

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

INTENTIONALLY SMALL, **THINKING BIG.**

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

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. In recent years, we have completely reimagined our curriculum as well as our use of class time in service of better teaching and learning.

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 classes in Math, Modern and Classical Languages, Religion, and Global Citizenship, 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; this year's offering is *Race, Racism and Reconciliation in South Africa and the American South* and will include both domestic and international travel.

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 semester-long 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 year-long 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 At a Glance

375 students 90 members of the Class of 2022	76% of students board 70 seniors are boarding students
Students come to St. Mark's from 24 US states and 10 nations	35% of students are domestic students of color 22% of students are international students
29% of students receive financial aid	The average award for boarding students is \$59,198 The average for day students is \$34,719
86 faculty members 77% of faculty hold advanced degrees	The average class size is 12 The student to faculty ratio is 6:1

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 World Literature: Books Without Borders. All VI Formers take two semester-long electives.
History & Social Science	2 years	Students must complete The Global Seminar and US History. A variety of year- and semester-long electives are available for students with interest 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 the three major religious traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) in a semester-long elective. Religion electives focus on ethics, social justice, philosophy, and other meaning-making traditions, such as Eastern Religious Thought.
Arts	1 year	Students can select courses in visual arts, theater, and vocal and instrumental music.

Special Diplomas

Classics Diploma: Students earn a Classics Diploma by taking three years of one classical language and two of the other, traveling on the Classical Diploma trip to Greece or Italy (*not offered during the pandemic*), and completing a capstone project.

Global Diploma: St. Mark's awarded the first Global Diplomas in 2020. Global Diploma candidates must take *Advanced Studies in Global Citizenship*, participate in travel/exchange programs, meet regularly for discussion of local and global issues, and complete a capstone project.

Advanced Courses by Department

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

History	History Research Fellowship, Advanced US History, Advanced World History, Advanced US Government and Politics, Advanced Studies in Global Citizenship
Mathematics	Advanced Topics in Mathematics, Advanced AB Calculus, Advanced BC Calculus, Advanced Statistics
Science	STEM Research Fellowship, Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Physics: Mechanics
Computer Science	Advanced Topics in Computer Science
Languages	Advanced Chinese Language and Culture, Advanced French, Advanced Spanish Language and Culture, Advanced Topics in Spanish Literature, Advanced Topics in Latin Literature
Religion	Advanced Religion: Modern Philosophy and the Challenges of Unbelief
Arts	Advanced Studio Art, Advanced Ceramics, Advanced Art History I and II, Advanced Music Theory

Curricular Changes Effective 2020-2021

- Students must take *Biology* before taking *Advanced Biology*. In prior years, students were able to take Advanced Biology without prior Biology coursework.
- *Advanced Physics: Mechanics* is a year-long course. In prior years, Advanced Physics: Mechanics and Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism were each offered as semester-long electives.
- *Advanced Environmental Science* is no longer offered. (Environmental Science, an introductory course in the subject, is available.)
- *Advanced World History* is a year-long course. In prior years, World History I and Advanced World History II were offered as separate semester-long electives.

COVID-19 Response

2019-2020

St. Mark's went fully remote on March 24, 2020, which coincided with the end of our third marking period. Fourth window grades were Pass/Fail, but students received a final letter grade in our normal A-E grading system for each course. Hence, no Pass/Fail grades appear on transcripts.

2020-2021

St. Mark's welcomed approximately two-thirds of our students back to campus in 2020-2021, although all students were remote in September and the first two weeks of January. About one third of students were remote for the entire year, and classes were taught in a hybrid instructional model. Most international students were unable to travel to the US; in addition, some domestic students chose to learn remotely. For health and safety reasons, students who chose in-person learning were prohibited from participating in off-campus activities and spring break was eliminated. We returned to our normal A-E grading system for all quarters.

2021-2022

All students returned to in-person learning in 2021-2022. Our normal A-E grading system is in use for all quarters.

Academic Information: Class of 2022

Unweighted GPA Distribution through V Form

Mean GPA = 3.62

Middle 50% GPA: 3.27-3.98

All GPAs are **unweighted** and include only courses taken at St. Mark's School. St. Mark's does not 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 2020-2021; does not include performing arts courses.

Course Name	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C
American Literature	8	16	13	8	4	1		
Books Without Borders	2	21	6	5	2	1		
US History	4	9	10	9	6	1	1	3
Advanced US History	2	19	5	6	4	2		
Judaism, Christianity and Islam		1	3		1			
French IV		7	1		1			
Greek I	5				1			
Spanish III	2	4	3	2	1	1	1	1
Spanish IV	1	7	6					
Advanced Spanish Language and Culture	1	3			2			
Algebra II		3	3	2	1			
Precalculus		16	5	2	3	2	1	1
Honors Precalculus	2	6	1	1	1			
Advanced AB Calculus	2	3	1	1	1		1	
Advanced BC Calculus	5	4						
Biology	3	15	5	4	4	4	1	1
Advanced Biology	19	1	1			1		
Advanced Chemistry	1	1	3	1	1			
Advanced Physics: Mechanics	4	1	4	2				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 respond honestly to questions about their disciplinary history.

College Matriculation: 2019–2021

Over the past three years, St. Mark's students have chosen to attend the colleges and universities below. On average, students matriculate at sixty different schools each 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 2019-2021.

American University	Johns Hopkins University	University of California, Los Angeles
Amherst College	Kenyon College	University of California, Santa Barbara
Assumption University	Lafayette College	University of Chicago
Babson College	Lehigh University	University of Colorado Boulder
Barnard College	Macalester College	University of Connecticut
Bates College	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	University of Delaware
Baylor University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Boston College	Miami University (Oxford)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Boston University	Middlebury College	University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Bowdoin College	Muhlenberg College	University of Michigan
Brown University	New York University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bryn Mawr College	North Carolina State University	University of Pennsylvania
Bucknell University	Northeastern University	University of Richmond
Carnegie Mellon University	Oberlin College	University of South Carolina
Case Western Reserve University	Pennsylvania State University	University of Southern California
Colby College	Princeton University	University of St Andrews
Colgate University	Providence College	University of Vermont
College of the Holy Cross	Purdue University	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Colorado College	Quinnipiac University	Vanderbilt University
Columbia University	Reed College	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Connecticut College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Wagner College
Cornell University	Rhodes College	Wake Forest University
Dartmouth College	Rochester Institute of Technology	Washington and Lee University
Davidson College	Salve Regina University	Washington University in St. Louis
Denison University	Santa Clara University	Wellesley College
Dickinson College	Southern Methodist University	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Duke University	Springfield College	Wesleyan University
Elon University	St. Lawrence University	Williams College
Emory University	Stanford University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Fairfield University	Swarthmore College	Yale University
Florida Institute of Technology	Texas Christian University	
Franklin & Marshall College	The University of Tampa	
George Washington University	Trinity College	
Georgetown University	Trinity University	
Gettysburg College	Tufts University	
Grinnell College	Tulane University of Louisiana	
Hamilton College	Union College	
Harvard University	University College Dublin	
Harvey Mudd College	University of California, Berkeley	
Hobart and William Smith Colleges		

