



Salem High School School Profile 2026–2027

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Salem, VA 24153
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CEEBS Code: 472035
Salem High School: <https://shs.salem.k12.va.us/>

Administration & Contacts

Principal: James Garst
Assistant Principals: Jonathan Underwood, Bonnie Reedy, Nicole Doherty
Counselors: Sheri Smith (A–C), Kristi Snow (D–I), Kayla Basham (J–Q), Jenny Parrish (R–Z)
Registrar: Tammy Chitwood
Athletic Director: Drew Barrett

School Snapshot

Salem is an independent city in Virginia's Roanoke Valley with a population of approximately 25,000. Salem City Schools serves more than 3,800 students across four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

Enrollment: 1,210 (Grades 9–12)

Accreditation: Virginia State Board of Education, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, International Baccalaureate Organization

Curriculum

Approximately 180 courses are offered, including 24 AP courses, 9 Honors courses, and 12 Dual Enrollment courses. Students may pursue academic, career, and technical pathways through a comprehensive curriculum.

Graduation Requirements – Class of 2027

Minimum 22 credits required. Students earning a Standard or Advanced Diploma with a GPA of 3.5 or higher receive a Virginia Board of Education Seal.

English (4), Mathematics (3), Laboratory Science (3), American Studies (2), World Studies (1), Health & PE (2), Personal Finance & Economics (1).

Middle School Courses Eligible for High School Credit

Algebra I, Geometry, World Geography, World Language, Digital Applications, Intro to Culinary Arts, Intro to Child Development, Computer Science Foundations, Design/MM/Web, Art Foundations, Principles of Business & Marketing, Health/CPR, PE 1, Technical Drawing & Design, Robotics, Photojournalism/MM Web Technology.

Profile of a 2026 Graduate

280 students | Mean GPA 3.36

4.50–5.00: 3 | 4.00–4.49: 53 | 3.50–3.99: 71 | 3.00–3.49: 67 | 2.50–2.99: 62 | 2.00–2.49: 21 | 1.50–1.99: 2 | 1.00–1.49: 1

Class of 2027: 295 students | Mean GPA 3.29

4.50–5.00: 3 | 4.00–4.49: 53 | 3.50–3.99: 80 | 3.00–3.49: 64 | 2.50–2.99: 51 | 2.00–2.49: 24 | 1.50–1.99: 16 | 1.00–1.49: 3 | <0.99: 1

Postsecondary Plans: 65% four-year college, 36% two-year college

Diploma Types: 62% Advanced, 33% Standard, 5% Applied Studies

SAT Mean Scores

Reading & Writing: Salem 576 | Virginia 587 | National 557

Math: Salem 557 | Virginia 572 | National 543

Total: Salem 1133 | Virginia 1157 | National 1101

Academic Programs & Policies

Advanced Studies Diploma: 26 credits required including additional math, science, social studies, and world language requirements.

Governor's Seal: Requires at least 9 transferable college credits through AP/Dual Enrollment coursework and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

AP Capstone Diploma: Salem High School is transitioning to an AP Capstone Diploma program.

Salem students who graduate with a 4.0 or higher GPA and have exhibited good behavior will be recognized as Distinguished Scholars.

Grading & GPA

Current Grading Scale: A=90–100, B=80–89, C=70–79, D=60–69, F=0–59.

Prior Scale (before 2022–23): A=94–100, B=87–93, C=79–86, D=70–78, F=0–69.

Weighted GPA: AP/Dual Enrollment A=5.0, Honors A=4.5

Salem High School does not rank students; decile rankings are provided to seniors for college applications.