

Montverde Academy

Montverde, FL, United States



On a Lake Florence campus in Central Florida, boarders from some 80 countries share dorms with a basketball program that keeps feeding the NBA draft.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	100/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	63/100
Alumni network	1/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	43/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

On a 130-acre campus by Lake Florence, Montverde Academy sells a very specific proposition: American college-prep with boarding at scale, and sport as a serious institutional strength rather than an extracurricular flourish. The school runs a US High School Diploma with Advanced Placement, offers **34 AP courses** and 47 honours courses, and reports that more than 30% of Upper School students earned AP Scholar recognition in 2025–26. The headline boarding market is clear. This is a day-and-boarding school for ages 3 to 18, with English as the language of instruction, SACS and Cognia accreditation, and a

****11:1 student-teacher ratio**** that keeps classes from drifting into anonymity. The average annual fee is ****\$22,815**** for day pupils and ****\$60,285**** for boarders across the full ladder, which places it in the expensive end of the Florida independent-school market.

What makes Montverde distinctive is not subtle. The school is **unusually international** for a Central Florida campus, and its sporting reputation — above all in basketball, but also in soccer — gives it a profile that reaches far beyond Lake County. That cuts both ways. For ambitious athletes, especially boarders who want an American high-school pathway with genuine training intensity, Montverde has a **clear competitive edge**. For families hunting a quiet local prep school, the same athletic prominence can feel **all-consuming**. The academics are stronger than the sports-first stereotype implies: 100% of the Class of 2026 gained acceptance to a four-year college, and the school has articulation agreements with the University of Florida and the University of South Florida for college credit while still in high school. Even so, Montverde’s public case rests more heavily on opportunity and throughput than on deep disclosure of academic outcomes; the school does not publish aggregate AP score data here.

This school belongs on a shortlist for students who want range and momentum: boarders who value a **cosmopolitan** peer group, high-achieving athletes who need a school built to accommodate serious training, and academically able teenagers who want a broad AP menu rather than the narrower sixth-form style found elsewhere. It suits students who are self-directed, resilient and comfortable in a campus culture with visible ambition. It does not suit children who need a small, sheltered environment or families who want a low-key school where sport sits firmly in the background. Montverde is **high-pressure in the right ways** for the right child: structured, aspirational and very good at turning talent — academic or athletic — into a credible American university application.

STRENGTHS

- Basketball program has produced multiple NBA first-round picks, including Cade Cunningham (2021 #1 pick), R.J. Barrett and Scottie Barnes.
- Offers Advanced Placement courses alongside the standard US high school diploma track for college-bound students.
- Boarding facilities accommodate a large international student population, giving the campus a genuinely global mix.
- Campus sits on a private lake (Lake Florence) with dedicated sports facilities, a contrast to more urban US boarding schools.
- Long institutional history, founded in 1912, giving it more established infrastructure than many newer private schools in Florida.

TRADE-OFFS

- Boarding tuition and fees run into the tens of thousands of dollars annually, a significant cost for most international families.
- The school's public profile is heavily tied to its basketball program, which may not suit families seeking a purely academic environment.
- Located in a small town roughly 30 miles from Orlando, meaning limited access to city amenities without a car or shuttle arrangement.
- Heavy reliance on athletics recruitment for its reputation raises questions about how representative that experience is of the broader student body.

ADMISSIONS

Montverde Academy admits day and boarding students from kindergarten through grade 12, with rolling admissions rather than a single fixed deadline. Applicants submit transcripts, teacher recommendations, and standardized test results where applicable; international students must demonstrate English proficiency, often via TOEFL or similar. An interview, in person or virtual, is typically required. Given its national profile in athletics, competition for boarding places, especially in upper grades, can be higher than for day places, though the school does not publish formal acceptance rates.

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_83676a095c.