St. Paul Academy and Summit School

SCHOOL PROFILE 2016-2017

St. Paul Academy and Summit School is a K-12 independent day school with two campuses located in the heart of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Our 929 students reflect the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 29 percent identifying as students of color and 23 percent drawing from a pool of nearly $3.2 million of financial aid.

As members of an intellectual community, SPA students thrive in what we call the accountable classroom: a place where students from a broad range of backgrounds understand that they have a responsibility to challenge themselves while engaging and contributing to the collective learning experience. Our small classes (average size is 14) emphasize thoughtful participation and clear expression of ideas.

- **Students are comfortable consulting teachers with questions and building rapport with faculty.** In college they readily seek out professors to foster strong intellectual and community connections.
- **Students learn discipline-specific modes of thinking and writing.** After building a thorough foundation in grades 9 and 10, students in upper-level courses learn and practice the types of investigation and analysis distinct to each academic discipline.
- **Accountability extends to student engagement in a wide range of athletic, artistic, and community activities.** Among more than 400 Upper School students, nearly 75% compete in athletics, 60% perform in music ensembles, and nearly 30% participate in our nationally-ranked debate program.

SPA graduates arrive at college accustomed to working independently and eager to enlist the support and mentorship of their college professors. They bring skills, habits and attitudes that enable them to thrive from the start, excelling and leading throughout college.

In their own words, see what our recent graduates value about their SPA education:

- *"SPA instilled a **systemic curiosity** which sets me apart from my peers."*
- *"I value that SPA didn't teach to a test. I think SPA definitely gave me the tools to **answer difficult/unanswerable/interesting questions** and to use resources to figure out an answer."*
- *"SPA gave me the **comfort to speak up** in classes. It trained me well to maneuver in discussions: listening, building on the ideas put forth by others, and injecting new ideas into the discussion."*
- *"My ability to **write clearly and think critically** has been extremely valuable to me in college and in my life beyond college as well."*
- *"Undoubtedly those aspects relating to **self-assuredness.** I've made a lot of wonderful connections to professors, had a lot of fabulous discussions in class—and enjoyed the heck out of a lot of public presentations—and I think a considerable part of all of that comes of my preparation at SPA."*

94% of recent SPA graduates report feeling better prepared for college work than their college classmates.

In 2016, 90% of AP exam scores were 3 or above, and 68% of scores were 4 or 5.

Students from 8 athletic teams represented SPA in state competition in 2015-16.

Last year SPA students competed internationally in Public Policy Forum Debate and USA World Debate. They earned national honors (Presidential Scholar; National Cum Laude Paper Award; Pacemaker Award, CSPA and All-American Award, NSPA) and competed nationally in Scholastic Art Competition, Quiz Bowl and Academic World Quest.

Shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world

Mary F. Hill
Director of College Counseling and Academic Planning
651-696-1419
mhill@spa.edu

Karna Humphrey
Assistant Director of College Counseling
651-696-1312
khumphrey@spa.edu

Andrea Sachs, PhD.
Assistant Director of College Counseling
651-696-1347
asachs@spa.edu

Aja Parham
College Counseling Assistant
651-696-1417
aparham@spa.edu

School Code 242315

RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The entire SPA curriculum prepares students for demanding college-level academics. We offer limited sections of honors math and science to provide an even higher level of challenge, with placement determined by faculty.

Most students take 5 core academic courses plus at least one elective. Maximum course load is 7 classes. Academic courses earn .5 credit/semester. Minimum 4.5 credits per year, 18 total.

Grades are not inflated.

- Highest grade awarded is an "A"
- GPA is unweighted
- We do not report class rank
- Final grades in year-long courses reflect 45% Semester 1 and 55% Semester 2

SPA chooses not to teach the AP curriculum. Instead, faculty design SPA classes to go well beyond the prescribed AP curriculum in depth and complexity.

Therefore all students enter college with multiple years' experience in the following:

- discussion-based seminar classes
- independent research papers in history
- use of sophisticated lab equipment and practice in scientific writing
- focus on logic, critical thinking and clear communication in math
- oral proficiency and cultural competence in world language
- creative expression in music, theater, visual art and design

UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS

ENGLISH

4-year requirement: Journeys in Literature (9), American Literature (10). semester electives (11, 12). Junior/senior electives may support preparation for the AP exams.

2016-17 Junior/Senior English
Contemporary Novel
Creative Writing
History of the Novel: 19th Century
Literature of Monstrosity
Literature of Resistance
New Global Voices
Reading and Writing Memoir
Shakespeare
Topics in American Literature
Writing Seminar II: Non-Fiction

2015-16 Junior/Senior English
Classics in Society
Classical Dramatic Literature
Contemporary Dramatic Literature
Contemporary Minnesota Immigrant Literature
Gender in Literature
Poetry: Craft and Criticism
Short-form Literature
Speculative Fiction
Seminar in Visual Narrative
Writing Seminar I: Critical Contexts

Debate and Journalism: Academic, credit-bearing elective courses with competition/production component beyond class time. Courses do not fulfill English requirement.
Beginning Debate
Advanced Debate I, II, III
Writing for Publication I, II
Journalism (Print or Online)
Editorial Leadership (Print or Online)

WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Required: Fitness for Life (9), Wellness (10)

SCIENCE

3-year lab science requirement through Chemistry. Class of 2017 and 2018: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry. Class of 2019 and beyond: Physics 9, Biology, Chemistry. Seniors and accelerated science students choose among year-long Physics courses or semester electives in advanced topics and research. Honors-level courses (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) may support preparation for AP exams.

Electives
Environmental Science
Space Science
Advanced Scientific Research I, II
Physics
Honors Physics
Honors Physics with Calculus

New in 2016-17
Advanced Topics in Chemistry: Organic Chemistry
Advanced Topics in Biology: Genetics
Intro to Computer Science
Computer Science Principles I, II
Competition Robotics
Robotics

MATHEMATICS

3-level requirement through Precalculus or Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry. Both Calculus courses and Advanced Probability and Statistics may support preparation for AP exams.

Electives

Finite Mathematics
Introduction to Probability and Statistics
Advanced Probability and Statistics I, II
Differential and Integral Calculus
Honors Differential and Integral Calculus
Honors Advanced Topics I, II

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

3-year requirement: World History I and II (9-10), U.S. History (11). World and U.S. History courses may support preparation for AP exams. Seniors may take semester electives.

Electives
Ancient World
Economics
Global Issues
History of Law
History of Race (new in 2016-17)
History of Thought
History of Women in the World
Honors U.S. History Seminar I, II
Israel and Palestine
Psychology
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II
World Religions

WORLD LANGUAGE

3-level requirement including two years' study in Upper School or, by permission, the second level of two languages. Level V courses may support preparation for AP exams.

Electives
Level IV, V in Chinese, French, German and Spanish
Level VI Senior Seminar in Spanish

FINE ARTS

Required: .75 credit, typically three semesters of art, music or theater. Most fine arts courses earn .25 credit/semester. Publications Leadership and Honors Seminars earn .5/semester.

Electives
Theater: Introduction to Theatrical Arts
Studio Art: Ceramics, Drawing, Graphic Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture, Publications Leadership I, II
Music ensembles: Academy Chorale, Summit Singers (female), Academy Symphony, Honors Sinfonia, Intermediate and Advanced Jazz Ensemble, Academy Wind Ensemble.
Honors Seminars: Art I, II and Music I, II

CLASS OF 2017 THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

	Average	Middle 50%
Cumulative GPA (unweighted)	3.34	3.00-3.70
ACT Composite	29	26-33
Redesigned SAT	1330	1200-1430
Reading, Writing	674	620-730
Math	655	600-710

COMPARATIVE GPA DISTRIBUTION THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

	2017	2016	2015
3.75 - 4.00	21%	24%	17%
3.50 - 3.74	26%	29%	19%
3.25 - 3.49	16%	18%	25%
3.00 - 3.24	12%	11%	15%
2.75 - 2.99	13%	5%	8%
2.50 - 2.74	5%	4%	10%
2.00 - 2.49	5%	6%	7%
below 2.00	2%	2%	0%

ADDITIONAL EXAMS AND HONORS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

SPA faculty design classes to go well beyond the prescribed AP curriculum in depth and complexity. Students in most upper-level courses may choose to take a corresponding AP exam. In 2016, 109 students took 185 AP exams in 16 subjects. 90% of exam scores were 3 or above, and 68% of exams were 4 or 5.

NATIONAL MERIT, ACHIEVEMENT AND HISPANIC SCHOLAR COMPETITIONS

	2017	2016	2015
Class Size	112	96	89
Semi-Finalists and Scholars	7	7	9
Commended	12	9	6
Percent of Class Recognized	17%	17%	17%

TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

DISTRIBUTION OF ACT SCORES

	2016	2015	2014
Average ACT Composite	30	29	30
Mid-50% Composite	28-33	27-32	28-33

DISTRIBUTION OF SAT SCORES

	2016	2015	2014
Mid-50% SAT (2400 scale)	1740-2160	1720-2080	1770-2080
Critical Reading	550-720	570-690	570-680
Math	590-720	570-720	610-700
Writing	560-720	560-680	570-710

SUBJECT TEST AVERAGES (MOST FREQUENTLY TAKEN SUBJECTS)

	2016	2015	2014
US History	685	713	641
Math Level 2	683	700	718
Biology (M)	626	670	683
Chemistry	645	651	662

STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Presidential Scholar: 2016 winner; 3 winners and 16 Candidates and Semi-Finalists in 11 years
- National Cum Laude Society Paper Award 2016; Regional Award in 2013 and 2014, for superior scholarship and original thought
- Public Forum Debate: top-ranked program among all Minnesota schools. 3-time state champion 2014-16; Final Four 2 years in a row at in International Public Policy Forum; competed in USA World Debate June 2016; MN Teachers Debate Cup 3 of past 4 years
- Math Team State Champion 2015 (sixth time in past decade; 30+ year state qualifier)
- *The Rubicon* newspaper: Pacemaker Award (online), Finalist (print), and First Class with Distinction, National Scholastic Press Association. Crown Award 2015 and Gold Medal 2016, Columbia Scholastic Press Association recognizing print, online and social media presence. All-State Gold, JEM and MHSPA, online and print
- 4 state titles in Academic World Quest (world knowledge competition) 2011-2015
- Quiz Bowl national qualifying team in 2014, 2015
- Art & Literature Magazine NCTE Excellence Award 2016; All-State Gold 2013, 2015
- *Ibid* Yearbook All-State Silver and Bronze 2009-2015
- National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing 2008-2011
- Guthrie Theater Review contest: 4 winners in 2010-2015
- National Scholastic Art Competition 2016: 5 portfolios and 13 individual pieces competed; Minnesota Scholastic Art awards recognized 49 pieces by 26 students
- NCAA Division I athletes: 12 from 2013-16
- State athletic tournament honors:
  - Fencing Teams: Boys and Girls State Champion 2015 and 2016
  - Girls Hockey: 2nd place 2016, 4th in 2014
  - Boys Hockey: 4th place 2016
  - Boys Tennis: State team finalist 2016
  - Nordic skiing: 4 state qualifiers, 1 junior national 2016
  - All-State Alpine: 3 top-ten finishers 2016, 2015
  - Boys Basketball: State Tournament 2014
  - Boys Golf: Individual 3rd in state; 7th consecutive year of state qualifiers 2016
  - Track: State competitors 2014-2016, Medalists 2014. 4th in state relays 2014, 2015
- Nordic Conference Team Academic Awards: Girls Silver 2012-2016, Boys Gold 2015, 2016

2012–2016 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION

SPA students were admitted to the following colleges, and enrolled in colleges marked in bold

- Average number of applications per senior: 7
- A typical class of 100+ graduates enrolls at 60 different colleges.
- About one-third apply via Early Decision; most select their college in the spring.

Allegheny College
American University
American University of Paris
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Augsburg College
Augustana University (South Dakota)
Babson College
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Belmont University
Beloit College
Bennington College
Bethel University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
Calvin College
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Carthage College
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Coe College
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of Saint Benedict
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Concordia University at St. Paul
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Cornell University
Cornish College of the Arts
Creighton University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drake University
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Evergreen State College
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin University Switzerland
Furman University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamilton College (New York)
Hamline University
Hampshire College
Harvard University
Haverford College
High Point University
Hillsdale College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Hope College
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Iona College
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
King's College London
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Luther College
Lynn University
Macalester College
Marist College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Middlebury College
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University, Moorhead
Montana State University, Bozeman
Mount Holyoke College
New School
New York University
Normandale Community College
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Illinois University
Northland College
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Occidental College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University, New York City
Pacific Lutheran University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Reed College
Regent's University London
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Richmond - The American International College in London
Ripon College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Saint John's University (Minnesota)
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Seton Hill University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
St. Catherine University - St. Paul
St. Cloud State University
St. Edward's University
St. John's College (New Mexico)
St. John's University (New York)
St. Joseph's College (New York)
St. Lawrence University
St. Norbert College
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
The College of Wooster
Trinity College
Trinity University
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
United States Naval Academy
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at Irvine
University of California at Los Angeles
University of California at Santa Barbara
University of California at Santa Cruz
University of California at San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado at Denver
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Maine
University of Manitoba
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota Morris
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Missouri
University of Montana
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Dakota
University of Northwestern
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews
University of St. Thomas
University of Tampa
University of Texas at Austin
University of the Pacific
University of Toronto
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin Madison
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin Parkside
University of Wisconsin River Falls
University of Wisconsin Stout
University of Wisconsin Whitewater
Vassar College
Villanova University
Viterbo University
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Yale University