



UPPER SCHOOL

AT A GLANCE



Upper School combines intensive, interdisciplinary coursework with increasing autonomy, empowering students to hone their talents and interests while continuing to explore new possibilities—academic, personal, and spiritual. Through a diverse array of extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities, students are encouraged to take initiative and engage in their school community.

2024-25 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PHILOSOPHY

In our student-centered education, students drive the learning process. Philosophically, we are a college-prep school that believes all students should have opportunities to challenge themselves to prepare for the rigors of college.

Starting in freshman year, students begin directing their academic path by choosing to be in college-prep or advanced academic courses, choosing to start science with biology or physics, and participating in the freshman retreat. These initial experiences, and more, are designed to highlight the social/emotional skills learning and foundational skills necessary for high school.

Throughout their high school years, students have optional tutorial times each day so they can obtain timely academic support. Sophomores begin the college counseling process, which intensifies in junior year, under the supervision of the student's advisor and the college counselor. Juniors and seniors can attend talks with alumni who are currently enrolled in college, choose to enroll in AP courses that may earn them college credit, and serve as mentors for younger students to develop the skills of independence and responsibility necessary for life after graduation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The schedule in high school is meant to approximate the college experience as much as possible using an A day/B Day block schedule. Students take four courses in a school day, which also includes time for either chapel or advisory as well as a generous lunch period. High school classes are 85 minutes long, which simulates the longer courses students will encounter in college. In high school, these lengthier classes help students develop the focus and patience necessary for in-depth analytical thinking.

COURSE	CREDITS	NOTES
ENGLISH	4	Freshman: Genres; Sophomore: World Literature; Junior: American Literature; Senior: Modern Literature
HISTORY	3	Two years of World History, One year of US History
MATH	3	Includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and advanced offerings
SCIENCE	3	Includes Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (all are lab-based sciences)
WORLD LANGUAGES	2	Two consecutive years of foreign language in the high school
ARTS	2	Required semester survey in freshman year; 3 additional semester classes.
HEALTH & WELLNESS	0.5	Sophomore year
RELIGION	2	One semester each year; Old Testament, New Testament, World Religions, Ethics
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	Two semesters of PE electives or participation in three sports

2024-25 CURRICULUM/AP OFFERINGS/ADVANCED ACADEMICS

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St. Francis does not have prescribed academic tracks, but instead works to create paths for students that allow them to appropriately challenge themselves whenever possible and find success on their own terms. Students, as early as freshman year, have the ability to direct their academic path. St. Francis offers advanced academic courses in English I and English II as well as Algebra I and Algebra II. These courses offer freshman and sophomores the chance to choose a course and pedagogy model that works best for their learning style. Freshmen also have the opportunity to choose the science course they enroll in. Courses in the first two years encourage students to develop the skills and resilience necessary for high school. By junior and senior year, students can enroll in AP courses if they choose. These courses are taught at the level of a college course, and carry the associated workload and gpa boost for that reason. It is our belief that all students should have the opportunity to challenge themselves in AP courses before they go to college.

ENGLISH COURSE OFFERINGS

ENGLISH I
ADVANCED ENGLISH I
ENGLISH II
ADVANCED ENGLISH II
ENGLISH III
AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
ENGLISH IV
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
CREATIVE WRITING
SPEECH

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES COURSE OFFERINGS

WORLD HISTORY I
WORLD HISTORY II
U.S. HISTORY
CIVICS AND ECONOMICS
AP U.S. HISTORY
AP ART HISTORY
AP EUROPEAN HISTORY
HISTORY ELECTIVES (VARIOUS TOPICS)

SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

PHYSICS
BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
AP BIOLOGY
AP CHEMISTRY
AP PHYSICS I
AP PHYSICS C
AP PSYCHOLOGY
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SCIENCE ELECTIVES (VARIOUS TOPICS)

MATH COURSE OFFERINGS

ALGEBRA I
ADVANCED ALGEBRA I
GEOMETRY
ALGEBRA II
ADVANCED ALGEBRA II
PRECALCULUS
AP CALCULUS AB
AP STATISTICS
COLLEGE ALGEBRA

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE OFFERINGS

SPANISH I
SPANISH II
SPANISH III
SPANISH IV
AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
LATIN I
LATIN II
FRENCH I
FRENCH II (COMING 2025-2026)

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM COURSE OFFERINGS

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING I
COMPUTER PROGRAMMING II
WEB DEVELOPMENT 1
WEB DEVELOPMENT 2
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS: YEARBOOK
ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ANALYSIS: ENGINEER YOUR WORLD

RELIGION OFFERINGS

OLD TESTAMENT
NEW TESTAMENT
RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD
ETHICS

ADVISORY

The advisory program is an essential element of the Upper School experience that allows students to focus on interpersonal and executive functioning skills that are critical for success beyond high school but are not always front and center in academic coursework. Groups of 10-15 students share a teacher who serves as an advisor for the four years of high school.

The advisory program builds an important community for each student who builds long-lasting ties with their advisory colleagues and advisor. In addition to being the first point of contact for students and their families, the advisor helps students hone their social/emotional and executive functioning skills.

Students take ownership of their growth in advisory by leading parent-teacher conferences each year that help them reflect on their strengths, goals, and opportunities for growth.

IMMERSIONS & EXPLORATIONS

In these week-long intensives, students go beyond the confines of the classroom to explore their interests and learn from experts. This week is designed to give students extended opportunities to apply the skills they learn in class to real-world contexts and find solutions to real-world problems, or to explore their creativity in a way they usually can't.

In the past students have explored everything from the business of professional sports to building an art car to making artwork from scratch including mixing the paint. As they progress through high school, students can focus their attention toward areas of interest such as academic study, health and wellness, and service learning.

TRAVEL

The St. Francis Travel Program offers Middle and Upper School students the opportunity to broaden their horizons, expand their minds, and embrace what it means to be global citizens through carefully curated learning adventures. Whether exploring national parks or historic sites across the world, the St. Francis Travel Program offers students exposure to new cultures, languages, skills, and ideas, while reinforcing classroom learning and encouraging individual growth.

Since the inception of our travel program, St. Francis students and teachers have visited the following places: Antelope Canyon, Austria, Bryce Canyon, Costa Rica, China, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Grand Canyon, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Washington, D.C., and Zion National Park.





ATHLETICS

The Athletics program offers students the opportunity to compete in a variety of team and individual sports. Working with accomplished and experienced coaches, student-athletes strengthen their skills, develop as players and athletes, compete in the sports they have chosen, and learn valuable life lessons along the way. Upper School athletes have made history with the division's first games, victories, playoff runs and a state championship!

Around 80 percent of Upper School students participate in athletics and compete in at least one of the following sports:

GIRLS SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL
FIELD HOCKEY
CROSS COUNTRY
BASKETBALL
SOCCER
SWIMMING
SOFTBALL
TRACK AND FIELD
LACROSSE
TENNIS
GOLF

BOYS SPORTS

FOOTBALL
VOLLEYBALL
CROSS COUNTRY
BASKETBALL
SOCCER
SWIMMING
WRESTLING
BASEBALL
TRACK AND FIELD
TENNIS
GOLF

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS: PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS



ARTS

FRESHMAN FINE ARTS SURVEY COURSE

EXPERIENCING VISUAL ART

EXPERIENCING THEATRE

EXPERIENCING MUSIC

EXPERIENCING DANCE

VISUAL ARTS

STUDIO ART I

PAINTING I

PAINTING II

DIGITAL ART: 2D DESIGN

DIGITAL ART: 3D DESIGN

INSTALLATION ART

BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

SCULPTURE

MIXED-MEDIA

ADVANCED STUDIO ART

AP 2D ART AND DESIGN PORTFOLIO

AP 3D ART AND DESIGN PORTFOLIO

PERFORMING ARTS

CHEERLEADING

CHOIR

SELECT CHOIR

STRING METHODS

MUSIC ENSEMBLE: ROCK BAND

WESTERN MUSIC HISTORY AND THEORY

ACTING I

ACTING II

ACTING III

THEATRE PRODUCTION

TECHNICAL THEATRE

THEATRICAL DESIGN

FASHION & COSTUME DESIGN

DIRECTING

INTRO TO DANCE

DANCE I

DANCE COMPANY

PERFORMANCE ART

DRAMATIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE COUNSELING CORE VALUES

1. PERSONALIZED: St. Francis is committed to a holistic approach, addressing students' social, academic, financial, and emotional needs. While college acceptance and attendance remain our primary focus, we also support and encourage alternative post-graduation paths such as gap years and postgraduate programs for students seeking less traditional experiences.

2. INCLUSIVE: St. Francis celebrates every student's post-graduation path, whether it leads to a family alma mater, a junior college for sports, or a highly selective institution. Our philosophy emphasizes that a student's actions and achievements during their chosen path matter more than the specific destination.

3. ENGAGING: We encourage students to view the college application process as a positive learning experience, assuring them that they will ultimately find their right path. Our office provides comprehensive support throughout this journey, from creating college lists to offering essay guidance, ensuring students graduate with valuable skills and leadership experience that will serve them well in their future endeavors.

COLLEGE COUNSELING BY YEAR

• FRESHMEN – FOUNDATION & CONNECTIONS

In the ninth grade, students are adjusting to high school by developing their learning skills, time management, extracurricular exploration, and social engagement. This is the year for creating a strong academic foundation and making connections. College counseling has specific programming for freshmen to understand the academic and extracurricular choices they can make to better prepare themselves for college.

• SOPHOMORES – EXPLORE & DEEPEN INVOLVEMENT

In the tenth grade, students take the PSAT and continue to develop academic and extracurricular interests they would like to pursue during the remainder of their high school careers. This is the year to explore opportunities within your interests and deepen your involvement on campus. We ask students to complete the YouScience aptitude and career assessment, which has proven to be a catalyst for additional career research for many of our students.

• JUNIORS – PRIMETIME & ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

By the junior year, the college counseling program begins in earnest. This year is primetime for students to prepare for college applications process and reach peak academic performance. Students take the PSAT in October and the SAT in March. By Spring semester, individualized college counseling meetings with students and families are scheduled to create a personalized college list for each student. Students are required to complete a resume in the Fall and a college essay in the Spring, and all are encouraged to visit college campuses throughout the year.

• SENIORS – ACHIEVE & STEP FORWARD

For seniors, college counseling hosts summer workshops focusing on college applications and continues to work with seniors in groups and individually on applications during the fall semester. St. Francis Episcopal School will celebrate each and every student's path after graduation.

CONTACT INFO

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FAST FACTS

YEAR FOUNDED: 1952

TOTAL ACREAGE: 39

2024-2025 ENROLLMENT: 1060

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO: 8:1

AVERAGE CLASSROOM SIZE: 15-18 STUDENTS

MALES: 49 %

FEMALES: 51 %

FACULTY WITH 10+ YEARS' EXPERIENCE: 44

DIVERSITY: 49%

NUMBER OF SPORTS OFFERED: 23

**NUMBER OF COUNTRIES VISITED BY STUDENTS IN
TRAVEL PROGRAM: 14**

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