



**Dominion School, Inc.**  
**School Profile 2026-2027**  
1545 Dranesville Rd.  
Herndon, VA 20170  
[www.dominionschool.com](http://www.dominionschool.com)

Dominion was founded in 1996 and is committed to preparing students to “think deeply, live virtuously, and love rightly” through the classical model. Dominion seeks to instill in each student a lifelong love of learning and to prepare each student for admission to selective colleges and universities. Dominion is a non-denominational, co-educational institution, currently enrolling approximately 340 students, grades K-12.

Dominion prepares its graduates for selective college and university admissions through a demanding liberal arts-based course of study. In addition to standard core courses, students develop highly refined critical thinking and rhetorical skills, culminating in a senior thesis. Dominion’s unique academic program is characterized by:

- Emphasis on persuasive writing and speaking
- Intensive study of the western tradition and its global interactions
- A concentration in the history of mathematical, scientific and philosophical ideas
- A Harkness (Socratic, round-table) teaching environment
- Exploration of classical literature (see attached reading list samples)

### **Admission Guidelines**

Students are admitted to Dominion on the basis of three major criteria: Academic ability, family compatibility with the school’s values, and student ability to positively contribute to the school culture.

Dominion’s curriculum is designed for college-bound students of average or above average ability. Prospective students take the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE), and an average to high stanine is required for admission. Dominion’s admission policy and process are need-blind, and approximately 15% of the operating budget is designated for need-based tuition assistance.

### **Faculty**

The 2026-2027 upper school faculty consists of 14 full-time and nine adjunct core course instructors, over half of whom hold advanced degrees.

### **Senior Thesis and Junior Thesis**

As a condition of graduation, seniors must write, orally present, and defend a 10,000-15,000-word thesis before a panel of faculty members, experts in the fields of topics being presented, and an audience of students, parents, and community leaders. Students research an approved subject, prepare in-depth arguments for and against their position, and are mentored by faculty throughout the process. The Senior Thesis is the capstone of the rhetorical skill gained over four years. In preparation for the Senior Thesis, the students write a lengthy Junior Thesis on a different topic and give a memorized presentation on their subject.

## **Institutional Commitments**

### ***Mission***

Dominion is a classical Christian School that strives to glorify and enjoy God by thinking deeply, living virtuously, and loving rightly.

### ***Vision***

Dominion will help young men and women cultivate an appetite for rightly-ordered loves so that they may pursue God in any calling.

### ***Values***

- Confessional Christianity: Committed to the doctrines of the historic Christian faith as expressed by the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, also being shaped by the Westminster Confession of Faith and Heidelberg Catechism while respecting other doctrinal traditions.
- Human flourishing: Students, faculty, staff, and parents learning to love Christ, become well-rounded, and reach their full God-given potential.
- Real-world lifestyle: Choosing digital minimalism in order to pursue all that life offers in human interactions as well as the beauty and goodness of God's world.
- Community: Knowing, respecting, and loving one another in a school culture that values the role of parents and that is governed by adults exercising biblical wisdom.
- Delight in learning: A work-hard, play-hard culture that awakens a sense of fun, wonder, and joy leading to lifelong learning.
- Great books & great conversations: Unpacking the treasures of meaningful texts while testing each author's truth claims against Scripture.

## Curriculum Overview & Graduation Requirements

|                                                                                                                                             | 9                                                            | 10                                                                        | 11                                                                                                       | 12                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Math</b><br>Required: 4 credits<br>(including Algebra II)                                                                                | Algebra I,<br>Geometry,<br>Algebra II                        | Algebra I,<br>Geometry, Algebra<br>II, Honors<br>Pre-Calculus             | Algebra II,<br>Statistics,<br>Pre-Calculus,<br>Honors<br>Pre-Calculus                                    | Consumer Math,<br>Pre-Calculus,<br>Honors<br>Pre-Calculus,<br>AP® Statistics, or<br>AP® Calculus AB                                                                                               |
| <b>Science</b><br>Required: 3 lab sciences                                                                                                  | Introductory<br>Physics                                      | Biology                                                                   | Environmental<br>Science or<br>Honors College<br>Physics                                                 | Chemistry                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Humanities: History</b><br>Required: 4 credits                                                                                           | Ancient                                                      | Medieval                                                                  | Modern<br>European                                                                                       | American                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Humanities: Literature</b><br>Required: 4 credits                                                                                        | Ancient                                                      | Medieval                                                                  | Modern<br>European                                                                                       | American                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Language</b><br>Required: 3 credits                                                                                                      | Spanish I                                                    | Spanish II                                                                | Spanish III,<br>Honors Spanish<br>III                                                                    | Honors Spanish<br>IV (elective)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Christian Studies</b><br>Required: 2 credits                                                                                             | Church History                                               | New Testament<br>Survey                                                   | New Testament:<br>Literature &<br>Theology                                                               | Old Testament:<br>Literature &<br>Theology                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Logic/Rhetoric</b><br>Required: 2 credits                                                                                                | Formal Logic                                                 | Rhetoric:<br>Fundamentals of<br>Persuasion                                | Junior Thesis                                                                                            | Senior Thesis                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Enrichment</b><br>Required: 4 enrichment<br>credits, including 1.5 in<br>fine arts and 0.5 credits<br>in Athletics/Physical<br>Education | Athletics/<br>Physical<br>Education,<br>Drama, and/or<br>Art | American<br>Government<br>Foundations,<br>Drama, Art, and/or<br>Orchestra | Apologetics,<br>Drama, Art,<br>Chamber Choir,<br>Swing Dancing<br>and Etiquette,<br>Chamber<br>Orchestra | Aesthetics,<br>Drama, Art,<br>Chamber Choir,<br>Swing Dancing<br>and Etiquette,<br>Chamber<br>Orchestra,<br>Personal Finance<br>and Economics,<br>Speech and<br>Debate, Anatomy<br>and Physiology |
| <b>Seminar</b><br>Required: 2 credits                                                                                                       | Required                                                     | Required                                                                  | Required                                                                                                 | Required                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Seminar is a half-credit required course for all Dominion upper school students. It includes a series of lectures and reflections from leading business executives, thinkers, and government officials from Washington, D.C.

All Dominion students study Latin in grades 3 through 8. For students who earn a B or better, high school credit is given for Latin I, Latin II, and Algebra I courses taken in middle school at Dominion. In the case of

Latin, the student was granted high school credit only if he/she began at Dominion with sufficient time to complete the entire curriculum. High School Latin is represented as Latin I & Latin II; these subjects will not appear on the transcripts of students who did not receive high school credit.

### **Median SAT Score:**

With a median graduating class size of 12, Dominion's median SAT scores have fallen between 1250 and 1350 every year since inception of the school.

### **Grading Scale:**

|    |        |     |    |             |     |
|----|--------|-----|----|-------------|-----|
| A+ | 97-100 | 4.3 | C+ | 77-79       | 2.3 |
| A  | 93-96  | 4.0 | C  | 73-76       | 2.0 |
| A- | 90-92  | 3.7 | C- | 70-72       | 1.7 |
| B+ | 87-89  | 3.3 | D+ | 67-69       | 1.3 |
| B  | 83-86  | 3.0 | D  | 64-66       | 1.0 |
| B- | 80-82  | 2.7 | F  | 63 or below | 0   |

### **Advanced Placement Courses:**

Dominion offers AP® Statistics and AP® Calculus AB. A one-half quality point “bump” is assigned to “honors” courses which the school deems especially reflective of its academic values in order to encourage students with strong aptitude and/or academic motivation to seek the most rigorous course of study. Students will receive a one quality point “bump” for Advanced Placement® courses.

### **Other Pertinent Academic Policies**

- a. Credit is awarded on the basis of the frequency with which a course meets in a one- or two-week period.
  - 1) All core courses (English and history; math; science; foreign language) are awarded 1 full credit (these credits are not divisible).
  - 2) Other required or elective courses may meet on a half-time basis and may be offered for less than 1 full credit. Quality points for less than full credit courses are calculated proportionally.
- b. All full-time students must maintain a full schedule of at least five classes, regardless of the number of credits earned or the number of classes in the daily or weekly schedule.

### **Ranking Policy**

Dominion does not rank students.

### **Fine and Performing Arts**

Dominion emphasizes instruction in the fine and performing arts throughout the curriculum as an expression of our commitment to an integrated, artistically-informed understanding of the world. Students in the upper school are required to enroll in a fine arts course for at least four semesters, and they elect music performance, theater, or studio art courses during the course of a high school education at Dominion.

### **Prohibitive Technology Policy**

Dominion promotes a distraction-free learning environment by limiting use of technology and enforcing a prohibitive policy on artificial intelligence. The acceptable use policy is enforced in an effort to ensure that students complete original work, thereby promoting focus, fairness, integrity, accountability, and broad-ranging skill development.

## College Acceptances & Matriculations

- American University
- Arizona State University
- Auburn University
- Baylor University (Honors Program)
- Belmont University
- Berry College
- Bridgewater College
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Butler University
- Calvin College
- Catholic University
- Charleston Southern University
- Christendom College
- Christopher Newport University
- The Citadel
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Colgate University
- College of Charleston
- College of William and Mary (Honors Program)
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Covenant College
- Davidson College
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Ferrum College
- Flagler College
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida State University
- Fordham University
- Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Franklin and Marshall College
- Gardner-Webb University
- Geneva College
- George Mason University (Honors Program)
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Gettysburg College
- Gordon College
- Grove City College
- Hampden-Sydney College
- High Point University
- Hillsdale College
- Hope College
- Indiana University
- James Madison University (Honors Program)
- Johns Hopkins University
- The King's College
- Lab Institute of Merchandising
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Marshall University
- Mary Washington University
- Messiah College
- Miami of Ohio
- Northern Arizona University
- Old Dominion University
- Palm Beach Atlantic
- Patrick Henry College
- Pepperdine University
- Radford University
- Randolph-Macon College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rice University
- Ringling College of Art and Design
- Roanoke College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- The Savannah College of Art & Design
- Sewanee: The University of the South
- Shenandoah University
- St. John's College (Annapolis)
- Swarthmore College
- Taylor University
- Temple University
- Tulane University
- United States Military Academy at West Point
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Arizona
- University of Connecticut
- University of Evansville
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Kentucky
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Maryland
- University of Memphis
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Richmond
- University of St. Andrews
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee
- University of Virginia (Honors Program)
- Villanova University
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
- Washington & Lee University
- Westmont College
- Wheaton College

## A Sampling from the Dominion Humanities Reading List

### Ancient and Classical Studies

|             |                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Aristotle   | <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>                              |
| Augustus    | <i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti</i>                         |
| Cicero      | <i>First and Second Oration Against Catiline</i>       |
| Herodotus   | <i>Histories</i>                                       |
| Hesiod      | <i>Theogony and Works and Days</i>                     |
| Homer       | <i>The Iliad, The Odyssey</i>                          |
| Lewis       | <i>Till We Have Faces</i>                              |
| Livy        | <i>The Rise of Rome (Excerpts)</i>                     |
| M. Aurelius | <i>Meditations</i>                                     |
| Plato       | <i>The Trial &amp; Death of Socrates, The Republic</i> |
| Plutarch    | <i>Greek Lives (Excerpts)</i>                          |
| Polybius    | <i>The Histories (Excerpts)</i>                        |
| Sophocles   | <i>Antigone</i>                                        |
| Suetonius   | <i>The Twelve Caesars</i>                              |
| Shakespeare | <i>Julius Caesar</i>                                   |
| Tacitus     | <i>Germania &amp; Agricola (Excerpts)</i>              |
| Thucydides  | <i>The Peloponnesian War (Excerpts)</i>                |
| Virgil      | <i>The Aeneid</i>                                      |
|             | <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh; Enuma Elish;</i>             |
|             | <i>Code of Hammurabi</i>                               |

### Modern European Studies

|              |                                                                           |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Calvin       | <i>Institutes (Excerpts)</i>                                              |
| Churchill    | <i>Memoirs of the Second World War (Excerpts)</i>                         |
| Dostoyevsky  | <i>Crime &amp; Punishment</i>                                             |
| Equiano      | <i>The Life of Olandab Equiano</i>                                        |
| Hobbes       | <i>Leviathan</i>                                                          |
| Hugo         | <i>Les Miserables</i>                                                     |
| Lewis        | <i>The Screwtape Letters, Abolition of Man</i>                            |
| Locke        | <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>                                        |
| Marx         | <i>Communist Manifesto</i>                                                |
| Milton       | <i>Paradise Lost</i>                                                      |
| Mill         | <i>On Liberty</i>                                                         |
| Nietzsche    | <i>On the Genealogy of Morality</i>                                       |
| Owen         | <i>Glory of Christ</i>                                                    |
| Shelley      | <i>Frankenstein</i>                                                       |
| Smith        | <i>Wealth of Nations (Excerpts)</i>                                       |
| Solzhenitsyn | <i>Gulag Archipelago (Excerpts)</i>                                       |
| Starkey      | <i>Crown and Country</i>                                                  |
| Stevenson    | <i>Dr. Jekyll &amp; Mr. Hyde</i>                                          |
| Wiesel       | <i>Night</i>                                                              |
|              | <i>Poetry from Blake, Byron, Coleridge, Donne, Herbert,</i>               |
|              | <i>Shakespeare, Shelley, Spenser, Tennyson, Wordsworth</i>                |
|              | <i>Other Selected Poetry, Essays, Speeches, Short Stories, Historical</i> |
|              | <i>Records &amp; Letters</i>                                              |

### Medieval Studies

|             |                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Augustine   | <i>Confessions; City of God (Excerpts)</i>  |
| Anselm      | <i>Proslogion</i>                           |
| Athanasius  | <i>On the Incarnation</i>                   |
| Aquinas     | <i>Summa Theologica (Excerpts)</i>          |
| Bainton     | <i>Here I Stand</i>                         |
| Benedict    | <i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i>             |
| Boethius    | <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>        |
| Cantor      | <i>In the Wake of the Plague</i>            |
| Chaucer     | <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>                 |
| Dante       | <i>Inferno, Purgatorio</i>                  |
| Hildegard   | <i>Ordo Virtutum</i>                        |
| Lewis       | <i>The Great Divorce</i>                    |
| Machiavelli | <i>The Prince</i>                           |
| Petrarch    | <i>The Ascent of Mont Ventoux</i>           |
| Shakespeare | <i>Merchant of Venice</i>                   |
| Tuchman     | <i>A Distant Mirror</i>                     |
|             | <i>Beowulf</i>                              |
|             | <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>      |
|             | <i>Qur'an (excerpts); Hadith (Excerpts)</i> |
|             | <i>Two Lives of Charlemagne</i>             |
|             | <i>Chronicles of the Crusades</i>           |

### American Studies

|                 |                                                                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Douglass        | <i>The Life of Frederick Douglass</i>                               |
| Edwards         | <i>Religious Affections</i>                                         |
| Ellis           | <i>Founding Brothers</i>                                            |
| Faulkner        | <i>The Sound and the Fury</i>                                       |
| Fitzgerald      | <i>The Great Gatsby</i>                                             |
| Hamilton, et al | <i>Federalist Papers</i>                                            |
| Hansberry       | <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>                                          |
| Hawthorne       | <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>                                           |
| Hemingway       | <i>In Our Time</i>                                                  |
| Hurston         | <i>Barracoon</i>                                                    |
| McCarthy        | <i>The Road</i>                                                     |
| Paine           | <i>Common Sense</i>                                                 |
| Postman         | <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>                                   |
| Powers          | <i>The Yellow Birds</i>                                             |
| Robinson        | <i>Gilead</i>                                                       |
| Steinbeck       | <i>East of Eden</i>                                                 |
| Tocqueville     | <i>Democracy in America</i>                                         |
| Twain           | <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>                               |
| Washington      | <i>Farewell Address</i>                                             |
|                 | <i>Selected Poetry, Essays, Speeches, Short Stories, Historical</i> |
|                 | <i>Records &amp; Letters</i>                                        |