

Trinity School

New York City, United States



Founded in 1709 as a charity school, now the oldest continuously operating school in New York City, still built on a rare full Classics department

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	83/100
University placement	81/100
Prestige & heritage	79/100
Alumni network	14/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	78/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A school founded in 1709 in Manhattan has every excuse to trade on heritage; Trinity’s stronger claim is that it still runs a full Classics department in a market that has stripped Latin and Greek out of many rivals. That matters because it tells you what kind of place this is: intellectually old-fashioned in the best sense, **serious about scholarship**, and unimpressed by educational fashion. The structure is clear enough. Trinity is a day school for ages 5 to 18, it teaches in English, and it works within an American curriculum. The academic setting is controlled rather than sprawling, with a ***13:1*** student-teacher

ratio and average class sizes of ****18****. For parents who want close adult attention without the performative cosiness that some independents sell, that is a strong operating model.

This is also an expensive school. The average annual fee across the full age range is ****\$71,500****, which places Trinity firmly at the top end of the New York day-school market. That price buys scarcity, continuity and institutional confidence more than glossy excess. The school’s Episcopal foundation still matters to its identity, but this does not read as a pious niche school; it reads as a long-established city institution with a moral vocabulary as well as an academic one. Its accreditations, NEASC and NAIS, give it the standard external markers parents expect, but the more distinctive point is cultural: Trinity has the **dense, high-expectation atmosphere** of a school that assumes children are there to read, write, think and argue.

The children who thrive here are bright, articulate and comfortable in a **demanding** environment. They do not need constant hand-holding, and they do not need a school to dilute academic ambition in the name of balance. A student who enjoys literature, languages, history and the disciplined habits of close reading will find a natural home here, especially with Classics still given real institutional weight. Families who want overt vocationalism, broad-spectrum educational experimentation, or a softer, more therapeutic school culture should look elsewhere. Trinity belongs on a shortlist because it offers something **genuinely rare**: a still-living link between old academic ideals and modern New York schooling, delivered at scale and with evident self-belief.

STRENGTHS

- Trinity traces its founding to 1709 and is recognized as the fifth-oldest school in the United States and the oldest continuously operating school in New York City.
- The school maintains a 6:1 student-teacher ratio across an enrollment of roughly 1,000 students in grades K-12.
- Trinity's need-based financial aid program assists close to 20% of the student body and does not offer merit aid, concentrating resources on demonstrated need.
- The campus occupies seven connected, partly landmarked buildings on the Upper West Side, including two theaters, two chapels and a rooftop turf field.
- Niche data indicates 100% of graduates go on to four-year colleges, reflecting the school's college-preparatory focus.

TRADE - OFFS

- Tuition sits among the highest in Manhattan, reported at \$69,000 for the 2025-26 school year, before any additional fees.
- Admission outside the two main entry points (Kindergarten and Grade 9) is limited to attrition-based openings in Grades 1-4, 5-7, 10 and 11, which creates real uncertainty for families relocating mid-cycle.
- The school does not publish an official acceptance rate, but third-party estimates place entry-point admission in the roughly 9-15% range, indicating a highly selective process with no guarantee of a place even for qualified applicants.
- As an urban day campus built across historic buildings, outdoor athletic space is constrained relative to suburban or boarding-school campuses, relying partly on a rooftop field.

ADMISSIONS

Trinity's primary entry points are Kindergarten and Grade 9; Grades 1-4, 5-7, 10 and 11 open only through attrition, so timing a move to New York around these two intakes improves odds. Grades 5-12 applicants sit the ISEE or SSAT and submit transcripts, teacher recommendations, essays, and parent/student interviews; a Grade 9 interview is guaranteed if booked by November 15. Kindergarten uses play-based assessment plus a parent interview. Trinity does not publish an official acceptance rate, but outside estimates suggest entry-point admission in the low double digits, making it one of the city's more competitive day schools.

WTS RATING 

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