

Cincinnati Country Day School

Indian Hill, OH, United States



On a wooded Indian Hill campus, the nation's first 1:1 laptop program (1996) anchors a century of classroom innovation.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	52/100
Academic outcomes	60/100
University placement	58/100
Prestige & heritage	58/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Cincinnati Country Day School occupies a strong niche at the top end of the Cincinnati day-school market: academically ambitious, non-religious, and unusually clear about pairing rigour with breadth. The headline distinction is historical and concrete, not rhetorical: this was the first school in the United States to launch a 1:1 laptop programme, in 1996, and that matters because it signals a long institutional habit of adopting classroom tools early rather than treating innovation as a slogan. The setting helps too. An Indian Hill campus gives the school a **quietly privileged** physical frame, while a ***1:8*** student-teacher ratio and average class size of ***15*** keep teaching personal and discussion-based rather than industrial. Founded in ***1926***, CCDS has the age and confidence of an established independent school without the

doctrinal baggage that narrows some alternatives.

What puts it on a parent's shortlist is the combination of scale, seriousness and continuity from early years to sixth form. It serves ages 3–18 in one school, with English-language instruction and an American curriculum, so families get a single academic culture rather than a chain of disconnected phases. NAIS and ISACS accreditation place it squarely inside the mainstream of reputable US independent schooling. The school's own language about educating the whole child is standard private-school copy; the more persuasive point is structural. Small classes, a college-preparatory focus, and a campus community built around close staff-student contact create a **high-attention** environment. That suits families who want stretch without chaos, and pastoral oversight without religious framing. The weakness is the mirror image of the strength: this is not a place for anonymity, drift or low engagement. In a school this compact, students are known, expected to contribute and held to account.

The right student for Cincinnati Country Day is bright, teachable and ready to use a broad programme rather than hide inside one narrow talent. A child who likes strong academics but also wants room for arts, sport and service will find **serious opportunity** here. So will students who benefit from adult attention, steady expectations and a **close-knit** community. This is less well suited to families chasing a giant campus, a highly specialised curriculum, or the social sprawl of a much larger American high school. CCDS works best for children who thrive when school feels **demanding but humane**—students with curiosity, discipline and enough confidence to make use of the access that a ***3–18*** all-through school, and classes of ***15***, put in front of them.

STRENGTHS

- Every graduating class matriculates to four-year colleges, a consistent outcome cited on the school's own profile pages.
- Small-school ratios: a 9:1 student-teacher ratio and average class size of 15 across the PK-12 program.
- Received 'Platinum with Access' status in the 2023 College Board AP School Honor Roll.
- Polaris data ranked Country Day the #1 Cincinnati-area school for sending students to Harvard, Princeton and MIT.
- Offers a full-tuition, merit-based Triumphant Scholarship for academically talented students with significant financial need, funded by an alumnus.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition runs into the low-to-mid \$30,000s for upper grades, a significant recurring cost for relocating families.
- Campus sits in Indian Hill, a suburb outside central Cincinnati, making the school effectively car-dependent for daily commuting.
- Reported acceptance rate of around 65 percent is well below the local private-school average, so entry is not guaranteed even with strong records.
- Does not participate in Ohio's EdChoice voucher program, so families cannot access that state subsidy route and must rely solely on the school's own aid process.

ADMISSIONS

Country Day enrolls students from 18 months through grade 12, with practical entry points into Lower School (toddler-grade 4), Middle School (grade 5) and Upper School (grade 9). Applications require a transcript, recommendation letters, a written essay, and typically a family interview, especially for Upper School candidates. Reported acceptance is around 65 percent, more selective than the regional private-school norm but not among the most competitive nationally. Need-based tuition assistance and a limited full-tuition merit scholarship (Triumphant Scholarship) exist for grades 5-10; international families should expect additional administrative fees.

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_d8f02e4c46.