HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

St. Thomas Aquinas High School | 2026-2027

One Tingley Lane, Edison, NJ 08820 | 732-549-1108 | CEEB Code: 310298

School & Community

St. Thomas Aquinas High School (STA), formerly known as Bishop George Ahr High School, was founded in 1969. It is a coeducational, college-preparatory school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen. The 34-acre campus is located in North Edison. Students come from communities in Middlesex, Monmouth, Union and Somerset counties in Central New Jersey, representing a wide variety of backgrounds and economic circumstances. Current enrollment is approximately 500 students.

Faculty & Staff Contacts

Kevin Sacco, President
Augustus Modla, Principal
Laura Veni, Director of Student Services

Counselors
Suzette Allan
Jennifer deBeus
Christina Karabin
Kimberly Hernandez, Student Assistance Counselor

Accreditation & Faculty

The school is accredited by Cognia. Faculty members include clergy and lay educators; 15 hold master's degrees and four hold doctorates. Average teaching experience exceeds 15 years.

Course of Studies

All students participate in a college-preparatory curriculum, with programs tailored to individual abilities and interests. The academic program includes college-preparatory, accelerated, Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) and dual enrollment coursework. Students may pursue a range of rigorous academic pathways while completing graduation requirements.

Graduation Requirements

The minimum requirement for graduation is **130 credits**. Full-year courses generally carry five credits. Semester and quarter courses carry proportionate credit, as indicated on the transcript. Beginning in 2026-2027, STA uses an A/B block schedule. Required areas of study are listed below.

Subjec-t	Requirement	Subject	Requirement
Theology	4 years	U.S. History	2 years
Mathematics	3 years	World History	1 year
English	4 years	Fine Arts	1 year
Physical Education/Health	4 years	Freshman Foundations	1 year
Laboratory Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	3 years	Career Education	2 quarters
World Language	2 years (3 recommended)	Personal Financial Literacy	1 semester

Grading, GPA & Academic Context

Historical grading scale: through the 2023-2024 school year

Grade	Percentage	College Prep	Honors	AP
A+	97-100	4.25	4.75	5.25
A	92-96	4.00	4.50	5.00
B+	88-91	3.25	3.75	4.25
B	85-87	3.00	3.50	4.00
C+	80-84	2.25	2.75	3.25
C	75-79	2.00	2.50	3.00
D	70-74	1.00	1.50	2.00
F	Below 70	0.00	0.00	0.00

Current grading scale: effective beginning with the 2024-2025 school year

Grade	Percentage	College Prep	Honors	AP
A+	97-100	4.33	5.00	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	4.67	5.00
A-	90-92	3.67	4.33	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	4.00	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	3.67	4.00
B-	80-82	2.67	3.33	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	3.00	3.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.67	3.00
C-	70-72	1.67	2.33	2.67
D	65-69	1.00	1.67	2.00
F	50-64*	0.00	0.00	0.00

GPA excludes Physical Education, Health, Driver Education, Career Education and single-credit courses. STA has not ranked students since June 1996.

Scheduling and credits. Beginning in September 2026, STA transitioned to an A/B-day block schedule, allowing students to take eight academic courses annually and earn 40 credits. Previously, under the traditional eight-period schedule (including lunch), students took seven academic courses and typically earned 35–37 credits per year. Differences in course and credit totals among graduating classes reflect this school-wide scheduling change and the academic program in place during each student’s enrollment.

Test scores: STA does not send SAT or ACT scores. Students are responsible for following each college's or scholarship program's reporting requirements and arranging official testing-agency reports when required.

Class of 2026 placement: 90% four-year colleges; 8% two-year colleges; 2% other destinations. Total reported college placement: 98%.

Effective June 1996, St. Thomas Aquinas High School no longer ranks students.

Aquinas Scholars Honors Program

The Honors Program is a rigorous series of accelerated courses that nurture and develop the academic potential of intellectually gifted students. Working with like-minded peers in a supportive cohort throughout their four years, students are challenged to become independent, critical thinkers while enjoying St. Thomas Aquinas's numerous extracurricular, athletic and service opportunities.

Classes are taught by experienced educators who are committed to creating an immersive, engaging learning environment. Each individual will emerge at the end of his or her Honors experience with the work ethic and academic skills needed to thrive in a competitive top-tier college environment.

Students who are accepted into the Honors Program take six honors courses during freshman year. In order to graduate in the Honors Program, a student must complete a total of at least 17 AP/Honors Courses by the end of senior year. These courses include Western Civilization, World Religions, Church History and up to level III of a Foreign Language. Please review your child's progress to make sure that he or she is on track to graduate within the Honors Program.

The academic progress of each child in the Honors Program is reviewed at the end of each school year. In order to remain in the Honors Program, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA and have no final grades below a C in any subject. If a student does not meet these requirements, he or she will lose his or her academic scholarship. All Honors students must complete at least 80 Honors/AP Credits and maintain a minimum of a 3.5 GPA (with no final grades below a C) to graduate in the Honors Program.

Freshman full Honors Program course list

Course	Course
Biology Honors	English 9 Honors
Western Civilization Honors	Mathematics Honors
Theology 9 Honors	World Language Honors
Elective	Physical Education/Health 9/Freshmen Foundations

Peer Leadership Honors

The Peer Leadership program at St. Thomas Aquinas High School was developed as a five credit course for selected seniors who exhibited leadership and the desire to help others. This course provides seniors with a thorough knowledge of group dynamics, develops leadership, and enhances communication and problem-solving skills. Peer leaders are given the opportunity to utilize these skills during weekly freshmen discussion groups. Topics include: friendship, dating, love and human sexuality, and discerning choices and commitments in life.

To be selected as a peer leader, an interested student must apply to the program during the second semester of their junior year. The application process consists of three steps: a three-page written application, an interview and participation in a group discussion. Students who do well in all three areas are selected to enroll in the course in the fall of senior year.

Peer Leadership was started in September of 1991 at St. Thomas Aquinas and has proven to be beneficial for both seniors and freshmen. Seniors who are accepted into this program are asked to sign a contract in which they agree to uphold a "NO USE" policy regarding alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

This program requires commitment of time and energy for an entire year. It develops personal growth and provides the seniors with a way to help others. The present peer leaders have made that commitment and have exhibited maturity and responsibility in their interactions with each other, the freshmen in their groups, and their peer teachers. We are confident that their good example will contribute to the success of our Peer Leadership program.

Course Offerings | 2026-2027

Courses are grouped by their published program designation. An AP course labeled dual enrollment has both designations; some dual enrollment and elective courses also carry an Honors designation. CP = College Prep; Acc. = Accelerated.

Subject	AP	Dual Enrollment	Honors	Academic	Electives
English	English Literature & Composition (DE)	English III Honors	English I English II World Literature Shakespeare	English I English II English III English IV	
Mathematics	Calculus AB Calculus BC Statistics (DE)	Calculus I Precalculus Honors	Algebra I Algebra II Algebra II/Geometry Geometry	Algebra I CP & Acc. Geometry CP & Acc. Algebra II CP & Acc. Precalculus Acc. Statistics Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry	Sports Management & Statistics Discrete Math Engineering I Essentials Engineering Capstone
Science	Biology Lab Chemistry Lab (DE) Physics	Anatomy, Physiology & Nursing Honors Clinical Health Sciences I/II	Biology/Lab Chemistry/Lab Physics/Lab	Biology/Lab Chemistry/Lab Physics/Lab	Forensic Science Introduction to Astronomy Welding
Theology		Theology II Honors: World Religions Introduction to Philosophy Honors	Theology I Theology II Theology III Theology IV	Theology I Theology II Theology III Morality/Ethics Theology IV	
Social Studies	U.S. History II Psychology (DE)	Introduction to Psychology Honors U.S. History II Honors Child Development Western Civilization Honors Foundations of Teaching Foundations of Law	World History U.S. History I	World History U.S. History I U.S. History II	Economics Honors U.S. Law Honors Introduction to Criminal Justice
World Language	Spanish Language & Culture	Italian I-IV Honors French I-IV Honors	Spanish I-IV Italian I-IV French I-IV	Spanish I-IV Italian I-IV French I-IV	
Fine Arts	Art History (DE) 2-D Art and Design	Theater Arts Intensive I-II		Music I-III Art I-II Drama I-III Journal Graphics Broadcast Journalism Creative Filmmaking Creative Writing	
Business Education	Computer Science A (DE)	Introduction to Programming Introduction to Business Entrepreneurship Experience	Peer Leadership Honors Freshman Foundations	Freshman Foundations Career Education Financial Literacy	
Other				PE I-IV Health I-III Symphonic Band Weight Training Driver Theory	