



MISSION

Our mission—*shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world*—is a promise to our students and our families.

At SPA, our mission is more than just a sign on the wall. It inspires us to be thoughtful about everything we do. It inspires us to be our best and reminds us that we have the responsibility to respect the unique potential in every child. There are literally thousands of decisions made every day by our faculty, staff, and students, and these decisions define who we are. We ask everyone in our community to use our mission statement as a filter: is this decision in alignment with our mission?

Our mission gives us purpose. It represents our greatest aspirations and values. But most of all, it reflects our deep belief in the talents and capabilities of our students.

VALUES

The SPA experience is shaped by five core values:

- Community
- Excellence
- Belonging
- Kindness
- Purpose

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Highlights of the Upper School experience at SPA include:

- 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.

2 campuses in the heart of Saint Paul, MN

39% identify as students of color (K-12)

907
K-12 students

Approximately
\$4.8M
26% 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. All courses emphasize student engagement and collaboration.
- College-level texts are used in most junior/senior year courses.

COURSE LEVELS

- Our standard curriculum is taught at a challenging level meant to prepare students for the rigors of university coursework.
- 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

ENGLISH 4 years required including English 9 English 10 Junior and Senior semester electives, two sets of electives are offered in alternate years	Semester 1 courses ✦ Big Books: Studies in the Novel Creative Writing: Story Mechanics Literature of Comedy and Satire Literature of Resistance Transnational Literature Writing Seminar: Rhetoric and Grammar	Semester 2 courses ✦ Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction Literature of Black Joy Literature of Pandemics Shakespeare in the Modern World War in Literature Writing Seminar: Contemporary Culture	
HISTORY 3 yearlong courses required World History 9 World History II ✦ US History ✦	Semester 1 courses Government and Citizenship History of Race History of Refugee Communities History of Thought Native American Studies	Semester 2 courses Gender in the Americas History of Law History of Medicine Israel and Palestine South Asian American Studies World Religions	Advanced Courses Adv US History Seminar - Sem 1 Adv Historical Research: Directed - Sem 1 Adv Historical Research: Applied - Sem 2
WORLD LANGUAGE 3-level requirement including two years' study in the upper school	Year long courses: Chinese I, II, III, IV French I, II, III, IV German I, II, III, IV Spanish I, II, III, IV, V	Advanced Courses Sem 1 ✦ Adv Chinese: Classical Literature Adv French: French Identity Adv German: Regional Identities Adv Spanish: Andean Identities	Advanced Courses Sem 2 ✦ Adv Chinese: Modern Literature Adv French: Identity in the Arts Adv German: Shifting Identities Adv Spanish: Mexico & Identity
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING No requirement Academic credit bearing electives	Semester 1 courses Programming and Problem Solving Robotics Sem 1 Principles of Engineering	Semester 2 courses Principles of Data Science Principles of Engineering	Advanced Courses Adv Programming I, II ✦ Adv Projects: CSCI & Engr Adv Topics Engr: Electrical Adv Topics Engr: Product Adv Topics in Engr: Aerospace
MATH 3 yearlong courses required Faculty place students by level Fundamentals: Algebra II, Geometry, Probability and Statistics Standard: Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus Honors: Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus	Semester 1 courses Probability and Statistics I Calculus I Data Science	Semester 2 courses Probability and Statistics II Calculus II	Advanced Courses Adv Probability and Statistics I, II ✦ Calculus A, B ✦, C ✦ (3 separate semester courses) Topics in Data Science - Sem 2 Adv Topics: Linear Algebra Adv Topics: Combinatorics 2025-26: Adv Topics Diff Multivariable Cal, Discrete Dynamical Sys
SCIENCE 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)	Prerequisite Physics (PC=Precalc) Astronomy Advanced Courses Adv Mechanics with Calculus ✦ Electricity & Magnetism with Calculus ✦	Prerequisite Biology (PC=Precalc) Environmental Science Neuroscience Genetics Human Physiology Botany Advanced Courses Adv Science Research Sem 1 or 2 with faculty approval Adv Biology (PC) ✦	Prerequisite Chemistry (PC=Precalc) Forensic Science Planetary Science Advanced Courses Organic Chemistry (PC) Adv Chemistry (PC) ✦
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS .75 credits required, typically 3 semesters	Visual Art Semester Courses: Level I & II Drawing I, Drawing II: Mixed Media Painting I, Painting II: Mixed Media Ceramics I, Ceramics II: Mixed Media Photography I, Photography II: Ex- panded Projects Video Arts I, Video Arts II: Animation Sculpture I	Music and Theater Semester Courses Academy Chorale Summit Singers US Jazz Band Academy Symphony Theatrical Arts	Advanced Courses Honors Sinfonia Adv Art: 2D Workshop Adv Art: 3D Workshop Adv Art: Photo Workshop Adv Art: Video Workshop Adv Theater: Production & Performance Adv Theater: Design
DEBATE, JOURNALISM, YEARBOOK Academic credit-bearing elective courses with competition or production components beyond class time	Level I Courses (semester) Beg Debate Public Speaking Writing for Publication Graphic Design Photojournalism	Level II Courses (year) Journalism: Print Journalism: Multimedia Journalism: Yearbook	Advanced Courses Adv Debate Edit. Leadership: Print Edit. Leadership: Multimedia Edit. Leadership: Yearbook

GRADES, SCORES, AND TESTING CHOICES

GRADING

GPA

CUMULATIVE GPA
(UNWEIGHTED)

STUDENTS
MEAN

2024

96
3.68

2023

98
3.75

2022

107
3.68

ACT

TOOK ACT



MID 50%

26-34

26-34

26-34

SAT

TOOK SAT



MID 50%

1310-1500

1290-1500

1260-1500

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 five of the past six years. Students qualified seven consecutive years, 3 students in 2024. State Science Fair: 51 students in 4 years.
- National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: presenters in 2022-2024, winner in 2020.
- Teams: State Science Olympiad 2nd in 2023. Robotics teams to state 2023-2024; State Math Team 2024.

DEBATE

- Public Forum teams have qualified for state and nationals three of the past four years.
- Perennial team qualifier at state with individuals at Tournament of Champions.

ATHLETICS

- 24 NCAA recruited athletes 2021-2024.
- State Titles: Boys tennis 2022-2024; Boys soccer 2023-2024, Girls soccer 2024, 2nd in 2023.
- State Qualifiers: Teams: Girls Nordic 2021-2024; Girls and Boys fencing placed Top 3 2022- 2024. Individuals: swim and dive, cross-country, alpine skiing, fencing, track, golf, tennis 2021-2024.

PUBLICATIONS

- The Rubicon (print newspaper) and RubicOnline: NSPA All American with Distinction; Pacemaker Finalist / Winner 2015-2022, 2024; CSPA Crown Winner 2015-2022, 2024.
- Iris Art & Literature Magazine: CSPA Crown Winner 2024; NSPA Pacemaker Award 2021-2023 and Design of the Year Award 2023; NCTE Realm Award 2023.
- IBID yearbook Jostens National Program of Excellence 2023.
- MN Journalist of the Year Award winner 2024

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: Dramatic Play - 13 in 2022, 14 in 2023; Musical - 22 in 2021. 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: 22 students earned 48 awards (2 Gold Keys) 2024.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

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

10+

affinity groups

30+

clubs and special interest groups

88%

participate in the arts

77%

play at least one sport

CLASS OF 2024

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT



Applied to
182
colleges

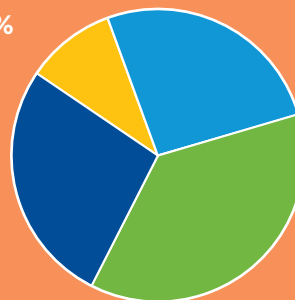
Enrolled at
55
colleges



ENROLLMENT PATHWAYS

OTHER: 10%

EARLY
DECISION:
26%



REGULAR
DECISION: 30%

EARLY
ACTION: 34%

FOUR YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 2021-2024

American University	Luther College - 2	Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Arizona State University - 3	Lynn University	Tufts University - 3
Barnard College	Macalester College - 10	Tulane University of Louisiana
Bates College - 2	Maine College of Art & Design	Union College
Berklee College of Music	Marist College	University of Arizona
Boston College - 2	Marquette University	University of California, Berkeley
Boston University - 5	McGill University (Canada)	University of California, Los Angeles - 3
Bowdoin College - 3	Miami University (OH)	University of California, San Diego
Brown University	Michigan State University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Bryn Mawr College - 2	Minnesota State University, Mankato	University of Chicago - 2
California Institute of Technology	Mount Holyoke College	University of Colorado Boulder - 2
Carleton College - 22	Mount Saint Mary's University	University of Connecticut - 2
Carnegie Mellon University	New York University - 4	University of Denver - 6
Century College	New York University, Shanghai (China)	University of Miami
Claremont McKenna College - 2	North Dakota State University	University of Michigan - 2
Colgate University - 4	Northeastern University - 4	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 26
College of the Atlantic	Northwestern University - 4	University of New Mexico
College of the Holy Cross	Oberlin College - 5	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - 4
College of William & Mary	Occidental College - 4	University of North Dakota
Colorado College - 6	Oregon State University	University of Notre Dame - 2
Columbia University - 4	Parsons School of Design at The New School - 2	University of Oregon
Cornell College	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	University of Oxford (England)
Cornell University - 2	Pepperdine University	University of Pennsylvania
Creighton University	Pitzer College - 4	University of Puget Sound - 3
Dallas Baptist University	Pomona College - 2	University of Redlands - 2
Dartmouth College - 2	Pratt Institute - 2	University of Rochester
DePaul University	Purdue University - 4	University of San Diego - 3
DePauw University	Queen's University (Canada)	University of San Francisco - 2
Dickinson College	Reed College	University of Southern California - 3
Drake University - 2	Rice University - 2	University of St Andrews (Scotland)
Emory University - 2	Rochester Institute of Technology - 3	University of St Thomas - 2
Florida State University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology - 2	University of Texas at Austin
Fordham University - 5	Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University	University of Toronto (Canada) - 2
George Washington University	Saint John's University (MN)	University of Vermont - 5
Georgetown University	Saint Louis University - 2	University of Virginia - 3
Gonzaga University	San Diego State University	University of Washington - 2
Goucher College	Santa Clara University - 3	University of Waterloo (Canada)
Grinnell College - 7	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
Gustavus Adolphus College - 3	Scripps College - 6	University of Wisconsin, Madison - 15
Hamilton College - 2	Seattle University	Vanderbilt University
Hamline University	Skidmore College - 2	Villanova University - 2
Harvey Mudd College - 2	Smith College - 4	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Haverford College - 4	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	Wageningen University and Research (Netherlands)
High Point University	Southern Methodist University - 2	Wake Forest University
Indiana University, Bloomington - 2	St. Olaf College - 25	Washington and Lee University
Iowa State University	Stanford University - 5	Washington University in St. Louis - 8
Ithaca College	Swarthmore College - 5	Wesleyan University
Kenyon College - 3	Sweet Briar College	Whitman College - 3
King's College London	Texas Christian University	Willamette University - 2
Lafayette College - 2	The New School	Williams College - 5
Lake Forest College	The Ohio State University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Lawrence University - 2		Yale University - 6
Lewis & Clark College - 5		
Loyola Marymount University		
Loyola University Chicago - 2		