



Student Experience

SMA provides an education that will challenge young women

The High School is committed to creating **trailblazing educational experiences** that are boldly innovative, intuitively collaborative, and thoroughly transformative. Along with our strong academic, arts and athletic offerings, we also provide many opportunities that are based on **real-life experience** and **service learning**. The key initiatives in the High School for this year are in the areas of **Leadership, Global Learning, and STEAM**.

- **New Course Offerings for 2020-21:** Modern Feminist American Poetry, Cuisine and Conversation (French), Multiculturalism in French Society, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Music Theory, Spanish and Latin American History through Film, Ceramics Portfolio Development
- New advisory curriculum, with the main focus being on the following areas: **College and Career Counseling, Student Wellness, Community Service, and Loretto Leadership**.
- **17 AP** courses.
- **Block** schedule.



SMA taught me the importance of independence and empowerment. I feel capable to achieve everything that I want due to my education and the influence of my teachers and peers. I'm so thankful for my high school experience."

~ Class of 2019 graduate

Grounded in Community

Young women will develop a love of learning guided by a supportive community

- The SMA High School community comes together for **Town Hall meetings**.
- Faculty and administration **partner** to serve each student.
- Annual activities include **Field Day, Fun Days, All School Retreat, Senior Retreat, Snack Attacks, Brain Brawl, Community Days, SHOUT Week, Big Sis/Little Sis Events, Class Retreats, Loretto Leaders, Diversity Day**, and more!



Making a Difference

SMA helps students develop a strong moral character

- Class of 2020 completed more than **9,200 hours** of community service during their time at SMA.
- **130** community service partners.
- **100** community service hours required for graduation.
- **ONE All School Service Day**, SHOUT Week, numerous drives for service causes.



There is a feeling at SMA that no other school has. It is hard to explain. The desire SMA has to hold on to these girls and give them the tools so they truly believe that they can take on the world and be everything they want to be."

~ High School parent

We can't wait to meet you!

Contact **Seely Meredith**, Director of Admissions
at smeredith@smenet.org or **303-762-8300**

Why Choose an All Girls High School?



Girls take **CENTER STAGE** in all-girls' learning environments

"Single-sex programs...create an institutional and classroom climate in which female students can express themselves freely and frequently, and develop higher order thinking skills."

~ Dr. Rosemary C. Salomone, Columbia University's *Teacher College Record*

Finding **HER VOICE**

In all-girls' learning environments girls are free to find and use their voice and speak without interruption. "Academic studies and countless anecdotes make it clear that being interrupted, talked over, shut down or penalized for speaking out is nearly a universal experience for women when they are outnumbered by men."

~ *The New York Times*, "The Universal Phenomenon of Men Interrupting Women."

Builds **SELF-CONFIDENCE**

A girl occupies every role in all-girls' learning environments. The majority – 60% – of girls' school grads report higher self-confidence over their coed peers (54%).

~ Dr. Linda Sax, UCLA, *Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools: Differences in their Characteristics and the Transition to College*

Develops **LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

All-girls' learning environments empower students to become bold leaders. 93% of girls' school grads say they were offered greater leadership opportunities than peers at coed schools and 80% have held leadership positions since graduating from high school.

~ Goodman Research Group, *The Girls' School Experience: A Survey of Young Alumnae of Single-Sex Schools*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

All-girls' learning environments champion the educational needs of girls as a group currently underrepresented in STEM majors and careers. Girls' school grads are six times more likely to consider majoring in math, science, and technology compared to girls who attend coed schools.

~ Goodman Research Group, *The Girls' School Experience: A Survey of Young Alumnae of Single-Sex Schools*

Dedicated to HOW GIRLS LEARN

All-girls' learning environments capitalize on girls' unique learning styles. "More positive academic and behavioral interactions [were observed] between teachers and students in the single-sex schools than in the comparison to coed schools."

~ U.S. Department of Education, *Early Implementation of Public Single-Sex Schools: Perceptions and Characteristics*

Higher ASPIRATIONS

Students in all-girls' learning environments strive for greatness. "Girls at all levels of achievement in the single-sex schools receive a...benefit from the single-sex school environment in terms of heightened career aspirations—an effect unprecedented in any other portion of our study."

~ Dr. Cary M. Watson, Stanford University, *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*

Excellent MENTORING

Students in all-girls' learning environments are supported by a community of peers, teachers, and school administrators. The overwhelming majority of girls' school students agree to strongly agree that they feel supported at their schools: 95% feel supported by their teachers (compared to 84% of girls at coed schools), 90% report feeling supported by other students (compared to 73% of girls at coed schools), and 83% feel supported by their school administrators (compared to 63% of girls at coed schools).

~ Dr. Richard A. Holmgren, Allegheny College, *Steeped in Learning: The Student Experience at All-Girls Schools*

PREPARES GIRLS for the real world

All-girls' learning environments engage students in activities that prepare them for life beyond the classroom. Nearly half – 45% – of all women graduating from single-sex schools rate their public speaking ability as high compared to 39% of women graduates from coed schools. A similar differential exists for writing abilities: 64% of girls' school graduates assess their writing as high, compared to 59% of women graduates of coed schools.

~ Dr. Linda Sax, UCLA, *Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools: Differences in their Characteristics and the Transition to College*

All-girls' learning environments create a CULTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT

"Females especially do better academically in single-sex schools and colleges across a variety of cultures. ...Single-sex schools help to improve student achievement."

~ Dr. Cornelius Riordan, Providence College, *Girls and Boys in School: Together or Separate?*



Prepared to Lead

Your child will be prepared for leadership in a global society

At St. Mary's Academy High School, **every leader is a girl and every girl is a leader.** We believe that leadership is a behavior, not a position. At SMA becoming a leader is not just an opportunity for our students, it is an integral part of who we are. The advantages of attending an all-girls' high school are well researched and documented. With a rapidly changing world, girls' schools are more relevant today than ever before. Our school is a place where **girls take center stage and are prepared for lives of confidence, purpose, contribution, and fulfillment.** We inspire girls to lead with confidence, encourage them to create possibilities that they had never considered before, and become positive agents of change!

Student Wellness

Young women will be supported socially and emotionally

- Town hall meetings focus on **Wellness** in addition to **Being Loretto** and **Career Counseling**.
- Speakers include **parent educators, CU Depression Center, Natural Grocers Nutritionist,** and **alumnae.** Focus is not only on stress factors but also on building grit, resilience, and coping skills.
- **Sources of Strength** program includes a peer advocacy group, teacher training, and a new Mental Health Awareness Day.



Integrated Technology

Your child will practice the process of design, logical reasoning, creativity, problem-solving, and more

- The High School Computer Science program builds students' skills in **computational thinking, programming,** and **design thinking.**
- **Courses offered:** Introduction to Computer Science and Design Thinking, AP Computer Science A, and AP Computer Science Principles
- **Clubs/organizations:** Robotics (SMAbotics), Programming Club, and MICE student tech worker program.



SMA taught me to work hard, think of how you can make a difference and go about making your mark."

~ Class of 1977 graduate

Educating the Whole Child

- **16 student clubs,** 100% of students belong to at least one club.
- **3 world languages** offered.
- **Cultural & Diversity Day** each March.
- **3 international travel experiences** available each summer.
- **Science field trips** to Colorado/Wyoming Junior Academy of Science Medicine and Science Symposium, Audubon Society of Greater Denver, Denver Water Treatment Plant, Denver Botanic Gardens, and Cancer Research Seminar at Anschutz Campus.
- **Fine Arts, Visual Arts,** and **Theatre** options include choir and orchestra opportunities, photography, 3D Design, jewelry, acting, plays and musicals, and more.

Non-Discrimination Policy: St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic independent school, co-ed through grade eight and an all-girls high school. St. Mary's Academy admits students of any race, creed, color, national and ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, sexual orientation, to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, national and ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, or sexual orientation in administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.