The Wilberforce School 2026-2027 Profile

75 Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540 | 609.924.6111 | wilberforceschool.org

The Wilberforce School seeks to cultivate the whole person: intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually. Knowing that our students are stewards of their minds and hearts, we invite them to engage in the Great Conversation. They study written texts, musical scores, paintings, and sculpture to ask and answer questions, to provide springboards for creativity, and to set standards for excellence. Learning in community, whether around the seminar table or in the laboratory, is a hallmark of our classes. In every class at Wilberforce, students not only analyze and evaluate but also reflect and respond. They apply habits of responsible stewardship, gentle justice, and self-discipline to their scholarship, their sports, and their service.

We provide advanced-level courses across all subjects. We intentionally do not offer AP or IB courses because of the limitations of those curricula. We also offer relatively few electives. Instead, all of our students follow the same core curriculum throughout all four years with some opportunities for choice in language, mathematics, and science. Our curriculum is designed to provide a rigorous and integrated education in which every course offers meaningful academic depth and challenge. The majority of courses are taught by faculty who have advanced degrees.

CEEB Code
311264

Administration

Jennia Axelson
Head of School

Chris Munn
Head of Middle & Upper School

College Admissions

Susan Antlitz
College Admissions Counselor

Emily Yoder
College Admissions Counselor

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Accredited by
The Middle States Association
of Colleges and Schools

The Wilberforce School was founded to provide a distinctively Christian education marked by academic excellence and joyful discovery within a classical framework.

CURRICULAR DISTINCTIVES

Each student who completes our curriculum has done the following:

Humanities

- Written at least 30 analytical essays and three substantial research papers.
- Mastered the art of disciplined discussion through participation in seminar classes that meet 10 hours per week for four years.
- Read many of the greatest literary and philosophical works in the Western canon.

Math/Science

- Studied core calculus topics with the opportunity to extend learning into multivariable calculus, linear algebra, or advanced statistics.
- Completed 100+ hours of rigorous laboratory investigation across biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Developed proficiency in Python and MATLAB to write graphical user interfaces (GUIs), model physical phenomena, and solve complex problems.

Fine Arts

- Studied fundamentals of acting and the technical aspects of staging a performance. Acted and helped stage a one-act play and a full-length production.
- Studied two years of vocal music and theory. Performed in four public formal choral concerts.
- Analyzed artworks, ranging from prehistoric to contemporary, and learned to produce art in a spectrum of styles and media.

Junior Project

- All juniors design an independent inquiry-wonder project, focusing on an area of personal interest or passion. Students work with a faculty advisor to design and pursue their project, bring it to completion, and defend their project before a panel of judges. Examples include a full-length musical, facial recognition software, and a published novel.

Latin and Foreign Languages

- Students complete Latin (or Classical Roots) in 9th grade, with the ability to translate Cicero and Vergil. They then complete three years of either Spanish or Latin, developing proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking.

AVERAGE TEST SCORES

SAT (Classes of 2021-2026)
Reading & Writing: 698
Math: 706
Total: 1404

ACT (Classes of 2023-2027)
English: 32
Math: 30
Reading: 32
Science: 29
Composite: 31

National Merit Recognition (2023-2026)
1 Winner
1 Finalist
4 Semifinalists
12 Commended Scholars

2027 Class Size: 23

Class Rank and G.P.A.
Due to our small class size, neither G.P.A. distribution nor class rank is provided.

School Community
Wilberforce is a unique, JK-12, multi-ethnic community, with families from five continents and a broad array of socioeconomic backgrounds in and around Princeton, New Jersey.

Student Body:

Total Students	379
Upper School (9th-12th grade)	105
12th Grade Class	23

Upper School Faculty:

Full-Time	21
Part-Time	8

Faculty Degrees:
82% of faculty hold advanced degrees

CO-CURRICULAR DISTINCTIVES

House System and Leadership
The Wilberforce School has four "houses" to which all students in grades 6–12 belong, with four leaders selected to head each house. The house system provides a format for competition, service, and camaraderie across grades, serving as a small family within the school. House leaders are called to demonstrate sacrificial leadership for their school and peers.

Arts
Tuesday afternoon is "Arts Day." No athletic practices or competitions are held on Tuesday to allow athletes to participate in choirs, the school musical, chamber orchestra, and visual arts. We value giving all students time in the schedule to participate in the arts.

WILBERFORCE CURRICULUM

These courses serve as the backbone of The Wilberforce School curriculum:

Humane Letters Seminar
In the Humane Letters Seminar, students conduct an integrated study of literature, history, philosophy, and theology by reading and discussing original texts and source documents and by writing essays about issues which emerge from their study. Historical lectures supplement the discussions. **Humane Letters is held for approximately two hours each day and fulfills both the English and History requirements. It is the equivalent of two courses.** (See "Humane Letters Reading List" on the next page.)

Mathematics
Our math program emphasizes advanced algebra, trigonometry, precalculus, and calculus. The goal is to achieve proficiency in both the theoretical understanding and practical application of mathematics. All students are encouraged and challenged to see the beauty of mathematics and to find inspiration that leads to a lifetime of continued discovery. During their senior year, students take either Statistics or Multivariable Calculus. In Statistics, students develop statistical reasoning through data analysis, statistical tests, and confidence intervals, culminating in a hands-on data collection project. In Multivariable Calculus, students work on three-dimensional problems through vector analysis, solve partial derivatives and multiple integrals, and recreate the use of second-order differential equations to solve historic problems in engineering and art forgery.

Science
All students are required to take biology, chemistry, and physics in order to cultivate a mindset of wonder and inquiry and equip them for further STEM studies in college and beyond. Laboratory-based biology and chemistry courses are taught at the honors level to freshmen and sophomores, respectively. Juniors learn physics simultaneously with MATLAB coding to simulate concepts and solve problems. Seniors choose between college-level chemistry or college-level physics. Chemistry 2 broadens and deepens knowledge while emphasizing more sophisticated analytical techniques and problem solving. Physics 2 incorporates calculus, MATLAB, and laboratory investigations.

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UPPER SCHOOL REQUIRED COURSES

	Humane Letters ~2 hours / day	Math	Science	Foreign Language	Fine Arts	Theology Seminar
9th	American History and Literature	Geometry/Algebra 2 or Geometry/ Precalculus A	Biology	Latin 3 or Classical Roots	Art 1 Choral Music	Introduction to Church History
10th	European History and Literature	Precalculus AB or BC	Chemistry*	Latin 4* or Spanish 1	Art 2 Choral Music	Old Testament*
11th	Ancient History and Literature*	Calculus A or AB*	Physics 1 and MATLAB*	Latin 5* or Spanish 2*	Choral Music or Art 3 Theater 1	New Testament*
12th	Western Literature, Political Theory, and Philosophy	Statistics* or Multivariable Calculus*	Physics 2* or Chemistry 2*	Latin 6* or Spanish 3*	Choral Music or Art 4 Theater 2	Theology Colloquium* (Apologetics)
Credits	8	4	4	4	2	2

** These courses are offered as dual enrollment classes through Cairn University or Arizona Christian University.*

HUMANE LETTERS READING LIST

Grade 9

Documents in American History

The Federalist Papers

Selections from the writings of Thomas Jefferson

U.S. Constitution

Selected speeches of Abraham Lincoln

Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*

Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*

Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*

Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*

Cather, *My Ántonia*

Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Short Stories of Crane, Cather, O'Connor

Wilder, *Our Town*

American Poetry

Grade 10

Documents in European History

Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons*

Eliot, *Murder in the Cathedral*

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (selections)

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (selections)

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (selections)

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Orwell, *Animal Farm*

British Poetry

Grade 11

Homer, *Iliad, Odyssey*

Aeschylus, *Oresteia*

Sophocles, *Theban Plays*

Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*

Plato, *Meno, Crito, Phaedo, Apology, Euthyphro, Gorgias, Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

Augustine, *The Confessions*

Grade 12

Augustine, *The Spirit and the Letter*

Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*

Paul, Letter to the Romans

Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*

Dante, *Inferno*

Shakespeare, *Macbeth, Hamlet*

Descartes, *Meditations*

Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*

Mill, *On Liberty*

Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

O'Connor, "Parker's Back"

Agee, *A Death in the Family*

Carver, "A Small, Good Thing"

Canin, "The Palace Thief"

The Wilberforce School
Grading Scale

Grading Scale (Letter Grade)	Unweighted Value (4.0 System)
A+	4.33
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D	1.00
F	0.00

Special Features

Our school is focused more on in-person interactions than on technology. Our students read full-length print books, discuss them in a seminar format, and write most essays in class.

At Wilberforce, we prioritize student learning over grades. All students receive extensive narrative evaluations each semester and participate in formal oral exams and in-person academic reviews.

All students take the same core curriculum, except for modern languages and some options in math, science, and the arts during junior and senior years.

Students are expected to become masters of the written and spoken word and to participate in discussion with an eye towards thoughtful and winsome civil discourse.

Classes of 2020–2026 College Acceptances

(Colleges where students have matriculated are in gold)

Amherst College
Auburn University
Baylor University, Honors College
Boston College
Boston University
Brown University
Calvin University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University
Christopher Newport University
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Covenant College
Davidson College
Dartmouth College
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Emory University
Fordham University
Franciscan University
Furman University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgetown University
George Washington University
Grove City College
Harding University
High Point University
Hillsdale College
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Lancaster Bible College
Lehigh University
Liberty University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Messiah University
Muhlenberg College
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
New York University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Patrick Henry College
Penn State University
Point Loma Nazarene University
Princeton University
Purdue University, Honors College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Rutgers University, Honors College
Southeastern University
St. John's College
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The College of New Jersey
Thomas Aquinas College
Tufts University
University of Delaware
University of Maryland
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Ursinus College
United States Coast Guard Academy
United States Military Academy at West Point
United States Naval Academy
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wheaton College
William & Mary
Worcester Polytechnic Institute