

SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-2023

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 student body reflects the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 39 percent identifying as students of color and 25 percent drawing from a pool of more than \$4 million of financial aid. There are more than 900 students in grades K-12, and 98 seniors in the Class of 2023.

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 a course with specific prerequisites that explores higher level content beyond the core curriculum.
- **"Honors"** refers to a course that covers more content or explores content more deeply than SPA's standard college prep course in a required math or science subject. Faculty approval is required.
- **Courses marked** ♦ may support a student's choice to take an AP exam.

ENGLISH

4-year requirement: English 9, English 10, and required semester courses (11, 12). All semester electives are rigorous college prep seminars.

2021-22 Junior/Senior English ♦

Fall semester

Classics in Society
Literature of Migration
Literature and the Environment
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

2022-23 Junior/Senior English ♦

Fall semester

Creative Writing: Story Mechanics
Literature of Monstrosity
Shakespeare and the Modern World
Transnational Literature
Writing Seminar: Rhetoric and Grammar

Spring semester

Creative Nonfiction
Literature of Black Joy
Literature of Comedy and Satire
Literature of Pandemics
Writing Seminar: Contemporary Culture

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 semester-long seminars examine a rotating set of topics.

2021-22 Advanced Language electives ♦

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

2022-23 Advanced Language electives ♦

Chinese: Classic Literature; Modern Literature
French: French Identity; Identity in the Arts
German: Germany Divided; Coming Together
Spanish: Andean Identity; Mexico and Identity

MATHEMATICS

3-course sequence required: Algebra II, Geometry and Precalculus. Students are placed by faculty in Fundamentals, Regular or Honors Level.

Electives

Probability and Statistics I, II
Data Science (Fall)
Topics in Data Science (Spring)
Advanced Probability and Statistics I, II ♦
Calculus I/II
Calculus A/B ♦
Calculus C (Spring) ♦
Advanced Topics 2021-22: Discrete Dynamical Systems; Multivariable Calculus. 2022-23: Linear Algebra; Combinatorics

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 (req H Bio and Chem)
Advanced Mechanics * ♦
Adv. Scientific Research (application required)

Spring semester

Human Physiology
Forensic Science
Relativity and Quantum Physics
Waves, Optics and Acoustics
Advanced Biology (req H Bio and Chem) ♦
Advanced Chemistry (req H Bio and Chem) ♦
Electricity and Magnetism * ♦
Adv. Scientific Research (application required)

* sections may be offered with Calculus

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)
Advanced Programming I, II ♦
Physical Computing (not offered 2022-23)
Advanced Topics in CS (not offered 2022-23)

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)
Adv. Topics in Engineering: Aerospace (Spring)

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 Medicine
History of Refugee Communities
History of Thought
Advanced 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 History (not offered 2022-23)
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
Theater: Theatrical Arts (introductory course). Advanced Theater electives: 2021-22: Acting; Directing. 2022-23: Production and Performance; Design
Studio Art: Level I: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Video Arts.
Level II: Fabrication, Print Media, Mixed Media, Alternative Process, Video Storytelling
Advanced Art Workshops: 3D Art, 2D Art, Photography, Video

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 2023 (98 STUDENTS) AS JUNIORS

	Mean
Cumulative GPA (unweighted)	3.73
ACT Composite (79% of class took ACT)	30
SAT Total (39% of class took SAT)	1380

TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

ACT	2022	2021	2020
Percent of class taking ACT	71%	72%	84%
ACT Composite	30	30	30
Mid-50% Composite	26-34	28-33	28-33

SAT	2022	2021	2020
Percent of class taking SAT	50%	64%	64%
SAT Total	1368	1374	1373
Mid-50% SAT	1260-1500	1310-1480	1270-1490

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

SPA teaches an independently designed rigorous college prep curriculum — not AP classes. Some students choose to take AP Exams. Annually about 80-100 students take AP exams in 20 subjects. Typically more than 90% earn a score of 3 or above; two-thirds earn a 4 or 5.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student engagement in a wide range of athletic, artistic, and community activities. Nearly 77% of Upper School students are members of at least one of SPA's 47 athletic teams in 17 sports; more than 70% play an instrument, sing in a choir, or participate in one of the three annual theatrical productions. Dozens of student groups reflect the wide-ranging interests of the student community.

Student Affinity Groups: Asian Student Alliance, Black Student Union, Common Ground, HerSpace, Latinos Unidos, Love & Grace (adoptees), Mishpacha (Jewish identifying), Muslim Affinity Group, Rainbow Connection (LGBTQ+ identifying), Trinity (Christian identifying)

Special Interest: Neurodiversity, White Allies & Antiracists, Lovelace Society

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

STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

STEM

- ISEF International Science Fair: Third place awards 2022, 2021, 2019. Three qualifiers 2021. State Science Fair: 9 qualifiers 2022, 15 in 2021.
- Regeneron Science Talent Search: 2020 and 2021 Semifinalists and Top 300 Scholars.
- Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: national qualifier in 2022, winner in 2020; 9 state qualifiers; two outstanding achievement awards 2022.
- Science Olympiad: Champion among small schools 2021, 2018, 2017, 2nd place 2022.
- Math team perennial first in state among small schools; 2nd among all schools 2020.

DEBATE

- Public Forum teams qualified for state and nationals 2022, 2021.
- National Tournament of Champions qualifiers 2022, 2020. Top 10% in 2020.
- State Champion Public Forum 4 of past 10 years, more than any other Minnesota school.
- In 2022 SPA won the JV State Title.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 CSPA National Crown Award Finalist and JEM All-State Gold awards for three publications: *Rubicon*, *Rubiconline*, *Iris: Art and Literature Magazine*.
- Rubiconline: 2022 Pacemaker award from JEA/NSPA (sixth win in seven years) plus Best in Show.
- *The Rubicon* (print newspaper): Pacemaker finalist 2022, 2021.
- *Iris Art & Literature Magazine*: 2022 Superior ranking from NCTE; 2021 Pacemaker, NSPA All-American, CSPA Gold.
- Ibid yearbook: MN First Class NCTE 2020; NSPA First Class.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

- Hennepin Theater Trust Spotlight Education program: musical - 22 awards, dramatic play - 18 awards. One Act Play earned top honors at State Festival.
- Two national medalists in the Scholastic Art and Writing competitions. Six national photo awards for entries in WRKXFMLY competition 2022.
- 2022 State Scholastic Art and Writing competition: 19 students earned 27 awards including 4 Gold Keys.
- 2022 EDU Film Festival: two Best in Fest awards for Animation and Experimental work.
- Quiz Bowl national qualifier (seven times in nine years).

ATHLETICS

- State Titles: 2022 Boys tennis team (3rd place doubles); Boys fencing team (2014-2020) and individual 2020; Football team 2018 (#2 in 2019).
- State Team qualifiers 2021-22: Girls Nordic skiing, Girls fencing (3rd), Boys fencing (2nd). 2020-21: Girls cross-country; Girls Nordic. Selected to All State Soccer Team: 3 boys, 3 girls.
- State Individual qualifiers 2021-22: Girls diving, Girls cross-country, Boys Alpine skiing, Girls Nordic, numerous fencers, Boys track, Boys golf. 2020-21: Girls diving, Boys cross-country, Girls Nordic, Girls and Boys Alpine, Boys tennis doubles.
- 31 NCAA recruited athletes 2019-2022.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT 2019–2022

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

- In 2022, the average number of applications filed was 6.9.
- 39% applied via Early Decision; 24% enrolled through ED.

Agnes Scott College
Alabama State University
Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Augsburg 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 - 5
Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brown University - 2
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College - 4
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo
California State University, Long Beach
Carleton College - 12
Carnegie Mellon University - 5
Case Western Reserve University
Century College
Chapman University
Coastal Carolina University
Coe College
Colby College
Colgate University - 3
College of Charleston
College of Saint Benedict
Colorado College - 5
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado State University
Columbia University - 4
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University in Montreal
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Cornell University - 3
Creighton University
Dallas Baptist University
Davidson College
DePaul University
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drake University - 2
Drexel University
Drury University
Earlham College
Eastman School of Music
Eckerd College
Elon University - 3
Emerson College
Emory University - 2
Florida Southern College
Fordham University - 5
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
George Washington University - 4
Georgetown University - 2
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College

Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Grinnell College - 6
Gustavus Adolphus College - 4
Hamilton College - 2
Hamline University
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College - 4
Hawai'i Pacific University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Hult International Business School
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Iowa State University - 2
Ithaca College
Jacobs University (Germany)
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College - 3
King's College London (England)
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University - 2
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College - 3
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago - 5
Loyola University Maryland
Luther College
Lynn University
Macalester College - 10
Maine College of Art & Design
Marist College
Marquette University - 2
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University (Canada)
Merrimack College
Miami University (OH) - 3
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College - 2
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Montana State University
Morehouse College
Mount Allison University
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Saint Mary's University
New York University - 4
North Carolina A & T State University
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University - 5
Northern Arizona University
Northern Michigan University
Northland College
Northwestern University - 5
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College - 6
Occidental College - 2
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Pitzer College - 3
Pomona College - 3
Pratt Institute - 2
Princeton University - 2
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen's University (Canada)
Quinnipiac University
Reed College

- 107 graduates enrolled at 73 different colleges.
- 3 will take a gap year to pursue cultural study, work, sports, service.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology - 2
Roger Williams University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands)
Saint John's University (MN) - 2
Saint Louis University - 3
Saint Michael's College
San Diego State University
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College - 3
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College - 6
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University - 2
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. Mary's University
St. Lawrence University
St. Olaf College - 18
Stanford University - 4
Stevens Institute of Technology
Susquehanna University
Swarthmore College - 3
Sweet Briar College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas Christian University - 2
Texas Tech University
The College of Wooster
The New School
The Ohio State University
University of Edinburgh (Scotland)
University of Tampa
University of Texas at Austin
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Trinity University
Tufts University - 6
Tulane University of Louisiana - 3
Union College - 3
University College London (England)
University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
University of Arizona
University of Bristol (England)
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, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz - 2
University of Chicago - 2
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder - 2
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Denver - 5
University of Georgia
University of Glasgow (Scotland)

University of Hawai'i, Manoa
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of King's College (England)
University of Louisville
University of Manitoba (Canada)
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
University of Miami
University of Michigan - 3
University of Minnesota, Duluth
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 27
University of Minnesota, Rochester
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of New Hampshire
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - 3
University of North Dakota
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame - 3
University of Oregon
University of Oxford (England)
University of Pennsylvania - 3
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound - 3
University of Redlands - 2
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco - 2
University of Southern California - 7
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
University of St. Thomas
University of Toronto (Canada) - 4
University of Utah
University of Vermont - 3
University of Virginia - 2
University of Washington - 2
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
University of Wisconsin, Madison - 11
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin, Platteville
University of Wisconsin, River Falls
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin, Stout
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University - 4
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Wartburg College
Washington University in St. Louis - 8
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Wheaton College (MA)
Whitman College - 5
Whittier College
Willamette University
Williams College - 3
Winona State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 2
Xavier University (OH)
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University - 8