St Catherine's MONTESSORI

BRINGING WISDOM TO LIGHT •

2025- 2026 PROFILE

HISTORY

St. Catherine's Montessori (SCM) is a Dominican and Montessori school founded in 1966. It serves approximately 300 students 14 months through 12th grade. In keeping with Montessori standards, students are grouped in three-year increments, Adolescent Community grades 7-9 and High School grades 10-12. The first class of seniors graduated in May 2020.

MISSION

As a Catholic Montessori school, St. Catherine's is dedicated to an educational experience which awakens in our students the awareness of their gifts and responsibilities as individuals in relationship with Jesus Christ and as stewards of the global community.

ACCREDITATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED)
Cognia (formerly known as AdvancED)
Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)
Houston Area Independent Schools (HAIS)
National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)
North American Montessori Teachers Association (NAMTA)
Independent School Management (ISM)
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified
National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)
Texas Association for College Admissions Counseling (TACAC)

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Freshmen*	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
8	**7**	**8**	**7**

*Ninth grade is the pinnacle of the Adolescent Community; the High School Community houses grades 10-12.

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CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

St. Catherine's Montessori High School offers a student-centered, interdisciplinary, and experiential education grounded in the principles of AMI Montessori education.

The curriculum is college preparatory, including **AP courses** and the opportunity for students to take **dual credit courses** at the University of St. Thomas or Arizona State University beginning in the 10th grade. Independent studies courses are available for students interested in pursuing a topic of deep interest. Seniors complete an independent capstone research project. This can take the form of a public speech, a cooking show, a thesis, a self-curated art show, or other forums where students present their research.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Credits
Integrated Humanities (Social Studies)	6.0
Integrated Language Arts, Writing & Speech (English)	6.0
Integrated Mathematics	5.0
Integrated Science	5.0
World Language	3.0
Theology	4.0
Senior Capstone	0.5
Electives	2.5
Total	**32.0**

SCM's diploma fulfills the State of Texas requirements for a Distinguished Level of Achievement with a Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement.

Ranking Policy

St. Catherine's Montessori does not rank its students. St. Catherine's Montessori does not weight its advanced level coursework, but does utilize a plus/minus GPA scale for all courses.

GPA Scale

A+ 4.33	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	NC 0.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- 1.67	

TRANSCRIPT OVERVIEW

The St. Catherine's Montessori High School transcript reflects the school's integrated, rubric-based academic model. Unlike traditional transcripts that only list discrete subject-area courses and calculate averages of assignment grades, our transcript:

- Features integrated course names (e.g., Integrated LAWS, Integrated Mathematics), each representing a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary study aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Uses a rubric-based grading system that holistically evaluates students across five dimensions (knowledge, quality of work, engagement, preparedness, and pace) with a final score translated into a GPA using a 4.33 scale. Grading Rubric can be viewed **here**.
- Includes variable credit weights (e.g., 1.5 credits for Integrated Humanities or 1.25 for Science and Math) that reflect the scope and rigor of interdisciplinary study over time.
- Designates local credit (LC) for non-GPA electives such as internships or independent studies, which still appear on the transcript but are excluded from the cumulative GPA.
- Offers opportunities for Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit (DC), and student-led capstone projects as part of a college-preparatory program grounded in Montessori philosophy.

COURSE OFFERINGS AND TOPICS

Integrated Humanities
World Geography
US History
World History
Current Events
US Government
Economics
Senior Capstone

Integrated Language Arts, Writing & Speech
English I
English II
AP English III – Language and Composition
AP English IV – Literature and Composition
Speech & Debate
Journalism

Integrated Mathematics
Algebra I
Algebra II
Geometry
Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus AB
AP Statistics
AP Calculus BC

Integrated Science
Integrated Physics and Chemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Earth and Space Science
AP Environmental Science

Theology
Theology I
Theology II
Theology III
Theology IV

World Language
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
Hispanohablantes
AP Spanish IV – Language and Culture
Spanish V – Literature and Culture
Spanish Seminar
Other languages available upon request

Electives
Web Design
Creative Expression
Physical Education
Personal Health
Chamber Orchestra
Athletics
Independent Study
Internships

Cumulative Score Data (2019 - 2024)

AP Pass Rate (Score of 3 or higher): **76%**
Average GPA: **3.785**
Average SAT: **1162**
Average ACT: **25**

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Travel Learning

Throughout their high school journey, students research and plan travel-learning experiences to complement their curriculum. Past trips include Greece/Rome, Puerto Rico, and New York City. View past trips **here**.

Senior Capstone

The pinnacle of our student-centered Montessori education is the senior capstone. Past research topics include "Before Impact: Hell Creek's Ecology;" "The Health Sector Applications of AR/VR Technology;" "Air Pollution in Harrisburg/Manchester;" and "From Doodle to Digital: Developing My Character Circe and His Adventures." View past senior capstone presentations **here**.

Internships

Ninth grade students complete a 40-hour internship with a professional in a field of interest. Tenth-twelfth grade students may work with mentors on an ongoing basis. View past internships **here**.

STUDENT ENTERPRISES, CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS, ATHLETICS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Many activities traditionally considered extracurricular are integrated into the students' studies. External service hours are not required.

Student Enterprises

Bank Manager
Bee Manager*
Soap Manager*
Chicken Manager*
Garden Manager*
Market Manager
Retreat Manager
Literary Arts Magazine Manager*
Musical Manager
Community Meeting Facilitator

***Available to 9th grade students only.**

Creative Expressions

Music Ensemble
Theatre
Musical Theater
Visual Art
Film Photojournalism
Baking/Cooking

Intramural Athletics

Soccer*
Volleyball
Basketball**
Track and Field
Assistant Coach
Flag Football
Cross Country

***Not offered 2024-2025.**
**** Not offered for boys 2024-2025; not offered for girls 2025-2026.**

Community Service

The Beacon
Houston Food Bank
Casa de Esperanza
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
Houston Welcomes Refugees
Plant It Forward
Shamba Ya Amani Farm

COLLEGE MATRICULATION (2020-2025)

American University
Baylor University
College of Charleston
Houston Community College
Johns Hopkins University
Nottingham Trent University
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
South Dakota Mines
Southwestern University
Texas A&M University at Galveston
The University of Texas at Austin
Tulane University
University of Arkansas
University of Houston
University of St. Thomas
Whitman College

View full list of college acceptances **here**.