

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

At SPA our core belief in the power of personal accountability has led us to create the “accountable classroom”: a small and vibrant learning community where master teachers discover and strengthen individual talents. In the accountable classroom, children of all ages learn that they have a responsibility to engage and contribute. Every day. In every class. Because the class is only as good as the students and teacher make it, together. The ensuing discourse teaches students to respect the input of others even as they begin to recognize their own talents.

Critical thinking and imagination are both important here. We engage the whole student and the whole brain to produce college-ready graduates with supple minds that can synthesize, invent and build — individually or in teams. We believe that our culture of support and academic rigor teaches resilience and a love of learning. It also creates a community where people are judged based on what they contribute, not what they have.

It takes a special kind of faculty and leadership to cultivate an accountable, yet innovative culture. But for those who are the very best at what they do, SPA provides the freedom, time and resources to really focus on the students. In turn, the students inspire our staff to do the best work of their lives in fulfilling the school’s mission: *shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world.*

Who comes to SPA?

St. Paul Academy and Summit School is a K-12 independent day school with two campuses located in the heart of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Our 905 students reflect the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 38 percent identifying as students of color and 25 percent drawing from a pool of more than \$4 million of financial aid. There are 400 students in grades 9-12, and 107 seniors in the Class of 2022.

All of our students gain multiple years’ experience in:

- discussion-based seminar classes that emphasize thoughtful participation and clear expression of ideas
- independent research papers in history
- use of sophisticated lab equipment and practice in scientific writing
- focus on logic, critical thinking and clear communication in math
- oral proficiency and cultural competence in world language
- creative expression in music, theater, visual art and design

SPA graduates arrive at college:

- accustomed to working independently using discipline-specific modes of thinking and writing.
- comfortable consulting teachers with questions and building rapport with faculty mentors.
- ready to use the skills, habits, and attitudes that enable them to thrive and lead from the start.

In their own words, see what our recent graduates value about their SPA education:

“SPA instilled a systemic curiosity which sets me apart from my peers.”

“I value that SPA didn’t teach to a test. I think SPA definitely gave me the tools to answer difficult/unanswerable/interesting questions and to use resources to figure out an answer.”

“SPA gave me the comfort to speak up in classes. It trained me well to maneuver in discussions: listening, building on the ideas put forth by others, and injecting new ideas into the discussion.”

“My ability to write clearly and think critically has been extremely valuable to me in college and in my life beyond college as well.”

Shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world

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UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS

Admission readers: Descriptions of each applicant's senior year courses are attached to their transcript.

- All courses are independently designed, not based on exams such as AP or IB.
- The main course of study is taught at a rigorous college prep level.
 - Most junior/senior year electives use college level texts.
 - Required academic courses 9-11 are year-long; Most electives are by semester.
 - "Advanced" refers to higher level content in a sequence or with a higher level prerequisite.
 - "Honors" refers to a version of a course or an elective that covers more material at a faster pace and deeper level, and requires faculty invitation.
 - Courses marked * have an honors level prerequisite.
 - Courses marked ** require department approval.
 - Courses marked ◆ may support a student's choice to take an AP exam.

ENGLISH

4-year requirement: Journeys in Literature (9), American Literature (10), and semester electives (11, 12). All semester electives are rigorous college-prep seminars.

2021-22 Junior/Senior English ◆

Fall semester

Classics in Society
Literature and the Environment
Literature of Migration
Poetry: Connection and Community
Writing Seminar: Critical Contexts

Spring semester

Creative Writing: Poetry and Poetics
Literature of Love and Marriage
Literature of the Asian Diaspora
Speculative Fiction
Topics in Literary Analysis

2020-21 Junior/Senior English ◆

Fall semester

Creative Nonfiction
Fiction and Consciousness
Literature of Comedy and Satire
Transnational Literature
Writing Seminar: Contemporary Culture

Spring semester

Fiction Seminar: Story Mechanics
Literature and the Environment
Literature of Monstrosity
Literature of Resistance
Time and Memory in Literature

Debate, Journalism and Yearbook:

Academic, credit-bearing elective courses with competition or production components beyond class time. Courses do not fulfill English requirements. Each program has earned state and national recognition.

Beginning Debate (Fall)
Advanced Debate (Fall)
Writing for Publication (Fall/Spring)
Journalism (Print or Multimedia)
Editorial Leadership (Print or Multimedia)
Yearbook (Fall/Spring)
Editorial Leadership: Yearbook

WORLD LANGUAGE

3-level requirement including two years' study in Upper School or, by permission, the second level of two languages. After Level 4 of Chinese, French or German, or Level 5 for Spanish, Advanced Language seminars examine a rotating set of topics. Students must enroll for a full year, then may take Advanced Language a second year by semester.

2021-22 Advanced Language electives ◆

Chinese: Classical and Contemporary Philosophy
French: Justice and Revolution; Local Connections
German: Democracy Falters; Fighting Fascism
Spanish: Identities of Spain; Caribbean Identities

2020-21 Advanced Language electives ◆

Chinese: Classic Literature; Modern Literature
French: French Identity; Identity in the Arts
German: introduced in 2021-22
Spanish: Mexico and Identity; Andean Identity

MATHEMATICS

3-course sequence required: Algebra II, Geometry and Precalculus.

Students are placed by faculty in Fundamentals, Regular (main course/rigorous prep) or Honors Level.

Electives

Probability and Statistics I and II
Data Science (Fall)
Topics in Data Science (Spring) **
Advanced Probability and Statistics I, II ◆
Differential and Integral Calculus ◆
Honors Differential and Integral Calculus ◆

Honors Topics

2021-22 Discrete Dynamical Systems (Fall), Multivariable Calculus (Spring) ◆
2020-21 Linear Algebra (Fall), Combinatorics (Spring)

SCIENCE

3-year lab science requirement: Physics 9, Biology, Chemistry. Only Biology and Chemistry have an Honors level course with placement determined by faculty. All semester electives are lab-based, college-prep courses building off required core courses.

Electives

Fall semester
Space Science
Environmental Science
Genetics
Neuroscience
Organic Chemistry *
Advanced Mechanics
Advanced Mechanics with Calculus ◆
Advanced Scientific Research **

Spring semester

Human Physiology
Forensic Science
Relativity and Quantum Physics
Waves, Optics and Acoustics
Honors Biology II * ◆
Honors Chemistry II * ◆
Electricity and Magnetism with Calculus ◆
Advanced Scientific Research **

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

No requirement; Programming and Problem Solving and CS Principles are first level courses.

Computer Science

Programming and Problem Solving (Fall)
Computer Science Principles I, II ◆
Robotics (Fall/Spring)
Applied Programming (Spring)
Physical Computing (Spring)
Advanced Programming I, II ◆
*Not offered 2021-22: Adv. Topics in CS ***

Engineering

Principles of Engineering (Fall/Spring)
Adv. Projects: CSCI and Engineering (Fall/Spring)
Adv. Topics in Engineering: Electrical (Fall)
Adv. Topics in Engineering: Product (Spring) **
Not offered 2021-22: Engineering: Aerospace

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

3-year requirement: World History I and II (9-10)

◆, **U.S. History (11)** ◆ Electives are rigorous seminars building off required core courses.

Electives

Fall semester

Ancient World
Gender in the Americas
Government and Citizenship (open to gr 10-12)
History of Refugee Communities
History of Thought
Honors US History Seminar **
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II

Spring semester

Economics
Global Issues
History of Law
History of Race
Israel and Palestine
Social Movements in US
World Religions

FINE ARTS

Required: .75 credit, typically three semesters of art, music or theater. Most fine arts courses earn .25 credit/semester. Honors Seminars earn .5/semester.

Semester Electives

Music ensembles: Academy Chorale, Summit Singers (treble voices), Academy Symphony, Honors Sinfonia**, US Jazz Band

Studio Art: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Video Arts.

2021-22: Sculpture, Ceramic Fabrication, Extended Image, Video Storytelling
2020-21: Printmaking, Alternative Process Photography

Theater: Theatrical Arts; Advanced Theater: 2021-22: Acting, Directing. 2020-21: Production and Performance, Design.

Honors Seminars** Art (Fall/Spring), Music I, II ◆

WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Required: Physical Health and Wellness (9), Wellness (10)

CREDITS, COURSELOAD, GRADING

- Academic courses earn .5 credit/semester
- 18 credits required, typically 4.5/year
- Maximum 7 courses/semester
- Highest grade is an "A"; grades and GPA unweighted
- We do not report class rank

CLASS OF 2022 (107 STUDENTS) AS JUNIORS

	Mean	Middle 50%
Cumulative GPA (unweighted)	3.65	3.49-3.93
ACT Composite (65% of class took ACT)	30	26-33
SAT Total (44% of class took SAT)	1360	1270-1470
National Merit Recognition		
Semi-Finalists		10
Commended Students		10
Percent of class recognized		19%

TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

ACT	2021	2020	2019
Percent of class taking ACT	72%	84%	89%
ACT Composite	30	30	31
Mid-50% Composite	28-33	28-33	28-34

SAT	2021	2020	2019
Percent of class taking SAT	64%	75%	71%
SAT Total	1384	1374	1379
Mid-50% SAT	1310-1480	1265-1495	1295-1500

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

SPA teaches an independently designed rigorous college prep curriculum - not AP classes. Some students choose to take AP Exams.

- In 2021, 76 students took 128 exams in 19 subjects.
- 97% of scores were 3 or above, and 75% were 4 or 5.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Among 400 Upper School students, more than 70% compete in athletics, nearly 50% perform in music ensembles, and nearly 20% participate in our nationally-ranked debate program.

Student Affinity Groups: Asian Student Alliance, Black and Brown Student Union, Common Ground, HerSpace, Latinos Unidos, Mishpacha (Jewish Student Affinity), Muslim Affinity Group, Neurodiversity Group, Rainbow Connection

Special Interest: Neurodiversity Group, White Ally/Antiracist

Student Clubs: A Cappella Club, Action for Gender Equality, Chess Club, Argumentation Club, Book Club, Community Action and Service, Film Club, Game Club, Gender and Sexuality Acceptance Club, Intercultural Club, Iris: Art & Lit, Knitwits, Math Team, Music Lab, Outdoors Club, PEP (People for Environmental Protection), PLAY, Quizbowl, Political Discourse Club, RPGs Club, SADD (Spartans Against Destructive Decisions), Science Alliance, SPARK! Maker's Space, Spartan Boosters, Sports Analytics Club, StartUp: Entrepreneur Club, Students for Social Justice, Youth in Government

STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

STEM

- Regeneron Science Talent Search: 2020 and 2021 Semifinalists and Top 300 Scholars.
- ISEF international science fair: three qualifying projects 2021; third place awards 2021, 2019.
- 2021 State Science Fair 15 qualifiers; Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: 14 state qualifiers, national winner 2020.
- Science Olympiad: Small school champion 2021, 2018, 2017
- Math Team 2nd in state 2020; Perennial first in state among small schools.

DEBATE

- 2021 winner MN Debate Teacher Cup Public Forum for top performing school in state.
- 2021 two Public Forum teams qualified for state, one for nationals.
- 2020 two teams qualified for Tournament of Champions; one placed top 10%.
- Qualified for state 24 of the past 25 years.

PUBLICATIONS

- *The Rubicon*: JEA/NSPA Pacemaker Award (2016-2020), Finalist 2021; CSPA Gold Crown (2018-20), Finalist 2021.
- RubicOnline - one of 17 national SNO Distinguished Sites, 6th year. Pacemaker finalist 2021.
- *Iris Art & Literature* Magazine: one of 8 national Pacemaker Awards 2021; NSPA All-American, CSPA Gold 2020.
- *Ibid* yearbook - MN First Class NCTE 2020; NSPA First Class Award 2019, 2020.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

- 2021 Hennepin Theater Trust - Spotlight Education Outstanding Overall Performance for fall production.
- Minnesota Scholastic Art Competition 2021: 17 students received 31 awards in 25 categories.
- Poetry Out Loud Competition: Spoken word state finalist 2019, two top 10 finishers 2020.
- NCTE state writing award 2020.
- Quiz Bowl national qualifier (sixth time in eight years).

ATHLETICS

- State Titles: Boys fencing team (2014-2020) and individual 2020; Football team 2018 (#2 in 2019); Boys tennis doubles 2019; Boys Nordic individual 2019.
- State Team qualifiers: Girls cross-country 2020; Girls Nordic skiing 2021; Girls fencing 3rd in state 2019; Girls hockey 4 of past 6 years; Boys tennis 2nd in state 2019.
- State Individual qualifiers: Girls diving 2020; Boys cross country 2020, Girls Nordic skiing 2021 (individual 3rd place); Girls and Boys Alpine skiing 2020, 2021; Boys tennis doubles - 2nd in state 2021, 2019; Boys track 2019. NCAA Division I athletes: 15 from 2015-20. National Junior Olympic fencing: 2 qualifiers 2020.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT 2018-2021

SPA students were admitted to the following colleges, and enrolled in colleges marked in bold. Numbers indicate more than one student enrolled.

- In 2021, the average number of applications filed was 7.8.
- 34% applied via Early Decision; 17% enrolled through ED.

Agnes Scott College
Alabama State University
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Augustana University
Austin College
Babson College - 2
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College - 3
Belmont University
Beloit College - 2
Bemidji State University
Bennington College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College - 3
Boston University - 4
Bowdoin College - 4
Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brown University - 3
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College - 4
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo
Carleton College - 11
Carnegie Mellon University - 5
Carnegie Mellon in Qatar
Case Western Reserve University
Century College
Champlain College
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College - 2
Clark Atlanta University
Coastal Carolina University
Coe College
Colby College
Colgate University - 4
College of Charleston
College of Saint Benedict
College of Saint Scholastica
College of the Holy Cross
College of Wooster
Colorado College - 5
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado State University - 2
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University - 3
Concordia College, Moorhead
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Cornell University - 4
Creighton University
Daemen College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drake University - 2
Drexel University
Earlham College
Eastman School of Music
Eckerd College
Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland)
Elon University - 3
Emerson College
Emory University
Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Florida Southern College
Fordham University - 3
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
George Washington University - 7
Georgetown University - 3
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Grinnell College - 5
Gustavus Adolphus College - 4
Hamilton College - 2
Hamline University
Harvard University - 2
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hendrix College
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Howard University
Hult International School of Business
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University
Iowa State University - 2
Ithaca College
Jacobs University (Germany)
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
King's College London (England)
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College - 3
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago - 4
Loyola University Maryland
Luther College - 2
Lynn University
Macalester College - 5
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University (Canada)
Merrimack College
Miami University (OH) - 3
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College - 4
Mills College
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
Minnesota State University Mankato
Montana State University
Morehouse College
Mount Holyoke College
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New School
New York University - 3
North Carolina A & T State University
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University - 4
Northern Arizona University
Northland College
Northwestern University - 5
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College - 5
Occidental College - 4
Ohio State University

- 112 graduates enrolled at 71 different colleges.
- 8 will take a gap year to pursue cultural study, work, sports, service.

Olin College of Engineering
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Pitzer College
Pomona College - 2
Pratt Institute - 3
Princeton University - 2
Providence College
Purdue University - 4
Queen's University (Canada)
Quinnipiac University
Reed College
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology - 2
Roger Williams University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology - 2
Saint Cloud State University
Saint Edward's University
Saint John's University (MN) - 3
Saint Louis University - 2
Saint Michael's College
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College - 3
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College - 6
Seattle University
Simmons University
Simon Fraser University (Canada)
Skidmore College - 4
Smith College - 4
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
South Dakota State University
Southern Methodist University - 2
Southwestern University
St. Lawrence University
St. Olaf College - 21
Stanford University - 3
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas Christian University
Texas Tech University
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Trinity University
Tufts University - 6
Tulane University of Louisiana - 3
Union College - 3
Univ of Abertay Dundee (Scotland)
University College London (England)
University of Alabama
University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia, Okanagan (Canada)
University of California, Berkeley - 4
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles - 2
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago - 3
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder - 2
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Denver - 5
University of Edinburgh (Scotland)
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Louisville
University of Manitoba (Canada)
University of Maryland
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Milan Bicocca (Italy)
University of Minnesota, Duluth - 2
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 26
University of Minnesota, Rochester
University of Montana
University of New Hampshire
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Dakota
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame - 5
University of Oregon
University of Oxford (England)
University of Pennsylvania - 3
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound - 2
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California - 7
University of St Thomas
University of Tampa
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto (Canada) - 3
University of Utah
University of Vermont - 4
University of Virginia - 3
University of Washington
University of Winnipeg (Canada)
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin, Madison - 13
University of Wisconsin, Platteville
University of Wisconsin, River Falls
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin, Stout
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vermilion Community College
Villanova University - 3
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Wake Forest University
Wartburg College
Washington University in St Louis - 9
Webster University
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Whitman College - 3
Whittier College
Willamette University
Williams College - 5
Winona State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 2
Xavier University (OH)
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University - 8