

# DELBARTON SCHOOL

## Morristown, New Jersey

**Type:** Benedictine Roman Catholic day college-preparatory school for boys

**Grades:** 7–12: Middle School, 7–8; Upper School, 9–12

**Enrollment:** School total: 641; Upper School: 581; Middle School: 60

### THE SCHOOL

Delbarton School was established in 1939 by the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey. Delbarton is situated on a 187-acre woodland campus 3 miles west of historic Morristown and 30 miles west of New York City.

Delbarton School seeks to enroll young men of good character who have demonstrated scholastic achievement and the capacity for further growth. The faculty strives to support each young man's efforts toward intellectual development and to reinforce his commitment to help build a community of responsible individuals. The faculty encourages each young man to become an independent seeker of information, not a passive recipient, and to assume responsibility for gaining both knowledge and judgment that will strengthen his contribution to the life of the School and his later contribution to society. While Delbarton offers much, it also seeks young men who are willing to give much and who are eager to understand as well as to be understood.

Delbarton is governed by the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey in association with an advisory Board of Regents of lay men and women. Delbarton's 2023–24 annual operating expenses totaled \$32.2 million. It has an endowment of \$36.7 million.

Delbarton School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the Praesidium Safe Endorsement Accreditation® and is approved by the Department of Education of the State of New Jersey. It is a member of the National Catholic Education Association, the National Association of Independent Schools, the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the International Boys School Coalition and the International Commission on Benedictine Education.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The academic program is college preparatory. The course of study offers preparation in all major academic subjects and numerous electives. The curriculum is intended to help a young man shape a thought and a sentence, speak clearly about ideas and effectively about feelings, and suspend judgment until all the facts are known. Course work is intensive and involves about 15–20 hours of outside preparation each week. The curriculum contains both a core of required subjects that are fundamental to a liberal education and various elective courses to meet the individual interests of the students. The school year is divided into two academic terms. In each year, every student must take five full year courses and two semesters courses of Theology.

The specific departmental requirements in grades 9 through 12 are Arts (1.75 credits), Computer

Science (0.25 credit), English (4 credits), History (3 credits), Mathematics (4 credits), Physical Education and Health (1.5 credits), Science (3 credits), Theology (4 credits) and World Language (3 credits). Students are required to complete a minimum of 27 credits in the upper school, which leaves a minimum of 2.5 credits to complete for graduation. For qualified students, all departments offer Advanced Credit courses (30 courses in all). Advanced Placement courses are offered for qualified students. Finally, independent study and online courses are also possible in special cases.

The grading system uses A to F (failing) designations with pluses and minuses. Grade reports are published at the mid-point of each semester as well as at the end of the two semesters. Parents are also contacted when a student has received an academic warning or is placed on probation. The average class size is 15, and the student-teacher ratio is about 8:1, which fosters close student-faculty relations.

### FACULTY AND ADVISORS

In 2024–25 the faculty consists of 3 Benedictine monks and 100 lay teachers. Seventy-nine are full-time members, with 73 holding advanced degrees.

Fr. Michael Tidd, O.S.B., became Headmaster in July 2018. Fr. Michael received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991, his M.A. from La Salle University in 1995, his Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco in 2001, and his M.N.A. from the Mendoza College of Business of the University of Notre Dame in 2015. He has served the School previously as a teacher of History, English and Theology, and as Director of the school's Forensic (speech and debate) Society.

The teaching tradition of the School calls upon faculty members to serve as coaches, counselors, advisors, mentors and administrators. Every student is assigned to a full-time, grade-level guidance counselor, who advises in selection of courses that meet School and college requirements as well as the student's personal interests.

Individual conferences are regularly arranged to discuss academic and personal development. All high school students are also assigned to an advisory group with a faculty advisor. Students remain with the same advisory throughout their high school years.

### COLLEGE COUNSELING

Preparation for college begins when a young man enters Delbarton. General college planning information is shared with parents and students beginning in 9th grade. The PSAT is taken by everyone in the tenth and eleventh grades. Guidance for admission to college is directed by the college counseling staff of 4 full-time professionals. This process generally begins in the fall of the junior year, when the junior class counselor meets with each young man to help clarify his goals and interests. Every effort is made to direct each young man toward an institution that will challenge his abilities and satisfy his interests.

The mean SAT critical reading and math score for the class of 2024 was 1320. The mean ACT composite score was 29. Approximately 20 percent of the young men in the classes of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 have been named National Merit Scholars, Semifinalists, or Commended Students. In addition, 95 percent of the members of the class of 2024 were enrolled in at least one AP course.

All graduates of the classes of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 went on to college, with four or more attending such schools as Boston College, Bucknell, Cornell, Georgetown, Lehigh, Middlebury, Notre Dame, Princeton, Villanova, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Williams, Yale, and the Universities of Richmond, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

### STUDENT BODY AND CONDUCT

The 2024–25 student body consists of 144 ninth graders, 147 tenth graders, 145 eleventh graders, and 145 twelfth graders. The Middle School has 30 seventh and 30 eighth graders. Students come from New Jersey and New York State, particularly the counties of Morris, Essex, Somerset, Union, Bergen, Hunterdon, Passaic, and Sussex.

At Delbarton, academic and social regulations are relatively few. The basic understanding underlying Delbarton's regulations is that each young man shares responsibility with his fellow students and with faculty members for developing and maintaining standards that contribute to the welfare of the entire Delbarton community. Moreover, shared responsibility is essential to the growth of the community; at the same time, much of an individual young man's growth, the increase in his capacity for self-renewal, his sense of belonging, and his sense of identity spring from his eagerness and willingness to contribute to the life of the School. Each class has a moderator, who is available for advice and assistance, and who also deals with disciplinary matters in each class.

### ACADEMIC FACILITIES

The physical facilities at Delbarton include a main classroom building (Trinity Hall), a fine arts center, a science hall (the Fr. Stephen Findlay Science Pavilion), a library and guidance center (St. Benedict Hall), the St. Mary's Abbey Church, two gymnasiums (combined as the Lynch Athletic Center), athletic fields sufficient for all levels of sports, the Pizzo Family Field House and the Estabrook Dining Hall. Academic facilities include forty-four classrooms, six science laboratories, art and music studios, the Ryan Crane '95 Business Center with a dozen Bloomberg terminals, a STEM Makerspace and a library of more than 6,500 volumes.

Delbarton is a bring-your-own device campus, where students are required to have a laptop or tablet computer, and all students have access to the School network and internet service across campus.

## ATHLETICS

Sports at Delbarton are an integral part of student life, in which cooperation, competition, and character are taught alongside the classroom. Almost 85 percent of students participate on one or more of our 41 interscholastic athletic teams. Fall sports are football, soccer, and cross-country; in the winter term, basketball, wrestling, track, hockey, squash, bowling, skiing and swimming (in an off-campus pool); and in the spring, baseball, track, lacrosse, tennis, rugby, and golf. In most of these sports, there are varsity, junior varsity, freshman, and middle school teams. Some intramural sports are available, depending upon interest, every year. Athletic facilities consist of two gymnasiums (combined as the Lynch Athletic Center), eight fields, eleven tennis courts, and a field house (the Pizzo Family Field House).

## EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

With 65 clubs and 23 community service programs, Delbarton provides opportunities for individual development outside the classroom as well as within. The faculty encourages students to express their intellectual, cultural, social, and recreational interests through a variety of activities and events. For example, fine arts at Delbarton are available both within and outside the curriculum. Studio hours accommodate students after school. In the music department, vocal and instrumental instruction is available. Performing ensembles include an orchestra, band, and chorus and smaller vocal and instrumental ensembles. Under the aegis of the Abbey Players, drama productions are staged three times a year.

Other activities include Deaneries (student-led support groups promoting School unity and spirit), the *Courier* (the School newspaper), the *Archway* (the yearbook), Forensics (speech and debate), Research in Science, Digital Media, Chess, Pickleball, the Business and Economics Club and many other clubs.

To expose students to other cultures and to enhance their understanding of the world, faculty members organize trips annually to Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Australia. As an essential part of its mission to foster student faith formation, the Office of Campus Ministry sponsors multiple weekly and annual Christian service programs that lead students to a profound awareness of the needs of others and the means to answer calls for help. The service programs range from working with handicapped young people at a local YMCA to tutoring area at-risk children, to major school-wide drives at Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Students' imaginations and initiative are also given opportunities for expression through Student Council committees and assemblies. Students are also offered School-sponsored trips to cultural and recreational events at area colleges and in nearby cities.

## DAILY LIFE

Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m. Students will have a maximum of six classes per day. Class times range between fifty-five and forty-five minutes in length, depending on the day. The School operates on an eight-day cycle, and each class meets six days per cycle. Physical education classes and performing arts classes are held during the school day. After classes, students are involved in athletics, activities and the arts.

## COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition charges at Delbarton for the 2024–25 academic year are \$46,725. This is a comprehensive charge that include a daily hot lunch as well as library and athletics fees. The only other major expenses are for books and transportation, the cost of which varies. Optional expenses may arise for such items as the yearbook, music lessons, or trips.

Because of Delbarton's endowment and generous alumni and parent support, a financial aid program enables many young men to attend Delbarton if they lack the financial means. All awards are based on financial need, as determined by the criteria set by our external financial aid assessment service (CLARITY). No academic or athletic scholarships are awarded. Financial aid is granted to young men in grades 9 through 12. In 2024-25 the School was able to grant \$3.9 million in financial aid to qualifying students and the average award is approximately \$29,196..

**No financial aid is offered to Delbarton Middle School students.**

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Delbarton School selects students whose academic achievement and personal promise indicate that they are likely to become positive members of the community. The object of the application process is for Delbarton and prospective families to learn as much as possible about each other. Admission is based on the candidate's overall qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion or national or ethnic origin.

The typical applicant takes the entrance test administered by the School on a date either in

October or December. Candidates are considered based on their transcript, teacher recommendations, test results, and personal interview in addition to the formal application.

In 2024-2025, 380 students were tested for entrance in grades 7 and 9; of these, 172 were accepted. 100% of the students who were accepted for the seventh grade were enrolled; 81% of those accepted for the ninth grade were enrolled. Delbarton does not admit postgraduate students, mid-year transfers or students who are entering the twelfth grade.

## APPLICATION TIMETABLE

The School welcomes inquiries at any time during the year. Delbarton offers an Open House in early October so prospective students and their families can get a comprehensive view of the School and its offerings prior to the start of the application process. Students who apply are invited to spend a day at Delbarton attending classes with a School Host. Interested applicants are able to schedule their visit through the Parent Portal. Individual family tours of the campus are given in conjunction with applicants' interviews, which occur from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays in the fall. Weekday interviews may be set up to accommodate family schedules without a tour of campus. The formal application for admission must be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$55. Application fee waivers are available upon request.

The admissions process should begin in mid-August. Applications are due by early December. Acceptance notifications and financial aid awards for applicants to grades 7 and 9 are made in mid-January. Applicants to all remaining grades, as well as students placed in a wait pool, are given acceptance notification between February and June. Parents are expected to reply two to three weeks after acceptance notifications. A deposit is also required. Application for financial aid must be completed by mid-December, through the CLARITY web portal on the Delbarton admissions page. All families are expected to observe all admission and financial aid deadlines.



## ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

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