



## WHAT WE VALUE

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.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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.

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.*

# 2

campuses in the heart of Saint Paul, MN

# 38%

identify as students of color (K-12)

# 890

K-12 students

# \$4.6M+

27% of students receive financial aid

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## INDEPENDENT CURRICULUM

- 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 ✧]. 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

<b>ENGLISH</b> 4 years required including English 9 English 10 Junior and Senior semester electives, two sets of electives are offered in alternate years	<b>Semester 1 courses ✧</b> Classics in Society Literature and the Environment Literature of Migration Writing Seminar: Critical Contexts	<b>Semester 2 courses ✧</b> Creative Writing: Poetry and Poetics Literature of the Asian Diaspora Speculative Fiction Topics in Literary Analysis: Visual Narrative	
<b>HISTORY</b> 3 yearlong courses required World History I World History II ✧ US History ✧	<b>Semester 1 courses</b> Gender in the Americas Global Issues Government and Citizenship History of Refugee Communities History of Thought Social Movements in US History	<b>Semester 2 courses</b> Gender in the Americas History of Law History of Medicine History of Race US Foreign Policy since WWII World Religions	<b>Advanced Courses</b> Adv Historical Research: Directed - Sem 1 Adv Historical Research: Applied - Sem 2 Adv US History Seminar - Sem 1
<b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b> 3-level requirement including two years' study in the upper school	<b>Year long courses:</b> Chinese I, II, III, IV French I, II, III, IV German I, II, III, IV Spanish I, II, III, IV, V	<b>Advanced Courses Sem 1 ✧</b> Adv Chinese: Classical Philosophy Adv French: Justice & Revolution Adv German: Democracy Falters Adv Spanish: Identities of Spain	<b>Advanced Courses Sem 2 ✧</b> Adv Chinese: Contemporary Philosophy Adv French: Local Connections Adv German: Fighting Fascism Adv Spanish: Caribbean Identities
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING</b> No requirement Academic credit bearing electives	<b>Semester 1 courses</b> Programming and Problem Solving Robotics Sem 1 Principles of Engineering	<b>Semester 2 courses</b> Applied Programming Principles of Data Science Robotics Sem 2 Principles of Engineering	<b>Advanced Courses</b> Adv Programming I, II ✧ Adv Projects: CSCI & Engr Adv Topics Engr: Electrical Adv Topics Engr: Product Adv Topics in Engr: Aerospace
<b>MATH</b> 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	<b>Semester 1 courses</b> Probability and Statistics I Data Science Calculus I	<b>Semester 2 courses</b> Probability and Statistics II Calculus II	<b>Advanced Courses</b> Adv Probability and Statistics I, II ✧ Topics in Data Science - Sem 2 Calculus A, B ✧, C ✧ (3 separate semester courses) Adv Topics: Diff Multivariable Calc Adv Topics: Discrete Dynamical Sys 2024-25: Adv Topics in Linear Algebra, Combinatorics
<b>SCIENCE</b> 3 yearlong lab science courses required: Physics 9 (year) - all take same level Faculty place students in Regular or Honors for: Biology (year) Chemistry (year)	<b>Prerequisite Physics (PC=Precalc)</b> Astronomy Waves, Optics, Acoustics (PC) Relativity and Quantum Physics (PC) <b>Advanced Courses</b> Adv Mechanics (PC) Adv Mechanics with Calculus ✧ Electricity & Magnetism with Calculus ✧	<b>Prerequisite Biology</b> Environmental Science Neuroscience Genetics Human Physiology <b>Advanced Courses</b> Adv Science Research Sem 1 or 2 with faculty approval	<b>Prerequisite Chemistry (PC=Precalc)</b> Forensic Science Planetary Science Directed Science Research <b>Advanced Courses</b> Organic Chemistry (PC) Adv Biology (PC) ✧ Adv Chemistry (PC) ✧
<b>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</b> .75 credits required, typically 3 semesters	<b>Visual Art Semester Courses</b> Drawing I, II Painting I, II Ceramics I, II Sculpture I Photography I, II Video Arts I, II	<b>Music and Theater Semester Courses</b> Academy Chorale Summit Singers US Jazz Band Academy Symphony Theatrical Arts	<b>Advanced Courses</b> Honors Sinfonia Adv Art: 2D Workshop Adv Art: 3D Workshop Adv Art: Photo Workshop Adv Art: Video Workshop Adv Theater: Directing Adv Theater: Acting
<b>DEBATE, JOURNALISM, YEARBOOK</b> Academic credit-bearing elective courses with competition or production components beyond class time	<b>Level I Courses in Sem 1 or 2</b> Beg Debate Public Speaking Writing for Publication Graphic Design Photojournalism	<b>Level II Courses (year)</b> Journalism: Print Journalism: Multimedia Journalism: Yearbook	<b>Advanced Courses</b> Adv Debate Edit. Leadership: Print Edit. Leadership: Multimedia Edit. Leadership: Yearbook

## GRADES, SCORES, AND TESTING CHOICES

		2023	2022	2021
GPA <small>CUMULATIVE GPA (UNWEIGHTED)</small>	STUDENTS	98	107	112
	MEAN	3.75	3.68	3.69
ACT	TOOK ACT	 87%	 71%	 72%
	MID 50%	26-34	26-34	28-33
SAT	TOOK SAT	 43%	 50%	 64%
	MID 50%	1290-1500	1260-1500	1310-1480

## GRADING

All grades and GPA are unweighted, and the highest grade earned is an A. We do not report class rank.

A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	



## STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

### STEM

- ISEF International Science Fair national award winners in 2019-2022. Students qualified six consecutive years, 3 students in 2023. State Science Fair: 30 students in 3 years.
- National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: presenters in 2023 2022, winner in 2020.
- Science teams: State Science Olympiad team - second in 2023. Two robotics teams to state 2023.

### DEBATE

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

### ATHLETICS

- 25 NCAA recruited athletes 2020-2023.
- State Titles: Boys tennis in 2023 and 2022; Boys soccer in 2023, Girls soccer 2nd in 2023.
- State Qualifiers: Teams: Girls Nordic 2021-2023; Girls and Boys fencing placed Top 3 2022-2023. Individuals: diving, cross-country, Alpine skiing, fencing, track, golf, tennis 2021-2023.

### PUBLICATIONS

- The Rubicon (print newspaper) and RubicOnline: NSPA All American with Distinction; Pacemaker Finalist/Winner: (2015-2022); CSPA Crown Winner 2015-2022.
- Iris Art & Literature Magazine: NSPA Pacemaker Award 2021, 2022; NCTE Realm award 2023.
- IBID yearbook Jostens National Program of Excellence 2023.

### 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.
- Minnesota Scholastic Art Competition: 19 students earned 25 awards (4 Gold Keys) 2023.

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

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



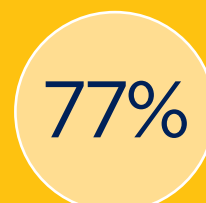
affinity groups



clubs and special interest groups



participate in performing arts



play at least one sport

## CLASS OF 2023

### COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT



Applied to  
**190**  
colleges

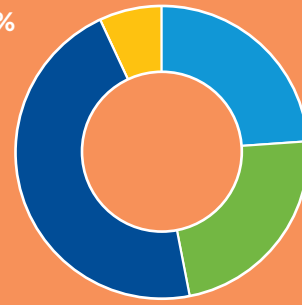
Enrolled at  
**64**  
colleges



### ENROLLMENT PATHWAYS

OTHER: 7%

EARLY  
DECISION:  
26%



REGULAR  
DECISION: 40%

EARLY  
ACTION: 27%

## FOUR YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 2020-2023

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  
Northwestern University - 2  
Oberlin College - 6  
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  
Rhodes 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  
Willamette University - 3  
College of William & Mary  
Williams College - 3  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 2  
Yale University - 6