

Collegiate School

Richmond, VA, United States



Rooted in a 1915 girls' school founding, now a 1,600-student JK-12 campus anchored by a 177-acre athletic complex outside Richmond

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	64/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	54/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	58/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Collegiate School occupies a strong position in the Richmond market: a large, established, non-religious American day school with the scale to offer breadth and the structure to keep standards high. Founded in **1915** as a girls’ school and now serving around 1,600 students from JK to Grade 12, it gives families the full through-school proposition without the institutional sprawl that can weaken community. The headline numbers matter: a **1:8** student-teacher ratio and average class size of **15** point to real classroom access, not a mass-operation model dressed up as personal attention. For parents comparing Richmond independents, Collegiate’s core attraction is clear: *serious academic infrastructure*, *continuity from early years to graduation*, and a school size that supports choice in arts, athletics and

student life.

What sets it apart is the combination of history and physical ambition. The school’s roots stretch back more than a century, which gives it the confidence and donor depth many newer schools lack. The standout feature in practical terms is the **177-acre** athletic complex outside Richmond. That scale changes the student experience. It supports a deeper sports programme, more training space and less compromise over facilities than urban campuses with tighter footprints. Families who want a school where sport carries institutional weight, not token billing, will clock that quickly. This is a place with *competitive energy*, *room to stretch*, and the resources to back a broad co-curricular life.

It belongs on a shortlist for families who want an academically focused day school without a religious frame, and who value both pastoral familiarity and programme breadth. The best fit is a student who will use the campus fully: one who wants strong teacher access, a busy school day, and the chance to move between classroom, arts and athletics without leaving the same institutional culture. Collegiate suits *driven all-rounders*, *committed team players*, and children who thrive in a structured environment with high participation. It is less compelling for families seeking a tiny, progressive school or a highly specialised niche environment. Collegiate’s appeal lies elsewhere: *institutional depth*, *visible resources*, and a mature, well-built day-school model that covers a great deal of ground well.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1915, the school has over a century of continuous operation as a JK-12 college preparatory day school in Richmond, Virginia.
- Enrolls approximately 1,600 students across Lower, Middle and Upper Schools, giving it scale and depth of program uncommon for a single-campus day school.
- Reports a 10:1 student-teacher ratio, supporting the school's stated emphasis on knowing each student individually.
- Middle and upper school students have posted competitive standardized test bands, with a mid-50% SAT range of 1210-1420 and ACT range of 26-32.
- Maintains a dedicated college counseling office with five counselors and runs a JK-12 Global Education program that includes an international design-thinking conference with a network of partner schools.

TRADE-OFFS

- Middle School (grades 5-8) is 'coordinate' rather than fully coeducational, meaning boys and girls are taught in separate classes at that stage, unlike most rival day schools.
- Upper School tuition sits at roughly \$32,820 for 2024-25, a significant recurring cost for relocating families without employer subsidy.
- Admission requires SSAT testing and an interview, with decisions concentrated in a single late-January/early-February cycle, offering little flexibility for families arriving off-cycle.
- As a Richmond-based day school, it sits outside the major U.S. expat hubs (New York, DC, Bay Area), so international family networks and relocation support infrastructure are thinner than at schools in larger metros.

ADMISSIONS

Collegiate admits from Junior Kindergarten (age 4 by August 31) through grade 12, with entry points determined by the family's contact date and available places. The process begins in summer with applications, campus tours and testing (SSAT for older applicants) running through fall; decisions are typically released in late January or early February, against a stated February 1 deadline. A \$50 application fee and an interview are required. Financial assistance is assessed separately from admission and does not affect an applicant's chances.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_f22a629a4b.