



# Academy of the Holy Names

## **Welcome to Academy of the Holy Names High School!**

We are grateful for this opportunity to provide you with the details about the high school placement process at Academy of the Holy Names. Making the high school transition smooth and meaningful for our girls coming from Academy's Middle School experience is our highest priority. We share this information in the spirit of best preparing you and your daughters for the many facets of the high school transition.

At the High School, we follow a philosophy of 'Placement for Success'. In the spirit of the vision of the SNJM Sisters, we are called to develop young women who are faith-filled, inquisitive, innovative, independent and empathic. We strive to grow women problem solvers in the true pioneer spirit of the SNJM Sisters who founded their Academy in Tampa in 1881 and will take this sense of wonderment and awe about their faith and learning to make a wider difference in the world beyond Academy.

Academy's students are selected for admission and course placement based on the results of the High School Placement Test (HSPT ©) score, the student's grade school performance, previous standardized testing, teacher recommendations, and individual placement testing as relevant. The link to the Academy Course Catalog for the 2022-23 school year may be found at [holynamestpa.org/courseguide](http://holynamestpa.org/courseguide). NOTE: The updated 2023-24 Course Catalog will be published in January 2023.

Our goal is to foster the learning development and independence of each individual student without altering the integrity of the established, college preparatory curriculum at the Academy of the Holy Names. Learning resource services are provided to ensure that students develop the strategies necessary to achieve success in high school and beyond. Likewise, accelerated programming is designed for those students demonstrating a capacity to move into higher level work at a more robust pace of learning, sometimes earlier than prescribed. No student, regardless of curricular path, will be exempted from the graduation requirements. Learning specialists are available to consult about further learning needs with parents, students and psychologists, if necessary, to help our students to develop their God-given potential. Support with study skills and learning strategies are available to all students as aligned with the SNJM core value of full development of the human person: Cultivating and respecting the talents, abilities and potential of each person, contributing to the development of all aspects of a person's life. Newly enrolled students with diagnosed learning needs seeking to receive academic support must provide their official support plan from the previous school along with a documented diagnosis from a licensed mental health counselor, psychiatrist or psychologist for review by our support team in order to be provided with official support at AHN.

Beginning in the 2023-24 School Year with the incoming Class of 2027, we will be developing a Scholars Diploma Distinction for high-achieving students who, by special invitation, will be

provided opportunities for the highest level of academic rigor at the earliest entry points in order to achieve the most comprehensive education possible at the highest level of academic attainment. These students will also be required to participate in a Capstone experience in their senior year, demonstrating authentic research in a desired field of study.

## **Program Leveling**

**Advanced Placement:** The Academy offers 22 wide-ranging Advanced Placement courses to students to experience college-level classes and potentially earn college credits while still in secondary school. (Note: Additional AP offerings are constantly being evaluated as they match the needs and interests of our students, aligning with our curriculum and mission.) With syllabi prescribed by The College Board, those students wishing to enroll for these classes must obtain the specific department approval, having demonstrated motivation and previous academic achievement, and must be ready to take responsibility for extensive reading and writing assignments as independent study. All students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May. Any student who cannot take the AP test at the designated time due to emergency or illness must pay the extra fee for the late testing window. Nightly independent workload for Advanced Placement courses may vary between subject areas. In general, students should expect significant independent weekly work per Advanced Placement course, upwards of six to eight hours per week, per course. In order to meet the Advanced Placement timetable, students may be required to complete summer work, although requirements may vary by course. Any student scheduled for an Advanced Placement course must sign a contract (requiring parent signature) and commit to that course for the entire school year. There will be no exceptions. Students who are considering a roster of more than three Advanced Placement courses should be very clear on the time necessary to meet the demands of these rigorous courses.

**Honors:** Honors-level courses are offered for academically strong students who are able to pursue in-depth study and who are willing to spend extra time outside of class working independently. These courses require additional reading and writing assignments. The nightly workload for Honors courses may vary between subject areas, but students can anticipate a significant amount of independent work, generally three to five hours per week, per course. Students are expected to manage their time to meet nightly and long-term deadlines.

**College Preparatory:** College Prep courses are offered for students whose command of skills enables them to accelerate at the pace required of a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. The level of independent work assigned will vary from subject to subject and from course to course. Home study may be a reinforcement of previous learning for mastery attainment. It may also be exposure to new material for the purpose of engaging students in attainment of new information. Independent work is designed to be meaningful in support of content and process goals, generally upwards of three hours per week, per course.

## Grade 9 Placement Requirements and Course Options

Course selection is a comprehensive process, requiring intense individual attention and care given to the course needs of each student. The process of course selection begins in February of the year previous to the upcoming school year. Decisions made at this time determine the facilities and staffing needs for the following school year. Therefore, beginning with the 2023-24 school year, ***there will be no drop/add period.*** The only course changes that will be entertained are those that are a result of classes not being run, schedule conflicts and/or teacher recommendation.

Subject	Freshman Year Requirement	Freshman Offerings	Levels Offered	Placement Requirements	4 Year Requirement
<b>Theology</b>	1 Year	Christology, The Revelation of God (1 semester each)	College Prep (CP)	Only CP offered	4 Years
<b>English</b>	1 Year	English	CP and Honors (H)	CP - Assumed H - Must score $x \geq 75$ on HSPT Reading Subtest and 3 or higher on mandatory cold prompt writing sample	4 Years
<b>Social Studies</b>	1 Year	Global Studies AP Human Geography	CP and Advanced Placement (AP)	CP - Assumed AP - Must score $x \geq 75$ on HSPT Reading Subtest and 3 or higher on mandatory cold prompt writing sample	3.5 Years (Global Studies, American Government, US History, 1 Semester Economics)
<b>World Language</b>	1 Year	French Latin Spanish	1 CP or 2 H	CP Choice of Language Level 1 - Assumed 2 H - Must score 70 or higher on Level 1 (or appropriate Level) Language Placement Test	3 years consecutive of same language from entry point level (4 encouraged)
<b>Math</b>	1 Year	Algebra I Algebra II	1 CP or 2 H	1 CP - Assumed 2 H - Must score $x \geq 75$ on HSPT and score a 70 or higher on appropriate Math Placement Test	4 Years to include at least Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry/Trig
<b>Science</b>	1 Year	Biology	CP, H, and AP	CP - Assumed H - Must score $x \geq 75$ on HSPT Reading Subtest AP - Must score $x \geq 90$ on Reading and Verbal Reasoning Subtests, HSPT CSQ $\geq 125$ and 3 or higher on mandatory cold prompt writing sample	3 years Biology, Chemistry, Physics (or other lab-based class)

Subject	Freshman Year Requirement	Freshman Offerings	Levels Offered	Placement Requirements	4 Year Requirement
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 semester of Visual Arts or Performing Arts (required)	Art I Dance Appreciation Intro to Acting Intro to Strings Intro to Voice Percussion Ensemble String Ensemble Technical Theatre Vocal Music	CP, H, and AP		1 year of Fine Arts
<b>Electives</b>		Intro to Computer Science  Robotics  Intro to Engineering Design (IED) Honors  AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP)		IED Prerequisite: Algebra 1  APCSP Pre/Corequisite: Algebra 2 H	4.5 years electives

## How we are Here to Support: Placement Calendar

Month	Event
September 2022	Applications Open for Class of 2027
Fall 2022	HSPT Prep
December 2022	HSPT Placement Test
January/February 2023	Admissions Decisions Test Results Provided
February/March 2023	Course Selection Meetings Scheduled with Students and Families for 2023-24 School year. Decisions made during course placement determine the offerings for the upcoming school year
April 2023/May 2023	Course Offerings in 2023-24 School Year made based on demand and interest
March/April 2023	Placement Tests Administered for specific subject areas as outlined
June/July 2023	High School Master Schedule is Built
August 2023	Student/Parent Notification of Student High School Schedule

Questions? Please contact Jeane McNamara at [jmcnamara@holynameta.org](mailto:jmcnamara@holynameta.org).