

There are no limits for learners at Ravenscroft.









Consider the raven.

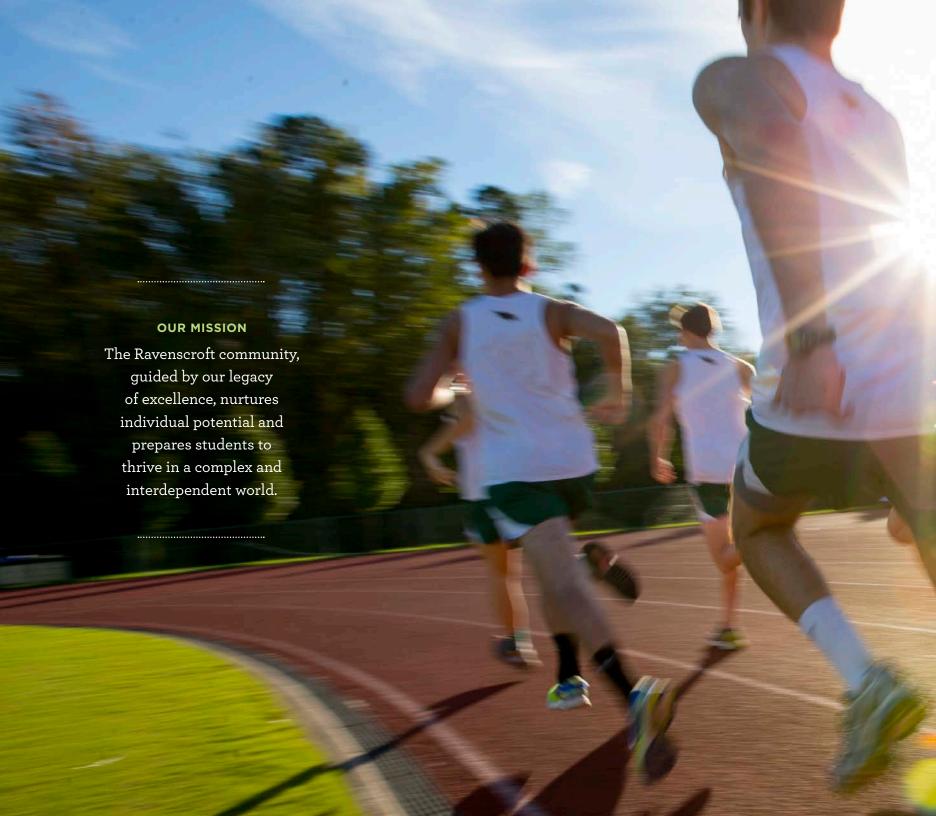
To see it in the sky, one is struck by its strength, grace, and sheer athleticism. Scientists describe the raven as highly intelligent, confident, and inquisitive. Though they are independent, ravens are very connected with strong social bonds to the flock.

It's no wonder the raven is such a fine symbol for

Ravenscroft. Here we foster intellectual, artistic, and athletic inquiry built on hands-on experimentation and practice. We value independent thinking in the context of our strong social fabric, which is inclusive and supportive of all students.

Ravens are keen observers of life around them. This is how we watch over our students. Every student is known here; we have a place for everyone in our flock.







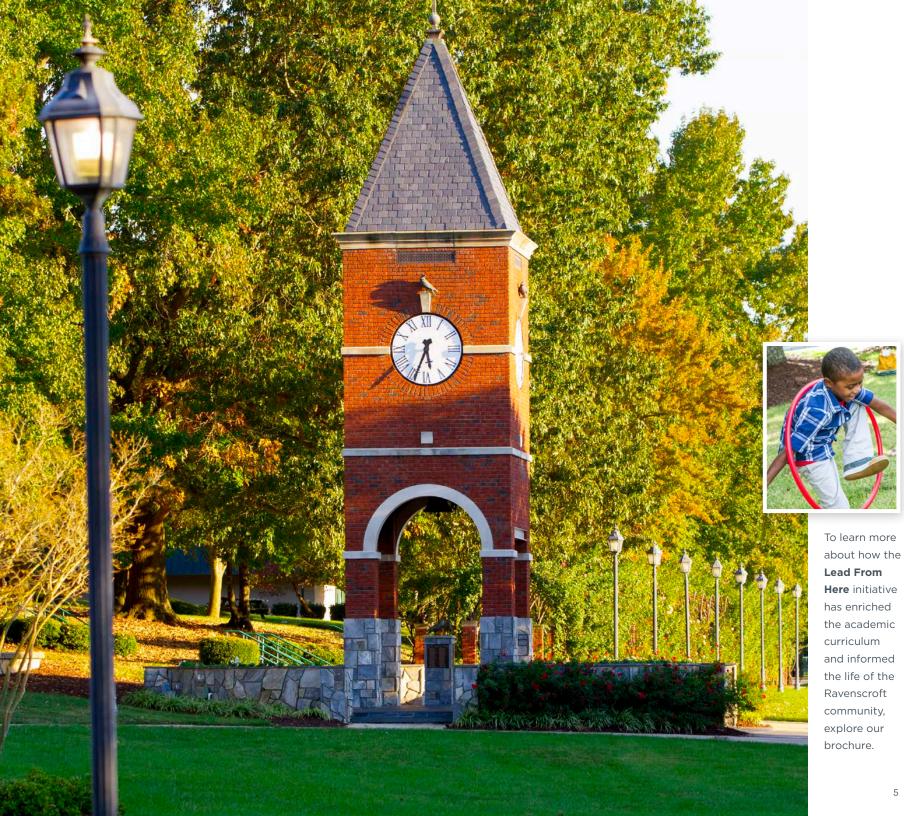
Learners to Leaders

Accountability, integrity, empathy, self-awareness—these are traits we want to nurture in our children. A Ravenscroft education has these values at its core, and through **Lead From Here**, a unique program that has transformed our curriculum, we can instill these values in our students, teaching them to exercise leadership skills and equipping them to become citizen leaders in a complex and interdependent world.

Can leadership skills be taught? The answer is yes. Lead From Here is a pioneering PreK–12 program, developed through our unique partnership with the Center for Creative Leadership,* that teaches leadership skills to children of all ages. Students have the opportunity from the earliest age to actively participate with their peers in a curriculum that will draw on and develop skills like collaboration, accountability, strategic thinking, and leadership.

Lead From Here enhances Ravenscroft's rigorous academic program and helps develop children who are confident and have high aspirations—they will thrive as students today and change the world of tomorrow as adults.













Out of the nest



This is where the journey begins—where young people learn, through work and play, to listen, to collaborate, and to begin to see themselves as part of a larger community.

Children see that learning can be fun. We create a learning experience that captures children's hearts and minds and instills in them the habits of learning that will set the stage for their success throughout their school years.

The Workshop Model best serves our goal of individualized instruction. The teacher introduces a concept or skill to the entire group, then breaks the class into small groups and tailors the instruction to the needs of those particular learners.

We meet children where they are and help them develop at their own pace and in their own time.





Writer's Workshop begins in prekindergarten, and from then on, students engage in the craft of writing and see themselves as writers.

A Loving Start

Clark the Shark is a favorite book in Lana

DuBose's kindergarten class. Because Clark is afraid of the dark, "the students can connect and relate his experience to their own lives," she says. "It also helps them to see how friends support each other and work together."

DuBose has been a kindergarten teacher for 16 years. Her classroom is warm, colorful, and inviting. "It has been my goal to create a fun and loving environment where students feel empowered and encouraged to be their best. It is important to me that children learn to love school and see school as the best place to be."

These kindergarteners surely do love school and they love their teacher. When DuBose walks through the hallways, many of her former students run up to her and give her a hug. "They say, 'We miss you, Mrs. DuBose!' They know that I truly care about them and that I want to see them continue to strive for excellence."



Young ravens are fond of playing games with sticks, repeatedly dropping them, then diving to catch them in midair.





BUILDING BLOCKS

1 We build a strong foundation

We create successful, happy, good learners

Through Lead From Here, we cultivate citizen leadership at an early age

2 We meet students where they are

Differentiated instruction is delivered through reading, writing, and math workshops

We continually monitor student progress and adjust teaching to best meet student needs

Our program is rich and robust

Offerings include fine arts classes and instrumental private lessons

Regular physical movement through PE and daily recess

Science, technology, and digital media labs used to further learning

4 Student safety is paramount

Life inside and outside the classroom is emotionally and physically safe

Lower School building secured through card access system

Safety monitors on campus all day









"I want to go to school my whole life.

I love Ravenscroft." - LOWER SCHOOL STUDENT

A World of Wonders

A stuffed, red-tailed hawk is perching near the ceiling of Lower School science teacher Patrick Knox's classroom. Nests and eggs, skeletons and rocks, branches and flowers—a riot of nature turns this classroom into a thrilling wonderland for students of all ages. A couple of stuffed foxes watch over the joyful activity, as does a live bearded dragon named Fanta as he suns in his large glass terrarium.

Today, Jessalyn Crawford's second graders are making pocket sundials, cutting blocks of wood, drilling holes, and installing a hinge and a string gnomon.

A revolving model of the moon and earth (1:20,000,000 scale) is currently captivating the third graders. Kindergarteners are making humming bees. Fourth graders are making a cedar necklace, counting the rings along the way. They are astounded that a one-inch cedar branch might be 30–40 years old. Everything is an amazement with Mr. Knox!





HOW I LEARNED TO LOVE READING

In third grade, my teacher, Mrs. Schulze, insisted that I read a book, *Hatchet*, about a boy who is going to stay with his dad, but his plane crashes in the middle of the forest. At the time, I was NOT into reading big chapter books. At least there was one up side; in the corner of the room there are two recliners, and I got to sit in one of them every time I read.

When I started, I wasn't exactly jumping for joy. But, as I got further into the book, it just got better and better. I looked forward to reading it every day! It was interesting, adventurous, exciting, and was such a page-turner. I was thinking, "Wait, pull back on the reins, this book is good?" But it wasn't only good, it was great! I loved that book. I was into it so much that I even did a report on the author!

Since reading *Hatchet*, I read long chapter books all the time! From that experience I learned that I should play outside my comfort zone and try new things. Now, I basically don't have a comfort zone. I'm trying new foods, exercising more, and I even tried mountain biking! I wonder what will come next?

Fifth grader **MATT '22** looking back on third grade.



Learning to fly

Middle School is an entry point and a bridge. At one end Lower School students are eased into the sixth grade with all its exciting changes and new independence. At the other end, eighth graders have gained the confidence and skills to step up into high school.

Classrooms are busy with activity—both physical and mental—with energetic students engaged with the material, with each other, and with their teachers.

Go into any classroom and you'll see active, joyful learning. We encourage hands-on practice and experimentation in not only the science labs and the playing fields, but in creative writing and in the many electives like art journaling or North Carolina folklore.









SPANISH SPOKEN HERE [AND MANDARIN AND LATIN AND...]

Languages and culture are woven into the school day from the earliest grades. One day during Hispanic Heritage month, Lower School started with an international zing. During morning announcements, Laurel climbed up onto a stool, so she could reach a microphone.

"Today is Friday, October 8," Laurel said. "Buenos días!" She pressed a button on a tape recorder. "Now let's dance!"

During Chinese New Year, Ginny Lam brought in red envelopes for her Middle School students to teach them about how her culture celebrated the New Year.

"This is our custom for sharing good wishes for happiness, health, and prosperity," she explained. "Our red envelopes are filled with candies and notes." It's a fun new tradition to embrace!

By Middle School, students can take Spanish, Latin, or Mandarin. And they also have the opportunity to join Global Travel programs and visit places like Costa Rica, Italy, and Amsterdam.

By Upper School, French, Ancient Greek, and courses in culture, conversation, and literature are added to the curriculum at all levels, including AP and Honors courses.



BUILDING BLOCKS

1 In our small community everyone is known

There's a place here for everyone Small advisory groups and classes

Friendships are forged that can last a lifetime

2 Our choice of electives is comprehensive

STEM+ courses at many levels Hands-on work in MakersSpace

Develop student passions in video editing, art journaling, folklore, and more

Classes are tailored to individual interests

Varied levels of math and language arts offered per grade

Student-centered learning that is inquiry based

Daily tutorials, study halls, and math lab available

4 The world opens to our students

Language courses introduced early, including Mandarin

Global studies explored across the disciplines

World travel programs enhance the curriculum



electives offered in the Middle School

Catapulting into Science

A trebuchet is a medieval catapult designed to hurl missiles used in warfare. Today, it is hurling a Styrofoam ball as part of Think It! Design It!

Make It!—a STEM+ elective. Tim Phillips' Middle School class has designed and built a trebuchet and now they are testing it.

This class is heavy on physics and students are getting hands-on building skills. But the fun part is about to begin.

"Maybe I'll get lucky and hit my brother!" exclaims one student eyeing his brother among the soccer players in a nearby field. No such luck, as this group's Styrofoam ball launches high and floats down softly, landing about four feet in front of them.

"You made progress on the trajectory today," encourages Phillips. "But you've got to get it going forward instead of up!" They tinker with the design; one student wonders if they should exchange a washer with an L-hook. They substitute a golf ball hoping for more distance.

"Can you imagine it soaked in asphalt and flaming, taking down the enemy?" asks Phillips.

Their eyes shine. They sure can.



Ravens have the ability to make logical connections, much like human beings.



FROG IN THE BUCKET, DING DONG

Their task for the Science Olympiad—a science elective—is to flip a plastic frog into a bucket using a rolling item, a ramp, and a moving part. One group in Janet Vande Berg's Middle School science class designed a hair-raising course: A marble drops through a tube and goes around a dog collar, through a switch pipe, and up an incline plane, where it knocks over a row of standing dominos, which hits the bottom of a cup, upon whose rim Froggie sits, and ribbit—he flies into the bucket.

Sounds easy, right? *Not*. The kids start the experiment and giggle and jump with excitement as the marble follows their course. But when it hits the bottom of the cup, instead of propelling the frog into the bucket, the cup topples over and jams the tube. "OOOOHHH!" exclaims the little group of intrepid scientists. They regroup and come up with another approach.

Okay, back to the starting blocks, which takes repeated attempts as the dominoes keep tipping prematurely, and then it's back to square one.

But square one is finally reached, the marble drops, and hallelujah! Everything goes like clockwork—the frog is knocked into the bucket and the bell rings. Victory!



"I love it when students find connections to how we came to be the kind of people we are today."

CORI GREER-BANKS, History Instructor, Middle School

Dig Deeper

When they were studying early human forms in world history, the students in Cori Greer-Banks' World History class surprised her by asking, "What do you think humans will look like a hundred years from now?"

"The kids started to dig in and research possibility," said Greer-Banks. "It was totally not part of the lesson plan, but it was amazing!"

A required history class for eighth graders, it encourages this kind of spontaneous questioning and student-initiated query. The class has mostly dispensed with textbooks, relying instead on videos, Ted Talks, music, articles, and the latest research.

In one unit, the class went out with archaeology tools and were assigned dig sites. The students remember the day well. One remarked, "At each site there were artifacts that we had to dig up and piece together. We found out that what we had done was just what archaeologists did!"

"I love it when students find connections to how we came to be the kind of people we are today," writes Greer-Banks. "It's kind of like watching students put together a puzzle."









Taking to the sky

Life isn't about being tested for the answers.

It's about developing your own answers.

It's true, we do wonderful things with very motivated students. They are offered an enormous choice of AP and Honors-level courses and electives, and benefit from the mentoring of outstanding teachers and the guidance of skilled college counselors. The sheer breadth of our academic offerings allows students to pursue their interests wherever they lead them.

But we do wonderful things with all students. There are many roads to success and we help guide our students to find the one that is the best fit for their own unique talents and ambitions.

One of the hallmarks of a Ravenscroft education is that our students graduate remarkably well-prepared for college. But it's not all about the outcome—it's about the journey and what we learn along the way.



An advisor is assigned to each Upper School student. Through these close relationships, confidence grows and students are gradually prepared to advocate for themselves now and effectively once in college.

Rethinking the Monster in Literature

Why are we so fascinated with horrible things?

That's a question English teacher Nicole Moore asked herself as she contemplated the barrage of murder and mayhem she saw on television and in the movies, and wondered about her own fascination with it all.

She observed that it seemed built into the culture, starting early with nursery rhymes like *Rockabye Baby*, where the baby falls out of the tree, or *Ring Around the Rosie*, which is thought to be about the Plague.

So she created a course to think about these issues. The 15 seniors taking Literary Monsters read *Grimm's Fairy Tales* and Shakespeare's *Titus*

Andronicus, and Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray and Gram Stoker's Dracula; they watch the film Capote and discuss sanitized Disney movies, where fairy tales are scrubbed and rosy.

"I look forward to her class every day," says Lucy. "Ms. Moore creates an interactive, fascinating classroom environment where we ponder why humans are so drawn to horror stories and to experiences that evoke intense fear."

Moore urges her students to reflect whether this is learned behavior or instinctual. Do we need to watch tragedies and horror to record others' responses to learn from them in order to spare ourselves from having similar experiences?

Honors courses

24 AP courses



STAR STRUCK

At two years old, Allison '17 was captivated by the moon and the stars. She still is. Allison's extracurricular experiences have included a stint at Duke's Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, and more recently three weeks at the Experimental Physics Research Academy at the University of Pennsylvania. That experience, she says, "confirmed my desire to study physics in college."

Allison has taken full advantage of Ravenscroft's wide range of STEM+ courses at an advanced level, and enjoys the support and advice of her teachers.

"Mr. Karny is a special mentor to me," Allison says. "He has been my chemistry teacher for the past two years in Honors and AP chemistry. In addition to being a brilliant teacher, Mr. Karny is a kind and thoughtful mentor who, beyond supporting me in all of my endeavors, always makes my day better."

"Every faculty member is here because they love their subject, but they love the kids first."

- KAT BELK, MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR, UPPER SCHOOL





BUILDING BLOCKS

1 Our range of courses is comprehensive

24 AP courses available

Electives like Sports Medicine and Honors Engineering

Award-winning literary magazine

2 Tailor your own academic journey

Independent study allows for individual choice

Over 35 clubs to choose among

Study Halls promote time management and flexibility

Academic advisors support success

Faculty advisors help guide journey

Students stay with their advisor for four years

Advisors know their advisees well and have daily contact

4 College preparation is part of the package

Experienced college counselors have a great success rate matching students with appropriate, "right fit" colleges

Looking Back, Moving Forward

"So if the American Revolution had not happened,

would there have been a French Revolution?"

A student posed this question in the elective course Advanced Placement European History, and teacher Mary Beth Immediata watched with satisfaction as 11 students, mostly sophomores, discussed the impact of the intertwined political, economic, and social factors.

"It is this ability to introduce rigorous historical thinking skills," Immediata says, "that is so exciting." In this high-level class, she says students learn to apply "chronological reasoning, comparison, contextualization, analysis, and synthesis." She helps the students see connections to their own time.

Immediata, a 25-year veteran at Ravenscroft, says teaching is "my vocation and my calling." Students seem to agree; they flock to her classes and many keep in touch long after graduation.

"Students are in the process of becoming, of selfdiscovery," says Immediata. "We are privileged to guide that journey."



From sixth grade on, each student receives a Chromebook and uses Google Apps for Education to help facilitate collaborative learning.

Fine Arts

If you can read this: thank your music teacher.



This is a bumper sticker message that resonates with David McChesney, Director of Fine Arts, because it says a lot about the goals and philosophy of the fine arts program at Ravenscroft.

"We want to develop the next generation of people that value the arts within society," he explains. "Art is integral to everything we do here. It is part of the fabric of life on campus."

Fine Arts begin Day 1 at Ravenscroft. All kindergarteners take violin lessons, and from then until senior year, the music, theater, and visual art choices are enormous. The breadth of the program, across all the disciplines, is enriched even more by the presence of Artists in Residence and Visiting Artists.

Many students take advantage of the private lessons offered in a host of instruments and in voice. This increases their skills for participating in the many creative musical and theatrical performing groups, some of which compete on a national stage.





A MUSICAL MOMENT

"Timpani, that can be a lot bigger!" calls out band instructor Bill Pendergrass during the Upper School Band's rehearsal of "Among the Clouds" by Brian Balmage.

"Mezzo forte!" Pendergrass cries as they resume. The timpani now thunder and Pendergrass nods approvingly. Triangles ring, chimes clang, and he grins as the cymbals crash.

He nods vigorously to the French horns as they take the melody. "This is the French horns' moment," he tells the band, "so get out of their way!" Trumpets, flutes, bass—everyone has his or her moment as the piece surges to its stirring conclusion.

"Not bad," admits Pendergrass. The musicians sit back, smile at each other, satisfied.

Earlier in the day, a Middle School student confided that "Mr. Pendergrass can turn you into a musician even if you've never touched an instrument before. And he has fun doing it."





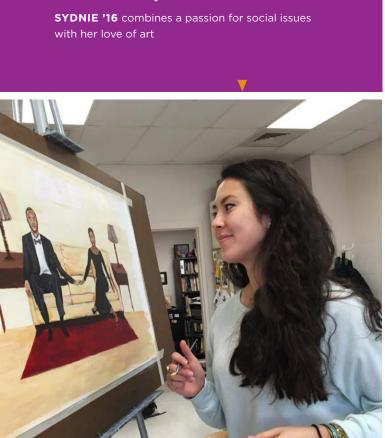


"I am always encouraged to go beyond my limits, to try new things and not to be afraid that I may fail. We are all one great big family in the fine arts building."

GABBY '17 played Princess Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*



"This year I have been free to explore my own choice of medium and subjects. I am working on a series of portraits and figure paintings of "family members" who serve as a microcosm of the black identity in America."









MUSIC ENSEMBLES

band choir

strings

private lessons

VISUAL ARTS

foundations

drawing & painting

photography

AP studio art





Athletics & PE

The satisfactions taken from sports go

far beyond winning a game or a season, though Ravenscroft's athletes have many a championship under their belts. It is about learning cooperation and common purpose; training the body and the mind; being gracious in both victory and defeat. There's a reason why sports play such an important role in our culture—they teach us about life.

At Ravenscroft, our students' physical well-being is as important as their intellectual growth.

In the early years, physical activity—both in the classroom and at recess and in regular PE classes—is a key part of most days for students. By seventh grade, students can go out for one of 25 sports (girls and boys) and 53 teams.

Student-athletes form life-long friendships with teammates and can develop meaningful and important relationships with their coaches, whose role is not only to teach them skills in their sports at the highest level, but to guide them as people and arm them with skills for success in life.





MY PRECIOUS RIVAL

Raising my hands above my head, I draw in a long breath of springtime air. With the soft warmth of the evening sun draping itself on my shoulders, I reach down to grab my 14'6" fiberglass pole. It glints in the sunlight as it settles into position. All the preparations are completed, all rituals performed, and all prayers whispered. It was finally go time. Almost effortlessly, I lean back and lift the large pole high in the air. The wind stills, and I run.

My third year pole vaulting ended on a bittersweet note. I placed second in the independent school state meet, right behind my teammate Josh. We had both cleared the same height, 13'6", but I had taken an extra two attempts. The tiebreaker determined him the winner. While I was excited for Josh, I could never quite bury the resentment I held in my heart.

We continued to trade wins back and forth the rest of the next season. I trained with renewed vigor, but despite my efforts it wasn't I who broke the record, but Josh.

Why couldn't I win? What was happening?

Then the day I was attempting 14'7", Josh wasn't even able to clear his opening height. I saw him smiling straight at me.

In this moment, I realized Josh wasn't some enemy I had to defeat, but rather a precious rival. Without him, I never would have worked as hard and accomplished as much as I did.

Returning his smile, I let my muscles relax as I shift my focus to the mat ahead of me. Bounding down the runway with the evening sun on my shoulders, the world comes to a halt. I lower the fiberglass beam as I run, and like sweet poetry the rest falls into place.

Clack. Tap. *Woosh*. The vault was over. I cleared the bar with ease. I ran off the mat, and hugged Josh.

GARRETT '14





SPORTS TEAMS

Baseball Basketball — boys and girls Cheerleading Cross Country boys and girls Field Hockey Football Golf — boys and girls Lacrosse — boys and girls Soccer — boys and girls Softball Swimming — boys and girls Tennis — boys and girls Track & Field — boys and girls Volleyball — girls Wrestling

State Championships









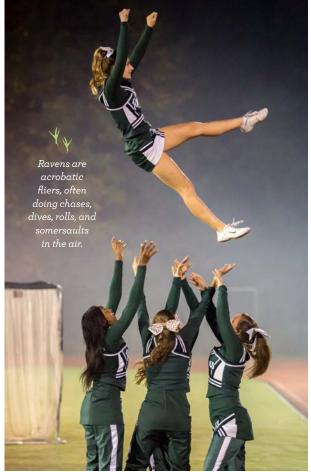


"The first lesson I had to remember on a daily basis: never ask your teammates to do something that you are not already doing yourself."

GRACE '12 Cross Country









ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Aquatic Center, 6 lanes and upper-deck viewing

Fitness and weight training

4 gyms

3 lighted stadiums

6 lighted tennis courts

8-lane rubberized track

2 training rooms (indoor and outdoor)

2 wrestling rooms

Softball field

Cross-country trail

Practice fields

2 team meeting rooms

Beyond the Classroom

SERVICE

You Are Never Too Young to Help

Nearly everyone at Ravenscroft gets involved in service of some kind. Last year, Ravenscroft students contributed more than 23,000 hours of community service. By helping others, students learn to look beyond themselves, to develop empathy, and to take an active role in positively shaping their community and the larger world around them. These are part of our core values—teaching students what it means to

be a responsible citizen and nurturing them through our Lead From Here initiative to take a leadership role in making their world a better one.

One of the highlights of the year is the annual Special Olympics of Wake County. More than 650 athletes compete each day during the event, and Ravenscroft's students, faculty, staff, and parents are involved in every facet of volunteering.



"Special Olympics was a great experience for all of us. As a parent you just want to be there.

The students are so involved; they love it and recognize how important it is." — PARENT

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Citizens of the World

At Ravenscroft, we place a premium on preparing young people for an increasingly interdependent, global world. Through our Lead From Here initiative, we help students build valuable skills to help them take their place in a new economy built on interconnectivity and global perspective. As the research and data from the Center for Creative Leadership shows, these are increasingly vital skills in our world.

Ravenscroft has a commitment to instill in its students an awareness of their place in this complex world, and to help them see themselves as global citizens. This is evident in all aspects of life at the school.

Our global programming is woven into all three of our divisions and includes academic studies, cultural immersion, language proficiency, research opportunities, and service learning. It also includes many travel and study opportunities for Middle and Upper School students, which can offer profound lessons and can help shape and expand their worldview.

We are committed to making our own community more diverse and culturally inclusive. In 2015, students from 34 different countries were represented on campus. Students and their families help us celebrate internationalism through International Day and through hosting opportunities and clubs.

For students passionate about global issues, we offer an International Diploma—a distinction awarded after completion of academic and extracurricular requirements that demonstrate a mastery of, and commitment to, global issues.



PEOPLE ARE JUST PEOPLE

I lived in Mexico for a few years when I was younger, so I love speaking Spanish, and I have hosted an exchange student from Spain three times.

Something that really struck me about my trip to Spain was the rich history that they have. One weekend, my host family took me to visit Ávila, which is the last walled city in the world with its wall completely intact. My host's grandmother was actually from that city, and they gave me a history lesson on the city dating back hundreds of years.

What I got from the experience, and I know that it will sound kind of cliché, is that everywhere you go, people are just people. Even though their country has a much longer history than ours and their culture is different, they were still just regular people.

I still keep in touch with my most recent exchange student Fernando and several of the other students from when I went. We text each other in a mixture of Spanish and English, so it is a good way to keep up my Spanish vocabulary. I've noticed that holding a conversation in Spanish in my Spanish class is much easier now that I've gone to Spain and been completely immersed in the language.

KOBI '18 went to Spain to participate in the exchange program with Amanecer School in Madrid. Seen above just outside the walled city of Ávila, Spain.



COLLEGE

The Right Fit for You

Through our broad curriculum and strong academic program, informed as it is by our core values and the Lead From Here initiative, students have been encouraged to think creatively, to take on leadership roles, and to collaborate with their peers. This makes them very attractive to colleges and prepares them for their adult lives as informed and responsible citizens.

Our college matriculation list is the best evidence for the preparation of our students, as it includes some of the most selective colleges in the country.

Starting first semester of ninth grade, our three fulltime college counselors support students and families in preparing for college and encourage students to consider a broad range of options to best suit their abilities and academic goals.

One teacher called our counseling program "a huge jewel in our crown." An outside reviewing agency agreed, naming Ravenscroft's program "one of the best college counseling departments in the country."



There's no better way to learn about Ravenscroft than to come in person. Come walk the hallways, chat with our students and teachers, stroll around our 135-acre campus, and visit a class or team practice. **Visit our website** to see tour dates and information sessions. www.ravenscroft.org

Or give us a call at: **919-848-6470**

Ravenscroft School admits students of any race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin, or any legally protected status in the administration of the school's admissions, financial aid, or scholarships; or of its educational, athletic, or other school-administered programs, policies, or plans.

