SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

The Academy

Shady Side Academy is a nationally respected coed pre-K through grade 12 school in Pittsburgh, PA, with an optional boarding experience in grades 9-12. With a total enrollment of just under 1300 students, SSA has three campuses: Country Day School in Fox Chapel, Junior School in Point Breeze, and a Middle and Senior School campus in suburban Fox Chapel. The Senior School sits on 130 beautiful acres and is much like that of a small college, with multiple buildings and plenty of outdoor spaces to learn and connect.

At Shady Side, we make room for students to make their move. We believe learning should be expansive and exciting for students, so they can be the architects of their own adventure. We empower teachers who love teaching, so students can feel the joy in every classroom. We go beyond standard education, so our graduates will be ready for college and everything after. The Senior School has a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, where education is viewed as building the skills and habits of inquiry, research, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

The 2026–2027 Senior School Student Body

Senior School Statistics

507 students	**30** boarders	**117** seniors
4 countries	**94** zip codes	**40%** Students of color
9:1 Student-faculty ratio	**64** faculty	**14** avg class size

Standardized Testing Profile

SAT (257 TESTS/95 students)	Middle 50% Total: 1230-1520
ACT (60 TESTS/30 students)	Middle 50% Composite: 26-34

Testing ranges are based on tests taken by students in the Class of 2026.

GPA and Class Rank

All GPAs are unweighted and calculated based on year-end grades.

Shady Side Academy does not rank its students.

National Merit Scholarship Program

Class of	2026	2027
Commended	28	26
Semi-finalists	11	14
Finalists	11	TBD
NMSQT Scholars	1	TBD
NMSQT College/Corporate Scholars	1	TBD
School Recognition Awards	12	TBD

Key Facts for College Admission Officers

- Shady Side does not designate any courses as "Honors" because **all courses follow a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.**
- Advanced Placement courses are available **only** in mathematics, world languages, and computer science, limiting most students to two AP courses at most. There are no AP or titled advanced options in English or history.
- Classes are designated as either College Prep, Advanced or Highest Level. Highest Level courses are beyond-AP, college-level courses.
- Shady Side Academy does not rank its students.
- In accordance with PA State Law, SSA is enacting a new Personal Finance course in the 26-27 school year, beginning with the Class of 2029.
- In the 2023–2024 school year, Shady Side shifted to reporting year-end grades only. In the 2024–2025 school year, Shady Side Academy moved from trimesters to semesters.
- In accordance with NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practices in College Admission, SSA discloses disciplinary infractions that result in out-of-school suspensions or expulsions upon request.
- Students must complete two seasons of athletic activity each year.
- SSA participates in the University of Pittsburgh's dual enrollment "College in High School" (CHS) program. Students enrolled in Calculus or Statistics have the option to take the course for four college credits (at a minimal cost) from the University of Pittsburgh.

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President: Bart Griffith '93
Head of Senior School: Andrew Prince

CEEB Code: 393901

College Counseling Office

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Accreditations & Memberships

Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Independent Schools
Middle States Association
The Association of Boarding Schools
Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent Schools
National Assoc. for College Admission Counseling
International Assoc. For College Admission Counseling
PA Assoc. for College Admission Counseling
Assoc. of College Counselors in Independent Schools

Class of 2027 Course Offerings (2024–2027)

Key: All courses are College Prep unless otherwise designated | ~Dual Enrollment option | ^Advanced | *AP or Highest Level offered

Requirements	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Arts Two courses Pass/Fail	**Performing Arts:** Concert Choir, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, String Orchestra, Electronic Sound Studio, Music Theory, Music Workshop: Voice, Guitar, or Piano, Fundamentals of Theater: Acting or Stagecraft, *Jazz Ensemble, *Chamber Choir **Visual Arts:** Art Core (formerly Art 2D and Studio Art 3D), Architecture, Clay Lab, Digital Studio, Materials in 3D, Drawing and Painting, Analog Photography, *Advanced Portfolio Studio Art			
Computer Science Two courses	Problem-Solving: Karel & Elementary Graphics, ^Web Design, ^Game Design, ^Artificial Intelligence, ^Mobile Apps, ^3D Modeling, ^Robotics, ^Computer Architecture, *AP Computer Science, *Discrete Structures, *Advanced Topics in CS: VR/Data Structures/Machine Learning			
English Four years	Foundations of Literature & Writing 1	Foundations of Literature & Writing 2	*Upper-level electives (11/12 English electives are co-seated)	
Health & Wellness One term	Health and Wellness			
History Three years	Problems in World History	Patterns of Western Identity	^U.S. History	*Econ w/Graphical Analysis, *Ethics, *Modern Social Justice Movements, *Philosophy,*Revolutions, ^Pittsburgh History, ^Oral History, ^Intro to Economics
Glimcher Tech/Design	Entrepreneurship for Tech & Design, Community Connections Through Tech & Design, Projects for Tech & Design			
Immersives (Pass/Fail)	One three-week Immersive course is required each year, with the option of conducting a Senior Project in grade 12.			
Mathematics Three years	Math 1 Math 2, ^2A Algebra & Geometry Intensive Math 3, ^3A	Math 2, ^2A Math 3, ^3A Trig & Function Analysis (pre-calc) ^Trig & Intro Calculus *Multivariable Calculus	Trig. & Function Analysis ^Trig. & Intro Calculus ~Calculus ~Statistics *AP Calculus AB *AP Calculus BC *Fractal Geo/Chaos Theory *Set Theory	~Calculus ~Statistics *AP Calculus AB *AP Calculus BC *Multivariable Calculus *Linear Algebra *Differential Equations
Science Three years	Physics 1 Chemistry 1	Chemistry 1 Biology 1	Biology 1 Physics 1A ^Science Research Seminar	*Adv. Biology, *Organic Chem *Adv. Chem electives *Physics 2-Calc ^Physics 2-Algebra ^Adv. Topics in Astronomy, ^Environ. Science, ^Principles of Engineering, ^Psychology
World Languages Three years *All world language courses with an "A" designation are considered advanced.*	Chinese 1, 2, ^2A French 1, 2, ^2A German 1, 2 Latin 1, 2 Spanish 1, 2, ^2A	Chinese 2, ^2A, 3, ^3A French 2, ^2A, 3, ^3A German 2, 3 Latin 1, 2, 3 Spanish 2, ^2A, 3, ^3A	Chinese 3, ^3A, ^4, ^4A French 3, ^3A, ^4, ^4A German 3, ^4A Latin 1, 2, 3, ^4A Spanish 3, ^3A, ^4, ^4A, *5AP	Chinese ^4, ^4A, ^5, *5AP French ^4, ^4A, ^5 *5AP German ^4A, *5A Latin ^4A, *5A Spanish ^4, ^4A, ^5, *5AP

Signature Programs: Ready for College and Everything After

Education is always moving to meet the needs of the future. So is Shady Side. Our students aren't confined to the four walls of a classroom. They regularly engage with learning that moves through summer internships and programs, intensive research projects, global travel, and learning in immersive real-world scenarios.

Immersives

Immersives offer students an intensive, hands-on learning experience where they engage deeply with a single experiential subject for three weeks. These interdisciplinary courses foster critical thinking and problem-solving by pushing students beyond traditional classroom settings to apply their knowledge. [2026: 3 weeks; 28 courses; 162 trips; 7000 miles; 6 states.]

Parkin Fellowship

The Parkin Fellowships for Global Service program offers students a life-changing opportunity to engage in impactful service or environmental projects around the world. Each summer, selected students receive travel grants that allow them to broaden perspectives, develop leadership skills, and make lasting contributions to communities in need.

Social Innovators Program

In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and Schoolyard Ventures, Social Innovators empowers students to explore social entrepreneurship and create impactful ventures while developing real-world skills and leadership, inspiring them to make a difference in society.

Science Research Seminar

The Science Research Seminar is a unique opportunity for select Grade 11 students to dive into real-world science and engineering research. This year-long course builds essential skills in scientific analysis, hands-on lab work, and collaboration with professional researchers at university labs through summer research internships.

2022–2026 College Matriculations

Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Austin Community College
Babson College
Barnard College
Bates College
Boston College
Boston University
Brown University
Bucknell University
California Institute of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Chatham University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark College
Clarkson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Coppin State University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DeSales University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne University
Elon University
Emory University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fairmont State University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
Geneva College
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Grove City College
Hamilton College
Hampton University
Harvard University
Haverford College
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Indiana University (Bloomington)
Indiana University of PA
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Juniata College
Kansas State University
Kenyon College
La Roche University
Lafayette College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Liberty University
Loyola University Chicago
Lycoming College
Maine Maritime Academy
Marietta College
Marist University
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University (Canada)
Miami University (Oxford)
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
New York University
Norfolk State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Olin College of Engineering
Ontario College of Art and Design
Penn State University
PennWest Edinboro
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen's University (Canada)
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Ringling College of Art and Design
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Saint Vincent College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
St. John Fisher University
Stanford University
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
The College of Wooster
The Ohio State University
The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
The University of Texas at Austin
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Union College
United States Air Force Academy
United States Merchant Marine Academy
United States Military Academy at West Point
United States Naval Academy
University College Dublin (Ireland)
University of Alabama
University of California (Berkeley)
University of California (Davis)
University of California (Irvine)
University of California (Los Angeles)
University of California (San Diego)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland (College Park)
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina (Wilmington)
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Utah State University
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Westminster College
Wheaton College (MA)
Yale University
Youngstown State University