2026 NICHE BEST SCHOOLS

*Ranked #1 Best Private High School in WNY*



# SEM
## BUFFALO SEMINARY
EST. 1851

*Independent day and boarding school for college-bound girls*

205 Bidwell Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14222
716-885-6780

BUFFALOSEMINARY.ORG

NYSAIS NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

NAIS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

International Coalition of Girls' Schools ICGS Advancing Girls' Education Globally

ONE SCHOOLHOUSE *partners in innovation*

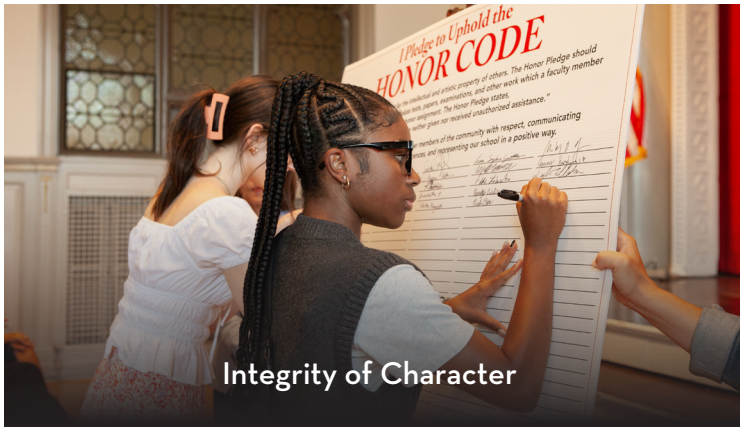
# *The Power of Girls' Education*

SEM is a leader in girls' education, distinguished by more than 170 years of excellence and innovation. Today, SEM inspires young women from around the globe to join with those from Western New York to create a community dedicated to preparing you to emerge from your high school experience as a leader, proud to shape society rather than be controlled or defined by it. You will learn to live and lead with honor, courage, confidence, and compassion.

We look forward to introducing you to this school and vibrant community. We want you to understand and appreciate just how the culture of this school, its distinctive faculty, distinguished alumnae, and outstanding students create an educational experience that resonates powerfully in these important and challenging times.


Women as Scholars and Leaders


Community of Belonging



Integrity of Character


Health and Resilience


Global Perspective


History and Traditions



# Academics

**100%**
COLLEGE PLACEMENT

**19**
AP COURSES

**100%**
SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT COMPLETION

**75%**
OF FACULTY HAVE ADVANCED DEGREES

**12**
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

**73**
ELECTIVES



"SEM in my eyes is a safe place not only for education but for personal growth. Through the various cultures and people that are in the classroom, you hear a plethora of perspectives. This creates a level of curiosity that is hard to find in this world. The faculty and staff provide an environment that supports equality through honest and deep discussions about our world. I just love it here!"

- Leila S. '26







## *An Arts Faculty of Practicing Professionals*

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to hone your painting and drawing skills with the guidance of an exhibiting artist? How about taking the stage with guidance from a professional director? At SEM, you can do all of this and more. Our faculty of practicing professionals will inspire your creativity in ways you've only dreamed of - and make some pretty great art along the way.

*Left: Award-winning Fine Arts Department Chair, Theatre Teacher, & Community Artist, Susan Drozd*




**73%** OF STUDENTS COMPETE IN AT LEAST ONE SPORT

**33** CLUBS & ACTIVITY GROUPS

**16** TEAMS

BASKETBALL
BOWLING (JV + VARSITY)
CREW
CROSS COUNTRY
FENCING
FIELD HOCKEY
FLAG FOOTBALL
GOLF
HOCKEY
LACROSSE
SAILING
SOCCER
SQUASH
SWIMMING
TENNIS
TRACK




OFFICIAL MASCOT:
RED-TAILED HAWK

# *Global Opportunities*

"Whether our students come to SEM to board, travel to improve a language skill, or to live a cultural experience, in welcoming a global community we develop a rare quality: altruism. Our collaborations with various schools around the world offer this possibility of openness to develop compassion, humanism, respect, and philanthropy."

- Isabelle Fisher, Foreign Language Department Chair & French Teacher, P'20, P'23













*Hornet/Jacket Day on Larkin Field*

## *Our Traditions Are Legendary*

Will you be a Hornet or a Jacket? As one of the oldest schools for girls in the U.S., our traditions span centuries. The Hornet/Jacket tradition was established in 1916 to give our SEM girls the experience of competition. Meet a SEM alumna anywhere in the world and you can ask, "Hornet or Jacket?" It's a guaranteed icebreaker!

At SEM, you will participate in spirited field days and academic contests to vie for the annual cup. You will celebrate and honor our community with events throughout the year such as Hanging of the Greens, Holiday Revel, Lunar New Year, and Black History Month.




# *You Won't Get This Experience Anywhere Else!*

SEM is the only school in the region with a 5- and 7-day residential program. Students have access to all the amenities a small city offers: concerts, museums, sports, restaurants, and shopping. On weekends we ski, ice-skate, skateboard, kayak, zipline, pumpkin-pick, or take in a movie. Living here in our renovated, historic houses, girls learn autonomy in preparation for college and life.

## SEMFLEX

Athletes, artists, academic researchers, internship seekers, and other specialized pre-professionals participate in SEMFLEX to pursue their passions while still engaging in rigorous academics and school life.



*Competitive Skier Mia Kerl '26*




# BUFFALO

*Buffalo's nicknames include "The Queen City," "Nickel City," and "The City of Light."*
*A 2018 New York Times "52 Places to Go" destination!*

**101** MILES TO TORONTO (162.5 KILOMETERS)

**28** MINUTES TO NIAGARA FALLS BY CAR

**1** HOUR FLIGHT TO: BOSTON, CHICAGO, DC, DETROIT, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA

**5** STUDENT & FACULTY RESIDENCES

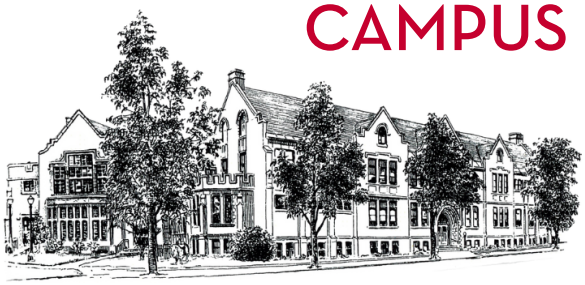
**11** FIREPLACES

**5** HARKNESS TABLES

**10** PIANOS

**1** PREMIER SUMMER CAMP FOR GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 4-9

## CAMPUS



*Nestled in Buffalo's lively Elmwood Village, SEM's campus is part of one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods. Students step from historic halls onto streets filled with cafes, boutiques, and galleries. Just steps away, the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market, Olmsted-designed parkways, and the world-renowned Buffalo AKG Art Museum enrich daily life at SEM and open up a world of possibilities.*


1851


1908
205
9AM - 4PM
MON
TUE & WED

SEM

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