

SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

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 928 students reflect the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 34 percent identifying as students of color and 25 percent drawing from a pool of nearly \$3.6 million of financial aid. The Class of 2021 has 112 students.

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 80% compete in athletics, 60% perform in music ensembles, and more than 20% 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.

COVID-19 AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Since March 2020, SPA's Distance Learning goal has been to deliver the learning objectives and standards essential to our curriculum and necessary for each student to succeed in the next level of coursework. A modified schedule balanced synchronous class time with asynchronous learning requirements. We continued to assign letters grades based on the essential skills and concepts of each course. Capstone assessments and projects replaced final exams to evaluate quarter 4 or semester 2 material (the latter was more common for year-long and sequential classes). In September 2020 we opened in Distance Learning mode, and will shift to a hybrid modality with Upper School students on campus 3 days per week when local metrics permit. As a 1:1 laptop school, every student has a device equipped to support Distance Learning. Classes are held via Google Meet and incorporate innovative tools such as Parlay Ideas, FlipGrid and Kami to sustain the interactive approach to instruction and learning for which SPA is known.

The Randolph Campus features a renovated Humanities Wing (2019), the Hugh K. Schilling Math and Science Center (2018) and the Huss Center for the Performing Arts (2015).

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."

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

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242315**

UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS*

ENGLISH

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

2019-20 Junior/Senior English Fall semester

Classics in Society
Creative Writing: Playwriting
Literature of Migration
Poetry: Connection and Community
Speculative Fiction
Writing Seminar: Critical Contexts

Spring semester

Creative Writing: Poetry and Poetics
Gender in Literature
Literature of Love and Marriage
Literature of the Asian Diaspora
Topics in Literary Analysis
Writing Seminar: Public Discourse

2020-21 Junior/Senior English Fall semester

Creative Nonfiction
Fiction and Consciousness
Literature of Comedy and Satire
Transnational Literature
Writing Seminar: Contemporary Culture

Spring semester

Fiction Seminar: Story Mechanics
Literature and the Environment
Literature of Monstrosity
Literature of Resistance
Time and Memory in Literature
Writing Seminar: The Art of the Review

Debate, Journalism and Yearbook: Academic, credit-bearing elective courses with competition or production component beyond class time. Courses do not fulfill English requirement.

Beginning Debate (Fall)
Adv. Debate (Fall)
Writing for Publication (Fall/Spring)
Journalism (Print or Multimedia)
Editorial Leadership (Print or Multimedia)
Yearbook (Fall/Spring)
Editorial Leadership: Yearbook

MATHEMATICS

3-course sequence required through Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry or Precalculus.

Honors placement by faculty recommendation.
Both Calculus courses and Advanced Probability/
Statistics may support preparation for AP exams.

Sequence I: Algebra II Fundamentals, Geometry
Fundamentals, Adv. Algebra and Trigonometry

Sequence II: Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus

Sequence III: H Algebra II, H Geometry,
H Precalculus

Electives

Probability and Statistics (Fall)
Topics in Data Science (Spring)
Adv. Probability and Statistics I, II
Differential and Integral Calculus
Honors Differential and Integral Calculus
H Topics: Linear Algebra (Fall 2020)
H Topics: Combinatorics (Spring 2021)
H Topics: Discrete Dynamical Systems (Fall
2021)
H Topics: Multivariable Calculus (Spring 2022)

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

No requirement. Programming and Problem
Solving and CS Principles are first-level cours-
es. Students taking CS Principles or Advanced
Programming may take the corresponding
AP Exams.

Computer Science

Programming and Problem Solving (Fall)
Computer Science Principles I, II (Full year)
Applied Programming (Spring)
Physical Computing (Spring)
Robotics (Fall/Spring)
Adv. Programming I, II (Full year)

Engineering

Principles of Engineering (Fall/Spring)
Adv. Topics in Engineering: Aerospace (Spring)
Adv. Projects: CSCI and Engineering (Fall/
Spring)

SCIENCE

**3-year lab science requirement: Physics 9,
Biology, Chemistry.** Honors placement (in
Biology and Chemistry only) by faculty
recommendation. All semester electives are
lab-based, second-level college-prep courses.
Pertinent courses may support preparation for
AP exams.

Electives (listed by field)

Fall semester

Environmental Science
Genetics
Neuroscience
Organic Chemistry
Space Science
Adv. Mechanics
Adv. Mechanics with Calculus
Adv. Scientific Research

Spring semester

Human Physiology
Honors Biology II
Forensic Science
Honors Chemistry II
Electricity and Magnetism with Calculus
Relativity and Quantum Physics
Waves, Optics, and Acoustics
Adv. Scientific Research

WORLD LANGUAGE

**3-level requirement including two years' study
in Upper School or, by permission, the second
level of two languages.** After completing Level
4 of Chinese, French or German, or Level 5 for
Spanish, an Advanced Language course may
be taken for a full year, then for two additional
semesters.

Electives

Adv. Chinese: Classic Literature; Modern
Literature
Adv. French: French Identity; Identity in the Arts
Adv. German: *introduced in 2021-22*
Adv. Spanish: Mexico and Identity; Andean
Identity

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

Fall semester

Gender in the Americas
Government and Citizenship
History of Refugee Communities
History of Thought
Honors U.S. History Seminar I
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II

Spring semester

Economics
Global Issues
History of Race
Honors U.S. History Seminar II
The History of Law
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II
World Religions

FINE ARTS

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

Semester Electives

Music ensembles: Academy Chorale, Summit
Singers (treble voices), Academy Symphony,
Honors Sinfonia, US Jazz Band

Studio Art: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting,
Photography, Printmaking, Video Arts.
2020-21: Ceramic Fabrication, Alternative
Process Photography.

2021-22: Extended Image, Video Storytelling
Theater: Theatrical Arts; Advanced Theater:
2020-21: Production and Performance, Design.
2021-22: Acting, Directing

Honors Seminars: Art I, II and Music I, II

WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

*Courses are year long unless otherwise noted.

Please note:

- The transcript lists all courses attempted. If a course must be retaken, both enrollments are listed but only the second will earn credit and count in GPA.
- When colleges ask about a student's disciplinary record, SPA will comply with the request by reporting infractions resulting in suspension during grades 9-12.

RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR ALL STUDENTS

SPA prepares all of its students for demanding college-level academics. The main course of study is taught at an advanced level; all students take very challenging college-preparatory courses. In math and science, limited sections of honors coursework provide an even higher level of challenge; placement is determined by faculty.

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.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Most students take five core academic courses plus at least one elective; maximum load is seven classes. Academic courses earn .5 credit/semester. Minimum 4.5 credits per year, 18 total required. Highest grade awarded is an "A." Grading and GPA are unweighted. We do not report class rank.

CLASS OF 2021 THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

| | Mean | Middle 50% |
|---------------------------------------|------|------------|
| Cumulative GPA (unweighted) | 3.68 | 3.55-3.92 |
| ACT Composite (77% of class took ACT) | 30 | 28-33 |
| SAT Total (54% of class took SAT) | 1375 | 1280-1470 |
| SAT EBRW | 690 | 630-740 |
| SAT Math | 685 | 640-750 |

National Merit recognition for Class of 2021 (112 students):

12 Semi-Finalists, 15 Commended students, 24% of class recognized.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

SPA chooses not to teach AP classes. Students in most upper-level courses may choose to take a corresponding AP exam. In 2020, 91 students took 158 exams in 18 subjects. 87% of exam scores were 3 or above, and 63% of exams were 4 or 5.

TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

| ACT | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Percent of class taking ACT | 84% | 89% | 97% |
| ACT Composite | 33 | 31 | 31 |
| Mid-50% Composite | 28-33 | 28-34 | 27-34 |
| SAT | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
| Percent of class taking SAT | 75% | 71% | 79% |
| SAT Total | 1374 | 1379 | 1404 |
| Mid-50% SAT | 1265-1495 | 1295-1500 | 1290-1495 |

STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Regeneron Science Talent Search Semifinalist and Top 300 Scholar 2020; 5 national qualifiers in two years; third place international award winner, 2019. 10 MN State Science Fair qualifiers 2020.
- Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: 1 national winner, 2 state qualifiers 2020.
- Public Forum Debate: top team placed top 5% at nationals 2019; 3 teams qualified 2017, 2018. 2 teams qualified for Tournament of Champions; one placed top 10%. Overall state title 4 of past 7 years; qualified for state 23 of past 24 years. Highest per capita NSDA individual awards in state.
- National recognition for *The Rubicon*: NSPA Pacemaker Award (5th in a row); CSPA Gold Crown Award (3rd in a row); Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (5th in a row).
- Minnesota Varsity Classical Music competition: 4 finalists 2019, 2020.
- Minnesota Scholastic Art Competition 2020: 20 students had art/writing/portfolios honored at state level in 25 categories.
- Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Essay Contest, 3 winners 2018, 2019, and 2 of 3 top finishers 2020.
- *Iris* Art & Literature Magazine NSPA All-American, CSPA Gold Award; NCTE Realm Award 2020.
- *Ibid* Yearbook NSPA First Class Award 2019, 2020. Jostens National Program of Excellence 2020.
- Quiz Bowl national qualifier 2020 (fifth time in seven years).
- Math Team tied for 2nd in state in second year competing among largest schools in the state. First in state among small schools 2017 (30+ year state qualifier).
- Minnesota Bilingual Certificate of Proficiency earned by 120 students based on world language STAMP test 2019.
- Science Olympiad Team first in state among small schools 2017, 2018; qualifier 2019, 2020.
- Robotics Team state qualifier 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- Poetry Out Loud Competition: Spoken word state finalist 2019, two Top 10 finishers 2020.
- National Junior Olympic fencing: 2 qualifiers 2020.
- State level athletic achievements:
 - **Titles:** Boys fencing team (7th year in a row) and individual 2020; Football team 2018 (#2 in 2019); Boys tennis doubles 2019; Boys Nordic individual 2019.
 - **Team qualifiers:** Girls cross-country team 2020; Girls fencing 3rd in state 2019; Girls hockey 4 of past 5 years; Boys tennis 2nd in state 2019, 3rd in 2017, 2018.
 - **Individual qualifiers:** Boys cross country 2020, Girls and Boys Alpine 2020, Girls Nordic 2020, Boys tennis 2019, Boys track 2019.
- NCAA Division I athletes: 15 from 2015-20.

2016-2020 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION

SPA students were admitted to the following colleges, and enrolled in colleges marked in bold. Numbers indicate more than one student enrolled.

- In 2020, the average number of applications filed was 6.5.
- 33% applied via Early Decision; 22% enrolled through ED.

Abertay University
Alabama State University
American University
American University of Paris
Amherst College
Arizona State University - 2
Augsburg University
Augustana University
Babson College - 2
Bard College
Barnard College - 4
Barrett Honors College (AZ State)
Bates College - 3
Belmont University
Beloit College - 2
Bemidji State University
Bennington College
Bentley University
Bethel University
Bloomsburg University
Boston College - 5
Boston University - 2
Bowdoin College - 4
Bradley University
Brandeis University - 2
Brown University - 4
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College - 2
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo
Carleton College - 10
Carnegie Mellon University - 6
Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar
Case Western Reserve University
Champlain College
Chapman University
Christopher Newport University
Claremont McKenna College - 4
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Coastal Carolina University - 2
Coe College
Colby College - 3
Colgate University - 5
College of Saint Benedict
College of St. Scholastica
College of the Holy Cross
College of Wooster - 2
Colorado College - 5
Colorado State University - 2
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University - 2
Concordia College, Moorhead
Connecticut College
**Cooper Union for the Advancement
of Science and Art**
Cornell College
Cornell University - 5
Creighton University
Daemen College
Dartmouth College - 2
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drake University - 2
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University
Durham University
Earlham College
Eastman School of Music

Eckerd College
Edinburgh Napier University
Elon University - 5
Emerson College
Emory University
Florida Southern College
Fordham University - 3
Franklin and Marshall College
George Washington University - 8
Georgetown University - 2
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Goucher College - 3
Grand Canyon University
Grinnell College - 7
Gustavus Adolphus College - 7
Hamilton College
Hamline University
Hampshire College
Harvard College - 3
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College - 3
Hawaii Pacific University
Hendrix College
High Point University
Hillsdale College
Hobart William Smith Colleges - 2
Hofstra University
Howard University
Hult International Business School
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University
Inver Hills Community College
Iowa State University - 2
Ithaca College - 3
Jacobs University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
King's College London
Knox College
Lake Forest College - 3
Lawrence University - 5
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago - 4
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Luther College
Macalester College - 6
Marquette University - 2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McDaniel College
McGill University
Merrimack College
Metropolitan State University
Miami University (OH) - 4
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College - 6
Montana State University - 2
Morehouse College
Mount Holyoke College
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University - 3
North Carolina A & T State University
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University - 6
Northland College
Northwestern University - 4
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College - 3
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Occidental College - 3

- 89 graduates enrolled at 59 different colleges.
- 10 will take a gap year to pursue cultural study, work, sports, service.

Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Olin College of Engineering
Oregon State University
Pace University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pennsylvania State University
Pitzer College
Pomona College - 3
Pratt Institute
Princeton University - 2
Providence College
Purdue University - 3
Queen's University
Quinnipiac University
Reed College
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University - 2
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rose Hulman Institute of Technology - 3
Saint Cloud State University
Saint Edward's University
Saint John's University (MN) - 4
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's College of California
Saint Michael's College
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University - 3
Sarah Lawrence College - 5
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College - 7
Seattle University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Simmons University
Skidmore College - 5
Smith College - 4
Southern Methodist University - 3
Southwestern University
St Catherine University
St Lawrence University
St Olaf College - 25
St. John's College
St. Norbert College
Stanford University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College - 2
Syracuse University - 3
Tennessee State University
Texas Christian University - 2
The New School
Trinity College - 2
Trinity University
Tufts University - 5
Tulane University of Louisiana - 3
Union College - 2
University College London
University of Akron
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley - 6
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles - 2
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz - 2
University of Chicago - 3
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder - 2
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Denver - 4

University of Edinburgh
University of Guelph
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign
University of Iowa - 2
University of Jamestown
University of Kansas
University of Louisville
University of Manitoba
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
University of Milano, Bicocca
University of Minnesota, Duluth - 3
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Rochester
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 39
University of Missouri
University of Montana
University of New Hampshire - 2
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Dakota
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame - 4
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon - 2
University of Oxford
University of Pennsylvania - 5
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puget Sound - 4
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California - 6
University of St Andrews
University of St. Thomas - 5
University of Tampa
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto - 2
University of Utah
University of Vermont - 5
University of Virginia - 2
University of Washington - 3
University of Winnipeg
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin, Madison - 15
University of Wisconsin, Parkside
University of Wisconsin, Platteville
University of Wisconsin, River Falls
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin, Stout
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Vermilion Community College
Villanova University - 2
Virginia Tech
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Wartburg College
Washington University in St Louis - 10
Webster University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Wheaton College
Whitman College - 3
Whittier College
Willamette University
Williams College - 5
Winona State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 3
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University - 9