



CORNERSTONE

Schools of Washington, D.C.

SCHOOL PROFILE

2023-2024

INFORMATION:

CEEB code: 090037

**3742 Ely Place SE,
Washington, D.C. 20019**

Main office: (202) 575-0027

WEBSITE:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

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SCHOOL COUNSELOR:

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SCHOOL MISSION:

Through a partnership of family, school, and community, Cornerstone provides a Christ-centered, nurturing, and academically robust education forming the children of Washington, D.C. in the habits of faith, love, and learning essential to becoming wise, compassionate, and virtuous leaders who serve others in light of Christ and His Truth.

ACCREDITATION:



CORNERSTONE AT-A-GLANCE

- Non-denominational independent Christian K-12 school with classical approach
- Year founded: 1997
- 180 students; 86 graduates
- Class of 2024 has 7 students
- Student faculty ratio: 11:1
- Student body is 96% Black or African American, 2% Hispanic, 2% White
- Title 1 school: over 90% qualify for free/reduced lunch
- % of students on tuition aid: 99%
- Cornerstone does not weight GPA

COMMUNITY

Cornerstone Schools is located in the heart of Southeast Washington, D.C., within view of the United States Capitol. Cornerstone predominantly serves children from Ward 7 and 8, an area deeply affected by generational poverty, systemic racism, high crime rates, and limited access to food, health, and transportation. In these wards, the average family income is under \$50,000 and 80% of the students are First Generation college students. Almost all of Cornerstone's students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Cornerstone strives to provide every student with an academically robust education to equip them for the future.

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Cornerstone Schools offers a classical curriculum that is focused on college preparation and forming the whole person. Our courses are focused on a community learning approach, with Harkness discussions serving as the basis for our Humanities classes. While we do not offer any AP or IB courses, our core classes are academically rigorous.

Our high school curriculum includes the following courses:

- Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus
- Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Exploring Computer Science, Physics
- Humanities I-IV (a 2-credit course covering Literature, History, Composition, Government, Religion, and Philosophy for the following periods: Ancients-Early Medieval; Late Medieval-1815; 1815-Modern and Capstone)
 - *This class serves as our English and History credits*
- Spanish
- Art, Drama, Music, Creative Writing, Health and Physical Education, and Bible

READING LIST INCLUDES:

Peterson & O'Hare, <i>An Iliad</i> ; Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> ;	<i>Life of Frederick Douglass</i> ;	<i>Watching God</i> ; Bonhoeffer, <i>Life Together</i> ; Thurman, <i>Jesus and the Disinherited</i> ; Dostoevsky, <i>Crime and Punishment</i> ,
Virgil, <i>The Aeneid</i> ; Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> ; Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar</i> , <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> ;	Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> ;	Baldwin, <i>The Fire Next Time</i> ;
Dante Alighieri, <i>The Inferno</i> ;	Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> ;	Mark; Romans; Poetry of Anne Bradstreet, Phyllis Wheatley, Langston Hughes, and more
Dickens, <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> ;	Rose, <i>12 Angry Men</i> ; Wiesel, <i>Night</i> ; Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> ; Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> ; Stevenson, <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> ;	
Douglass, <i>A Narrative of the</i>	Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were</i>	

Graduation Requirements:

History (Humanities)	4
English (Humanities)	4
Math	4
Lab Sciences	4
Foreign Language	3
Bible and Theology	2
Fine and Performing Arts	1
Electives	4
Senior Thesis	1
TOTAL CREDITS:	26

Grading and Ranking:

Percentage	Letter Grade	GPA points
100-93	A	4.0
92-90	A-	3.66
89-87	B+	3.33
86-83	B	3.00
82-80	B-	2.66
79-77	C+	2.33
76-73	C	2.00
72-70	C-	1.66
69-60	D	1.00
59-0	F	0.00

RANK

Cornerstone does not rank students. Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined by the highest cumulative GPA for courses taken in the 9th to 12th grades.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) CALCULATION

GPA is computed using the quality points shown above. Beginning with grade nine, all subjects, whether passed or failed, are included in the computation except those electives that are Pass/Fail. Grades are recorded on the transcript, and GPA is computed at the end of each school year.

SENIOR THESIS

All of our seniors are required to complete a 15-20 page research paper on a topic they have selected. They work on this project throughout the year, developing a research question and analyzing academic articles to inform their work. At the end of the process, seniors present and defend their thesis over half an hour to an audience and a panel of experts, faculty, students, and community members. Past theses include: *"Eliminating the Stigma: Increasing African-American Psychologists," "Painting a Picture: The Importance of Art Education," "Conflicted Co-Parents, Emotional Children."*

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

House System and Student Leadership

Every Cornerstone student is a member of one of four houses that create supportive relationships and community between grade levels. Houses promote and develop leadership skills, and shape school culture. Upperclassmen serve as House Leaders and Assistant Leaders. These students are selected through a nomination process that includes an application and panel interview. Leaders are asked to demonstrate sacrificial leadership for the school and their peers and receive weekly leadership skills training. Events include weekly lunches, house competitions, and service projects. Students who lead in the House System note that they grow in patience, logistics, and leading by example.

Athletics

Our students are able to participate in varsity basketball and volleyball throughout the school year. This year we started a cross country team for our students.

POST SECONDARY OUTCOMES

- We have a 99% graduation rate for our high school
- 90% of Cornerstone's 86 graduates were accepted into either 2- or 4-year colleges.

Recent College Acceptances:

Art Institute, Washington, DC	Howard University	University of Delaware
Bowie State University	Indiana Tech	University of the District of Columbia
Carver College	Liberty University	University of Maryland, College Park
Clemson University	Marymount University	University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Coppin State University	Montgomery College	Virginia Union University
Delaware State University	Morgan State University	West Virginia University
Fayetteville State University	North Carolina Central University	Wilmington University
George Mason University	Radford University	Xavier University of Louisiana
George Washington University	St. John's University	
Harrisburg University of Science & Technology	Towson University	
	Trinity University	
	University of Dayton	