

The Blake School

Minneapolis, United States



Forged from a 1974 merger of three Twin Cities schools, prized today for a nationally recognized debate program across its Hopkins and Minneapolis campuses.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	66/100
Academic outcomes	75/100
University placement	73/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	11/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	72/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The Blake School trades on substance, not scale. It runs across two campuses, in Hopkins and Minneapolis, with 1,330 students and a ****10:1**** student-teacher ratio, and that structure matters: this is a sizeable independent day school with enough critical mass to offer breadth, but not so much that students disappear into it. The school’s strongest public distinction is its debate programme, which has long carried national recognition and gives Blake a sharper identity than the usual independent-school catalogue of arts, sport and service. Academically, it offers the US High School Diploma with AP, and the

school describes its teaching as rigorous and its education as grounded in pluralism. That combination will appeal to families who want an American independent-school education with **clear intellectual ambition** and a civic, outward-facing frame rather than a narrowly transactional route to college.

This is also an expensive school. The average annual day fee across the full age range is ****US\$41,015****, which places Blake firmly in the top tier of the Minneapolis market. Parents paying that level will expect real range beyond the classroom, and Blake has it: visual arts, music, theatre and speech, organised athletics, global programmes, community engagement and nearly 100 clubs and activities. The staffing base is also substantial, with 350 faculty and staff serving students aged 3 to 18. That breadth supports students who want a **full-spectrum school life** rather than a purely academic hothouse. It also gives Blake a stronger all-round proposition than smaller college-prep schools whose identity rests on exam results alone.

The right student for Blake is bright, busy and willing to commit. This suits children who thrive in discussion-heavy classrooms, want access to serious co-curricular options, and value a school culture that talks openly about inclusion and pluralism. The debate strength will attract articulate, competitive students; the broad arts and activities menu will suit those with **multiple serious interests** who do not want to be forced into a single lane too early. Families looking for a tiny, intimate school or a low-pressure environment will find Blake demanding by both price and expectation. Families who want a **high-functioning**, academically serious day school with real breadth, a long institutional history dating to 1900, and recognised standing in the Twin Cities have good reason to keep it on the shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- Long-established Twin Cities institution tracing to 1900 and 1907 predecessor schools, merged into its current form in 1974, and a past National Blue Ribbon School recipient.
- Low student-teacher ratio of 9:1 with average class sizes of 15-16 students across the PK-12 program.
- Advanced Placement courses are offered in all core academic subjects, alongside a nationally recognized speech and debate program with recent state championship wins.
- Substantial need-based financial aid budget of roughly \$9.37 million awarded annually to about 26 percent of the student body.
- Diverse enrollment drawing from over 60 Twin Cities communities, with 38 percent of students identifying as students of color and 46 languages spoken at home.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition runs from roughly \$35,000 to over \$42,000 per year depending on grade, a significant cost even by US private day school standards.
- Day school only, with no boarding option, so relocating expatriate families must arrange local housing and daily transport rather than campus accommodation.
- Instruction is split across two separate campuses (Hopkins for PK-8, Minneapolis for grades 9-12), meaning families face a campus transition partway through a child's schooling.
- Reported acceptance rates sit near 50 percent, making admission moderately selective rather than automatic, particularly outside the standard entry-point grades.

ADMISSIONS

Blake's main entry points are pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, grade 4, grade 6 and grade 9, with occasional openings in other grades; roughly 175 new students enroll each year. Applications require a transcript, recommendation letters, a written component and typically an interview, which is recommended even when optional. Reported acceptance rates hover near 50 percent, indicating moderate rather than extreme selectivity. About a quarter of admitted families receive need-based financial assistance, and deadlines generally fall around late January.

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_ce1b2d9d62.