

School Overview, Mission, and Philosophy

Founded in 2001, Providence Academy is an independent, Catholic, co-educational college preparatory school serving students in Pre-K through Grade 12. All divisions share a 300,000 square foot Georgian colonial school building. The 42-acre campus is 11 miles northwest of downtown Minneapolis in the suburban city of Plymouth.

From the heart of our motto, “Faith, Knowledge, Virtue,” Providence Academy aims to develop habits of spirit, mind, and action to prepare students for future leadership in vocations and civic life. The faith and morals taught by the Catholic Church provide the foundation for time-honored training in the liberal arts and sciences. The curriculum’s rigor instills customs of discipline and assures both breadth and depth in students’ mastery of core knowledge that is the foundation for higher learning. Our mission is to educate clear thinkers, informed believers, and good citizens prepared to meet the challenges of American life in the 21st century.

The facilities and program reflect a threefold emphasis in academics, arts, and athletics. Learning spaces include modern classrooms, fully equipped science laboratories and computing labs, a metal and wood shop, a museum-quality Antiquities Gallery, and well-appointed spaces for the performing and visual arts. A 650-seat, professional-quality performing arts center opened in 2017 and renovations to outdoor athletic venues, including a 1,500-seat artificial turf stadium convertible to a seasonal dome, were completed in 2016.

Accreditation

Providence Academy received re-accreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) in 2018.

College Counseling Contact Information

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College Application and Enrollment Statistics

- 97% of graduates attend 4-year colleges (2020-22)
- 76% enroll at out-of-state colleges (2020-22)
- 29% enroll at Catholic colleges (2020-22)
- 36% enroll at public colleges (2020-22)

Enrollment

Class of 2023: 64 students
Total Upper School: 323 students
Total PreK-12 Enrollment: 925 students
Students reside in 62 cities/municipalities

More About the Upper School

- 71% of Upper School teachers hold advanced credentials
- 30% of students receive need-based tuition assistance
- 69% of students are Roman Catholic

Key Academic Policies

- Providence Academy does not assign a class rank
- As of Fall 2022, Providence Academy reports both cumulative unweighted GPAs (4.0 scale) and supplemental weighted GPAs on transcripts

Student Conduct & Disclosure Policy

Any student on track to graduate in good standing receives the endorsement of the administration of Providence Academy. PA reports appropriate records that colleges may request. This includes academic transcripts, teacher referrals, and disciplinary records including any suspension that exceeds one day, and expulsion. PA expects students to disclose their disciplinary history when it is required of them in the college enrollment process. Following graduation, PA sends a final report to the college to which a student has enrolled, including a final transcript, as well as any change in standing which supersedes previous responses on school forms.

Upper School Curriculum

Providence Academy utilizes an independently designed curriculum. Students share core courses in English, History, and Religion in common for all four years, assuring a solid formation and shared engagement with ideas and texts. Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, the Upper School implemented Quo Vadis-Pathways toward Graduation. Under Quo Vadis, students have the opportunity to choose between college preparatory and honors pathways in all disciplines, allowing them to customize a program to suit their individual talents, abilities, and interests.

- Honors courses are currently offered in Mathematics, Sciences, World Language, Fine and Performing Arts, as well as in core courses in English, History and Religion (*the curriculum chart on the facing page indicates only those course offerings which were available to the Class of 2023, not all present offerings*)
- Utilizing an “embedded honors” approach, courses in English, Religion, History, Spanish and French include students at both the honors and college preparatory levels in the same classroom
- Students must complete two years of world language in Upper School, completing level 3 in one world language or level 2 in two different world languages
- Honors course placements are application-based and determined by the academic department chairs
- Advance College Credit (ACC) courses are offered through the University of Minnesota and Benedictine College. Courses noted with “ACC” on the transcript are equivalent to honors or advanced level courses
- Students have the opportunity to graduate with Latin Honors, qualifying on the basis of cumulative GPA, credit total, and rigor of curriculum

Curriculum Notes & Distinctive Programs

Advanced Placement - In keeping with the independent and intentional nature of our curriculum design, Providence Academy does not seek College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) designation for any advanced or senior level courses. At the same time, PA faculty support students enrolled in upper level English, History, Math, Physics, Art, and World Language courses in preparing for the corresponding AP exams.

Religion - Required all four years and demanding scholarly engagement with Scripture and primary source texts in literature, philosophy and theology, Religion courses feature the same rigor as other core disciplines. Authors studied in Religion courses include Aquinas, Aristotle, Augustine, A. Bloom, Boethius, Gandhi, Garrigou-Lagrange, Martin Luther King, and Tolstoy.

Testing Data

2020-2022 Advanced Placement Exam Results

Total administered: 266 exams
Exams scored at 3 or above (*pass rate*): 74%
Exams scored at 4 or above: 41%
Total AP Scholars: 49 students

National Merit Scholar and National Hispanic Recognition Program (Percentage of class recognized)

Class of 2020 - 9%
Class of 2021 - 7%
Class of 2022 - 11%

ACT Scoring, Classes of 2020-2022

Mid 50% Composite Score Range: 26-32
Composite Score Mean: 29

SAT Scoring, Classes of 2020-2022

Mid 50% SAT Score Range: 1230-1480
Mid 50% SAT EBRW Score Range: 635-740
Mid 50% SAT M Score Range: 595-760

Soil Application Research Project (SARP) - SARP students contribute to a professional scientific research project by engaging in experimental design, implementation, data collection and analysis, and the preparation of high quality written summaries of findings. Students participate during the summers, as a club involvement, and/or by enrolling in Advanced Biology or Environmental Science Research.

Robotics and Engineering - Students can deepen the skills learned in math and science through participation in FIRST Robotics. Veteran robotics members also lead the middle school’s FIRST Tech Challenge team. Two full-year Engineering electives introduce students to design thinking, programming, and a fully equipped metal shop.

Visual Art - While pursued as electives, PA’s visual art courses provide intensive training in drawing techniques and the sophisticated development of ideas in all artistic media. Seniors taking Studio Art Honors are required to create a portfolio of quality and breadth and to register for the AP Drawing or Art and Design exams.

Performing Arts - Students in the music and theater programs may enroll in their arts courses at the honors level based on audition, expanded participation, and success at MSHSL contests. The audition-based Chamber Choir is among a small number of school choirs selected to perform at the annual conventions of both the American Choral Directors North Central/Central Division and the Minnesota Music Educators Association.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	
English	Classical Literature <i>Classical Literature Honors</i>	British Literature <i>British Literature Honors</i>	American Literature <i>American Literature Honors</i>	Senior English Seminar <i>Senior English Seminar Honors</i>	
History *Honors first introduced in 2018-2019*	Ancient, Classical, and Medieval Worlds <i>Ancient, Classical, and Medieval Worlds Honors</i>	European History <i>European Hist. Honors</i>	U.S. History I (1492-1877) <i>U.S. History I Honors</i>	U.S. History II (1877-Present) <i>U.S. History II Honors</i> Economics	
Religion	Introduction to the Creed	Moral Theology <i>Moral Theology Honors</i>	Elements of the Christian Life <i>Elements of the Christian Life Honors / ACC</i>	Reason & Revelation <i>Reason & Revelation Honors / ACC</i>	
Science <i>(see Note 1)</i>	Chemistry <i>Chemistry Honors</i> Introductory Earth Science	Biology <i>Biology Honors</i>	Physics <i>Physics Honors</i>	Earth & Space Science Computer Science <i>Advanced Biology</i> <i>Advanced Chemistry</i> <i>Advanced Physics</i>	
Mathematics	Algebra I, <i>Algebra I Honors</i> Structures of Algebra II, Algebra II, <i>Algebra II Honors</i> Geometry, <i>Geometry & Trigonometry Honors</i> Data Analysis <i>Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors</i>			<i>Probability & Statistics Honors, Calculus I Honors, Calculus II Honors, Modern Business Math</i>	
World Language <i>(see Note 2)</i>	French I, II, III, IV, <i>French IV Honors, Advanced French</i> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <i>Spanish IV Honors, Advanced Spanish</i> Latin I, II, III, Latin Poetry, Latin Prose, <i>Latin Poetry ACC, Latin Prose ACC</i>				
Electives	<u>Physical Education</u> General Physical Ed. Health & Fitness Team Sports Individual & Dual Sports Strength & Conditioning <u>Electives (1.0 cr)</u> Journalism Prin. of Engineering I, II	<u>Electives (0.5 cr)</u> Biotechnology Current Events Debate I, II Enviro. Science Research Foods & Nutrition I, II History of Western Art In Their Own Words Intro. to Computer Prog. Intro. to Woodworking	<u>Electives (0.5 cr) cont'd</u> Microb. & Antib. Rsrch Philosophy Political Ideas <u>Fine Arts (0.5 cr)</u> Acting Directing Introduction to Theater Photography I, II	<u>Fine Arts (1.0 cr)</u> Academy Chorale <i>Chamber Choir Honors</i> Music Consortium <i>Music Consortium Honors</i> Publications	<u>Fine Arts (1.0 cr) cont'd</u> Studio Art I, II, III, IV <i>Studio Art Honors</i> Symphonic Band <i>Symphonic Band Honors</i> <i>Theater & Acting Honors</i> <i>Thtr & Directing Honors</i>

Italics denote an honors, advanced, or Advance College Credit (ACC) course.

Note 1: The standard science sequence begins with Chemistry in Grade 9. Alternative sequences are possible based on year of PA entry and student scheduling needs. Students may complete Introductory Earth Science in Grade 9 if their mathematics placement requires a delay before enrolling in Chemistry.

Note 2: Latin Poetry and Latin Prose are distinct courses in content and rigor from Latin Poetry ACC and Latin Prose ACC. Students who complete Latin Poetry or Prose and later enroll in the similarly named Advance College Credit course do not repeat any work.

Graduation Requirements

- Religion: 4 credits
- History: 4 credits
- English: 4 credits
- Science: 3 credits
- Mathematics: 2 credits*
- World Language: 2 credits**
- Physical Education: 1 credit
- Fine Arts: 1 credit
- Senior Speech/Project

TOTAL: 21 credits

*2 years of math and completion of Alg. II required

**Completion of level 3 in one language or level 2 in two languages required

Senior Speech/Project (Capstone)

Twelfth grade students either research, write, and deliver a formal speech or prepare for and complete a short-term externship that allows them to try a possible career path, contribute to a local community organization, or explore an area of interest related to their future field of study. In either form, we emphasize both process and final product with faculty/staff advisors offering checkpoints throughout the process to completion.

COVID Impacts Statement

The 2021-2022 academic year began with in-person instruction for all students, with a “simul” learning option for students on quarantine. Any student on simul could join all classes remotely and engage with the teacher and class via a required camera and microphone. Major assessments were conducted onsite with special room and spacing accommodations.

College Matriculation and Application Data

Graduates from the Classes of 2020-2022 matriculated to the following institutions:

Anoka Technical College	Loyola University Chicago	University of Colorado Boulder
Arizona State University-Tempe	Luther College	University of Georgia
Auburn University	Macalester College	University of Kansas
Augustana University	Miami University-Oxford	University of Lynchburg
Baylor University	Milwaukee School of Engineering	University of Manitoba
Belmont University	Montana Technological University	University of Mary
Benedictine College	New York University	University of Minnesota-Duluth
Bethel University	Normandale Community College	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Boston College	North Dakota State University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Carthage College	Northeastern University	University of Notre Dame
Catholic University of America	Northwestern University	University of San Diego
Christendom College	Nova Southeastern University	University of South Carolina-Columbia
Clemson University	Ohio State University-Main Campus	University of South Dakota
Coe College	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	University of St. Thomas (MN)
Creighton University	Pepperdine University	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
DePaul University	Providence College	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Drake University	Purdue University-Main Campus	University of Wisconsin-Stout
Elon University	Saint Johns University	Vanderbilt University
Florida State University	Saint Mary's College	Vanguard University of Southern California
Fordham University	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	Virginia Military Institute
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Savannah College of Art and Design	Wake Forest University
Gettysburg College	South Dakota School of Mines	Washington and Lee University
Gonzaga University	St Olaf College	Washington University in St Louis
Grand Canyon University	Syracuse University	Winona State University
Gustavus Adolphus College	Texas Christian University	Wofford College
Hawaii Pacific University	The University of Tampa	
Hennepin Technical College	The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga	
High Point University	The University of Texas at Austin	
Hillsdale College	The University of the South	
Indiana University-Bloomington	University of Arizona	
Iowa State University	University of California-San Diego	
John Carroll University	University of Chicago	

Institutions with Most Applications Received, Classes of 2020-2022

Arizona State University	Indiana University	University of Dayton
Auburn University	Iowa State University	University of Denver
Baylor University	Loyola University Chicago	University of Florida
Benedictine College	Luther College	University of Iowa
Boston College	Marquette University	University of Kansas
Boston University	Miami University-Oxford	University of Mary
Catholic University of America	North Dakota State University	University of Miami
College of the Holy Cross	Northeastern University	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Clemson University	Northwestern University	University of Minnesota-Duluth
College of Saint Benedict	Ohio State University	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
College of William and Mary	Pennsylvania State University	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Cornell University	Pepperdine University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Creighton University	Princeton University	University of Notre Dame
Dartmouth College	Purdue University-Main Campus	University of Richmond
DePaul University	Saint Johns University	University of South Carolina-Columbia
Drake University	Saint Louis University	University of St. Thomas (MN)
Emory University	Santa Clara University	University of Virginia-Main Campus
Florida State University	St Olaf College	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Fordham University	Texas Christian University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Furman University	The University of Arizona	Vanderbilt University
Harvard University	The University of Texas at Austin	Villanova University
High Point University	University of Chicago	Wake Forest University
Hillsdale College	University of Colorado Boulder	Washington University in St Louis