

# School Profile 2014-2015

P.O. Box 9119 Reno, NV 89507 | www.DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu | 775.682.5800 | CEEB: 290-207

## The School

Established in 2006, The Davidson Academy of Nevada is a secondary school serving profoundly gifted students who are prepared to progress through a middle and/or high school curriculum in a rigorous academic setting. Located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno, the Academy is designated by Nevada legislation as a "university school for profoundly gifted pupils" (NRS Chapter 392A). Students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade; there are no grade levels at the Academy.

While the Academy is a public school, all students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Earn a score of 99.9% or above on nationally normed intelligence tests and/or nationally normed tests.
- Exhibit superior intellectual development and academic achievement.
- Demonstrate motivation, social and emotional maturity, and overall readiness for an accelerated educational environment.

# **Mission and Core Values**

The Davidson Academy provides profoundly gifted young people an advanced educational opportunity matched to their abilities, strengths, and interests. The following core values are integral components of the Academy experience: Respect, Responsibility, Leadership, Pursuit of Knowledge, Balance, and Integrity.

# **Students and Graduates**

For the 2014-15 school year, 137 students attend The Davidson Academy, many of whom moved from outside the state of Nevada in order to enroll. The school's first graduate was recognized in May of 2008. Since then, a total of 83 students have graduated from the Academy. The class of 2015 consists of 17 students.

Davidson Academy students have a strong desire to learn and to challenge themselves. Due to the rigor of the curriculum, we encourage our students to take part in a modest, but meaningful amount of extracurricular activities as a way to stay balanced. Please visit our list of extracurriculars for more information.

#### **Faculty**

The majority of the 23 full time faculty members at The Davidson Academy have attained a master's degree or higher in the appropriate field of instruction. Teaching experience ranges between five and 41 years, and all faculty members participate in curriculum development. The average class size at the Academy is 15 students.

### Accreditation

The Academy is accredited as a Special Purpose School by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), a division of AdvanceD.

# Curriculum

Academy students develop **Personalized Learning Plans** to serve as a roadmap for academic and personal goals. These plans guide students through a rigorous core curriculum and help them make elective decisions based on their interests and abilities. Personalized Learning Plans are consistent with the Academy's philosophy to treat students as individuals invested in their own learning. High school students engage in a blend of advanced high school, undergraduate, and graduate level courses. We emphasize breadth and depth rather than teaching to any particular tests. Our coursework emphasizes high level thinking skills, critical and creative engagement, along with collaborative discussion with fellow classmates. Our classes are small and are designed so students must be active in the discussions. For more information, please visit our curriculum guide.

The school day includes six periods of 60 minutes each. Academy students must take at least five graded courses each semester. Typically, core subjects are offered four days per week, and electives are offered in two-hour blocks on Fridays. Academy students may also enroll in courses at the University of Nevada, Reno, under a dual enrollment agreement. For more information, please see our full list of course offerings.

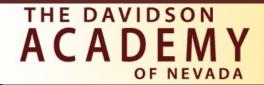
# **Graduation Requirements**

The Davidson Academy Diploma exceeds the standards of an Advanced High School Diploma in the state of Nevada. Diplomas are awarded based on the following requirements:

- Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0
- Passing score on all sections of the Nevada Proficiency Exam and continuous progress in relation to assessment benchmarks
- 3. 28 total credits. Of the 28, five (5) credits are elective and twenty-three (23) are required, as follows:

English	4	Physical Education	2
Social Studies*	3	Art/Humanities	2
Science	4	Computer Literacy	1/2
Mathematics	4	Health	1/2
Foreign Language	3		

<sup>\*</sup>Ancient/Modern World History, U.S. History, and American Government



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#### **Dual Enrollment Option**

Students at The Davidson Academy may earn credit toward high school graduation by successfully completing coursework at the University of Nevada, Reno, or another approved college or university.

One credit toward high school graduation is earned when a student successfully completes a full year course at the Academy or a preapproved 200-400 level semester course at the University of Nevada, Reno, worth three or more university credits, with a grade of "C-" or better. One-half credit (0.5) toward high school graduation is earned when a student successfully completes a pre-approved 100 level semester course at the University that is worth three or more university credits, with a grade of "C-" or better. A pre-approved one-credit course successfully completed at the University equals 0.33 credit at The Davidson Academy.

Grading Scale	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
GPAs are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses. Those designated as college-prep	Α	93-100	С	73-76
are calculated on a weighted 4.5 scale. College-prep courses include all advanced sciences,	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
Calculus I/II, and Chinese and Spanish levels III and above. University courses at the 200-400 level, as well as a select few at the 100 level, are also weighted on a 4.5 scale. Transcripts	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
denote both non-weighted and weighted cumulative GPA calculations for all courses taken for hig school credit. GPAs for the class of 2015 range from 2.82-4.00. <b>The Davidson Academy does</b>	В	83-86	D	63-66
not rank students.	B- 80-82 D-	D-	60-62	
	C+	77-79	F	0-59

# Class of 2015 Test Scores as of July 2014

Item	SAT Critical Reading	Math	Writing	ACT Composite
Mean	706	722	683	31.3
Range	650-800	670-800	630-780	29-33

Subject	Mean Score	# of Students	Subject	Mean Score	# of Students
Biology-M	675	3	English Lit	718	4
Chemistry	738	7	Math Level II	715	13
Chinese	700	1	Physics	736	7

# **Advanced Placement**

The Davidson Academy does not offer designated Advanced Placement (AP) courses. However, qualified students may take AP exams. As of July 2014, 89% of Davidson Academy high school students scored a 4 or 5 and 100% scored a 3 and above. Eleven students were named AP Scholars.

### **Davidson Academy Contacts:**

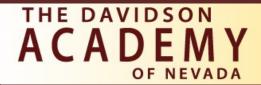
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Davidson Academy Curriculum Guide: www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/Articles.aspx?ArticleID=233&NavID=0 36

The Davidson Academy of Nevada complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.



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## **College Acceptances and Enrollments**

Academy graduates from the classes of 2008 through 2014 have been accepted to the colleges listed below.

**American University** 

The American University of Paris

**Bard College Barnard College Bay Path College Baylor University Bennington College\* Bentley University Boston College Boston University\* Brandeis University Brown University Butler University** 

California Institute of Technology\* California Polytechnic State University\*

**Carleton College** 

Carnegie Mellon University\* **Case Western Reserve Central Michigan University** 

**Clemson University** College of the Atlantic\* College of William and Mary

Colorado College

**Colorado School of Mines** Columbia University\* Connecticut College\* Cornell University \* **DePaul University** 

**Dominican University of California** 

**Drexel University Duke University** 

Florida Institute of Technology

**Fordham University Emory University** Georgetown University\* **George Washington University Georgia Institute of Technology** 

**Gonzaga University Grinnell College** Hampshire College\* Harvard University\* **Harvey Mudd College Haverford College\* Hofstra University** 

**Indiana University at Bloomington Indiana University-Purdue University** 

Indianapolis

Johns Hopkins University\*

**Kent State Lehigh University** Lewis & Clark College\* Loyola Marymount University\*

**Macalester College** 

Massachusetts Institute of Technology\*

Michigan State University **Montana State University** Mount Holyoke College\* **New York University\* Northeastern University Northwestern University** 

Oberlin College\* **Occidental College** Pomona College\* Princeton University\* **Purdue University** Reed College\*

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rice University\*

**Rochester Institute of Technology** 

Rutgers University\*

Saint Mary's College of California

**Santa Clara University** 

Savannah College of Art and Design

Scripps College\* Sierra Nevada College\* Simon's Rock

Siena College **Smith College** 

Soka University of America\* St. Bonaventure University

St. John's College St. Olaf College\* Stanford University\* **Stony Brook University Swarthmore College\* Sweet Briar College Syracuse University Temple University Japan** Texas Tech University (BS/MD)\*

**Tulane University University of Alabama** 

University of Alabama at Birmingham-

(BS/MD)\*

University of Arizona\*

University of California, Berkeley\*

University of California, Davis

University of California, Los Angeles\* University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of Chicago\*

**University of Colorado Boulder** 

University of Idaho\* **University of Kentucky** 

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign\*

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**University of Miami** 

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**University of Minnesota** 

University of Missouri, Kansas City

**University of Notre Dame** University of Oklahoma **University of Oregon** 

University of Nevada, Reno\* (& BS/MD)\*

**University of New Mexico** 

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of the Pacific **University of Pittsburgh** University of Puget Sound\* University of Rochester\* University of San Francisco **University of South Alabama** University of Southern California\*

University of Virginia University of Washington\*

University of Wisconsin, Madison\*

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Ursinus College** Valparaiso University Vanderbilt University\* Vassar College Villanova University\*

Virginia Commonwealth University Washington and Jefferson College Washington and Lee University\* **Washington State University** Washington University, St. Louis\*

Wellesley College\*

**Western Washington University** 

Whitman College **Whittier College** Willamette University Williston Northampton

\*Indicates schools where Davidson Academy students have chosen to enroll.