



where **LEARNING** is a
PASSION

**International
Program**

[Watch Video About
The Upper School](#)





Exceptional Academics Amazing American Experience

Located on a 93-acre campus in a residential suburban neighborhood, Lake Ridge Academy is a K-12 independent, secular, and coeducational college preparatory day school. Our location in the Midwestern United States is central to the east and west coasts.

International students are invited to join us for a semester, one year, or multiple years through graduation, provided they meet all requirements.

Lake Ridge Academy offers curriculum flexibility for first-year international students, exceptional college counseling, and a system to support our international students academically, socially, and culturally even before they arrive on campus. Lake Ridge Academy offers pre-arrival orientation, language proficiency assistance, pronunciation instruction, testing accommodations, and in-school tutoring. Our Dean of International Students provides Individualized support to each student.

Athletics and clubs provide the students leadership opportunities and a well-rounded experience universities are looking for on the college application.

Our Homestay Coordinator finds the best family for each student. All Lake Ridge Academy host families are screened and trained prior to student arrival. Monthly checkins are designed to assist both host families and students and maximize the student experience. Regular activities—from sledding and apple picking to professional sporting events—provide time for social engagement and enjoyment of a typical American experience.

SCHOOL STATS:

8:1

student to teacher ratio

A+

Niche A+ rated

93

acre campus

40+

AP and Honors courses

150+

course offerings

Unique Courses:

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Animal Behavior
- AP Studio Art
- Biomimicry & Design
- Design and Fabrication
- Graphic Design
- History of Western Art
- Honors Global Politics
- Honors Introduction to Developmental Biology & Embryology
- Honors Software Engineering
- Humanizing Shakespeare
- Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
- Musical Theater Workshop

Personalized College Counseling

All freshmen take the PreACT, with the aim of getting exposure to the ACT, a test that bears equal weight as the SAT in the college application process.

In the sophomore year, the college conversation becomes more focused as students start to think about testing and scores. With the guidance of the college counselors, sophomores use Naviance to build resumes, take career assessments, and research schools. Additionally, sophomores are introduced to the PSAT, to prepare them to take the SAT in the junior year.

During the junior year, students thoughtfully consider college fit during and after the junior/family meeting with the college counselors. The ACT/SAT prep class affords juniors an inside look at standardized tests and provides test-taking strategies designed to improve overall scores. The second semester Junior Seminar, taught by the Director of College Counseling, helps the students get a head start on the college application process.

Through the Senior Seminar, students will gain hands-on experience with all aspects of the college application process, from narrowing the list to financial aid and scholarships. With a thorough understanding of each student's unique background, needs, and accomplishments, the college counselors are well prepared to write a personalized college recommendation for each senior.

Throughout all four years, international students receive individualized English proficiency instruction, with the goal of a 100+ score on the TOEFL before the college application process begins. The international student will be provided an individualized plan to find the college or university that best suits their talents, strengths, and needs.

Lake Ridge's wide variety of resources, including dedicated college counselors, individualized essay-writing assistance, in-person and virtual visits from college representatives, and links to merit scholarships and financial aid opportunities ensures the student and family are well informed throughout all four years of the high school experience.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT STATS:

100%
graduation and
college placement

75%
accepted to their
first choice college

RECENT NOTABLE ACCEPTANCES:

- Boston University
- Brown University
- Case Western Reserve University
- College of William and Mary
- Cornell University
- Emory University
- George Washington University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- New York University
- Ohio State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Tufts University
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre-Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Wellesley College

COLLEGE COUNSELING

begins in 9th grade

AVERAGE CLASS OF 2023

SAT
Top 10% 1530
Top 30% 1445

ACT
Top 10% 35.5
Top 30% 34

SAT/ACT/TOEFL

prep classes

"Lake Ridge Academy is like a second home for me in the United States. It is nice because everyone knows each other. For international students, your host family is an additional support, and they will treat you like family. During the college application process, the college counselors will guide you through the entire process. I highly recommend using all the great resources that Lake Ridge has to offer so you can have the best and most supportive experience."

Jason – Class of 2020



“Lake Ridge Academy is the best school I have ever been to and my experience will be in my memory forever. In this special place, I could focus on my passions and share what I think or feel. It prepared me to be a confident and well-rounded student.

Students are not afraid of making a mistake because we have the most patient and intelligent teachers standing behind us. If you are lucky enough to be here you are a unique and indispensable member of the big Lake Ridge Family.”

Cally – Class of 2020

Intensive Study Programs

Upper School students accepted into a certificate program are expected to go beyond our college preparatory curriculum. These multi-year certificate programs provide intensive, college-level academic experiences under the support and guidance of faculty and mentors.

The **Global and International Studies Program (GISP)** develops students' overall global awareness by nurturing their intercultural consciousness and fostering the leadership skills needed to become a more active global citizen of the world.

- Build critical and cross-curricular thinking skills
- Comprehensive understanding of non-western history, politics, religion and culture
- Culminates in a 40-page paper

The **Institute for Scientific Research (ISR)** allows students to design and implement an original 2.5-year research project.

- Primary literature review to derive hypothesis
- Data collection and statistical analysis
- Public defense of a major research project

The **School of Fine Arts (SOFA)** provides students a comprehensive fine arts curriculum in voice, musical theater, acting, strings and visual and digital art.

- Sophomore and senior year public presentations
- Foundational skills essential to artistic careers
- Access to professional artists and arts organizations



The **Institute for Engineering and Innovation (IEI)** provides students with state-of-the-art machinery that allows them to extensively explore a chosen field of engineering.

- Supervised independent design and fabrication of high quality products
- Preparation for college entry-level coursework
- Public presentation of final product. Recent examples include: computerized equatorial telescope mount, GPS-based music app, table tennis training robot



School Highlights

House System

Rooted in the tradition of English boarding schools, Lake Ridge Academy's four-house system forms the basis of the Upper School mentoring program, whose mission is to nurture faculty-student relationships. The house system builds school spirit, encourages friendships, and develops leadership skills as the houses participate in community-building events through social gatherings, service projects, and competitions.

Strong Faculty-Student Relationships

Preparing a child for college requires more than a rigorous academic curriculum filled with college-level courses. Equally important are teachers willing to work closely with students. Our faculty use a variety of teaching techniques and often engage our students in collaborative activities that call for both leadership and teamwork. Accustomed to traditional lecture-style classrooms, international students are surprised to discover student-centered, activity-based classes in which students and faculty develop deep relationships. Students benefit from this approach: Studies show that positive relationships between students and teachers have long-lasting implications for students' academic and social development.

Time Management

Students are routinely required to travel across campus and have the ability to choose how to use their time outside the classroom. Such freedom of choice prepares our students to manage their time in college.

Honor Code

Written and administered by our Upper School students, our honor code is a shared set of values derived from our four core values: integrity, respect, scholarship, and personal best. These shared community values ensure that ethics inform our actions, on campus and off.

Student Clubs

Upper School students can choose from a wealth of organizations, including our state-level Mock Trial team. With over 20 clubs devoted to a variety of interests from business and engineering to medicine and robotics, your student is sure to find something of interest.

Athletics - Go Royals!

Our no-cut policy guarantees that all interested international and domestic students can participate in athletics. In fact, 75 percent of our Upper School students join at least one sport. We offer girls' and boys' teams in basketball, tennis, cross country, and track and field. Students may also participate on the girls' volleyball team, the boys' baseball team, or the co-ed golf and soccer teams.

Events & Experiences

Imagine touring Europe with classmates. Taking a white water rafting trip to kick off the senior year. Introducing a keynote speaker to an auditorium filled with peers from other high schools at the annual Diversity Forum. These are just a few of the unique opportunities through which Upper School students can learn something new, step out of their comfort zone, and make some amazing memories.

Welcome!

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Bienvenido

Chào đón

Välkommen

Bienvenue

Willkommen

Benvenuto

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If you have any questions regarding the International Program admission process, please contact Jane Lacoste, International Program Director and Assistant Director of Admissions at lacostej@lakeridgeacademy.org.

Scan for Jane Lacoste's Business Card:



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