

Maret School

Washington, D.C., United States



A Federal-era Woodley Park estate carries forward the French-language roots planted by three immigrant sisters in 1911.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	75/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	69/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A Federal-era estate in Woodley Park gives Maret a setting few Washington schools can match, but the more important distinction lies in its scale and temperament. This is a K-12 American day school with ****650 students****, a ****6:1**** student-teacher ratio and average classes of ****16****. Those numbers matter: they point to a school built around discussion, close reading and adults who know children well, not a large institution trying to impersonate intimacy. Maret’s own language leans hard on joy, creativity and connectedness; stripped of brochure gloss, the substance is clear enough. The school wants intellectually alert children who will speak up, test ideas, handle challenge and engage with other people’s views without collapsing into slogans.

What is special about Maret is the combination of *serious academic expectation* with a culture that does not prize polish for its own sake. The school states its commitment to healthy debate, reflection and self-evaluation, and it backs that with a K-12 wellness programme that covers identity, mental health, digital citizenship, physical health and sexuality. That breadth is not incidental. It signals a school that treats personal formation as part of the job, not a bolt-on pastoral slogan. The French roots in its 1911 founding add texture to the story, but parents should focus on the present-day reality: a non-religious, college-preparatory school accredited by NEASC and NAIS, with enough institutional confidence to put moral character, divergent viewpoints and social-emotional learning in the same frame as academic ambition.

Maret sits firmly in the *premium* end of the Washington day-school market. The average annual fee across the full K-12 ladder is **\$52,136**, which buys small classes, extensive adult attention and a complete through-school experience from age 5 to 18. That price demands scrutiny, and parents are right to ask what they get beyond a handsome campus and strong rhetoric. The answer is a *tight-knit*, high-expectation environment for bright, articulate students who like being known and challenged. Children who thrive here will enjoy seminar-style discussion, teacher access and a community that expects participation, self-awareness and range. Students who want anonymity, a huge campus culture or a more transactional version of academic success will find tighter fits elsewhere.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Three immigrant sisters, Marthe, Louise, and Jeanne Maret, left their home in Geneva, Switzerland at the turn of the twentieth century and created the school in 1911. making it one of the older established independent day schools in the capital. • The school's student-teacher ratio is 6:1, supporting small classes across the K-12 continuum on a single Woodley Park campus. • Students have gained acceptance to prestigious schools, including: Harvard University, Princeton University, Stanford University and Yale University. • Funded by a \$2 million endowment grant from the Malone Family Foundation, Malone Scholarships are granted to academically talented students whose families need at least 30% tuition assistance in order to afford Maret. • Maret School is an independent, non-sectarian, college-preparatory day school in Washington, DC with 650 students in grades K-12, giving families a single continuous school from kindergarten through graduation.	• Annual tuition for the Upper School at Maret School is \$53,545, making it one of the most expensive private schools in Washington, D.C. • With 650 students, a 20% acceptance rate, and a Woodley Park campus, Maret combines rigorous academics with genuine community warmth. This makes entry, especially outside the designated expansion grades, genuinely competitive. • Maret School is offering 4 AP courses. Families expecting a large menu of AP options for standardized international recognition should note this is a narrower formal AP offering than many peer schools. • Campus type: Urban, meaning facilities and outdoor space are more constrained than at larger suburban day or boarding campuses in the region.

ADMISSIONS

Maret admits chiefly at 'expansion grades' -- kindergarten, and grades 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9 -- where the exact number of openings for our expansion grades (K, 1, 4, 6, 7, 9) varies each year; other grades are considered only if a place arises. The admissions process is selective and includes academic records, teacher recommendations, student and parent essays, interviews, and school visits. Deadlines fall in early January (Application Deadline: Jan. 3 / Jan. 17), and with roughly a 20 percent acceptance rate, prospective families should apply early and expect a holistic, interview-based review rather than a single test-score cutoff.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (12)

MUSIC: Theodore Shapiro, Peter Matthew Bauer

DRAMA: Yeardley Smith, Josh Stamberg

LETTERS: Rosalind Wiseman, Christof Putzel

POLITICS: Dan van Holst Pellekaan

SCIENCE: Sonja Lyubomirsky, J. Lorand Matory

BUSINESS: Dan van Holst Pellekaan

WTS RATING 

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