

EXPERIENCE
EXCELLENCE



The Miami Valley School

5151 • Denise Drive • Dayton, OH 45429
Phone (937) 434-4444 • Fax (937) 434-1033
<http://www.mvschool.com>
CEEB Code: 361833

Headmaster

Peter B. Benedict II
pbenedict@mvschool.com

Head of Upper School/ College Counselor

Samuel Wagner, V
swagner@mvschool.com

Director of College Counseling

Brian Motto
bmotto@mvschool.com

Registrar

Rita Heckmann
heckr@mvschool.com

OVERVIEW

The Miami Valley School, founded in 1964, is an independent co-educational college preparatory day school located in suburban Washington Township, immediately south of Dayton, Ohio. Governed by a Board of Trustees, the school enrolls students from early childhood through the twelfth grade. MVS has a faculty and student body diverse in race, religion, national origin, and socioeconomic status. Approximately 30 percent of the students come from an ethnically diverse background and 20 percent of the student body receives financial aid. Maintaining rigorous academic standards through a selective admission process, 100 percent of graduating seniors attend college, though occasionally a student, with counseling assistance from the school, will choose to defer entrance for one year.

MISSION & CORE VALUES

The Miami Valley School challenges young people of promise to become self-sustaining learners and compassionate global citizens.

Five core values guide us in achieving our mission:
Excellence, Caring Community, Experiential Learning, Celebration of Individual Gifts, and Character.

ENROLLMENT

Upper School: 171 (Senior Class: 44)
Middle School: 115
Lower School: 150
Early Childhood: 26
Total: 462
(representing 34 communities around the Greater Dayton region)

FACULTY

28 full-time teaching faculty in the upper school, of whom 23 hold masters degrees and two hold doctoral degrees.

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

All courses are college preparatory by design and content. The average class size is 14 students; no single section will contain more than 20 students. Writing is required across the curriculum and includes lab reports, journals, research papers, and formal essays. The placement of students in courses is carefully monitored to provide each student with the best opportunity to achieve personal success while developing effective critical thinking skills. Several courses are interdepartmental and are team taught.

IMMERSION

Immersion, a four week experiential learning program of intensive study in a specified subject area, is required of all students enrolled in grades nine through twelve. All ninth-grade students are enrolled in the same program. For students in grades ten through twelve, approximately twelve elective programmatic offerings are available each year. Additionally, students may create individualized projects (such as independent study, internship, enrollment in another institution or program). Immersion offerings provide an exceptional, in-depth learning opportunity with most activities occurring off campus, including overseas. Alumni frequently refer to Immersion as the most influential and informative program of their MVS experience. Examples of recent Immersion offerings include:

Immersion Programs:

Civil Rights - A Living History: Alabama
Marine Ecology & Bahamian Culture: Bahamas
Habitat for Humanity: Southern U.S.
Civilized Past & Promising Future: India
Ritmo, Cultura, y Comunidad: Honduras
Traditional Society & Western Influences: Japan
Destination America (5,800 miles via Winnebago)

Individualized Projects

Cleveland Clinic: General Surgery Internship
A Journalist's Tour of New York
NOLS: Teton Valley Backcountry Skiing
Violin & Vivaldi: Performance & Study
Earthwatch: Dolphin Research
Metal Sculpture and Blacksmithing
Ground School & Private Pilot Certification

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

MVS operates on a trimester calendar. Each trimester is approximately ten weeks long, with trimester examinations in November, February, and June. **Mid-year reports requested by colleges are mailed in late-February following the completion of the winter trimester.** The Immersion Program, lasting four weeks, occurs between the winter and spring trimesters.

ACCREDITATION

The Miami Valley School is accredited by the Independent School Association of the Central States (ISACS) and is chartered as a comprehensive college preparatory school by the State of Ohio. Memberships are held in CEEB, CSEE, NACAC, NAIS, NYCA, OACAC, and OAIS.

CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 20 credits is required for graduation; students are required to complete a minimum of five courses each term. Minimum departmental graduation requirements for students completing four years at MVS include:

KEY: Y = Year long course; 2T = 2 trimester long course; T = Trimester long course

ENGLISH – 4 credits

English 9 (9th grade) (Y)
World Literature (10th grade) (2T)
Speech & Debate (10th grade) (T)
American Authors (11th grade) (2T)
Classical English Literature (12th grade) (2T)
- Electives - 1 trimester course required each spring for grades 10-12
Creative Writing (T)
Contact Improvisation (T)
Gender Studies (T)
Gender and the American Tradition (T)
Grammar and Writing Workshop (T)
Great Books (T)
Journalism (T)
Literature of Protest & Rebellion (T)
Literature of the South (T)
Major British Works (T)
Man in a Natural World (T)
Mass Communication: Media (T)
Modern Drama (T)
Romantic and Victorian Poetry (T)
Shakespearean Tragedy (T)
The Rhythm and Color of Language (T)

MATHEMATICS – 3 credits

Algebra I, II, II Honors (2 credits) (Y)
Geometry, Geometry Honors (1 credit) (Y)
- Electives -
Discrete Math (T)
Competitive Math (T)
Geometry Models (T)
College Algebra (Y)
Precalculus, Precalculus Honors (Y)
Puzzle Making (T)
AP Statistics (Y)
AP Calculus (AB & BC) (Y)

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT – 2 credits

(All world languages courses are year long, except Introduction to Madarin)

French I, II, III, IV, V
Latin I, II, III, IV
Spanish I, II, III, IV, V
Asian Studies: Introduction to Mandarin (T),
Mandarin I (Y)
(Asian Studies was introduced in the Fall of 2007)

SCIENCE – 3 credits

Biology: A Human Approach (Y)
Biology: A Molecular Approach (Y)
(either class fulfills freshmen requirement)
Chemistry, Chemistry Honors (Y)
Physics, Physics Honors (Y)
AP Biology (Y)
AP Chemistry (Y)
Anatomy & Physiology (Y)
- Electives -
Astronomy (T)
Biotechnology (T)
Earth Origins (T)
Ecology (T)
Embryology (T)
Forensic Science (T)
Genetics (T)
Let's Eat (T)
Photoshop: Bending the Record of Reality (T)
Survey of the Senses (T)

SOCIAL SCIENCE – 3 credits

World Civilization (9th grade) (Y)
Making of the Modern World (10th grade) (T)
American Government (T), **AP Government & Politics** (10th grade)(Y)
American History (Y), **AP United States History** (11th grade) (Y)
- Electives -
Biography: Darwin, Freud, Einstein (T)
China: The Wild, Wild West (T)
Ethics and Public Life (T)
AP European History (Y)
Foreign Affairs (T)
Guns, Germs, and Steel (T)
History of Rock and Roll (T)
Introduction to the Classics/Introduction to Classical Civilizations (T)
Women's Studies (T)
Medieval Europe (T)
Microeconomics, Macroeconomics (T)
Middle Eastern History (T)
Philanthropy (T)
Psychology (T)
Rap, Hip-Hop, and Social Critique (T)
Roots of Contemporary Issues (T)
Science and Human Values (T)
Selected Topics in History and Political Science (T)
Social Psychology (T)
Studies of the Other (T)
World Religions (T)

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS – 1 credits

(All visual and performing arts classes are 1 Trimester in length)

- Visual Arts -
Basic Carving
Contemporary Art History
Design 9
Zen and the Art of Drawing
Figure Drawing – Man is the Measure of all Things
Furniture 'IS' Art (2T)
Glass – Beads and Beyond
Installation Art
Oil Painting
Painting without Paint – Three Dimensional Wall Relief
Structures
Pottery
Printmaking
Sound Sculpture – Making Musical Instruments
The Art of Assemblage
Ukrainian Eggs
- Music -
Jazz Ensemble
Upper School Choir
Music Technology
Music Theory I, II

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Community Service (see explanation under Distinctive Programs)
Health (Required for all 9th grade students)(T)
Physical Education

- AP courses indicated by bold print.
- Not all AP courses and Electives are offered each year.
- For more information on each individual course:

http://www.mvschool.com/academics/upperSchool_depts.php

EVALUATION AND TESTING

RANK IN CLASS

Because of its small class sizes, MVS does not report the rank of its students.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale and includes only courses taken at MVS. Grades for physical education are not calculated into the GPA. **Honors and Advanced Placement courses are not weighted when calculating the GPA.** Plus/minus designations on the transcript are calculated in the GPA, resulting in rare instances of a GPA exceeding 4.0.

GRADING

Students receive two types of grades: an academic achievement letter grade and a numerical effort mark. For further explanation of the effort marks, please consult the following web page:
<http://www.mvschool.com/students/upperSchool.php>.

ACHIEVEMENT GRADES:

A+ = 4.33 (100 – 97) A = 4.00 (96 – 91) A- = 3.67 (90 – 87)
B+ = 3.33 (86 – 84) B = 3.00 (83 – 80) B- = 2.67 (79 – 77)
C+ = 2.33 (76 – 74) C = 2.00 (73 – 70) C- = 1.67 (69 – 67)
D+ = 1.33 (66 – 64) D = 1.00 (63 – 60) D- = 0.67 (59 – 57)
U = 56 & below

WORK HABITS/EFFORT MARKS:

1 = Excellent
2 = Good
3 = Average
4 = Deficient
5 = Unsatisfactory

For a more accurate description of what these marks represent, please visit the web at:
<http://www.mvschool.com/students/pdf/Effortmatrix.pdf>

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROFILE

(Class of 2007 – 55 students)

SAT Reasoning Test (52 Tests Takers)	Middle 50% (Mean)
Critical Reading	530 – 700 (625)
Math	540 – 690 (608)
Writing	530 – 690 (623)

ACT (41 Tests Takers)	Middle 50% (Mean)
English	22 -32 (27)
Math	21 – 28 (25)
Reading	22 – 31 (27)
Science	22 – 27 (25)
Composite	21 – 30 (26)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS

In the last five years, Advanced Placement examinations have been taken in the following subjects: art history, biology, calculus AB & BC, chemistry, computer science, American government, micro/macro economics, English language, English literature, European history, French language, Latin: Vergil, music theory, Spanish language, statistics, studio art, and United States history. Although MVS offers a limited number of AP classes, many of our students prepare independently for AP tests.
83% of AP test takers have achieved a score of '3' or higher over the past five years.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING

Class of	Semifinalists	Commended	Class Size
2008	2	2	44
2007	7	10	55
2006	4	5	41
2005	3	6	41
2004	9	5	42

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

SERVICE LEARNING

Service to school and community is an important component of each student's education. Annual internal and external service is required of each student. A minimum of 105 hours of community service is required for graduation.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students may design and complete courses of study under the auspices of a faculty advisor and faculty committee. Students in their junior or senior years may choose to pursue a course of study not available within the school curriculum. The study may include college courses.

COLLEGE STUDY

On occasion, a student may enroll in one or more courses at local colleges—Sinclair Community College, University of Dayton, Wright State University—under Ohio's Postsecondary School Enrollment Option (PSEO) for students in grades 9-12.

MATRICULATIONS BY COLLEGE: 2003 - 2007

Albion College (2)

American University
The Art Institute of Cincinnati

Asbury College

Bates College (2)

Baylor University (1)

Boston College

Boston University (2)

Bowdoin College

Bowling Green State University (4)

Brown University

Bryn Mawr College

Bucknell University

Butler University (5)

University of California at Berkeley

Carleton College (2)

Case Western Reserve University (9)

Central State University

Centre College (2)

College of Charleston

University of Chicago (2)

University of Cincinnati (11)

University of Cincinnati College Conservatory

Clemson University

Colgate University (3)

University of Colorado

Colorado College

Columbus College of Art & Design

Columbus State C.C.

Cornell University (2)

Dartmouth College

Davidson College

University of Dayton (4)

Denison University (3)

DePauw University (3)

Dickinson College

Duke University (5)

Eckerd College

Elon University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Emerson College

Emory University (3)

Eugene Lang College

University of Evansville

The Evergreen State College

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Fashion Institute of Technology

Florida Institute of Technology

Florida Southern College

George Mason University

The George Washington University (3)

Georgetown University (4)

Goucher College

Grinnell College

Hampton University

Hanover College (2)

Haverford College (4)

Howard University

Indiana University (2)

Ithaca College

Kalamazoo College (2)

University of Kansas

University of Kentucky (4)

Kenyon College (3)

Knox College

Lake Erie College (2)

Lawrence Technological

University

Manhattan School of Music

Marist College

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Miami University (7)

Miami University, Middletown

University of Michigan (2)

Middlebury College

University of Missouri

Muhlenberg College

University of Nevada, Reno

New York University (3)

Northeastern Ohio Universities

College of Medicine (2)

Northwestern University (4)

Oberlin College

The Ohio State University (8)

The Ohio State University at Newark

Ohio University (4)

Ohio Wesleyan University

Palm Beach Atlantic University

Pennsylvania State University

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh (2)

Princeton University

Purdue University (6)

Rhodes College (2)

University of Richmond

Robert Morris University

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rollins College

Saint Louis University

Salem College

School of the Visual Arts

Skidmore College

University of Southern California (2)

Spelman College

Stanford University

University of Toledo

Trinity University

Tulane University

United States Military Academy

Urbana University

Vanderbilt University (2)

Washington University in St. Louis

Wellesley College (3)

Winthrop University

Wittenberg University (3)

The College of Wooster

Wright State University (5)

Xavier University

Yale University (2)

Bold print indicates a Class of 2007 matriculation(s)

The number in (parenthesis) indicates the **total** number of matriculants over the past five years

All state universities are the flagship state university unless otherwise specified