COLUMBIA GRAMMAR & PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2022-2023 PROFILE

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Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School was founded in 1764 as the prep school of King's College, later Columbia University. It became independent of the University in 1864 and coeducational in 1956 through a merger with the Leonard School for Girls. Today we are an independent, non-profit, nonsectarian, college-preparatory school with 1,185 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and a senior class of 123 students.

We have experienced significant growth over the past years, fueled both by demographics and by our balanced approach to learning. In the last two decades, we have constructed three major new buildings and acquired and renovated others. A new dedicated middle school facility opened in 2016.

THE STUDENTS

While most of our students live in Manhattan, a growing number commute from the boroughs, New Jersey and lower Westchester County. Admission is selective, dependent on a student's potential not just for success in our rigorous college-preparatory program, but also for becoming an ethical and responsible citizen.

Our key long-range project is to increase our financial aid fund and with it, the economic and ethnic diversity of our population. Currently, 17% of students receive financial aid, totalling more than $8.9 million annually; 30% identify as BIPOC.

FACULTY

112 highly motivated and talented individuals make up the Prep School faculty. More than three-quarters have advanced degrees, and many who teach theater and music perform in their fields professionally.

ACCREDITATION

The school is accredited by the New York State Board of Regents and the New York State Association of Independent Schools. It is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the ERB, and the National and State Association of College Admission Counselors. We comply with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Above all, our curriculum prepares students to think. Faculty take a keen interest in developing students' ability to analyze logically, to argue effectively, and to communicate, both in person and on paper, gracefully. Perhaps as a result, students routinely score well on AP exams, even students who tend to underperform on standardized tests.

We require five academic subjects each semester. Starting in 11th grade, English and history electives replace grade-level courses; math and science electives are also available. Students with true zeal for a subject will often take an extra course.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND HONORS COURSES

Enrollment in special programs and honors sections is by application or invitation.

Our Honors Math program begins with Honors Geometry and culminates with AP Calculus BC and, by special invitation, the Advanced Math Seminar. Top non-Honors students may be approved for AP Calculus AB, or calculus and AP Statistics.

Strong 9th grade Biology students are invited to take Honors Chemistry. Strong STEM students may also take Honors Physics, followed by Advanced Physics.

A highly select group of rising sophomores are admitted into the Advanced Science Research program, unique among our peer insitutitions for its rigor and requirement to submit a research paper to the Regeneron Science Talent Search Competition, among others. (We routinely produce finalists!)

Seniors must also apply for our college-level seminar on topical global issues sponsored by Tufts University. This year's course, "Power & Prejudice: Race & International Relations" examines the influence of race on international relations, both practically and theoretically. At least as rigorous as an AP course, the class concludes with a simulated summit conference at Tufts University.

APs: BY APPLICATION ONLY STARTING IN 11TH GRADE

Students typically begin taking APs only as juniors, and only by application. The process is competitive; in some subjects, only half the applicants are admitted.

This year, 28 seniors (of 123) are enrolled in one AP, 36 in two APs, 43 in three APs, and 5 in four APs.

Do note that all of our courses are taught at the

SUBJECT	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	MOST ADVANCED COURSES OFFERED
English	4 years (including one semester each of Pre-1900, Post-1900 and Diverse literature)	AP English Literature
History	4 years	Advanced Seminar: Tufts University, AP US History, AP World History, AP Human Geography, AP Psychology
Mathematics	3 years	AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, Advanced Math Seminar
Science	3 years (including Biology and a lab-based physical science)	Advanced Physics-Mechanics, Advanced Physics-Electricity & Magnetism, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, Advanced Science Research
World Languages	3 years of a single language (Chinese, French, Japanese, Latin, Spanish)	AP Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish Language & Culture; AP Latin, AP Spanish Literature
Arts	3 semesters (including at least one of theater, art, or music history)	AP Music Theory, Concert Chorale, Senior Theater Project, Production Workshop, Advanced Projects (in each medium)
Technology	1 semester	Object-Oriented Programming, AP Computer Science
Physical Education	3 years	

highest college preparatory level, requiring substantial reading, research, critical thinking, and writing. In reviewing a Columbia Prep transcript, it is wrong simply to take the number of AP courses as an index of rigor. In fact, a number of students who are not in AP classes take (and excel on) AP exams.

AWARDS AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Most awards are given in the senior year, but a select few students are honored with the ninth grade Alexander Award for Biology, the ninth and eleventh grade Spencer Awards in English, the Stern Community Service Award, and awards in the math, history and English departments for superb performance. Select students are also chosen for Alex Bhak Experiential Learning Grants, which fund real world learning over spring break.

Students earn leadership roles in Student Government, Varsity sports teams, the newspaper, the yearbook, and the literary journal. In a rigorous community process, 34 seniors are chosen to serve as Peer Leaders to freshmen.

THE ARTS

Columbia Prep has long emphasized theater, music and visual arts. Some of our graduates can be found in Hollywood and in rock bands, and many work professionally in the arts. The school's facilities include a theater, a darkroom, film and video facilities, six music rooms, and seven art studios. Advanced courses are offered in painting and drawing, metalsmithing and jewelry, photography, filmmaking, ceramics, costume design, and theater production. There are four full-scale theater productions each year, along with one production conceived and directed entirely by seniors. More than a dozen choral and musical groups thrive. Overall, more than 70% of the student body is actively involved in the arts.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

We are a member of the Private School Athletic Association, the Athletic Association of Independent Schools, the Independent Schools Athletic League, and the Girls Independent Schools Athletic League. Varsity sports include soccer, cross country, basketball, ice hockey, golf, tennis, lacrosse, swimming, and track and field for both boys and girls; volleyball and softball for girls; baseball for boys. As an urban school with no playing fields, our atheletes must travel (sometimes up to 1.5 hours each way) for games and practices.

THE ATMOSPHERE

Relaxed and caring and more academically diverse than some of our peer NYC independent schools, we seek to inspire and support students rather than pit them against each other. We welcome math stars and poets, researchers and musicians, the highly driven and the brilliantly creative. All are urged to soar, happily.

On March 10, 2020, with NYC emerging as the global hot spot of COVID infections, our school closed its physical plant and moved to distance learning. Classes and clubs continued online, but all assessments were pass/fail. In the fall of 2021, we returned to our traditional grading structure.

As a matter of principle, the school neither ranks students nor calculates GPAs.

Of the 123 students in the Class of 2023, based on academic courses in grades 9-11, there were:

No students with all grades A and above
13 students with all grades A- and above
26 students with all grades B+ and above
32 students with all grades B and above
36 students with all grades B- and above
7 students with all grades C+ and above
1 student with all grades C and above
8 students with all grades C- and above

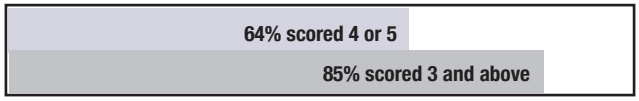
The grades of A+ and D- are not given.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Scores earned by the Class of 2023.

SAT	STUDENTS TESTED	MID 50%
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	15	660-740
Mathematics	15	630-770
ACT		
Composite	69	27-34

95 members of the class took a total of 211 AP exams.



COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

100% of Columbia Prep students go on to 4-year colleges and universities. The 603 graduates from 2018-2022 have matriculated at the 104 institutions below.

20+ STUDENTS

Cornell University
Emory University
New York University
Syracuse University
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Chicago
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
Washington University in St. Louis

10+ STUDENTS

Boston University
Brown University
Duke University
The George Washington University
Georgetown University
Northwestern University
University of Miami
University of Wisconsin, Madison

7+ STUDENTS

Brandeis University
Colgate University
Columbia University
Indiana University at Bloomington
University of Southern California

5+ STUDENTS

American University
Boston College
Colby College
Johns Hopkins University
Lehigh University
Skidmore College
Stanford University
University of Rochester
University of St. Andrews
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University
Wesleyan University

3+ STUDENTS

The American University of Paris
Babson College
Bard College
Bucknell University
Colorado College
Dartmouth College
Fordham University
Harvard College
Ithaca College
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Sarah Lawrence College
The University of Arizona
University of Richmond
University of Texas, Austin
Yale University

1+ STUDENTS

Amherst College
Barnard College
Bentley University
Bennington College
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
College of Charleston
College of the Atlantic
Colorado College
Connecticut College
The Cooper Union
Davidson College
Drexel University
Duke Kunshan University
Elon University
Franklin & Marshall College
Hamilton College
Haverford College
Howard University
London College of Fashion
Loyola Marymount University
Macalaster College
McGill University
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
The New School
Nova Southeastern University
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
School of Visual Arts
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Swarthmore College
Trinity College
University at Albany, SUNY
University College Maastricht
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Florida
University of Maryland, College Park
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Virginia
Vassar College
Villanova University
Williams College