



THE UPPER SCHOOL

GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE

The Upper School at Ashley Hall features a dynamic and supportive community of faculty, staff, and students. By emphasizing the growth of the individual through hands-on learning, the Upper School fully prepares students to become self-reliant, independent thinkers. Classes promote student-directed conversations where everyone's voice is heard and respected, and community partnerships connect students with valuable professional experiences and mentorships. With each succeeding year, students in the Upper School discover more opportunities to exercise their critical thinking through interdisciplinary studies. Throughout, a global perspective infuses coursework and inspires extensive educational travel programs to both national and international destinations.



ASHLEY HALL
FOUNDED 1909

THE UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

MATHEMATICS

The study of mathematics in the Upper School at Ashley Hall is designed to build increased competency and sophistication in the subject area. Specifically, through the coursework of algebra, geometry, and statistics, students make sense of problems, apply arithmetic knowledge in increasingly more complex manners, attend to precision, construct viable arguments and proofs, interpret data, and reason abstractly and quantitatively. With a focus on developing mathematical literacy at the highest level, students have the opportunity to graduate from Ashley Hall with courses in calculus, statistics, and complexity theory, a key to success in college mathematics programs. The close relationship of mathematics to science and technology is evident in interdisciplinary projects and research programs.

SCIENCE

The depth of Ashley Hall's science curriculum is enhanced by hands-on experiences. Faculty teaching marine science and oceanography take advantage of the surrounding marine ecosystem to give students authentic experiences within their education. Biology, AP Biology, Chemistry and Physics teachers capitalize on close proximity and partnerships with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the College of Charleston. Students can also elect to participate in a summer Neuroscience Institute based at MUSC that exposes them to the research and careers within this discipline.

HUMANITIES

Beginning in eighth grade, students explore the humanities through an intentionally student-centric pedagogy. Students learn critical thinking by reading and annotating primary texts and bringing their ideas and opinions to student-directed Harkness discussions. This process, in which the teacher guides and facilitates discussion rather than lectures, enables Ashley Hall girls to gain confidence and leadership within their learning environment.

CLASSICS

Ashley Hall is the only school in South Carolina that offers an integrated classics program, providing instruction in both Latin and classical Greek. All students in seventh and eighth grade are enrolled in the classics curriculum while studying the modern language of their choice. Many students continue the study of classics through Classics V and take the AP Latin exam.

LANGUAGES

The language curriculum is designed with oral proficiency as the goal for all graduates. Course placement is determined by the Oral Proficiency Interview, and classes are taught with authentic resources. The result is



a graduate who is able to function at a high level in any French- or Spanish-speaking country. Students also may pursue the study of additional languages and are supported in this by knowledgeable and dedicated foreign language faculty members.

TECHNOLOGY

Exploring digital media, students develop and publish works of art, web pages, blogs, videos, the yearbook, and other campus publications. Robot Engineering is available as a course elective. Using the engineering design process, students explore robotics while learning engineering fundamentals. Students design, build, and deploy robots to complete various tasks campus-wide. Technology studies continue with AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). CSP introduces students to information technology as a whole and illustrates practical application in nearly every industry. Students can design and code their own applications using JavaScript.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Ashley Hall's Global Studies Program brings a truly international experience to our campus community. The School has welcomed students from Europe, Asia, and Central and South America. Upper School students have the opportunity to study abroad for a summer or an academic year. This growing program enriches campus life and fosters a worldly perspective essential to the success of today's students.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Ashley Hall has worked to create lasting partnerships with educational leaders in the Charleston community to provide students with access to the very best academic resources. Proximity to the College of Charleston provides outlets for study, research, enrichment, and cultural events. Eighth graders hone their project management and public speaking skills through the Gibbes Museum Docent Program. The South Carolina Aquarium offers students the ability to work hands-on with projects like the Sea Turtle Care Center. A strong partnership with MUSC supports the School's Summer Neuroscience Program as well as ongoing opportunities to engage with MUSC's world-renowned faculty and staff.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

College Counseling helps each girl to find a college compatible with her goals and abilities. From ninth grade, students are offered unlimited one-on-one meetings and the chance to meet with upwards of 50 college representatives on campus. As juniors, all girls meet regularly with the Director of College Counseling, who works individually with students on applications, essays, and scholarships.

JUNIOR INTERNSHIP

In the spring semester of junior year, each student participates in an internship overseen by an off-campus mentor. By experiencing the day-to-day activities of working professionals, juniors gain meaningful exposure to the demands and rewards of a career field they choose to examine for themselves. This collaboration and real-life experience give students greater insight into possible areas of college study and career exploration.

SENIOR THESIS OR PROJECT

All seniors complete a thesis or project during their last year at Ashley Hall. Both activities include a public presentation at which students demonstrate their command of multiple disciplines as they pertain to a single essential question, thereby demonstrating their acquired authority in those fields of study. Students must apply to be considered for the year-long Senior Project, an independent study course designed by the student which features mentoring by faculty and community partners. Recent projects have included the creation of an Upper School class on global voluntourism entitled "BEYOND: Incredible India" and an in-depth exploration of the nutritional implications of grains and wheat which was woven through Ashley Hall Dining Commons lunch menus throughout the year.

ATHLETICS

Ashley Hall offers a full range of competitive teams including Bantam and junior varsity options in many sports. In addition, girls may participate in varsity level teams in tennis, volleyball, cross country, track, swimming, golf, soccer, equestrian, sailing, basketball, lacrosse, and archery.

FINE ARTS

Fine Arts opportunities are abundant throughout the Upper School experience. Course selections include vocal and instrumental music, visual arts, dance, drama, and stage design. Co-curriculars include drama productions, art exhibitions, musicals, dance, and instrumental recitals.

THE UPPER SCHOOL *at a* GLANCE

★ Our graduating seniors regularly earn millions of dollars in merit scholarships to nationally ranked universities and colleges.

★ Housing a premier athletics program, Ashley Hall nurtures student athletes who have won numerous state titles in cross country, volleyball, basketball, tennis, sailing, and golf, and many pursue athletics at the college level.

★ Through a partnership with College of Charleston, Upper School students in the eleventh and twelfth grades are given credentials for the college's Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library and may also attend select classes.

★ College counseling is introduced in ninth grade and begins in earnest in eleventh grade, preparing the student for the formal college application process.

★ Leadership development is woven throughout the curriculum. The Offshore Ship Leadership Program instills character, strong collaboration skills, and leadership. Grounded in rigorous academic study, this year-long program culminates in a ten-day offshore sailing voyage. Students also gain leadership opportunities through extracurricular activities, including the Debate Society, the Investment Group, Student and Honor Councils, and the National Honor Society, among other offerings. Our Student Ambassador Program models an inclusive community that enriches student experiences.

★ The Upper School student body includes international boarding students who add richly to the global perspective on campus.

★ Ashley Hall offers numerous study abroad opportunities, including an exchange partnership with Rotary International and language immersion programs in French- and Spanish-speaking countries.

★ Ashley Hall Upper School students meet four classes a day during 60-80 minute blocks, which allow ample time for complex scientific research, in-depth discussion of primary sources, and applications of critical thinking, reflecting, and deliberation. All students are enrolled in a minimum of six courses each semester but many exceed that requirement.

Please note: Certain activities that do not meet Ashley Hall's current COVID-19 safety procedures may be postponed and/or canceled. The safety and health of our students are the School's utmost priority.

OFFICE OF ADMISSION
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