LEARNING THAT MOVES WITH THE WORLD

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

SCHOOL PROFILE
2023-2024

COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE

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THE SHADY SIDE EXPERIENCE

At Shady Side Academy (SSA), we make room for students to make their move. We challenge students to think expansively, act ethically, and lead responsibly. In our classrooms, we prioritize highly relational teaching and big opportunities. We understand that meaningful learning thrives in an environment where each student's voice can be heard, fostering a community where questions are encouraged, and curiousity is celebrated.

This mission inspires our every step as we forge a path toward developing responsible, transformative leaders not only for a world that demands vision and integrity but that is connected and digital.

ABOUT SSA
SSA is a nationally respected, co-educational private school in Pittsburgh, PA, serving grades PK-12. The Senior School, located in the borough of Fox Chapel on a 130-acre college-like campus with six academic buildings, is a college-preparatory school with an optional five- or seven-day boarding experience.

ACCEDITATION & MEMBERSHIPS
Shady Side Academy Senior School is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and Middle States Association. SSA is also an active member of the Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent School (PCIS), the National Association for College Admission Counselors (NACAC), Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counselors (PACAC), and Association of College Counselors in Independent School (ACCIS).

PRESIDENT:
BART P. GRIFFITH JR. '93

HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL:
TRIXIE SABUNDAYO

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS
Our commitment to real-world learning is at the heart of the Shady Side experience. We believe that true leadership is forged through experiential education, where students don't just learn about the world; they actively engage with it beyond the four walls of the classroom. Whether through hands-on projects, community service, or collaborative ventures, our students develop the skills and resilience necessary to become leaders who will humanize our digital future. Our students are encouraged to embrace diverse perspectives, engage in informed discussions, and build a balanced worldview that prepares them to address complex challenges confidently and bridge divides.

STANDARDIZED TESTING
These testing ranges are based on tests taken by students in the Class of 2023.

SAT (206 TESTS)
Middle 50% Math	583–710
Middle 50% Reading & Writing	600–690
Average Score	1293

ACT (77 TESTS)
Middle 50% English	26–35
Middle 50% Math	26–30
Middle 50% Reading	26–34
Middle 50% Science	25–31
Middle 50% Composite	26–32

SENIOR SCHOOL STATS

470 Students	**134** Class of 2024
39% Students of color	**9:1** Student to faculty ratio
54% Male **46%** Female	**13** Average class size
16% Boarders	**64** Full-time faculty
30% Receiving financial assistance	**81%** Faculty with advanced degrees

SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

The Senior School has a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, where education is viewed as building the skills and habits of inquiry, research, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving.

GRADING AND RANKING

SSA maintains rigorous standards of grading and awards letter grades as follows:

A+	4.33	B+	3.33	C+	2.33	D+	1.33
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.67	B-	2.67	C-	1.67	D-	.067

Grade point averages (GPA) are not weighted. GPAs are calculated based on year-end grades. SSA does not rank. Highest GPA in the Class of 2024: 4.25.

COURSE NUMBERING

Because SSA offers so few designated advanced courses, we use an internal numbering system on our transcripts. The course numbering system indicates curricular sequence as follows:

- 100 level – Grade 9 or introductory
- 200 level – Grade 10
- 300 level – Grade 11
- 400 level – Grade 12
- 500 level – AP or highest level offered

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & HONORS COURSES

SSA does not designate any courses as "honors" because all courses follow a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

Advanced Placement courses are only offered in **three** sub-ject areas: math, foreign language, and computer science. Therefore, **most SSA students do not take more than two AP courses during their time at SSA**.

TYPICAL COURSE PROGRESSION

ENGLISH	HISTORY	MATH	SCIENCE	WORLD LANGUAGES	COMPUTER SCIENCE	ARTS
4 years 12 credits	3 years 9 credits *U.S. History research paper*	3 years 9 credits	3 years 9 credits *3 lab sciences*	3 years 9 credits	2 terms 2 credits	2 credits *Classes are pass/fail*

ENGLISH

GRADE 9
Foundations of Literature & Writing I

GRADE 10
Foundations of Literature & Writing II

GRADES 11-12
The Art of Persuasion (1 term)

*50 different one-term English courses offered to junior and seniors across broad literary themes such as British/European Literature before 1800, Literature of the U.S., Focus on the World/Non-Anglophone Literature, and more.

HISTORY

GRADE 9
Problems in World History

GRADE 10
Patterns of Western Identity

GRADE 11
U.S. History

GRADE 12
*Economics

*Intro to Philosophy

*9 upper-level one-term History electives, including Pittsburgh History and Modern Social Justice & Revolutions

*5 upper-level one-term Economics, Philosophy, and Ethics electives

MATH

GRADES 9-12
Problem-based Math I

Problem-based Math II

Math III

Trigonometry & Function Analysis (TFA)

Trigonometry & Intro Calculus (TIC)

CHS Statistics

CHS Calculus

*AP Calculus AB

*AP Calculus BC

*Multivariable Calculus

*7 upper-level one-term Math electives, such as Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, and Fractal Geometry

SCIENCE

GRADES 9-12
Physics I

Chemistry

Biology I

Physics IA

ADVANCED OFFERINGS

*Environmental Science

*Advanced Topics in Astronomy

*Psychology

*Summer Research Seminar

*Advanced Biology

*Principles of Engineering

*Physics II: Algebra

*Physics II: Calculus

*Organic Chemistry

*6 upper-level one-term Inorganic Chemistry electives

WORLD LANGUAGES

GRADE 9
Chinese 1, 2, 2A

French 1, 2, 2A

German 1, 2

Latin 1, 2

Spanish 1, 2, 2A

GRADE 10
Chinese 2, 2A, 3, 3A

French 2, 2A, 3, 3A

German 2, 3

Latin 1, 2, 3

Spanish 2, 2A, 3, 3A

GRADE 11
Chinese 3, 3A, 4, 4A

French 3, 3A, 4, 4A

German 3, 4A

Latin 1, 2, 3

Spanish 3, 3A, 4, 4A

GRADE 12
Chinese 4, 4A, 5, *5AP

French 4, 4A, *5AP

German 4A, *5AP

Latin 4A, *5A

Spanish 4, 4A, 5, *5AP

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GRADES 9-12
Problem Solving: Karel & Elementary Graphics

Web Design

Game Design

Artificial Intelligence

Mobile Apps

3D Modeling

Robotics

Computer Architecture

ADVANCED OFFERINGS
Options above, PLUS:

*AP Computer Science

Discrete Structures

*Advanced Topics: Virtual Reality

*Advanced Topics: Advanced Data Structures & Algorithms

*Advanced Topics: Machine Learning

*Advanced Topics in Computer Science

ARTS

GRADES 9-12
Concert Choir

Concert Band

Symphonic Band

String Orchestra

Electronic Sound Studio

Music Theory

Music Workshop: Guitar or Piano

Acting

*Jazz Ensemble^

*Chamber Choir^

Studio Art 2D

Studio Art 3D

Architecture

Ceramics

Digital Photography

Metal

Painting

Dark Room Lab Photography

*Advanced Portfolio Studio Art^

GLIMCHER TECH & DESIGN HUB ADVANCED OFFERINGS

Entrepreneurship for Tech & Design

Community Connections Through Tech & Design

Projects for Tech & Design

*AP or highest course level offered
^Audition or selection criteria required

COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS
FROM THE CLASS OF 2021-2023

Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Barnard College
Bates College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brown University
Bucknell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chatham University
Claremont McKenna College
Clarkson University
Colby College
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Duke University
Duquesne University
Eckerd College
Edinboro University of PA
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fairfield University
Fairmont State University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Ferris State University
Fordham University
Furman University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Grove City College
Hamilton College
Hampton College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Howard University
Indiana University
Ithaca College
John Carroll University
Johns Hopkins University
Juniata College
Kansas State University

Kenyon College
Kutztown University of PA
Lafayette College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Liberty University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Maine Maritime Academy
Marietta College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mercyhurst University
Miami University
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Montana State University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Niagara University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Norwich University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
The Ohio State University
Ohio University
Ontario College of Art & Design
Paul Smith's College
Pennsylvania State University – New Kensington
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen's University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rhodes College
Ringling College of Art & Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Saint Francis University
St. Lawrence University
Saint Louis University
St. Olaf College
Saint Vincent College
Sarah Lawrence College
Skidmore College
Slippery Rock University of PA
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
Spring Arbor University
Stanford University

Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
University of Alabama
University of California – Berkeley
University of California – Los Angeles
University of California – San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado – Boulder
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nevada – Las Vegas
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh – Bradford
University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews
University of Tennessee
University of Texas
University of Toronto
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin
Utah State University
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Wake Forest University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Westminster College
Yale University
York College of PA