



ROYCEMORE

Proud history
Inspired future

Upper School Guide



Upper School Priorities & Goals

Our Upper School teachers believe that if adolescents are to achieve their full potential, they need and deserve an educational setting where each student is known personally, coursework is interesting and challenging, access to extracurricular activities is unrestricted, students establish positive relationships with peers and adults, character development is discussed openly and candidly, and accountability, self-awareness, and independence are nurtured in preparation for success in college and beyond.

Within the context of Roycemore School's overall mission, the Upper School program is rooted in the following academic, personal, and social growth objectives:

Academic Growth

- Helping students develop an awareness of how they best learn, what their abilities, strengths and challenges are, and encouraging students to use this awareness and knowledge for academic success
- Nourishing in our students an enthusiasm for learning, and encouraging students to use higher level thinking to solve a problem, even though doing so may mean refusing to settle for the easy answer
- Developing in students the following abilities: to read, write, and think critically; to analyze diverse sources and types of information and to judge the validity of those sources
- Encouraging and instructing students to use creativity and flexibility to learn from mistakes and failures
- Giving students the opportunity to collaborate with others
- Instilling the belief that fine arts and cultural study is an integral part of a complete life
- Encouraging students to integrate all their knowledge, whether gained in or out of a classroom

Personal Growth

- Teaching and developing skills we believe are essential for personal success and happiness, such as: integrity, appreciation, problem solving, resilience, pride, follow-through, and responsibility
- Developing strong, self-reliant individuals who express their beliefs with respect for themselves and others
- Encouraging each student to become a well-rounded, educated, productive citizen empowered to make meaningful contributions to society

Social Growth

- Building a sense of community and school spirit
- Encouraging every student's involvement in extracurricular activities
- Providing opportunities for students to become positive leaders who can learn to adapt their leadership style to the given circumstance
- Instilling in students the knowledge that we all have valuable contributions to make to the greater good; therefore, finding ways to collaborate with those who have differing perspectives is essential
- Understanding that respect for oneself, as well as respect and empathy for others, is necessary to become positive members of society
- Developing an awareness of their roles within a community and a sense of responsibility to both that community and the greater society

Robert Eisner Distinguished Scholar Program

Roycemore awards up to three new **full-tuition scholarships** each year, based on a student's demonstrated academic achievement and outstanding leadership abilities. The scholarship is renewed for each subsequent year as long as the student maintains a 3.5 grade point average and contributes positively to the school community.

Students entering Grade 9 or 10 during the upcoming academic year may apply. The student must have scored at the 95th percentile or better on either the total math and/or the total verbal section of a nationally normed, standardized achievement test and have maintained a superior academic record.

All Robert Eisner Distinguished Scholar applicants must take a standardized achievement test administered at Roycemore School in January. Finalists will be invited to return to Roycemore for a personal interview. Award winners will be selected by an independent Robert Eisner Distinguished Scholar Program committee and are announced in March.

Curriculum Overview

The goal of the curriculum is the education of the individual student in preparation for success in college. To this end the school promotes an active advisory program to encourage, aid, and guide the student in recognizing and fulfilling his or her unique potential. The school emphasizes the importance of introducing the individual student to a broad range of studies in preparation for success in college.

The curriculum fosters the acquisition of the verbal, quantitative, and aesthetic skills necessary for a meaningful intellectual life through the reading and writing of English and foreign language; the study of mathematics, the physical sciences, and fine arts; and the development of physical skills vital for health and recreation. The curriculum encourages the creative exploration of cultural ideas with an understanding of their genesis and development. Roycemore believes that a well-rounded high school experience, in which adolescents engage in a number of activities of interest to them, leads to increased independence and personal responsibility. Pursuing a relevant, challenging course of study not only prepares students for college, but enhances their current and future quality of life.

Roycemore's school-wide curriculum is kept up-to-date by faculty Curriculum Committees in each subject area that convene throughout the year to ensure coherence, relevance and suitability for college-bound students. Roycemore teachers are committed to ongoing professional development.

Advisory Program

The advisory program is a key feature of Roycemore's Upper School. Each student chooses a faculty advisor in the fall, and the two work closely together throughout the year. The relationship focuses on two broad categories of school related issues. First, advisors help students with academic planning. This includes selecting appropriate courses for each semester, designing annual January Short Term projects, and formulating college plans. Second, their advisors work with students in less structured areas which could include helping them to set realistic long- and short-term goals, to evaluate their progress, to develop strong study habits, to become involved in extracurricular activities, and in general to budget their time and energy in order to respond most effectively to the multitude of demands placed on them.

Each week, students with a common advisor meet together. As a small group, they discuss a weekly topic with relevance to adolescents, intended to promote empathy, thinking about ethics, and sound decision-making.

Students and their parents are free to consult with any member of the faculty and administration, but they are likely to turn to advisors first. Advisors submit two formal written reports to parents during the year, sharing goals, commenting on overall student progress, and reporting on how small group Advisory sessions were spent.

Course Offerings

(Ask for a copy of the current Curriculum Guide for complete course descriptions)

English

African American Literature
American Literature
Comedy/Tragedy
English Composition - AP
English Literature - AP
Foundations of English
The Hero's Journey
Mythology and Epics
Romantic Impulse
Story and Structure
World Literature

Fine Arts

Chorus
Drawing and Painting
Improvisation and Acting Techniques
Music Composition - Individual Study
Music History
Music Theory - Introductory
Music Theory - AP
Pottery
Sculpture
Studio Art - AP

Foreign Language

French I through IV
French Language - AP
Spanish I through IV
Spanish Language - AP

Mathematics

Algebra I
Algebra II with Coordinate Geometry
and Trigonometry
Applied Geometry
Calculus AB - AP
Calculus at Northwestern University
Euclidean Geometry
Introduction to Algebra II
Pre-Calculus
Statistics
Statistics - AP

Physical Education

Roycemore believes in the value of physical education. All Upper School students must earn at least 1 year of credit in a PE class, and are strongly encouraged to take part in a variety of physical activities including soccer, volleyball, basketball, cross country, and tumbling.

Science

Anatomy and Physiology
Biology
Biology - AP
Chemistry: Principles and Properties
Chemistry - AP
Earth and Space Science
Introduction to Chemistry
Introduction to Physics
Physics
Physics I - AP
Physics II - AP

Social Studies

Contemporary Politics
Cultural Anthropology
European History - AP
Gender Studies
International Relations
Law and Society
Modern European History
Psychology - AP
Social and Abnormal Psychology
United States Government and Politics
United States History
United States History - AP
World History
World Religions

College Preparation

Even before Junior year, future Roycemore graduates and their families begin the very personal process of planning for college with our Coordinator of College Counseling. The College Counselor draws from her own personal experiences with many of the students as an active member of the Upper School faculty, as well as input from advisors and teachers, to offer counseling regarding the best college choices based on a student's personality, desires, and academic record.

A distinct advantage to attending a high school Roycemore's size is the level of care that goes into compiling a student's recommendations. Our College Counselor spends time really getting to know each student before compiling a list or writing a letter. Typically, 100% of Roycemore's graduates are accepted to colleges of their choice across the country.

Advanced Placement

The Advanced Placement Program consists of college level courses based on course descriptions designed by the College Board for highly motivated students. AP courses are offered at Roycemore, and taught by the school's own experienced, talented faculty. For many, undertaking this challenging work has become the norm and Roycemore students perform very well on the end-of-year Advanced Placement examinations.

Roycemore offers college level work in Studio Art, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Composition, English Literature, European History, French Language, Music Theory, Physics I and II, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics and U.S. History.

During the 2016-2017 school year, 46 Roycemore Upper School students completed a total of 93 college level Advanced Placement courses. Roycemore had 72.3% scoring in the honors range (3+); In the state of Illinois, the average for 2017 was 63.9%; US average was 58%.

College Level Work at Northwestern University

Taking classes for full college credit through a reciprocal arrangement with Northwestern University is one of the most valuable opportunities available to qualified Roycemore Upper School students. They do not pay extra tuition for studying at Northwestern, but they do have to meet high academic standards. To qualify, a student must have completed the Roycemore curriculum within a discipline, demonstrated an ability to function independently and think abstractly, shown consistency with homework completion and attendance, demonstrated high academics in all classes, and received the recommendation of the department and the Upper School Division Head. In recent years, students have taken courses in engineering, history, mathematics, science, foreign languages, political science, economics, philosophy, psychology and English at Northwestern University. Each year, approximately 8-10% of our Upper Schoolers participate in the Northwestern Option, with dual enrollment at Roycemore and Northwestern University.

Graduation Requirements

Roycemore's comprehensive curriculum is designed to prepare students for admission to the colleges of their choice. Students are expected to have the intellectual ability, motivation, and behavior necessary to successfully complete this course of study, and to enroll in the most sophisticated courses for which they are prepared. Because colleges and universities have different requirements for admission and because career intentions and college plans may change, we encourage students to choose classes which will meet the standards of the most selective colleges and which will prepare them to do well once they are in college.

Therefore, students are required to meet the following minimum graduation requirements, for a total of 22 credits distributed as outlined below:

- English: 4 years of English with at least 1 every year at Roycemore including successful completion of at least 1 year of English Level 3. All students attending Roycemore during the 9th grade year must take Foundations of English.
- Foreign Language: 3 years of foreign language, with at least 2 in a single language. Up to 1 year of high school level foreign language taken in middle school may count towards this requirement.
- Math: 3 years of Math, including Algebra II.
- Social Studies: 3 years of Social Studies including successful completion of World History for any students attending Roycemore during the 9th grade year and either United States History or AP United States History for all students. Students must also pass the constitution test, which is included as part of US History and AP US History.
- Science: 3 years of Science including 1 year of Biology.
- Fine Arts: 1 year of Fine Arts.
- Electives: In addition to the 17 credits outlined above, Roycemore students must earn an additional 5 credits (22 total). All students are required to earn 1 credit for PE. The additional 4 credits may be taken in any of the above departments or as an elective.

Specific details on graduation requirements can be found in the Upper School curriculum guide. Approval for graduation is determined by vote of the Upper School faculty in June. The faculty considers the student's behavior, intellectual maturity, and citizenship in addition to the above requirements. The faculty reserves the right to deny a diploma for cause.

Learning Assistance

A Learning Assistance program is available to provide additional support for students who have a professionally diagnosed learning difference. The Upper School has a Learning Assistance teacher who possesses a Master's degree in Learning Disabilities. Students are scheduled to meet for 20 to 80 minutes per week in a one-to-one setting to reinforce the curriculum, enhance skills, and develop strategies to compensate for a learning difference. The Learning Assistance teacher also coordinates appropriate classroom accommodations. Space in this program is limited.

January Short Term

January Short Term (JST) was created to reflect the school's conviction that a student-designed program of learning is an excellent way to further student commitment to their own education and to encourage independence. All Upper School students are required to participate in JST each year they attend Roycemore. January Short Term takes place in the three weeks following Winter Break. Regular classes do not meet during this period.

JST provides an excellent chance for students to explore a career, learn a new skill or strengthen an old one, participate in a community/social project, or explore an interest they have never had time to pursue. Students may choose to design an independent JST project, giving them an opportunity to explore and learn about a subject of particular interest, or they may choose to participate in a faculty-sponsored project. Group projects sponsored by faculty members usually present activities not offered during the school year. Projects often take advantage of the rich resources in the Chicago area to enhance a subject through field trips, visits with professionals and experts and background research in libraries and museums. Career projects are designed to enable students to learn as much as possible about a field while providing the project director with volunteer help. Although some group projects have prerequisites and out-of-school projects have age or insurance limitations, there are an unlimited variety of projects possible.

The more responsibility allowed students during January Short Term, the better the project's results. JST is not unstructured free time, but an opportunity for fulfillment of well-organized, planned, individualized goals.

In early Fall, a booklet detailing the faculty-sponsored projects and general project requirements is distributed to students. They begin the official process by choosing or designing their projects. Students are required to complete a contract that articulates their goals and the procedures they will take to fulfill the requirements. Each contract requires the signature and approval of the student, project director, Roycemore advisor, and parent. The contract is presented to the January Short Term Committee for consideration and approval. The JST Committee meets once a week (beginning in October) until all student contracts are approved. The committee is headed by the JST coordinator and is made up of students and faculty.

During JST, Roycemore keeps in close contact with each student, project director, and advisor to monitor the student's progress and participation. Every student is required to complete a JST Portfolio, including a written journal and a digital artifact, about his or her JST experience which will be reviewed by the JST Coordinator, as well as the student's project director and advisor.

Students do not receive a traditional letter grade for their performance during JST. However, they are evaluated by their project director and must earn a rating of "successful participation" at the end of the project in order to receive credit. This evaluation will become a permanent part of each student's file and is often used in preparation of the school's recommendation letters to colleges, since it may illustrate intangible qualities such as initiative, attitude, responsibility and enthusiasm. A student's JST projects are also listed on his/her official transcript from the school.

Recent Individual JST Projects

App Design
Arabic Study—Language and Literature
Brookfield Zoo Intern

Financial Instruments: Derivatives and Stocks
First Response Clinic—Jackson Hole Hospital
Glass Blowing Apprentice
Globe Aware Costa Rica
Medical Imaging at Lurie Children’s Hospital
Memory Study at Northwestern University
Music Preparation—Vocals & Piano Technique
Pastry Chef Apprentice
Political Intern—State Representative’s Office
Prehistoric Shark Research—DePaul University
Production Company Internship—Two Cats, NY
Thorton Tomasetti Architecture Intern
WBEZ Radio Intern
Zinc Sparks in Frog Oocytes Research—
Northwestern University

Recent Group JST Projects

Chicago in Film
Discover Andalucía
Europe at Leisure—England, France,
Switzerland & Italy
Experience Design & The Five
Faces of Genius
Experimental Chemistry
Farm to Table: Eating Green & Urban
Gardening
Hand Building Pottery
Hard Core Fitness
Healthy Bodies—Yoga
Julie & Julia—French Cooking
Lower School Teacher Assistants
Museum Madness
Playwriting & Performance—
Drama Production
Woodworking

Student Life

Roycemore’s philosophy is that adolescents should be free to explore as many new endeavors as possible outside of the classroom, and thus a very high percentage of our students engage in many school-sponsored activities — *typically, more than 90% of all Upper School students take part in a club, activity, or sport*. This high level of involvement in school life helps enrich students’ lives socially, and is another way in which the school prepares students for success in college.

ACS ChemClub

This after-school club provides an opportunity to experience chemistry out of the classroom. Students will perform fun experiments, learn about possible careers, and be able to affect our community by sharing their knowledge with some of our youngest scholars.

Art Club

Explore art activities in the studio and go on outings to Chicago area museums and galleries. No art experience or ability is necessary to join, students just need an open mind and curiosity about art.

Choir

Upper School Choir meets during activity periods and is open to all students interested in singing. The Choir performs during Winter Program, the Variety Show, commencement, and other events throughout the year.

Community Service Club

The Community Service Club brings students together to assist the Roycemore community as well as the larger Chicagoland community. Recent activities have included bake sales to benefit the American Cancer Society, coin wars for March of Dimes, making blankets for Project Linus, collecting toys for Toys for Tots, and participating in non-perishable food and winter clothing drives.

Culture Club

All students, whether actively studying a language or just interested in other cultures, are welcome to join the Culture Club. Members plan monthly after-school activities to discover and participate in the cultural diversity of Chicago. These activities include attending films, plays, and museum exhibits, celebrating various cultural holidays, and dining in ethnic restaurants.

Drama: Fall Musical & Spring Play

Roycemore's Upper School produces a fall musical and a spring play each year. Open auditions are held for all students in Grades 9-12. The experienced and inexperienced alike are welcome to assist in any aspect of production including set construction, lighting, sound, costumes/props, acting or assistant directing. Recent productions have included *Into the Woods*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Once on this Island*, *Dracula*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)

The GSA is open to all Upper Schoolers and meets regularly to discuss equity issues related to gender roles and gender preference, and plan activities and events that promote understanding and acceptance of all persons.

Halloween Carnival

In late October, all Upper School students work together to present an all-school carnival for the Middle and Lower Schools. By setting an example of service and giving for Roycemore's younger students, Carnival provides an opportunity for all Upper Schoolers to work collaboratively on a school service project, to raise money for student activities, and to have fun designing booths and decorating.

Interscholastic Sports

During each season we provide the opportunity for students to be members of an interscholastic sports team. Roycemore offers co-ed soccer, co-ed cross country, girls' volleyball in the fall, boys' and girls' basketball in the winter, and boys' volleyball in the spring. Any student may become a member of a team if the student is willing to make the necessary time commitment. Practices are held before and/or after school and teams compete against a variety of independent and parochial schools in Chicago and on the North Shore. In the spring, there is a sports banquet to honor the interscholastic sports teams and outstanding individual athletic performances.

K-Pop Club

Members of the K-Pop Club experience Korean culture while having a blast. They watch music videos, learn the dances of popular K-Pop groups, perform in the Spring Variety Show, eat Korean food, watch Korean TV shows and more.

Model United Nations

All students with an interest in current events, foreign policy, and international relations are invited to join Model UN. Students participate in local conferences with area schools, where they

role-play as United Nations delegates and simulate UN committees. Model UN is a fun, engaging activity that promotes public speaking and debate skills.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. Based on more than stellar grades, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. An induction ceremony is held in the beginning of the year. Interested students must apply for membership to NHS.

Relationships Are Pathways to Success (RAPS)

RAPS is a mentoring program between Upper and Middle School students. Each Upper School mentor meets with his or her Middle School mentee at least two times each quarter, either for lunch, before school, or after school. There is a group meeting for all RAPS members once per quarter and an end-of-year celebration.

Scholastic Bowl

IHSA Scholastic Bowl is a team contest of the intellect. Competitions with other area schools take place after school and on Saturdays. Students demonstrate their knowledge in areas such as mathematics, science, fine arts, history, geography, literature, and current events. Any student willing to make the necessary time commitment may become a member.

Student Government

Student Government is committed to providing a forum for each student to be part of the decision-making process and is concerned with a myriad of issues that affect all Upper School students. Membership in the Student Government is open to all students and every student is encouraged to join and participate. Leadership opportunities are possible for interested students, with the student body electing a Student Government President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer each school year.

Video Game Club

Video Game Club is a comfortable troll-free setting for video gamers to socialize and compete. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate in various aspects of gaming culture such as walk-throughs, play-throughs, review writing, beta testing, tournaments, and co-ops.

Yearbook

Roycemore's award-winning yearbook, *The Griffin*, is a record of the year's events and activities of the entire school (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12). It is produced by a staff of Upper School students under the direction of student editors and faculty sponsors. Yearbook activity provides hands-on experience in interviewing, writing, page layout, editing, and photography. Every Roycemore student receives a copy of *The Griffin* at the conclusion of the school year.

Other Activities & Social Events

Throughout the year a variety of other activities occur, including prom, the back-to-school picnic, ethnic food fair, Hour of Code, Wassail, Lunar New Year celebration, and the Young Evanston Artists (YEA) festival. Additional activities coordinated by Student Government include a two-on-two basketball tournament, Fright Night at Six Flags Great America, and a Mardi Gras party. Performance opportunities for music, dance and tumbling are also available at the annual Winter, Palio and Spring programs, as well as the Upper School Variety Show in the spring.

We look forward to getting to know you!

Start an Online Application

Visit roycemoreschool.org/createaccount to create an account and begin the online application process. Then log in to your account and select Create A New Student Application for your child. You will have the flexibility to log in and out of your account and access your open application as you complete it.

Ask Questions

Contact **Director of Admissions Amanda Avery** at 847-866-6055 via email at aavery@roycemoreschool.org with any questions about the admissions process or regarding tuition assistance through our Sliding Scale program.

Come for a Visit or Tour

Register online for an upcoming **Admissions Morning** or **Open House** at roycemoreschool.org/openhousesvp, or contact Amanda Avery to make an appointment for a personal school visit.

Roycemore School seeks to enroll students who have the ability and desire to prepare for successful performance in college. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, gender preference or national or ethnic origin in the administration of our admissions, financial aid and educational policies.



ROYCEMORE

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**Roycemore's Mission: To inspire and nurture excellence
and prepare each student for success in higher education
and in a dynamic and complex world.**