



PORTSMOUTH  
ABBEY  
SCHOOL

# SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-2023

**Mission:** To help young men and women grow in knowledge and grace.

Founded by the Rev. Dom Hugh Diman in 1926, as an independent Catholic preparatory boarding school under the auspices of the English Benedictine Congregation, Portsmouth Abbey School is located in Rhode Island overlooking Narragansett Bay. The school immerses students in a rigorous study of the foundations of Western civilization, intellectual tradition, and culture to instill in its students the Benedictine love of knowledge, study, discussion, and the exchange of ideas. While the student body is predominantly Catholic (about two-thirds), students from all faiths find a warm welcome at the Abbey.

**Benedictine Core Values:** Community, Hospitality, Respect, Stewardship, Love of Learning

## COMMUNITY

**336 Total Students**

**87** Sixth Form Students  
**25** States  
**18** Countries  
**75%** Boarding Students  
**25%** Day Students  
**21%** International Students  
**46%** Of our student body receives  
 \$5.9 Million in financial aid.

**47 Faculty Members**

(44 lay persons, 3 monks)

**80%** Hold advanced degrees

### CO-CURRICULARS

Required involvement two hours or more a day with options ranging from:

Athletics	Community Service
Theatre	Student Government
Music	School Publications
Dance	Spiritual Life
Visual Arts	Leadership
Robotics	Independent Projects

**14**

Student  
Run Clubs

**43**

Athletic  
Teams

**3**

Plays  
Per Year

**1st**

In Rhode Island to erect a utility scale wind turbine

**40%**

Of the School's and surrounding neighborhood's electricity is produced by our campus wind turbine



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CEEB code: 400130

# LOVE OF LEARNING

A student will carry a 6-credit course load. All courses are year-long and earn 1 credit with the exception of Ancient History and Basic Theology each of which carries half a credit in the Third Form year; and Fourth Form Humanities, a double-block, two-credit Great Books course that satisfies both English and European History requirements. The Abbey runs a Physics-First sequence. Portsmouth Abbey does not offer an honors track in History, Humanities, or English. Fall term grades are mid-year grades and are available in early December.

The school operates on a trimester system and classes are conducted six days a week. The school names class years using the British National system: Third Form is freshman year; Fourth Form, sophomore; Fifth Form, junior; and Sixth Form, senior year. Grades are reported on a letter scale: A+ through D; F is a failure. GPAs are calculated on a 4.0 scale. No courses are weighted. No cumulative GPA is reported. We do not rank students.

Discipline: If schools ask about discipline issues, students are expected to self-report; counselors confirm the accuracy of the details and outcomes if asked by the college.

By school policy, counselor and teacher recommendations are confidential.

**19**  
Honors Courses

**16**  
AP Courses

**3**  
Post AP Courses

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English - 4 years  
Math - 4 years  
Laboratory Sciences - 2 years  
Theology - 4 years  
History - 2 years  
Modern Language - 3 years in 1 language or 2 years each in 2 languages  
Visual or Performing Arts - 1 year  
Latin - 1 year  
Independent Sixth Form Thesis

## STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES MIDDLE 50%

**SAT**  
Students Tested: 78  
EBRW: 540-680 | Mathematics: 540-660  
Total: 1090-1320  
**ACT**  
Students Tested: 14  
Composite: 22-25

## CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

Portsmouth Abbey School is a member of the Cum Laude Society, which recognizes high academic achievement by secondary school students. Cum Laude members are chosen and inducted in Sixth Form year.

### HANEY FELLOWSHIP

Fifth Formers are invited to apply for grants to fund independent projects of their own creation over the summer before their Sixth Form year. Applicants must present a proposal for a project that will deepen a particular academic, artistic, or cultural interest, and competition is fierce.

Past Projects Include: working as a tutor within the Oglala, Lakota and Sioux Tribes; teaching a STEM-based curriculum to girls in Nigeria; shadowing a professor and medical parasitologist in the Philippines on Neglected Tropical Diseases; volunteering at an Asian American Civic Associate in Boston; and serving as a community scientist under the guidance of RI Clean Ocean Access

*4-5 grants awarded per year*

### SIXTH FORM THESIS

The English Department requires each Sixth Former, as a graduation requirement, to write a major paper independently that analyzes a literary classic. The student does not rely upon research or secondary sources; instead, the student depends upon his or her own critical faculties to perform close reading and do critical analysis.

Past Novels Analyzed:  
*1984*  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  
*The Awakening*  
*Beloved*  
*In the Lake of the Woods*  
*Invisible Man*  
*Gravity's Rainbow*  
*Lolita*  
*Pride and Prejudice*  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray*  
*The Sound and the Fury*

### SCIENCE GRANTS

Any Portsmouth Abbey student is eligible to apply for a Portsmouth Abbey Science Grant. These grants are awards up to 500 dollars to support independent student research in any scientific field. The proposals are modeled after the National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship program. Students must submit a research proposal, project timeline, and budget. The science department faculty serve as the review board evaluating proposals based on feasibility, grantsmanship, and impact on the community.

Past Projects Include: a systematic eco-footprint calculation of Portsmouth Abbey School; engineered sail foils and heart attack monitors using Arduino; and a bio-engineering project creating biofuels out of Portsmouth Abbey School's residual cooking oil.

*10 grants awarded per year*

SEE FULL COURSE CATALOG HERE:  
[portsmouthabbey.org/courses](http://portsmouthabbey.org/courses)

MATRICULATION LIST:  
[portsmouthabbey.org/matriculation](http://portsmouthabbey.org/matriculation)

## ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

New England Association of Schools and Colleges, National Association for College Admission Counseling, New England Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Independent Schools, and Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools.

# GRADE DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2023

Grade distribution for the final grades of Fifth-Form students

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Latin 1		2										
Latin 2								1				
Latin 2H			1									
Latin 3H	3	4	1	5		2		1		2		
Latin 4 (AP)			1									
ENGLISH												
American Literature	2	15	9	21	12	8	11	7	1	3	2	
HISTORY												
U.S History	2	8	13	13	8	5	4	4	1			
U.S History (AP)	1	1	17	7	3							
MATHEMATICS												
Algebra II (analysis)		2	1	4	3	3	3	2	1	1		
Calculus AB (AP)	1		2	2	1		1	1				
Calculus BC (AP)	3	3	3	1								
Precalculus	1	6	9	14	3	1	2	2	1		1	
Precalulus Honors		2	3	1		1	1					
Real Analysis	2											
Statistics (AP)	3		2	1								
MODERN LANGUAGES												
Chinese 1			1		1							
Chinese 2	1		1	1								
Chinese 3			1									
Chinese 5 (AP)	1											
French 1				1								
French 2		1										
French 2H	1	1										
French 3H	2	1	2									
Spanish 1	2			1	1	1						
Spanish 2			1						1	1		
Spanish 3		2		3		1	3		1			
Spanish 3H		2	1									
Spanish 4			1	2	1							
Spanish 4H		1	3					1				
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS												
2_D Visual Art	2	1										
Advanced Art	1											
Art History (AP)			1	1	2							
Drama Workshop	1											
Ceramics	1											
Digital Media Production	1											
Fundamentals of Art	2	3	3									
Photography	1											

*Continued on the next page ...*

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2023, cont.

Grade distribution for the final grades of Fifth-Form students

SCIENCE	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Adv. Topics Physics		1										
Biology	2	4	5	10	3	3	6			1		
Biology H		6	2	2								
Biology (AP)	1	1	2	3	1							
Chemistry		3	2	3	1	1	1	2	1			
Computer Science (AP)			2									
Chemistry (AP)		2	1									
Conceptual Physics		1	1	2	3	1						
Infectious Disease		1	1	1								
Marine Science				2			1					
Physics (AP))		2	1									
THEOLOGY												
Advanced Theology	12	38	22	12	5	1	1					