

Detroit Country Day School

Beverly Hills, United States



On a Beverly Hills campus built around Mens Sana in Corpore Sano, students edit genomes through a Stanford research partnership before college even starts.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	75/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	71/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Genome editing before graduation is not a line many schools can use with a straight face. Detroit Country Day earns it. On its Beverly Hills campus, this is a full-age-range day school for ages 3 to 18 with an American high school diploma and AP programme, and it pushes hard on the old independent-school trifecta of academics, arts and sport. The school’s own framing is blunt: **hard-driving**, broad and deliberately balanced, under the motto *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano*. The numbers back that structure up. The student-teacher ratio sits at ***8:1***, sport participation in Grades 7-12 is ***100%***, and the school

runs ****6**** arts conservatory programmes. For parents who want a school that treats intellectual stretch, performance and physical training as parts of the same education, that is the core proposition.

What sets Detroit Country Day apart is the combination of old-school American prep culture with real access to advanced work. The Stanford research partnership in genome editing gives the school a sharper academic edge than the usual AP-heavy prospectus language. This is not just about stacking courses; it is about getting able students into serious work early. The alumni floor is also stronger than many peer schools can show publicly: 43 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata, spanning politics, business, science and the arts, with verified top-tier awards in drama and music. Add a diverse, non-religious setting and NAIS accreditation, and the school lands as an **ambitious**, high-expectation option in the Detroit market rather than a soft, country-club version of college prep.

It also charges at that level. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is ****\$37,172****, which places it firmly in the premium US private-day bracket. That price makes sense for families who will use the whole machine: the arts conservatories, the competitive athletics, the small-class access to teachers, and the advanced academic opportunities. It makes less sense for children who want a narrow academic lane with minimal sport or performance, or for families who prefer a looser, less structured culture. Detroit Country Day will suit students who are **energetic**, competitive, and comfortable being pulled in several directions at once. It will appeal to children who want to write, perform, research, train and lead before college starts — and who do not need a school to lower the temperature.

STRENGTHS

- Every Detroit Country Day School graduate is accepted at four-year colleges and universities, with recent matriculations including Princeton, Harvard, MIT, Yale and University of Chicago.
- The school offers 23 AP courses within a college-preparatory liberal arts curriculum for grades nine through twelve.
- Founded in 1914, DCDS is one of the older established independent day schools in the Detroit metropolitan area, with a network of over 7,100 alumni.
- The school provides door-to-door bus transportation and a Bus Stop program across Southeast Michigan, easing daily logistics for families spread across the region.
- DCDS operates a need-based financial aid program (Guided Tuition) intended to allow admission regardless of a family's ability to pay full fees.

TRADE-OFFS

- Upper School tuition runs into the mid-\$30,000s to low-\$40,000s per year depending on the source and year cited, a significant recurring cost for relocating families.
- Reported acceptance rate is around 25%, markedly more selective than the national private-school average.
- DCDS is a day school only, with no boarding option, so international or relocating families must independently arrange local housing.
- The campus sits in suburban Beverly Hills/Franklin, roughly 15 miles from downtown Detroit, meaning families must settle in a car-dependent suburb rather than an urban core.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points span PreK through grade 12 across four campuses. Applications require a school transcript, recommendation letters and an essay; interviews are optional but recommended, and standardized entrance testing has been suspended. Regular admission deadlines fall around mid-January and late February, with rolling review afterward as space allows. Financial aid (Guided Tuition) applications are due by January 31, with award notices issued in March. Reported acceptance rates (around 25%) suggest moderate-to-high selectivity relative to typical US independent day schools.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (43)

SPORT: Michael Russell

MUSIC: Robin Williams

DRAMA: Robin Williams, Courtney B. Vance, Betsy Thomas, Ajmal Zaheer Ahmad, Abby Quinn

VISUAL_ARTS: Robin Williams

LETTERS: Betsy Thomas, John Ivanko

POLITICS: Buzz Thomas, Jagmeet Singh, Robert P. Young, Jr., Vishal Amin, Arvind Venkat

SCIENCE: Steve Ballmer, Paul Kalas, Chandan G. Reddy

BUSINESS: Steve Ballmer, Chris Webber, Semon Knudsen, Scott Seligman, Q80132927

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_f75481e477.