are held school-wide and in individual classrooms producing a stimulating line of conversation on a variety of subjects. Seminar materials are literary works or other products of human art that present ideas or broach issues. Students develop proficiency in citing text to support their opinions while demonstrating respect for the opinions of others. Seminar is required and represents an essential part of the CSAS curriculum, although the grade is not used in calculating the GPA.

Statistical Information

Grading Scale		Grade Distribution		Average ACT Composite Scores				
A	93-100 (4 pts.)*	Profile-Class of 2014		Year	Total Tested at CSAS	CSAS	State of TN	National
B	85-92 (3 pts.)	4.00	5 students	2008	98	21.9	20.7	21.1
C	75-84 (2 pts.)	3.99-3.75	15 students	2009	99	21.9	20.6	21.1
D	70-74 (1 pts.)	3.74-3.50	15 students	2010	109	22.0	19.6	21.0
F	0-69 (0 pts.)	3.49-3.25	9 students	2011	108	22.1	19.5	21.1
	*quality points	3.24-3.00	16 students	2012	99	21.3	19.7	21.1
		2.99-2.75	13 students	2013	102	21.9	19.5	20.9
		2.74-2.50	13 students	National Merit Scholars		Post-Secondary Plans for 2013		
		2.49-2.25	7 students	1991-2013*		4 year college/university	90%	
		2.24-2.00	4 students	22 Finalists		2 year college	7 %	
		1.99-1.90	<u>6 students</u>	33 Semi-Finalists		Military	1%	
			103 students	36 Commended Finalists		Other	2%	
				7 National Achievement Finalists		The Class of 2013 earned more than \$6.2 million in scholarships and grants.		
				*TBV				
Unweighted grade point averages are computed and reported on a 4.0 scale.		GPA computed at the end of the spring semester - junior year.						
CSAS does not attempt to determine a single rank in class for its students.								

Senior Project

Effective with the Class of 2003, all seniors are required to complete a senior project for graduation. This exit project involves an in-depth research paper, documented time spent with an 'expert' in the chosen field, the creation of a product and, finally two culminating presentations. This experience has been designed to help students move successfully into college academics by allowing them to explore in depth a topic of specific interest, introduce them to long term time management and acquaint them with the skills needed to access community resources.

Early College / The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Each semester qualified upper school students may enroll in coursework for credit at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Students select from a variety of courses including Pre-Calculus, Calculus, English Literature, English Composition, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, and Art. Students receive elective credit for courses taken at UTC; however, grades earned are not calculated in the GPA.

Student Life

CSAS offers many extracurricular activities including Model UN, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Government Association, Mock Trial, Chess Club, Earth Club, and the Patriot Post. Athletic teams include cross-country, track, basketball, volleyball, tennis, softball, golf, baseball, and soccer for middle school and high school students. CSAS students are given and respond to a high level of trust; not a single bell rings within the school day to signify the beginning or the ending of classes; as a result, students are taught time management skills. Students in grades 6-12 participate in Advisory teams with CSAS faculty members. These teams have a student/adult ratio averaging 18:1 enabling small group activities, academic monitoring, personal conversations, and peer interaction.

Community Service & Parental Involvement

Volunteerism is expected of students and parents alike. Parents commit 18 or more school involvement hours per year and CSAS seniors complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service prior to graduation. In the graduating class of 2013, students logged over 18,568 community service hours outside of school, whereas CSAS parents dedicated more than 19,429 hours within the school. Parents participate in at least two parent/teacher conferences a year, demonstrating their commitment to the academic success of all students.

CSAS Graduation Course Requirements

Twenty-eight (28) Carnegie Units		CSAS High School Curriculum	Highest Level Content Courses
4 units	English	English 9, 10, 11, 12* , World Studies, Creative Writing	Honors English 12
4 units**	Foreign Language	French / Spanish Middle School 3, French / Spanish New High School I, II, French I & II; French III, IV , Spanish I & II; Spanish III, IV	Honors French IV Honors Spanish IV
4 units	Mathematics	Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry , Advanced Math & Trig, Pre-calculus, Statistics , Discrete Math, Calculus	Honors Calculus
4 units	Natural Sciences	Biology I , Geology, Earth Science, Scientific Energy Research Chemistry I, Physics I , Anatomy and Physiology	Honors Biology I Honors Chemistry I Honors Physics I
3 units	Social Sciences	World Geography, World History, American History, Economics, U.S. Government , Modern History, African-American History, Military History	Honors Economics Honors U. S. Government
2 units	Fine Arts	CSAS Show Choir, Concert Choir, Music Theory, Music History, Beginning-Advanced Strings, Symphonic Strings, Symphonic Band, Art I-II, Drawing, Painting, 3-D Design, Printmaking, Pottery	Show Choir Symphonic Strings Studio Art Courses
1 unit	Lifetime Wellness	Physical Education I-II; Wellness	Wellness
1 unit	Senior Project	Personal Finance / ACT Prep	
1 unit	Senior Project	Senior Project-Research Based	Senior Research Project
1 unit	Seminar	Seminar	
3 units	Electives	Courses Listed Above, Independent Studies	Independent Studies

*Courses in bold type represent CSAS Honors courses.

**Exception: The study of a foreign language is required K-12 for all students at CSAS. Students must be enrolled in the same Foreign Language through French High School 3 or Spanish High School 3; however, it is possible to graduate with fewer Carnegie units in this area.

College Admissions Summary

Approximately 90% of the CSAS graduates have attended four-year colleges; an additional 7% have attended two-year colleges. CSAS graduates in the Classes 1999 to 2013 matriculated to the following institutions:

Agnes Scott College	Elon U	Milligan College	Tuskegee U
Alabama A & M U	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U	Millsaps College	Union U
Albany State U	Emory & Henry College	Mississippi State U	United States Air Force
American InterContinental U	Emory U	Morehead State U	United States Coast Guard
American U	Eugene Lang College	Morehouse College	United States Navy
Amherst College	Fisk U	Motlow State Community College	United States Naval Academy
Anderson U	Florida A & M U	Mount Holyoke College	Universal Technical Institute
Antioch College	Florida State U	New Mexico State U	U of Pennsylvania
Appalachian State U	Freed-Hardeman U	New York U	U of Alabama
Art Institute of Atlanta	Furman U	North Carolina A&T State U	U of Alabama at Birmingham
Auburn U	George Washington U	North Carolina State U	U of Alabama-Huntsville
Austin Peay State U	Georgetown College	Northeastern U	U of Alaska
Belmont U	Georgia Institute of Technology	Nossi College of Art	U of Chicago
Berea College	Guilford College	Oglethorpe U	U of Colorado at Boulder
Berry College	Hampshire College	Oklahoma State U	U of Georgia
Bethune Cookman U	Harding U	O'More College of Design	U of Hawaii - Manoa
Birmingham-Southern College	Hendrix College	Oxford College of Emory U	U of Guelph - Canada
Bluefield College	High Point U	Pellissippi State Community College	U of Houston
Boston Art Institute	Hiwassee College	Queens U of Charlotte	U of Memphis
Brandeis U	Illinois Institute of Technology	Reed College	U of Miami
Brenau U	Indiana U	Reinhardt College	U of Mississippi
Brevard College	Indiana U-Bloomington	Rhodes College	U of New Mexico-Albuquerque
Brigham Young U-Idaho	Jacksonville State U	Ricks College	U of New Orleans
Bryan College	James Madison U	Roane State Community College	U of North Carolina at Asheville
Carson Newman College	Johns Hopkins U	Roanoke College	U of Pennsylvania
Case Western Reserve U	Johnson and Wales U	Salem College	U of Pittsburgh
Catawba College	Johnson Bible College	Samford U	U of South Carolina
Centre College	Kansas City Art Institute	Sarah Lawrence College	U of Tennessee - Chattanooga
Chattanooga State Community College	King College	Savannah College of Art & Design	U of Tennessee - Knoxville
Clark Atlanta U	LaGrange College	Sewanee: The U of the South	U of Tennessee - Martin
Cleveland Institute of Music	Lane College	Southern Polytechnic State U	U of Virginia
Cleveland State Community College	Lee U	St. John's College	Vanderbilt U
Coastal Carolina U	Lees-McRae College	Stanford U	Virginia Commonwealth U
College of Charleston	Lenoir-Rhine U	State U of West Georgia	Wake Forest U
College of William and Mary	Loyola U	Stillman College	Warren Wilson College
Columbia College Chicago	Loyola U - New Orleans	Sullivan U	Washington and Lee U
Covenant College	Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	Sweet Briar College	Washington U-St. Louis
David Lipscomb U	Macalester College	Tennessee State U	Wellesley College
DeVry Institute of Technology	Mars Hill College	The Art Institute of Atlanta	Western Carolina U
Dominican U	Maryland Institute College of Art	The College of Wooster	Western Kentucky U
Earlham College	Maryville College	The George Washington U	Winthrop U
East Tennessee State U	Mercer U	Trinity College - Ireland	Xavier U
Eckerd College	Middle Tennessee State U	Tusculum College	Xavier U of Louisiana

