



UPPER SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-26

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CURRENT ENROLLMENT

44 CLASS OF 2026
136 LOWER SCHOOL
477 TOTAL
197 UPPER SCHOOL
144 MIDDLE SCHOOL

FACULTY

Upper School Faculty: **35**
Percentage with Advanced Degrees: **63%**
Doctorates: **6**
Student-Faculty Ratio: **7:1**
Average Class Size: **15**

OVERVIEW

Dawson School is an independent, college-preparatory day school serving students in grades K-12. Dawson is located on a 107-acre campus surrounded by 700 acres of open space in Boulder County, Colorado, approximately 25 miles north of Denver and eight miles east of Boulder. Dawson is a National Association of Independent Schools member and is accredited by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools.

MISSION

Dawson School is dedicated to excellence of mind, body, and character. We prepare students, through challenging and relevant learning, to become creative, resilient problem solvers who bring their best to the world.

VISION

Dawson graduates achieve their individual potential, savor life, and meet the challenges of the world.

VIRTUES

**Respect. Compassion.
Courage. Integrity.**

2024-25 MIDDLE 50% TEST SCORES

SAT COMPOSITE: 1180 – 1480

ACT COMPOSITE: 25 – 32

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Dawson offered 14 Advanced Placement courses during the 2024-25 school year. Enrollment in AP courses is based on teacher recommendation. Students are advised to take no more than two AP courses each year (junior and senior year), but may petition to take additional AP courses. All students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam.

126 students took
265 AP exams. **90%**
scored **3** and above.

27 AP SCHOLARS
11 WITH HONORS
26 WITH DISTINCTION

CLASS OF 2025 GRADE DISTRIBUTION

GPA	Number of Students	Percentage of Class
>4.0	27	41%
3.7-3.99	18	27%
3.3-3.69	13	20%
3-3.29	4	6%
<3	4	6%

GRADING SYSTEM

Percent	Letter Grade	Quality Points
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7

No quality points are earned for grades lower than D-.

GRADING AND CLASS RANK

Grades are weighted for honors (0.5) and AP (1.0) courses. No weight is given in honors and AP courses for grades under a C. Dawson does not rank its students.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Course	Credits
Arts	2
English (English 9, 10, two years of English Electives or AP English)	4
Innovation & Technology	1
Mathematics (Geometry and Algebra II)	3
Sciences (Biology and Chemistry or Physics)	2
Social Studies (including U.S. History)	2
World Languages (two years)	2
Human Development	.5
Electives	6.5
TOTAL	23

Additional Graduation Requirements:

- Completion of Senior Project
- Completion of 20 hours community service
- Participation in four class trips
- Participation in four Winterim experiences
- 9th- and 10th-grade students must complete two co-curriculars each year and one must be a sport. Students in 11th and 12th grade must complete three total co-curriculars over the course of two years. One must be a sport.
- 9th-, 10th- and 11th-grade students are required to take a minimum of six courses per semester. 12th-grade students are required to take a minimum of five courses per semester.

EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMMING

Each school year begins with class trips designed around service learning and outdoor education. Every March, students also participate in Winterim, faculty-designed educational travel programs. Seniors also complete two-week internships.

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

ARTS

Acting for the Stage
Black and White Photography
Ceramics
Combat Theater
Digital Art
Digital Photography
Drawing and Painting
Improvisation and One-Act Plays
Jewelry Making
Musical Ensembles
Musical Theater
Printmaking
Technical Theater
Vocal Performance
Woodworking
Yearbook

ENGLISH

11th and 12th Seminars
AP English Language and Composition
AP English Literature and Composition
Advanced Journalism Today
American Autobiographies
American Bestsellers
American Poetry Writing
Coming of age Novels
Contemporary Native American Lit
English 10
English 9
Great Books: The Odyssey,
Journalism Today: Writing and Reporting in the 21st Century
Literature of Adventure
Magical Realism
Queer Literature
Shakespeare's plays and their Adaptations
TED Talking

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

3D Modeling and Digital Sculpting
AP Computer Science Principles
Digital Fabrication
Idea Incubator + EntreX
Innovation and Tech Capstone
Introduction to Cybersecurity
Inventing with Technology
Programming: Python
Wearables

MATH

AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
Algebra I
Algebra II and Honors Algebra II

Geometry and Honors Geometry
Honors Calculus
Intro to Statistics
Multivariable Calculus
Personal Finance
Precalculus and Honors Precalculus
Statistical Reasoning in Sports

SCIENCE

AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics C: Mechanics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Semester Courses
Abnormal Psychology
Anatomy
Biopsychology
Biotechnology
Food Chemistry
Oceanography and Marine Biology
Physiology

SOCIAL STUDIES

AP Human Geography
AP U.S. Government & Politics
AP U.S. History
Pre-Modern World History
Social Studies
The Modern World
U.S. History
Semester Courses
Anthropology
Art History
Documentary Filmmaking
Investigating Contemporary Issues
Soundscape America
The American Prison System

WORLD LANGUAGE

French I, II, III, IV
AP French Language and Culture
Mandarin I, II, III, IV, V
Spanish I, II, III, IV
AP Spanish Language and Culture

SCAN FOR 2025-26 COURSE CATALOG

