



2019-2020 Upper School College Profile

MinnehahaAcademy.net

College & Guidance Office: 612-729-8321

School Code: 241-625

The Upper School Experience

The mission of Minnehaha Academy is “to provide high quality education integrating Christian faith and learning so that our students will grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and others.” The Upper School provides many opportunities for students to explore their interests and pursue their talents. Our teachers, in collaboration with colleagues and administrators through Professional Learning Communities, create and shape their curricula in order to enrich their students’ learning experiences. Nearly 90% of our Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees. Students are encouraged to take initiative, express creativity, and challenge themselves in different activities and areas of study.

Admission Policy

The Upper School seeks a mission-appropriate student body that closely reflects the diversity of the Twin Cities metropolitan area with 32% of the school population being students of color. We welcome students of all ethnic, racial, and religious faiths and backgrounds, and believe in the equality of all persons under God.

Modified Block Schedule

Minnehaha Academy’s Upper School follows a year-long, seven-period modified block schedule. The modified block schedule promotes diverse teaching strategies such as sustained discussion, question and answer sessions, reflections, simulations, rehearsals, laboratory experiments, group projects, and cooperative learning. In addition, while the schedule maintains three class meetings per week, the schedule enables students to focus on fewer individual subjects each day as they only need to delve into, at most, four classes per block day.

Advanced Placement & Honors Courses

We offer a wide range of Advanced Placement and Honors courses in addition to the traditional college preparatory curricula. We currently offer more AP courses than any other private school in the state of Minnesota. During students’ time in the Upper School, they are encouraged to challenge themselves by taking advanced courses that meet their academic goals. We have an application process for students who wish to enroll in AP courses. However, enrollment is essentially granted to all students who wish to take on the challenge of college level coursework. All students enrolled in AP courses are required to take their respective AP exams.

Minnehaha Academy 2019 Highlights

- Twenty-six students achieved multiple outstanding ratings from the Hennepin Theatre Trust’s Spotlight Theatre program. This included 6 separate awards for individuals and groups.
- More than 34 students were recognized for their work in the arts on local, state, and national levels at various music competitions across the state, as well as being invited to participate in All-State band, orchestra, or choir.
- Upper School students will visit local and national sites as well as Guatemala, Haiti, London, Slovakia, and Spain to serve with and learn from others during Cultural Field Experience (CFE) week.
- *The Talon* student newspaper earned an All-State Gold award and declared “National First-Class” by the National Scholastic Press Association. *The Antler* yearbook was given the “All-State Silver” award and our RedhawksOnline website was awarded “All-State Bronze.” Journalism students won 5 National and 20 State level awards for their writing, photography, design, and multimedia work.
- 11 athletic teams represented Minnehaha Academy at the Minnesota State Tournament level. Football and Girls’ Basketball won State Championships while the Boys’ Basketball team claimed the State Title for the third year in a row. Baseball took home 2nd place in the State Tournament and we also had an individual State Champion in Boys’ Swimming.
- 108 athletes earned All-Conference and Honorable Mention recognition and several earned All-State honors for their athletic achievements.

College and Guidance Counseling Staff

Mike DiNardo, Ed.D., Vice Principal & Director of Counseling
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Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

Students earn one credit per full academic year of course work. Students must successfully complete a minimum of 26.75 credits in grades 9 through 12 to graduate from Minnehaha Academy. Freshmen and sophomores take seven courses each year, while juniors and seniors take a minimum of six.

English - 4 cr. required

English 9 & 10
Honors English 10
English 11 & 12
AP English 11 & 12
Argumentation & Debate
Speech Communications
Beginning Journalism
Intermediate Journalism (Yearbook or Newspaper/Social Media)
Advanced Journalism (Yearbook or Newspaper/Social Media)

Mathematics - 3 cr. required

Algebra I & II
Enriched Algebra II
Geometry
Enriched Geometry
Pre-Calculus
Enriched Pre-Calculus
Calculus
Statistics/Discrete Math
AP Statistics
AP Calculus I (AB)
AP Calculus II (BC)
Multivariable Calculus & Adv. Topics

Science - 3 cr. required

Physics
Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Biology
AP Biology
AP Physics C (Mechanics)
Applied Res. in Engineering I
Applied Res. in Engineering II - ISS
Environmental Science
Honors Anatomy & Physiology (CIS*)
Independent Scientific Research

Social Studies - 3.5 cr. required

World History I, II, III
AP European History
Early American History
Recent American History
AP United States History
U.S. Government & Politics
Economics
AP Macroeconomics
AP Microeconomics
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction to Business
Leadership Studies
Personal Finance

Sacred Studies - 2 cr. required

Reading the Bible
Life and Teachings of Christ
The Uniqueness of Christianity
New Testament Studies
Honors Christian Ethics
Senior Capstone

Physical Education & Health - 1.5 cr. required

Physical Education - Team Sports
Physics Education - Conditioning
Current Health Issues
Personal Fitness

World Languages - 2 cr. required

Chinese I, II & III
French I, II & III
Latin I, II & III
Spanish I, II & III
Honors Chinese IV & V (CIS*)
Honors French IV & V (CIS*)
Honors Latin IV & V (CIS*)
Honors Spanish IV & V (CIS*)
AP Chinese
AP Spanish

Computer Science

AP Computer Science

Special Academic Needs

Learning Lab

Fine Arts - 1 cr. required

Fundamentals of Art
Painting
Sculpture
Ceramics
Drawing
Paper Arts
AP Studio Art
Exploration of Theater/Acting
Beginning Filmmaking
Intermediate Filmmaking
Advanced Filmmaking
Graphic Design
Advanced Graphic Design
Digital Photography
Concert Band
Orchestra
Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Men's Choir
Women's Chorale
Singers

Cultural Field Experience (CFE) - 3 sessions (0.75 credits) required for students in gr. 9-11

See the next page for more information about our Cultural Field Experience (CFE) program.

*College In the Schools (CIS)

College in the Schools courses are offered through the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Bethel University. Students receive college credit and an official transcript from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities or Bethel University after completion of these courses.





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No Rank Policy

Given the rigorous college preparatory curriculum taken by all students and the relatively small size of the graduation class, Minnehaha Academy does not rank its students. In lieu of a class rank, we provide a distribution of standardized test scores and grade point averages.

Standardized Test Information

ACT	2017	2018	2019
Students	74	77	79
Mean Comp.	27.4	27.8	25.8
Mid-50%	24-31	24-32	22-30

SAT	2017	2018	2019
Students	13	10	35
Mean Score	1380	1300	1263
Mid-50%	1305-1445	1240-1400	1160-1380

National Merit and Achievement Awards

Graduation year	2018	2019	2020
Class Size	79	81	94
Semifinalists	2	3	3
Commended	6	0	3

Advanced Placement	2017	2018	2019
Candidates	154	141	169
Exams Given	378	300	336
% Scores 3 or Higher	80.5	69.7	74.6
AP Scholars	23	17	24
Scholars w/Honor	17	13	11
Scholars w/Distinction	36	29	21
National AP Scholars	5	7	4

Cumulative GPA by Graduation Year

GPA Range	2018	2019	2020
Class Size	81	77	94
3.75 - 4.00	42%	23%	35%
3.50 - 3.74	17%	21%	24%
3.25 - 3.49	16%	22%	13%
3.00 - 3.24	7%	10%	9%
2.75 - 2.99	7%	5%	4%
2.50 - 2.74	2%	9%	8%
2.25 - 2.49	5%	2%	2%
2.00 - 2.24	4%	1%	5%

Grades are calculated on a maximum 4.0 scale and are recorded on a semester basis. No classes are weighted.

International Space Station Project (ISS)

Minnehaha Academy was the first school in the Midwest and one of only 25 schools worldwide to offer an opportunity for Upper School students to design a science experiment to be placed aboard the International Space Station through our Applied Research in Engineering II course. While working with community mentors, students have the opportunity to plan, test, document and launch a micro-lab experiment to be studied in a micro-gravity environment.

Intern Leadership Program

Interns are 11th and 12th grade leaders who possess a high degree of commitment to the school's values and ideals. After being selected through an application and interview process, interns help oversee particular areas of the school such as service learning, school spirit, student services, chapel programming, intramural athletics, peer tutoring, publicity and social activities.

Cultural Field Experience (CFE)

In March of each academic year, students in grades 9-11 participate in weeklong on-site learning opportunities called Cultural Field Experience. During this week, students are exposed to people and communities that are different from their own. The goal of this program is to promote an understanding of different sociocultural perspectives and to provide students with opportunities to build bridges within our school, neighborhood and global communities among people from diverse backgrounds. Students earn academic credit towards graduation for these three required experiences.

Advisory Program

The Advisory Program provides each student with an adult from whom he or she can seek guidance in the areas of academics, spiritual growth and personal and social issues. The gender and grade-based Advisory groups stay together with the same faculty or staff member throughout the student's high school career.

Extracurricular Involvement

Minnehaha Academy has 27 varsity sports. 83% of students are on an athletic team. Minnehaha Academy has more than 25 performing groups and half of our students are involved in a Fine Arts program above and beyond the fine arts academic requirement. Students also participate in club activities offered through school.

Post-Secondary Acceptances & Matriculation: 2019 *Multiple Acceptances **BOLD**=Students Attended

American University *
Arizona State University
The University of Arizona
Augsburg University *
Augustana University SD *
Baylor University
Bemidji State University *
Berry College
Bethel University MN *
Boston College
Butler University *
California College of the Arts CA
Carleton College *
Carthage College *
Century College
Chapman University
Claramont McKenna College
Colorado State University
Concordia College Moorhead
Cornell College *
Creighton University *
Denison University *
University of Denver *
DePaul University *
DePauw University
Drake University *
Eastern Michigan University
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Fordham University *
Furman University
George Fox University
Gonzaga University *
Grand Canyon University *
Grinnell College
Gustavus Adolphus College *
Hamline University *
Hillsdale College
College of the Holy Cross
Huntington University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Iowa State University *
University of Kansas *
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Lipscomb University

Loyola Marymount University *
Loyola University Chicago *
Luther College IA *
Macalester College
Marquette University *
McGill University
Miami University, Oxford *
Michigan State University *
Michigan Technological University
University of Michigan
Middlebury College
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minnesota State University, Mankato *
Minnesota State University, Moorhead *
University of Minnesota, Duluth *
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities *
Minneapolis Community & Tech College
University of Missouri Columbia
Montana State University, Bozeman *
University of Nebraska at Omaha
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York Institute of Technology
Normandale Community College *
The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
North Dakota State University *
Northeastern University *
University of Northern Iowa
Northland College *
Northwestern University *
University of Northwestern
The Ohio State University
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
University of Oregon
Pace University, New York City
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University *
Pepperdine University *
Point Loma Nazarene University *
Portland State University
Rhodes College *
University of Richmond
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
College of Saint Benedict
Saint John's University, Collegeville *
Saint Mary's College

Saint Mary's College of California
Saint Mary's University Minnesota
Saint Paul College
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
Savannah College of Art and Design *
Seattle University
University of Sioux Falls *
SD School of Mines and Technology *
Southeastern University
Southwest Minnesota State University
St. Cloud State University *
St. Olaf College *
College of St. Scholastica *
University of St. Thomas *
Texas Christian University *
Upper Iowa University
University of Utah
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wheaton College IL *
Whitman College
Whitworth University
William & Mary
Winona State University *
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire *
University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
University of Wisconsin, Madison *
University of Wisconsin, River Falls *
University of Wisconsin, Stout *
Wittenberg University
The College of Wooster
Xavier University