

# ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

INTENTIONALLY SMALL, **THINKING BIG.**

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2020–2021

### School Overview

St. Mark's is a four-year, college preparatory, boarding and day school located 20 miles west of Boston. Originally founded in 1865 as an Episcopal boys' school, St. Mark's merged with the Southborough School for Girls in 1977. Our classes are traditionally referred to as forms: 9th grade is III Form, 10th grade is IV Form, 11th grade is V Form, and 12th grade is VI Form.

The academic program at St. Mark's is a blend of a classical liberal curriculum infused with innovative elements of contemporary pedagogy. Across the curriculum, students are exposed to interdisciplinary work and the opportunity to develop strong scientific inquiry, historical research, collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, and written communication skills. Over the past four years, we have completely reimagined our curriculum as well as our use of class time in service of better teaching and learning. We are proud of our distinctive academic program and offer greater detail on a few highlights below.

### Signature Programs

**Advanced Curriculum:** With the start of the 2014–2015 school year, St. Mark's began offering teacher-generated, school-specific "Advanced" classes in all core academic disciplines except English, where departmental philosophy drives continued heterogeneous grouping. Courses such as our STEM and History Research Fellowships, along with Advanced Topics classes in Math, Language and Religion and our Independent Study Program (ISP), form the core of our most rigorous options.

**Lion Term:** A three-week, form-based experiential program, Lion Term encourages students to think beyond themselves and provides structure for them to apply their learning to the wider world through internships and independent research. IV, V, and VI Form students may also participate in Lions Roam, an elective course that integrates a travel and immersion experience during Lion Term. The Lions Roam program has visited and explored Bhutan, Iceland, and Spain; in 2019-2020, the Lions Roam embedded immersion course is "Race, Racism, and Reconciliation since 1945: Lions Roam in the American South and South Africa."

**St. Mark's Saturdays:** St. Mark's Saturdays offer students and faculty an innovative opportunity to engage in relevant and developmentally appropriate academic, service, and character and wellness coursework. At the core of each St. Mark's Saturdays offering is a belief in the power of experience to transform student understanding. Our Saturday program allows students to direct their own educational pathways by pursuing current interests and exploring new ones in hands-on, collaborative, and interdisciplinary courses.

**History Fellowship:** The History Fellowship trains talented, aspiring historians in the skills of academic research and historiography. Each Fellow, having selected a topic of personal interest during the spring of the V Form year, then pursues rigorous, in-depth research in venues ranging from libraries to archives, to the halls of Congress, and distant museums. The course culminates in the production of a substantial research paper, which students defend before a panel of faculty members.

**STEM Fellowship:** The STEM Fellowship offers students the chance for deep exploration of their own particular area of interest, while fostering real-world skills needed for high-level scientific research. Fellows work with faculty and mentors from area labs and hospitals to design and conduct their own experiments and apply their research to real-world challenges. Fellows present posters at local and national science fairs.

Click [here](#) for additional information about the academic program.



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## ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

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## St. Mark's At a Glance

371 students 103 members of the Class of 2021	74% of students board 79 seniors are boarding students
Students come to St. Mark's from 23 US states and 14 nations	33% of students are domestic students of color 20% of students are international students
28% of students receive financial aid	The average award for boarding students is \$57,537 The average for day students is \$33,813
87 faculty members 77% of faculty hold advanced degrees	The average class size is 12 The student to faculty ratio is 6:1

## COVID-19 Response Statement

St. Mark's moved all learning to remote on March 24, 2020. This shift occurred simultaneous to the end of our 3rd window or marking period. Like many schools, we moved to a Pass/Fail grading system for the final window, adopting a policy that if students continued to meet standards for progress and engagement, their grade would not fall below the 3rd window level. With work that went "significantly beyond" expectations, students could, however, positively impact their grade. This fall, approximately one-third of our students have returned to boarding, one-third are attending as day students, and one-third are fully remote; we have adopted a hybrid instructional model. We have returned to our traditional A-E grading system.

## Diploma Requirements

Subject	Years/Courses Required	Notes
English	4 years	All students complete the same sequence in Forms III and IV. V Formers can choose between American Literature and Books Without Borders. All VI Formers take two semester-long electives; VI Form electives are considered advanced coursework in English.
History & Social Science	2 years	Students complete The Global Seminar and US History in their III and V Form years, respectively. Upperform students can choose from a variety of year- and semester-long electives in history and the social sciences.
Math	3 years	Students must complete Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II in sequence. The vast majority of St. Markers complete advanced coursework in mathematics beyond Algebra II.
Science	2 years of lab science	Students often go beyond the two-year diploma requirement, taking full advantage of course offerings across the life and physical sciences, as well as options in computer science, robotics, and engineering.
Modern and Classical Languages	Through Level III of a single language	Students choose between Chinese, French, German, and Spanish in Modern Languages as well as Greek and Latin in Classical Languages.
Religion	1 year	Students are required to study three religious systems of thought (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) as well as one other meaning-making system of a religious, humanist, ethical, philosophical, aesthetic, or historical perspective.
Arts	1 year	Students can select courses in visual arts, theater, and vocal and instrumental music.

### Special Diplomas

**Classics Diploma:** Students can earn a Classics Diploma by completing a combined five years of Greek and Latin and engaging in a senior project.

**Global Diploma:** St. Mark's awarded the first Global Diplomas in 2020. Global Diploma candidates meet regularly as a cohort to reflect on their course of study and on local and global engagement; students also complete a capstone experience.

## Advanced Courses by Department

Since the fall of 2014, our most rigorous courses have been designated Advanced (**Adv.**) rather than AP. These courses meet or exceed the challenge of the relevant Advanced Placement curriculum and allow for greater flexibility in curriculum design.

History	Adv. U.S. History, Adv. U.S. Government and Politics, History Research Fellowship, Adv. Studies in Global Citizenship
Mathematics	Adv. Statistics, Adv. AB Calculus, Adv. BC Calculus, Adv. Topics in Mathematics, Mathematical Research
Science	Adv. Biology, Adv. Chemistry, Adv. Environmental Science, Adv. Physics, STEM Research Fellowship
Computer Science	Adv. Topics in Computer Science
Languages	Adv. Chinese ( <i>not offered in 2020-2021</i> ), Adv. French: The Francophone World, Adv. Spanish Language and Cultures, Adv. Topics in Spanish Literature, Adv. Topics in Latin Literature
Religion	Adv. Religion: Modern Philosophy and the Challenges of Unbelief
Arts	Adv. Studio Art, Adv. Art History, Adv. Ceramics, Adv. Music Theory, Adv. Topics in Music, Adv. Theater Workshop

### Academic Information: Class of 2021

#### Class of 2021 Unweighted GPA Distribution through V Form

Mean GPA = 3.54

The middle 50% of the Class of 2021 has a GPA between 3.39 and 3.92.



GPA includes only courses taken at St. Mark's School. St. Mark's does not weigh grades, compute class rank, or release individual GPAs to colleges.

#### Grade Distribution in V Form Courses

*Note: Includes courses enrolling 5 or more V Formers during 2019-2020; does not include performing arts courses.*

Course Name	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C
American Literature	8	18	20	7	3	3		
Books Without Borders	2	11	12	11	6			
US History	1	9	11	12	12	3	2	
Advanced US History		15	9	8	12			
Macroeconomics	1	4	1				1	1
Microeconomics		2	3					1
Judaism, Christianity and Islam	1	4	4	2	1			
Advanced Religion			4					
French IV		1	1	1	1			
Greek I	2	4			1			
Spanish III	5	2	1	1	5		1	1
Spanish IV	3	3	6	4	1	1		
Advanced Spanish Language and Culture		3	2	1	2			
Algebra II		2	2	2	1			1
Statistics, Functions and Trigonometry			5	5	3	2		4
Precalculus	3	9	3	4	6	1	2	
Honors Precalculus	1	6	6	1	1			
Calculus		1						
Advanced AB Calculus	6	6						
Advanced BC Calculus	2	2	3	4	1			
Biology		8	2	5	3	6	1	
Advanced Biology		13	8	7	4	5	2	
Advanced Chemistry	1	2	5	1				
Advanced Environmental Science		6	4				1	
Advanced Physics: Mechanics	1	1	1	1				

## Policy on Reporting of Discipline

Consistent with the NACAC Statement of Good Principles of Practice, and our strong belief in the integrity of the application process, St. Mark's students are required to report all disciplinary infractions that result in suspension.

## College Matriculation: 2018–2020

Over the past three years, St. Mark's students have chosen to attend the schools below. On average, students choose sixty different schools a year. Virtually all St. Mark's graduates enroll in a four-year institution immediately upon graduation. Schools listed in bold have enrolled **three or more** St. Markers between 2018-2020.

American University  
**Amherst College**  
Assumption University  
**Babson College**  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
**Boston College**  
**Boston University**  
**Bowdoin College**  
**Brown University**  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
**Carnegie Mellon University**  
Case Western Reserve University  
University of Chicago  
University of Cincinnati  
**Colby College**  
**Colgate University**  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
**Columbia University**  
Connecticut College  
**University of Connecticut**  
**Cornell University**  
**Dartmouth College**  
Davidson College  
Denison University  
University College Dublin  
**Duke University**  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Florida State University  
**Franklin & Marshall College**  
**George Washington University**  
**Georgetown University**

Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
**Hamilton College**  
Harvard University  
Harvey Mudd College  
Haverford College  
Hobart & William Smith Colleges  
**College of the Holy Cross**  
**University of Illinois**  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
The Juilliard School  
Kenyon College  
Lafayette College  
**Lehigh University**  
Macalester College  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Miami University, Oxford  
University of Michigan  
**Middlebury College**  
Muhlenberg College  
University of New Hampshire, Durham  
**New York University**  
**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
North Carolina State University  
**Northeastern University**  
Oxford College of Emory University  
**University of Pennsylvania**  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
**Providence College**  
Purdue University  
Quinnipiac University  
Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Rhodes College  
University of Richmond  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Santa Clara University  
Skidmore College  
University of South Carolina  
**University of Southern California**  
**Southern Methodist University**  
University of St. Andrews  
**St. Lawrence University**  
**Stanford University**  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
**Texas Christian University**  
The University of Tampa  
Trinity College  
**Trinity University**  
**Tufts University**  
Tulane University  
Union College  
**University of Vermont**  
University of Virginia  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
**Wake Forest University**  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington College  
**Washington University in St. Louis**  
Wellesley College  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Wesleyan University  
**Williams College**  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University

