



St. Stephen's

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

2026-27 School Profile

History and Founding Principles

St. Stephen's Episcopal School is a coeducational school serving 709 boarding and day students in grades 6 through 12. We provide a distinctive college preparatory curriculum within a balanced program of academics, service learning, athletics and the arts. Founded in 1950 by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the school has a rich history of teaching students of all backgrounds and cultures to live together

in community. St. Stephen's was the first coeducational Episcopal school in the United States and the first integrated boarding school in the South. Our mission and core values are rooted in progressive yet resolute principles: honor all faiths and traditions, support equity and inclusion, respect other cultures and perspectives, promote social justice, serve others and be good stewards of the environment.

Signature Programs

Deeply committed to intellectual freedom and academic rigor, St. Stephen's offers a distinctive curriculum that allows students to explore individual interests while developing skills in critical analysis, reasoned discourse and persuasive writing. Academic offerings also provide students a shared intellectual experience, bolster their sense of community and reinforce the school's core values. The school's signature programs range from core courses in history, English and theology, to social science seminars and service learning.

Core Courses: History 11, English 12 and Theology 12 form the core of students' shared intellectual experience and must be taken in residence.

- **History 11** — Students investigate the United States experience in a broad context through topics such as imperialism, globalization, conflict in the Middle East and dissolution of the Soviet Union. The course equips students to think critically about social, cultural and political change, culminating in a major research paper using scholarly articles and primary sources.
- **English 12** — During fall and winter terms, seniors choose electives that showcase advanced theoretical approaches and creative assignments. Spring term is devoted to The Novel Project, designed to give students the freedom to craft their own curriculum and the guidance to pursue interdisciplinary scholarship. Each senior builds their own reading list of three novels and one alternative text (film, nonfiction, poetry, graphic novel or short story collection). Students then spend spring term researching, writing and presenting their projects.
- **Theology 12** — In this full-credit, non-doctrinal course, students explore the nature of religious experience, patterns in religious thought and behavior, moral theology and ethics. Texts include Mircea Eliade's *The Sacred and The Profane*; Paul Tillich's *Dynamics of Faith*; and primary sources from a variety of world religions, including the *Tao Te Ching*, the *Bhagavad Gita* and Jewish and Christian scriptures.

Social Science Seminars: This three-term course offers a variety of electives open to juniors and seniors. Recent topics have included Modern China, Dealing with Difficult People (Including Ourselves), Modernization and the Contemporary Middle East, Economics, Psychology, Alternative Narratives of Gender and Sexuality in America, Forging Our Sustainable Future, History of Modern Mexico and Topics in Constitutional Law.

Independent Study: Students may design and propose advanced topics of study beyond the school's regular curriculum in all departments. Once they receive approval for their advanced study, students work with an individual teacher to complete their Independent Study. The project receives one academic credit and is graded on a pass/fail basis. Topics have included Aerospace Engineering, Bioinformatics, Comparative Literature, Genetics, Music and Neuroscience, and Quantum Physics.

Chapel: All students participate in chapel services four times a week, conducted in the Episcopal tradition. Through music, scripture readings, chapel talks and prayer, students examine their own beliefs in the context of different religions and faith perspectives and consider how those beliefs affect the way they understand themselves, their relationships and the world around them.

Service Learning: St. Stephen's seeks to inspire a lasting love of learning and spirit of service. Students are required to work at least 10 hours per year addressing the needs of marginalized populations and/or environmental concerns. Students also have opportunities to serve others by working with nonprofits such as Interfaith Action of Central Texas (IACT) and the Central Texas Food Bank, as well as through school-sponsored service trips to Haiti, India and Nicaragua.

Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship: Beginning in Middle School, students may pursue numerous outdoor educational experiences — from the Devil's Canyon Adventure Program to research expeditions exploring biocultures as diverse as the Peruvian Amazon and Big Bend National Park.

Swim, Soccer, Tennis and Theatre Year-round Academy Programs: Students follow the school's college preparatory curriculum while receiving highly specialized training.

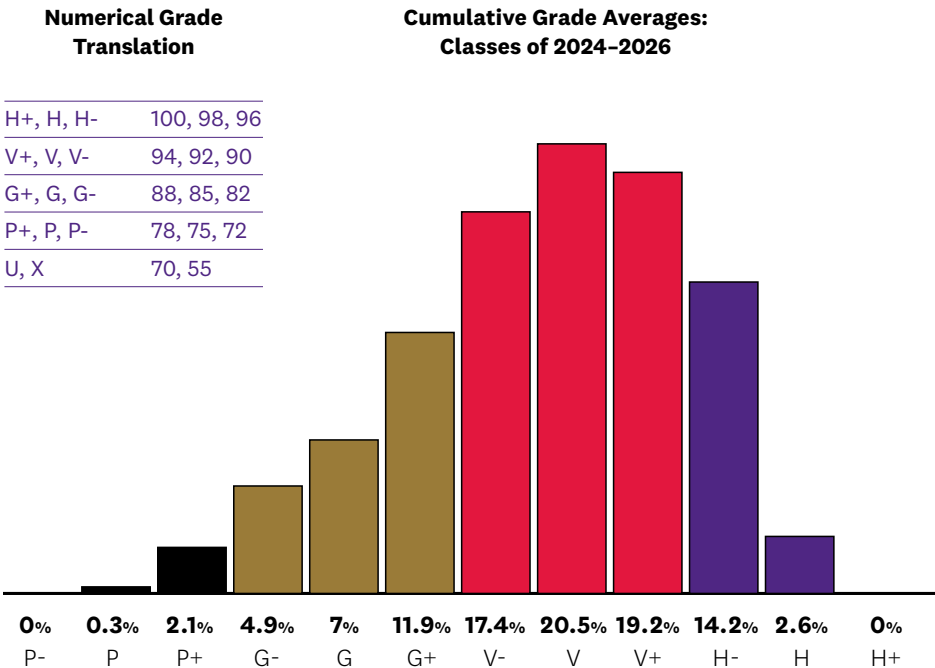
Academic Program and Diploma Requirements

All Upper School courses at St. Stephen's are taught at an honors level or higher, and there are no advanced tracks except in mathematics and Spanish. Although the school does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses, our faculty-designed courses' depth and complexity go well beyond those prescribed by the AP program.

SUBJECT	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	ELECTIVES	
English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12 English 9T and 10T are Transitional English classes that provide additional support for international students in our English classes.	Advanced Writing: Writing Across Genres Introduction to Creative Writing (half credit)	
Theology	Theology 12	Intro to Philosophy (half credit)	
History	History 9 (World History) History 10 (U.S. to 1900) History 11 (20th-Century U.S./World)	Advanced European History Social Science Seminars	
Mathematics	Algebra I Algebra: Functions and Applications Geometry or Advanced Geometry Algebra II or Advanced Algebra II	Precalculus Advanced Precalculus Calculus Advanced Calculus AB Advanced Calculus BC	Multivariable Analysis Linear Algebra Statistics and Selected Topics Advanced Statistics
World Languages	Completion of Level III Chinese, French, Latin or Spanish (or Advanced Spanish III)	Chinese IV Chinese V Independent Study Advanced Chinese Advanced Chinese V French IV Advanced French V/VI and VII/VIII	Advanced Japanese Latin IV Advanced Latin V/VI and VII/VIII Spanish IV-V Advanced Spanish IV-VI and VII/VIII
Science and Technology	Biology I Chemistry I Physics I	Advanced Biology II Advanced Chemistry II Advanced Physics II Astrophysics Electronics and Robotics Environmental Science Geology Principles of Engineering Projects in Engineering and Technology	Fabrication Workshop (half credit) Foundations of Programming with Python (half credit) Machine Learning/AI Web Development Independent Projects-Computer Science
Fine Arts	One Credit Required Full-Credit Courses: Visual Studies I-III, Advanced Visual Studies, Advanced Art History, Advanced Music Theory Half-Credit Courses: Art, Ceramics, Dance, Digital Imaging, Dramatic Literature, Film, Graphic Design, Music, Photography, Public Speaking, Theatre, Yearbook Design		

Academic Policy and Grading Scale

St. Stephen's is a non-ranking high school and uses a non-traditional grading scale. The highest grade in this scale is an H+, which corresponds to 100 on a 100-point scale. It is important to note that grades in the V-range do not equate with conventional B-range grades. Rather, these grades represent a high level of mastery in a subject, corresponding to 90-94. The lowest passing grade is P- (72). All full-credit courses are included in the GPA. For a weighted GPA, all full-credit courses are weighted by a factor of 1.15. St. Stephen's maintains an institutional commitment to the integrity of our grading scale and resistance to grade inflation.



Standardized Testing,
Classes of 2024-2026

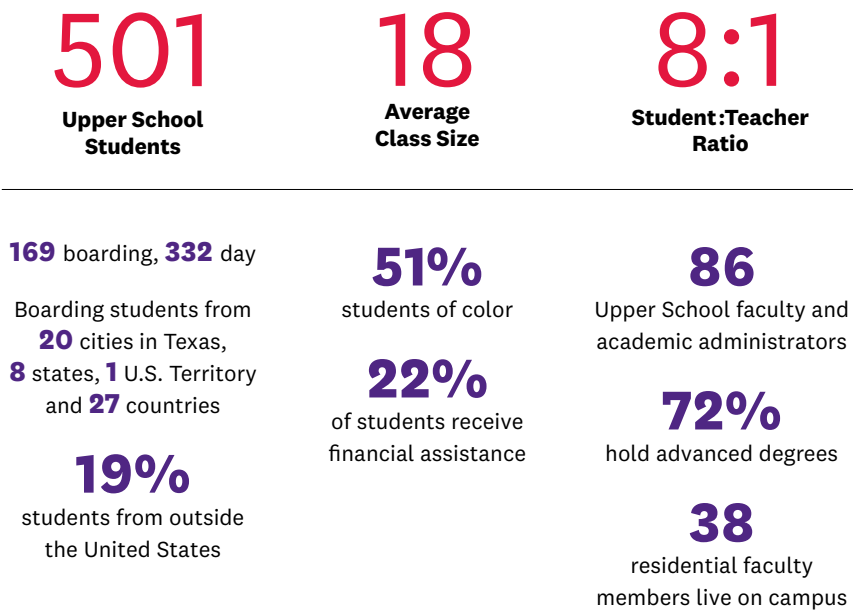
ACT COMPOSITE
Mean = **30**
Median = **30**
Middle 50% = **28-33**

SAT COMBINED
Mean = **1368**
Median = **1350**
Middle 50% = **1260-1490**

National Academic
Recognition, Classes of
2024-2026

27 National Merit Semifinalists
63 National Merit Commendations

Upper School Community, 2026-27



Discipline Reporting Policy

St. Stephen's maintains and benefits from relationships with colleges and universities that are based on openness and collegial respect. When a college or university asks us to provide information about a student's disciplinary history, we will respond honestly and completely, in compliance with the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission. We will also report patterns or major cases of academic dishonesty.

Accreditations and Memberships

- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)
- National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES)
- Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES)
- The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)
- Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC)

College Matriculations, Classes of 2022-2026

Arizona State University Auburn University Austin Community College District Bard College Barnard College Bates College (2) Baylor University (3) Berklee College of Music Boston College (2) Boston University (9) Bowdoin College (3) Brandeis University (2) Brown University Bryn Mawr College (2) California College of the Arts California Institute of Technology California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (4) Carleton College (2) Carnegie Mellon University (3) Case Western Reserve University Catholic University of Louvain Claremont McKenna College Clemson University (3) College of Charleston Colorado College (2) Colorado State University (2) Columbia University (6) Cornell University (8) Dartmouth College (7) Davidson College (2) Drexel University Drury University Duke University (3) Edgewood University Elon University Emerson College (5) Emory University - Oxford College (3) Emory University (8) Fairfield University Fisk University Florida International University Fordham University (2) Franklin and Marshall College Georgetown University (9) Georgia Institute of Technology (2) Hamilton College (2) Harvard University (2) Harvey Mudd College Haverford College (2) Hendrix College Hobart William Smith Colleges Howard University IE University (Madrid, Spain) Illinois Wesleyan University Indiana University Bloomington (2) Ithaca College Johns Hopkins University (7)	Lehigh University (7) LeTourneau University Lewis & Clark College Loyola Marymount University (8) Macalester College (2) Massachusetts Institute of Technology McGill University (3) Miami University - Oxford (2) Michigan State University (3) Middlebury College (5) Morehouse College Mount Holyoke College New York University (16) North Park University Northeastern University (4) Northwestern University (3) Pepperdine University (2) Pitzer College (3) Pomona College (4) Purdue University (8) Queen's University Queen's University Belfast Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rhode Island School of Design (2) Rhodes College Rice University (14) Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology San Diego State University (2) Santa Clara University (3) Sarah Lawrence College (2) Savannah College of Art and Design (2) Skidmore College Smith College Southern Methodist University (4) Southwestern University (2) St. Edward's University (3) Stanford University (10) Stonehill College Swarthmore College (4) Syracuse University Tartleton State University Tecnológico de Monterrey Texas A & M University (11) Texas Christian University (3) Texas Lutheran University Texas State University (2) Texas Tech University (2) The College of William & Mary The College of Wooster (2) The George Washington University (5) The Ohio State University (2) The Oklahoma State University The Pennsylvania State University (3) The Pennsylvania State University Altoona The University of Alabama The University of Montana The University of Texas at Arlington (4) The University of Texas at Austin (59)	The University of Texas at Dallas (6) The University of Texas at San Antonio (10) The University of Texas at Tyler The University of the South (5) Trinity College Trinity College Dublin (2) Trinity University (9) Tufts University (7) Tulane University (10) United States Air Force Academy (5) United States Military Academy United States Naval Academy University of Arizona (4) University of Austin University of California, Berkeley (10) University of California, Davis (5) University of California, Irvine University of California, Los Angeles (6) University of California, San Diego (6) University of California, Santa Barbara (7) University of Chicago University of Colorado Boulder (18) University of Denver (2) University of Georgia (2) University of Houston (5) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (7) University of Miami (8) University of Michigan (8) University of Mississippi University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of North Carolina School of the Arts	University of North Texas University of Notre Dame (3) University of Oklahoma University of Oregon University of Pennsylvania University of Richmond (4) University of Rochester University of San Diego (2) University of San Francisco University of Southern California (6) University of Toronto University of Utah University of Virginia (8) University of Washington (2) University of Wisconsin - Madison (10) Vanderbilt University (8) Vassar College (2) Villanova University (2) Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Washington and Lee University Washington State University Washington University in St. Louis (7) Wellesley College (3) Wentworth Institute of Technology Wesleyan University West Texas A & M University Whitman College Williams College Worcester Polytechnic Institute (2) Yale University (5)
--	---	--	---

CEEB Code: 440315

Contact Information

6500 St. Stephen's Drive, Austin, Texas 78746
Phone: 512.327.1213 | Fax: 512.327.1311
www.sstx.org

Head of School: Christopher L. Gunnin

Associate Head of School for Academics and Student Programs: Kimberly A. Garey

Head of Upper School: Aaron Snyder

Directors of College Counseling

Majed A. Dergham: mdergham@sstx.org
Claire E. Fenton: cfenton@sstx.org
Bea Hodavdekar: bhodavdekar@sstx.org
Frank Smith: fsmith@sstx.org

Associate Director of College Counseling

Laura Harris: lharris@sstx.org

College Counseling Office Manager

Karla S. Enloe: kenloe@sstx.org



Commitment to Ethical Practice

St. Stephen's adheres to and promotes best practices as determined by NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.