



Handcrafted Education in a Mass-Produced World.

ISW's high school college-preparatory program develops confident, skilled students who embrace creativity in all its forms: writing, design, graphics, applied math, scientific innovation, visual arts, music, and theater. Our students produce real, meaningful work—building a portfolio shared with the community through performance, exhibition, internship, and publication. In addition to emphasizing academic and personal responsibility, our program prepares students for college life with increasing levels of independence.

ISW is fully accredited by the Virginia Independent School Association.

Academic Program

All ISW high school students pursue college preparatory studies in English, history, math, science, and Spanish. Core academic courses meet in the mornings, and afternoons feature studio art and a variety of elective classes. All students' schedules are individually tailored to their unique interests and needs. Students can elect to take any academic class at the college-prep level, at the honors level, or at the Advanced Placement® level (where offered.)

All ISW high school students participate in our Benchmarks program.

- 9th grade: Students create a mini-documentary on a topic of their choice.
- 10th grade: Each student creates a milestone project of their own design.
- 11th grade: Students pursue major research projects around a career they are considering.
- 12th grade: The Capstone project is an internship.

All projects are presented to the school in the spring.

Building new forms of education...is not a romantic whimsy: it's essential to personal fulfillment and to the sustainability of the world we are now creating.

- Sir Ken Robinson

Each year, ISW offers an on-campus STEAM class. Recent offerings include *The Art and Technology of Photography*, *Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology*, and *Intro to Psychology*. Students can also elect to pursue online offerings such as video game design. The opportunities are endless!

ISW is also particularly strong in the performing arts—with classes including acting, vocal music and music theory, and stagecraft. As a complement to the formal study of these subjects, ISW created Huzzah Theater Company, one of only a handful of student-run high school theater companies in the United States. Huzzah affords ISW theater students the opportunity to work with high school students from around the area, creating performances for audiences in the larger community. Recent productions include *Frozen*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Huzzah's shows routinely sell out, and the quality of Huzzah's programming has earned the ongoing support of the Marion Park Lewis Foundation. Many high school students also choose to participate in Young Actors Academy, an annual summer theater intensive.



Co-Curricular Program

ISW believes students should lead whenever possible! As a result, our co-curricular program is student-led. All high school students are automatically members of the Student Government Association, which runs a bit like a New England Town Meeting. SGA chooses and oversees two projects per quarter: a service event and a practical skills day. Past projects have included how to change a tire, basic sewing, a cooking lesson, and First Aid/CPR certification. The high school program also features several field trips every year. In addition, ISW offers several student-led club activities including Huzzah, yearbook, and a new robotics team.

College Guidance

ISW's high school is a college preparatory program. All students are expected to matriculate to a four-year college or the equivalent, and coursework is structured to prepare our students for university life. From the first week of 9th grade, weekly meetings prepare students for successful college applications.

Teachers

ISW hires only master teachers who have a degree in their subject matter and at least five years' teaching experience. Two-thirds of our faculty have a master's degree and/or a doctorate or an MD. They see themselves as co-learners who facilitate the process of learning. Regardless of their discipline, all ISW teachers prioritize the student experience!

Campus

ISW's high school is located on ISW's Round Hill Road Campus. Our 10,000 square foot facility includes traditional classroom space, outdoor classroom space, a STEAM lab, and a black box theater that is student-run. With patios, a pavilion, a baseball diamond, and a soccer field, our 7-acre campus allows students to read, think, study, and play inside and outside.

Course Requirements

Math: 4 credits.

English: 4 credits.

Social Studies: 4 credits.

Science: 3 credits.

Foreign Language: 3 credits.

Benchmarks: 4 credits.

Studio Art: 1 credit over 4 years.

Physical Education and Health: 1 credit over 4 years.

Students who wish to earn the **Performing Arts Track Diploma** must meet all the regular graduation requirements as well as at least two of the following areas of study each year:

- Acting
- Dance and Movement for Stage, when offered.
- Choir

Students who wish to earn the **STEAM Track Diploma** must meet all the regular graduation requirements as well as the following:

- Four years of science classes
- Math through Precalculus
- One additional STEAM class per year



Service learning: Students satisfy this requirement through SGA's quarterly projects.

Genius hours: Several times a week, students schedules include Genius Hours, self-structured time to complete homework, work in groups, and meet with teachers. These time slots give students experience with time management in preparation for college.

Grading System: ISW is a member of the Mastery Transcript Consortium—an organization of some of the top independent schools in the country. Using a mastery-based system, progress reports detail student achievement in each class.

