



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

Mission

Incarnate Word Academy provides young women with a Catholic college preparatory education helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus, the Incarnate Word, and live according to His values.

School Community

Incarnate Word Academy, a Catholic college preparatory high school for young women, is the oldest Catholic high school in Houston. Incarnate Word Academy is owned and operated by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and is celebrating 145 years since its inception in 1873.

Location

Incarnate Word Academy is uniquely situated in downtown Houston surrounded by Minute Maid Park, Discovery Green, the George R. Brown Convention Center, and bustling centers of business and the arts.

Young Leaders Program (YLP)

The Young Leaders Program provides IWA students with the opportunity to develop in-demand leadership skills built upon a foundation of strong personal character. YLP is the only high school program in the country that combines a formal character and leadership development curriculum, opportunities to apply their knowledge in all their school activities, and a coaching program to assist them in their journey.

The program combines collegiate-level curriculum and experiential opportunities to empower students to take on lead and serve in their communities. YLP consists of a 4-course curriculum, known as the Young Leaders Concentration, that provides an in-depth exposure to the leadership discipline. The four courses are: Leading with Character, Leading with Business, Leading with Service, and Leading with Personal Finance. These courses leverage nationally recognized materials from institutions such as Santa Clara University and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

The program also provides out-of-class experiences for each grade classification. For freshmen and sophomores, the focus is on character: challenging each student to be virtuous by doing the right things, the right way, and, thus, becoming a role model. Juniors and seniors focus on leadership by applying learned leadership skills into action in a variety of community service projects, student-run businesses and in school organizations. IWA also teams up with corporate partners and national organizations such as PwC and Chick-Fil-A to provide nationally recognized real-world leadership lessons to our students. Finally, students are eligible to graduate as a Distinguished Leader if they complete the Young Leaders Concentration curriculum and fulfill the co-curricular requirements.

Accreditations & Affiliations

IWA is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department under aegis of the Texas Education Agency and by AdvancEd. Memberships include the National Catholic Education Association, Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, Houston Area Independent Schools, Texas Association for College Admissions Counseling, National Association for College Admissions Counseling, College Board, and Greater Houston Partnership.

Honor Societies

National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, International Thespian Society

Leadership

President, Sister Lauren Beck, C.V.I.

Principal, Andrea Smith

Academic Dean, Stefanie Howard

College Counselor, Stephanie Perez-Gill

Director of Character & Leadership, Eric Kerr-Herally

IWA at a glance

Total enrollment: 331 12th grade enrollment: 76	African American/Black: 7% Asian or Pacific Islander: 12% Hispanic: 14% All other ethnicities: 67%	Catholic: 86% Non-Catholic: 14%
Number of Faculty (Full & Part Time): 35 Doctoral: 6% Masters: 57%		

College Preparatory Curriculum

IWA's curriculum exceeds the TEA's recommended program, and allows students to expand upon their strengths and interests with diverse academic electives such as Honors Engineering Design, Leading with Service, and Leading with Business, a course in partnership with the Wharton School of business. In addition to the academic requirements, students are required to complete 75 Service Learning Hours, 60 of which are with a single agency.

28 credits are required for graduation:		World Languages (same language)	3
Theology	4	Physical Education	1
English	4	Health Education	
Mathematics	4	.5	
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	4	Computer Science	.5
Social Studies	3	Fine Arts	1
Government	.5	Leading with Character	.5
Economics	.5	Elective	
		1.5	

IWA students may earn a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) endorsement consisting of one of the following options: 1. Complete 5 credits in Math by either: a. Placing out of Algebra 1 b. Taking an additional math elective such as AP Statistics or AP Computer Science 2. Complete 5 credits in Science by taking one additional Science elective.

GPA & Class Rank

GPA is determined using a 4.0 scale with an additional weight of 1.0 for honors and AP courses. The GPA is cumulative and weighted from 9th grade. Transfer grades are not calculated into GPA. **IWA does not rank students.**

	Grade	On-Level	AP/Honors
A	90-100	4.0	5.0
B	80-89	3.0	4.0
C	75-79	2.0	3.0
D	70-74	1.0	2.0
F	Below 70	0	0

Honors & Advanced Placement Courses

IWA offers 16 honors courses and 15 AP courses. Each department determines its enrollment standards for academic performance, participation and faculty recommendation. There is no limit to the number of honors/AP courses a student may take, and each course is given a one-point weight in the student's GPA. All students enrolled in an AP course must sit for the AP exam.

Honors Courses		AP Courses	
Algebra I	Geometry	Biology	French Language & Culture
Algebra II	Latin III	Calculus AB	Spanish Language & Culture
Biology	Physics	Calculus BC	Statistics
Chemistry	Pre-Calculus	Chemistry	US Government & Politics
Economics	Spanish III	Computer Science A	United States History
Engineering Design	World Geography and History from 1500 CE	Computer Science Principles	World History: Modern
English I		English Language & Composition	
English II		English Literature & Composition	
French III		Latin	

Modified Block Schedule & Flex Time

IWA used a modified block schedule prior to academic year 2020-2021 (see below.) Students attend all eight classes on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, four of their classes on Tuesdays, and the other four on Wednesdays. This allowed more time for experiential learning and reflection and decreased the homework load two nights per week. Students learned time-management skills through Flex Time, 40 minutes at the end of each school day that is used at the student's discretion. Flex Time provided opportunities for students to engage in tutoring, collaborate in groups, plan for the week or participate in enrichment activities such as speakers or stress management workshops.

COVID-19 Response

From March 22 through May 29 of 2020, students participated in asynchronous remote learning. Traditional assessments such as tests and quizzes were replaced with more project-based learning or essays/papers. Teachers were required to collect one grade per week during remote learning. Final exams were not administered for the 2019-2020 school year. Students in AP classes were still required to sit for the modified version of the AP exam for that class to receive credit for the course. However, the school day administration of the SAT had to be cancelled in 2020. This greatly impacted the class of 2021 as more than 75% of juniors were not able to sit for the SAT due to the cancellation of this exam administration. No other changes were made to grading policy or procedures.

The 2020-2021 academic year began on a full block, asynchronous remote learning schedule which will run until Sept. 21, 2020. IWA will offer two options for learning beginning September 21. Option 1: Provided it is safe to return to on-campus instruction, IWA will follow a hybrid model using a block schedule four days a week and one eight period remote learning day. Option 2: Fully remote instructional plan utilizing synchronous and asynchronous learning. Families will have the ability to change to Option 1 learning plan each quarter.

The schedule for both the remote learning and hybrid model is listed below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday
8:00 - 9:25 AM	1	2	8:00 - 8:40	1	1	2
			8:45 - 9:25	2		
9:30 - 10:55 AM	3	4	9:30 - 10:10	3	3	4
			10:15 - 10:55	4		
11:00 - 12:00 PM	LUNCH					
12:00 - 1:25 PM	5	6	12:00 - 12:40	5	5	6
			12:45 - 1:25	6		
1:30 - 3:00 PM	7	8	1:30 - 2:10	7	7	8
			2:15 - 2:55	8		
3:00 - 3:30 PM	FLEX (optional)					
Total Instructional Time	345 minutes	345 minutes	320 minutes		345 minutes	345 minutes

Standardized Testing

SAT SCORES			
Middle 50%			
	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	Class of 2018
Students Tested	81	70	57
EBRW	555-675	550-660	570-670
Math	505-620	520-630	510-630

ACT SCORES			
Middle 50%			
	Class of 2020	Class of 2019	Class of 2018
Students Tested	55	42	58
ELA	18-27	17-25	20-24
English	21-31	22-29	22-26
Math	17-26	21-31	18-25
Reading	23-33	19-25	22-30
Science	21-25	21-27	21-25
STEM	19-26	20-26	19-24
Composite	20-29	21-28	21-25

AP Scores

	2020	2019	2018	2017
11 th /12 th graders taking at least 1 exam	75%	63%	65%	68%
Total exams	296	280	243	252
Students with scores 3+	79%	76%	74%	80%

National Recognition

2020 Advanced Placement Recognition

AP Scholars	22
AP Scholars with Honor	11
AP Scholars with Distinction	15
National AP Scholar	1

Students in National Merit Scholarship Program (semifinalist or commended)

Class of 2021	3
Class of 2020	2
Class of 2019	2
Class of 2018	4

Cumulative GPA Distribution (six semesters)

	4.0	3.75-3.99	3.5-3.74	3.25-3.49	3.0-3.24	< 3.0
Class of 2021	51%	16%	11%	6%	11%	5%
Class of 2020	40%	8%	14%	16%	14%	8%
Class of 2019	37%	7%	7%	15%	7%	27%
Class of 2018	36%	5%	8%	13%	10%	28%
Class of 2017	38%	15%	10%	10%	14%	13%

College Matriculation

Size of graduating class: 85

4 year university	95%
2 year university	5%
Public	70%
Private	30%
In-State	60%
Out of State	40%

College Acceptances 2020

The class of 2020 was accepted to 116 different colleges and universities across the country and around the world. Graduating seniors earned over \$7.8 million in merit scholarships, with 75% of students receiving at least one scholarship award. Schools bolded in the list of acceptances below demonstrate matriculation for the class of 2020.

The University of Alabama
American University
Arizona State University
University of Arkansas
Auburn University
Baylor University
Belmont Abbey College
Benedictine College
Blinn College
Boston College
Butler University
The Catholic University of America
Clemson University
Cleveland State University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
University of Dallas
University of Denver
DePaul University
Drexel University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Los Angeles
Fairfield University
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Guelph
Hawaii Pacific University
Hofstra University
Houston Baptist University
University of Houston
University of Houston, Downtown
University of Houston, Honors College
Howard Payne University
Ithaca College
John Paul the Great Catholic University
University of Kentucky
Lamar University
Louisiana State University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
University of Louisiana
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University, New Orleans
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
McNeese State University
University of Mississippi
Mississippi State University
Morgan State University
University of New Haven
The New School
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
University of North Texas
Northeastern University
Oklahoma State University
The University of Oklahoma
Olin College of Engineering
University of Ottawa
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Puerto Rico
University of Pittsburgh
Providence College
Purdue University
Regis University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Francis University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's College
Saint Mary's College of California
Sam Houston State University
San Diego State University
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seattle University
Southwestern University
Spring Hill College
St. Catherine University - St. Paul
St. Edward's University
St. John's University
St. Mary's University of San Antonio
Stephen F. Austin State University
Sweet Briar College
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University, Galveston
Texas A&M University, San Antonio
Texas Christian University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman's University
The University of Texas, Austin
The University of Texas, Dallas
The University of Texas, San Antonio
The University of Texas, Tyler
Trinity University
Tulane University
University of Tulsa
University of St. Thomas
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Waterloo
Wilfrid Laurier University
Western University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana