

Upper School Open House FAQ's

1. **What is a typical schedule for a student?** Upper School student schedules are crafted specifically for them. Calhoun students all take core classes, including math, English, science, modern language and social studies, and choose from a variety of elective offerings, which allows us to meet the students' interests instead of having a one-size-fits-all schedule. We divide the year into five terms called "mods," or modules. Students take fewer classes in each term that meet for longer periods of time. Click here to view a [sample Upper School schedule](#).

2. **What modern languages do you offer?**

Languages offered are French, Spanish and Mandarin. All languages go from Level 1 through Level 5.

3. **What grades are your entry points and what is the average class size?**

Calhoun's primary entry point for Upper School is 9th grade. We often admit students to 10th and 11th grades, provided space is available.

The average class size is 13 students, and our student-teacher ratio is 7:1. A core class can have up to 17 students, and electives can be as small as four students. Upper School grades range in size from 65-70 students

The average size of an advisory group is eight in Upper School.

4. **What STEM opportunities are available in the Upper School curriculum?**

All Calhoun Upper School students take at least one full year of physics, chemistry and biology. Students with a special interest in science have the option of taking a second year of advanced physics, chemistry and biology, and can choose to take electives including Engineering, Bioethics, Forensics, Experimental Design, Astronomy and a sequence of computer science courses. More information about our Upper School curriculum can be found [here](#).

5. **Can you describe the music, visual art and performing arts program?**

Calhoun values creativity and the arts, and is proud to offer a full spectrum of music, theater and visual arts programming. In Upper School, our [visual arts classes](#) include over 20 elective courses including sculpture, pottery, painting, illustration, photography and graphic design. Our [theater offerings](#) include a dozen elective courses ranging from screenwriting to comedy performance to theater tech and design. There are also three Upper School theater productions each year, including a musical, which involve after-school commitments. Our [music classes](#) are taught by more than 20 professional music faculty, and include focus on singing, instrumental music and theory, with small group ensembles performing in chorus, strings, winds, percussion and jazz. Check out some of our music live streams [here](#).

6. Can you describe the sports program?

Our [athletics program](#) uses sports as a vehicle to empower students with both essential sports and leadership skills. Interscholastic [sports we offer](#) include cross country, volleyball, soccer, basketball, indoor and outdoor track, tennis, baseball and softball.

Calhoun's athletes and coaches practice [core values](#) of self-awareness, teamwork, empathy and resilience, and challenge each other to investigate why these values are critical to our work in sports and beyond. Our teams have also seen great success on the scoreboard, including winning championships in our league, New York City Athletic League (NYCAL) and in the state.

New York City Athletic League postponed the fall 2020 interscholastic athletic season. Calhoun is still offering sports programming, either virtual, in-person or a combination. Open to all Upper School students, these synchronous spaces provide opportunities for students to be in community together, to get P.E. credit, and to prepare for an upcoming season.

7. How much does it cost to attend Calhoun?

Calhoun's tuition is currently \$54,680/year in the Upper School. We offer need-based financial aid, which can cover up to 97% of the tuition. About 40% of our families receive financial aid.

8. Is community service required?

Upper School students are required to do a minimum of 60 hours of community service, with at least 30 of those hours completed outside of school. Upper School students have opportunities to engage in community service by taking one or more of the following [elective courses](#): Community Action, Hunger & Homelessness, or Students Teaching Students.

9. What is the transition to Upper School like?

To help students with the transition into Upper School ninth graders usually start the year with an annual camping trip before classes start, where they make memories that will last a lifetime with their classmates and twelfth grade Peer Leaders. The [Peer Leadership](#) program acts as an extra layer of support for ninth graders. This year students continued to participate in orientation activities in peer groups virtually before the first day of classes.

10. Are there trips or travel opportunities?

Calhoun teachers frequently organize trips outside of school to deepen the learning experience and engagement of students. Students take field trips to nearby parks and museums, or various locations around the city related to their studies.

In eleventh grade students kick off the school year with an overnight trip to [Black Rock Forest](#). Black Rock is at the center of the Upper School biology curriculum. There are

other optional trips students can opt to participate in like the Upper School ski trip, Model UN, and MIT Splash.

11. Are there students from many different parts of the city?

Calhoun students come from many different parts of New York City as well as different places outside of New York City. Currently there are students attending Calhoun from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan Queens, as well as areas in Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey, and Westchester.