



Profile 2026-27

The Agnes Irwin School

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CEEB: 395400

The School

Founded in 1869, The Agnes Irwin School is an independent college preparatory day school for girls in grades PreKindergarten–12, located 12 miles west of Philadelphia.

Accreditation & Organizational Memberships

Agnes Irwin is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS). Agnes Irwin is a member of ACCIS, The Cum Laude Society, the Independent Curriculum Group, the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS), NACAC, NAIS, PACAC, and the College Board.

Faculty

There are 52 faculty and professional staff in the Upper School. Of the teaching faculty, 34% hold advanced degrees. 40% of faculty have been at AIS for over 10 years. Median class size range: 12–16.

GPA and Class Rank

AIS does not provide a GPA or a class rank during the college admission process. Class rank was discontinued in 1972.

Enrollment

The total enrollment of grades PreK–12 is 674 (25% are students of color; 33% receive tuition assistance totaling \$6.1 million). There are 303 students in grades 9–12 and 71 in the class of 2027. Students come from 78 zip codes in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs.

Recipient of:

- E.E. Ford Foundation Grant
- Maguire Student Scholarships
- Maguire Foundation Scholars Program
- QuestBridge Scholar
- Jefferson Scholar

Head of School
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Class of 2027: 71 Seniors

97% enrolled in 4 or more math courses

100% enrolled in 4 or more science courses

77% in Calculus or beyond

25% currently enrolled in 2 or more math courses

83% currently enrolled in 2 or more science electives

35% enrolled in Computer Science or Engineering

49% enrolled in 4 years of Modern Language

14% enrolled in 4 years Classical Language

45% enrolled in 6 classes for all 4 years

Academic Requirements for Graduation

English	4 years
Math	3 years (Alg. II minimum)
History & Social Sciences	3 years (must include U.S. History in 11th grade)
Science	3 years (Physics, Chemistry, Bio)
Modern Language	3 years in one language (or 2 years in 2 languages)
Visual and Performing Arts	1.5 years (1 class required)
Total Credits	20 credits over 4 years

Additional Graduation Requirements

Athletics/Fitness	3 seasons in 9–10th 2 seasons in 11–12th
Wellness	Required 4 years
Community Service	40 hours over 4 years
Media Literacy	Grade 9
Senior Assembly	Grade 12
Special Studies Program	Grades 9–12

Agnes Irwin's girl-centered, research-based education fosters an incredible journey of self-discovery, empowering each girl to learn, to lead, and to live a legacy.

Special Programs of Note

Community Service [9-12]: Students are required to participate in a minimum of 40 hours of Community Service to graduate.

“Physics-First” Science Sequence: AIS’s required sequence for science is: Physics (9); Chemistry (10); Biology (11). A physics-first science curriculum is designed to prepare students for 21st century science literacy. Placing an algebra-based physics course in grade 9 allows students to gain a deep understanding of the structure of matter, and paves the way for advanced work in chemistry, which then continues to build foundational knowledge for biology. There are also honors electives available in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, in addition to fourteen electives across various science disciplines.

Wellness [9-12]: AIS’s 1st thru 12th grade Wellness curriculum focuses on developing skills to promote healthy lifestyle choices, self knowledge and increased resilience and self-esteem. Topics include relationships; emotional, physical, and environmental wellness; and Red Cross First Aid.

Human Relationships Seminar [11-12]: Human Relationships is a biannual, non-credit, ten-week course for Agnes Irwin, Baldwin School, and Haverford School students which examines the complexities of human relationships. Topics include societal norms, sex, gender, sexuality, feminism and more. Discussion is largely student-led, with readings and prompts provided by a team of faculty who facilitate the program.

Internship Program [11-12]: The Internship Program initiates connections between Agnes Irwin Upper School students and local businesses and nonprofits to facilitate internships that will lead to meaningful career development experiences. Internships can be paid or unpaid, over a school break or during the school year, and virtual or in-person, though in-person is preferred. Interns engage in meaningful work that helps them decide if the field might be a viable career path.

Externship Program [11-12]: Students have the option to participate in an externship during the Special Studies Program. These mini-internships allow students to contribute meaningfully to a local business or nonprofit and to learn about key elements of professional life. Externships allow students to explore topics not otherwise covered in the curriculum.

New Forum Project: The New Forum Project (NFP) is a structured space where Upper School students can discuss contentious issues in ways that are productive and help students learn to argue effectively. NFP is developed by our English and history department chairs and a diverse group of student leaders who serve as models of intellectual engagement. The goal of NFP is to build a vibrant and healthy intellectual community. Participants will learn from each other, not persuade anyone of a particular belief, but to practice the art of rhetoric.

Penn Social Innovators Program [11-12]: A 13-week initiative featuring curriculum developed by professors at University of

Pennsylvania and academic professionals from Schoolyard Ventures that provides students with the opportunity to develop an idea into a company, non-profit, or social movement through research, projects, and collaborations. Students earn a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from University of Pennsylvania.

Robotics Team [9-12]: One of a few all-female teams on the eastern seaboard, AIS’s Robotics Team grows out of an active Lego® Robotics middle school program. Annually designing a robot to enter the FIRST competition and participating in competitions in the Mid-Atlantic Robotics District, the team has garnered many awards and immerses girls in real-world, hands-on science and technology.

Special Studies Program (SSP) [9-12]: SSP is a hands-on, experiential learning program that allows students to explore career-oriented, community service, and international immersion opportunities. Students are required to complete one local SSP per year, and one Global SSP during their years in Upper School.

Senior Assemblies: AIS seniors prepare and present a research-based speech with visuals to the Upper School student body and faculty. The topic is listed on the final transcript.

In accordance with NACAC’s *Guide to Ethical Practices in College Admission*, AIS discloses disciplinary infractions that result in suspensions upon request.



AIS Curriculum – AP vs. Honors vs. Honors Capstone

In 2017-18, AIS dropped the College Board's Advanced Placement Program, replacing with Honors as the top level of rigor, and these classes extend well beyond that of the prescribed AP curriculum.

	Honors	Honors Capstone
Who?	Scholastically minded students. Available in grades 9-12.	Intellectually curious students who are intrinsically motivated to learn more about a particular topic. Available in social sciences for grades 11-12. <i>Note: "Honors" and "Honors Capstone" are the most rigorous courses at AIS.</i>
Rigor	Highest	High – work done independently
How?	Prior performance and approval of the department	Application approval by a team of faculty/department chairs
Classes	English, Modern and Classical Language, and Level II Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics and Probability	Many senior history electives <i>Note: "Honors Capstone" is the most rigorous available in social sciences.</i>

Selected Course Offerings

English

English I-IV
English II Honors
English III Honors
English IV Honors
(semester electives)

Classical Language

Ancient Greek I-II
Latin I-IV
Anthropology
History of Pseudoarchaeology

Modern Language

French I-IV
French II-IV Honors
Mandarin Chinese I-V
Spanish I-V
Spanish II-IV Honors

History and Social Sciences

United States History
United States History Honors
American Constitution
Economics & Entrepreneurship*
International Relations*
Introduction to Political Science*
The Third Reich & the Holocaust*
The World Before & After 9/11*

Math

Precalculus
Precalculus Accelerated
Precalculus Honors
Calculus
Calculus Accelerated
Calculus I Honors
Calculus II Honors
Statistics and Probability
Statistics and Probability Honors

Science

Bioethics
Biological Anthropology

Biology II: Emerging Infectious Diseases
Biology II: Honors: Anatomy & Physiology
Biology II: Honors: Neuropsychology
Chemistry II Honors: Advanced Topics
Chemistry II Honors: Organic
Computer Science I, II
Computer Science III Honors
Engineering I: Drafting & CAD
Engineering I: Principles of Design
Engineering II: Mechatronics
Environmental Sustainability
Physics II Honors: Astrophysics
Physics II Honors: Elec. & Magnetism
Psychology
Research in Microbiology
Independent Science Research

Visual and Performing Arts

Ceramics I, II
Media Arts I
Media Arts II, III
Musical Theatre
Photography I, II, III, IV
Piano Lab I, II
Studio Art I-IV
Textile & Design
Theatre I, II

Performance Offerings

Vocal Ensemble
Bel Cantos
Instrumental Ensemble
Theatre
Musical Theatre
Dance Motion
Approved Independent Study



*Course may be taken for an Honors Capstone (open to students in grades 11 and 12 and requires application and approval of committee). Courses are year-long unless noted.



2022-2026

College Matriculation

American University
American University of Paris
Arizona State University
Auburn University (3)
Babson College
Boston College (9)
Boston University (6)
Bowdoin College (2)
Brandeis University (2)
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College (2)
Bucknell University (11)
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University (2)
The Catholic University of America (2)
Chapman University
Clemson University (4)
Colby College (2)
Colgate University (3)
College of Charleston (2)
College of William and Mary
Columbia University
Connecticut College (2)
Cornell University (11)
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University (2)
Dickinson College (2)
Drexel University (3)
Duke University (2)
Durham University
Elon University (4)
Emerson College (3)
Fairfield University (6)
Flagler College
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College (2)
George Washington University (2)
Georgetown University (7)
Gettysburg College (2)
Hamilton College (3)
Hampton University (4)
Harvard University (2)
Haverford College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Howard University (2)

International University of Monaco
Ithaca College
The Jewish Theological Seminary
Johns Hopkins University (3)
Lafayette College
Lehigh University (5)
Louisiana State University
Loyola University - Maryland
Miami University - Oxford (3)
Middlebury College (3)
MIT
Muhlenberg College
New York University (5)
North Carolina A&T State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
- Schreyer Honors College
Pennsylvania State University
- University Park (18)
Pepperdine University (2)
Princeton University (2)
Providence College
Queen's University of Charlotte
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rollins College (2)
Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Saint Joseph's University
San Diego State University
Skidmore College (2)
Smith College
Southern Methodist University (7)
Spelman College
St. John's University - NY
Stanford University
Stetson University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University (9)
Temple University
Texas Christian University (4)
The New School (2)
Towson University
Trinity College (7)
Tufts University (4)
Tulane University (8)
United States Military Academy

United States Naval Academy
Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
University of California - Berkeley
University of California - Davis
University of California - Irvine
University of California - Los Angeles (2)
University of Chicago (2)
University of Colorado - Boulder (2)
University of Connecticut - Storrs (2)
University of Delaware (2)
University of Denver (3)
University of Florida (3)
The University of Iowa
University of Maryland - College Park (5)
University of Massachusetts - Amherst
University of Miami (11)
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (2)
University of Mississippi
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (2)
University of Notre Dame (5)
University of Pennsylvania (8)
University of Pittsburgh (4)
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond (11)
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California (4)
University of St Andrews (3)
The University of Tampa
University of Tennessee - Knoxville (2)
University of Vermont
University of Virginia (8)
University of Wisconsin - Madison (2)
Ursinus College
Vanderbilt University (2)
Vassar College (2)
Villanova University (7)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (3)
Wake Forest University (5)
Washington and Lee University (2)
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Widener University (2)
Williams College (2)
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana