



HISTORY

St. Catherine's Montessori (SCM) is a Dominican and Montessori school founded in 1966. SCM was the first school in the US to offer a continuous Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) program from infancy through high school. It serves approximately 300 students from 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 Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

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*
7

Sophomores
7

Juniors
7

Seniors
8

*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. Examples include a written thesis, a culinary program, an art program, an auto restoration project, among others.

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

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

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

The core high school courses at SCM are recognized by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

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), online credit for third-party coursework (OC), 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

Integrated Science

Integrated Physics and Chemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
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

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

Cumulative Score Data
AP Pass Rate (Score of 3 or higher): 75% Average SAT: 1161
Average GPA: 3.766 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 Adventure.” 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.

Community Service

Casa de Esperanza
Food Not Bombs
Houston Food Bank
Houston Welcomes Refugees
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
Plant It Forward
Shamba Ya Amani Farm
The Beacon

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.

Student Enterprises

Bank Manager*
Bee Manager*
Business Manager
Chicken Manager
Community Meeting Facilitator
Dirty Soda Manager
Garden Manager*
Market Manager*
Musical Manager
Nest Coffee Shop Manager
Retreat/Travel Planning Manager
Soap Manager

*Available to 9th grade students only.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION (2020-2026)

American University
Austin College
Baylor University
Boston College
College of Charleston
Houston Community College
Johns Hopkins University
Nottingham Trent University
Reed College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
South Dakota Mines
Southwestern University
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Texas State University
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](#).

