

Woodward Academy

College Park, GA, United States



From a 1900 military-academy campus outside Atlanta, the largest independent day school in the country now spans two campuses and 23 counties

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	11/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The scale is the first thing that matters here. Woodward runs two campuses, serves children from age 3 to 18, and draws families from 23 counties. That gives it a range that few independent day schools can match. The Main Campus in College Park takes pupils from Pre-K to 12th Grade, while Woodward North in Johns Creek runs from Pre-K to 6th Grade. This is not a small, intimate school built around a single cohort and a single way of doing things; it is a *large, complex operation* with the advantages that size can buy. Those advantages are concrete: an average class size of 14, a *7:1* student-teacher ratio, *25*

AP classes**, more than 100 co-curriculars and 19 varsity sports. For parents who want breadth without boarding, Woodward has real force in the Atlanta market.

What sets it apart is the combination of scale and structure. Many big schools struggle to individualise; Woodward’s public case rests on doing exactly that, with differentiated academic challenge, support where needed, and serious programme depth across science, arts, sport and global study. The numbers back up the point better than the slogans do: 75 art performances a year, 10 or more annual international trips, four sister schools abroad and a Global Studies distinction at graduation. The community profile is also unusually explicit. The school states that 63% of students are of colour and that more than six faith traditions are represented. That matters. In a US independent-school market where plenty of schools still trade on polish and tradition, Woodward offers something *more modern and more metropolitan*.

The trade-off is obvious. A school this large will not suit families who want a *close-quarters, everyone-knows-everyone* atmosphere or a strongly idiosyncratic educational philosophy. Woodward is for pupils who want options, movement and room to define themselves over time: the sporty child who also wants robotics, the academic high-performer who wants AP depth, the artist who does not want to give up mainstream school life, the socially confident student who thrives in a big peer group. It also works for children who need genuine range before committing to a direction. At an average annual fee of **\$31,435**, it sits in the expensive end of the day-school market, but the proposition is clear: *serious breadth, serious resource, and no need to board* in order to get it. For many Atlanta-area families, that puts Woodward firmly on the shortlist.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Pre-K to Grade 12 on Main Campus • Woodward North offers Pre-K to Grade 6 • Average class size: 14 • Offers 25 AP classes	• Day school only; no boarding option • Main campus is in College Park • Johns Creek campus stops at Grade 6

ADMISSIONS

Woodward Academy is a non-religious American day school in College Park serving Pre-K to Grade 12, with a second Woodward North campus in Johns Creek for Pre-K to Grade 6. The clearest entry points, on the school's own presentation, are therefore Pre-K, Lower School, Middle School and Upper School. Publicly available material confirms the age range and campus structure, but Woodward does not publish detailed admissions mechanics in the material provided here: there is no confirmed public information on testing format, interview requirements or whether assessment varies by division.

Likewise, the school's website excerpt does not give fixed admissions deadlines, decision rounds or a published financial-aid/bursary framework, so parents should treat those points as needing direct confirmation from the school. What is distinctive, and relevant to selection, is the breadth of provision rather than any unusual admissions process: average class size of 14, 25 AP courses, more than 100 co-curriculars, 19 varsity sports, and a notably broad, diverse student body. Families considering Woodward should expect division-specific admissions arrangements rather than a single one-size-fits-all route.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_383b50e6b8.