



# Upper School

## 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

The world is our classroom.

### Perspectives

*This is my sixth year teaching at the University School, and I can't imagine myself teaching anywhere else. The Upper School is organized in a supremely unique way, giving agency to both the instructors and the students. Because our students are given both high expectations and trust, they, in turn, hold themselves to a higher standard in both their work and their character. As a teacher, this is the ideal. I know we can have class outside, or pause class to talk about current events, or take an unexpected trip, and they will not only still complete their work but will also carry themselves respectfully. USL Upper School students, across the board, are engaged, funny, and genuinely interested in the world around them.*

*English class is college level; in class we explicate and discuss our readings and workshop writing. While outside of class, students focus on writing and revision. Students craft thoughtful and often creative responses to everything we read, and we read a lot! I just got a note from a recent graduate, discussing how prepared and advanced she found herself in college. This is our aim here – not only to provide a safe environment for boundary-pushing and question-asking, but to prepare students to not only survive, but to excel in college.*

-- Sara Peck, English Teacher

*“For me, the most special thing about being a high school student at USL is the **community**. The people here are **truly incredible**. I have **people** that I know will **love and support** me through anything, and I consider that the defining aspect of USL.”*

-- Anne Adragna, Class of 2017  
Davidson College, Baker-Vogt Scholar, Class of 2021



University School Sophomore at his American College of the Building Arts Drafting class (Fall 2018)

### Upper School Highlights

- A small and dynamic school for smart, curious, kind, and hardworking students. Our program is unlike any other and means our graduates are distinguished from their peers and are ready to contribute as students and leaders in their communities and the greater world.
- 30+ experiential Learning Outside the Classroom trips a year—civics, art, religion, military, science, local culture, history, and much more.
- Individualized academic program.
- Service leadership is integrated into the curriculum through 50+ hours of community service annually.
- Annual weeklong trip to destinations across America and abroad – the last three years were to Texas, the Pacific Northwest, and Toronto. Students will also visit and explore colleges and gain insights about themselves, what colleges may be good fits, and their future studies.
- Preparation for independent life beyond high school through training and practice: Red Cross, Krav Maga personal safety skills, healthy relationships, personal finance, and more. As in college, students have the option to leave campus during lunch and free periods.
- Preparation for college academics - 12+ visits to college campuses & completion of 1 or more courses at C of C and/or at other local colleges.
- Leadership and mentorship opportunities in support of our 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students.