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 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 challenge teaches resilience and a love of learning.

It takes a special kind of faculty and leadership to cultivate an accountable, yet innovative culture. For those who are the best at what they do, SPA provides the freedom, time, and resources to really focus on the students. In turn, 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.
All courses are independently designed (not based on exams such as AP or IB), in order to challenge all students at a high level comparable to or exceeding the difficulty associated with exam-based courses, by emphasizing student engagement and collaboration.

Attached to each transcript is a page of Senior Year Course Descriptions, illustrating our robust curriculum. College-level texts are used in most junior/senior year courses.

**Course Levels**

- All courses are taught at a challenging college prep level.
- Honors sections offer accelerated study only in required courses for Math, Biology, and Chemistry. Placement by faculty.
- English, History, World Language and CSE departments do not have honors sections.
- Advanced courses offer a very high level of academic challenge using college-level materials and assignments.
- SPA students may choose to take an AP exam after completion of courses [marked \( \Diamond \)]. Of those who do, more than 90% score 3 or higher and more than two-thirds earn a 4 or 5.

**Upper School Curriculum and Requirements**

**English**
- 4 years required including English 9, English 10
- Junior and Senior semester electives, two sets of electives are offered in alternate years

**History**
- 3-yearlong courses required
- World History I
- World History II
- US History

**World Language**
- 3-level requirement including two years’ study in the upper school

**Computer Science and Engineering**
- No requirement
- Academic credit-bearing electives

**Math**
- 3-yearlong courses required
- Faculty place students by level
- Fundamentals: Algebra II, Geometry, Probability and Statistics
- Regular: Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus
- Honors: Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus

**Science**
- 5-yearlong lab science courses required
- Physics I (year) - all take same level
- Faculty place students in Regular or Honors for: Biology (year)

**Visual and Performing Arts**
- 7.5 credits required, typically 3 semesters

**Debate, Journalism, Yearbook**
- Academic credit-bearing elective courses with competition or production components beyond class time
STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

STEM

DEBATE
- 2022 and 2021 Public Forum teams qualified for state and nationals.
- Perennial team qualifier at state with individuals at Tournament of Champions.

ATHLETICS

PUBLICATIONS
- The Rubicon (print newspaper) and RubicOnline: NSPA All American with Distinction; Pacemaker Finalist/Winner: (2015-2022); CSPA Crown Winner 2015-2022.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES
- Quiz Bowl 5th at nationals 2023, qualified for nationals 8 out of the past 10 years.
- Drama awards from Hennepin Theater Trust: musical - 22, dramatic play - 13 in 2022. One Act Play earned top honors at State Festival 2022.
- Two national medalists in the Scholastic Art and Writing competitions 2022.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

- 10+ affinity groups
- 30+ clubs and special interest groups
- 70% participate in performing arts
- 77% play at least one sport
American University
Arizona State University - 3
Babson College - 2
Barnard College
Bates College - 3
Beloit College
Bemidji State University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College - 3
Boston University - 4
Bowdoin College - 3
Bryn Mawr College - 3
Carleton College - 14
Carnegie Mellon University - 3
Century College
Claremont McKenna College - 2
Colgate University - 3
College of the Atlantic
Colorado College - 7
Columbia University - 4
Cornell College
Cornell University - 3
Dallas Baptist University
Dartmouth College
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drake University
Elon University - 3
Emory University - 2
Florida State University
Fordham University - 6
George Washington University - 2
Georgetown University
Goucher College
Grinnell College - 7
Gustavus Adolphus College - 3
Hamilton College - 2
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College - 4
High Point University
Ithaca College
Kenyon College - 3
King’s College London
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University - 3
Lewis & Clark College - 3
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago - 4
Luther College
Lynn University
Macalester College - 10
Maine College of Art & Design
Marist College
Marquette University - 2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University (Canada)
Miami University (OH)
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Saint Mary’s University
New York University - 4
North Carolina A & T State University
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University - 3
Northern Michigan University
Occidental College - 3
Oregon State University
Parsons School of Design at The New School - 2
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College - 3
Pomona College - 3
Pratt Institute - 2
Princeton University - 2
Purdue University - 2
Queen’s University (Canada)
Quinnipiac University
Reed College - 2
Rhode Island College
Rice University - 2
Rochester Institute of Technology - 3
Roger Williams University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rotterdam School of Management,
Erasmus University
Saint John’s University (MN) - 2
Saint Louis University - 2
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
 Scripps College - 6
Seattle University - 2
Simmons University
Skidmore College - 2
Smith College - 5
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Southern Methodist University - 3
St. Olaf College - 21
Stanford University - 4
Swarthmore College - 5
Sweet Briar College
Texas Christian University - 2
The New School
The Ohio State University, Main Campus
University of Texas at Austin
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Tufts University - 4
Tulane University of Louisiana - 3
Union College - 2
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago - 2
University of Colorado Boulder - 4
University of Connecticut
University of Denver - 4
University of Miami
University of Michigan - 3
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 25
University of New Mexico, Main Campus
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - 3
University of Notre Dame - 2
University of Oregon
University of Oxford (England)
University of Pennsylvania - 4
University of Puget Sound - 2
University of Redlands - 2
University of Rochester
University of San Diego - 3
University of San Francisco - 2
University of Southern California - 7
University of Toronto (Canada) - 4
University of Vermont - 2
University of Virginia - 3
University of Washington
University of Waterloo
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
University of Wisconsin, Madison - 15
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University - 2
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wageningen University and Research (Netherlands)
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis - 6
Whitman College - 3
William & Mary
Williams College - 3
Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 2
Yale University - 6