

2023-2024 School Profile

Mission

The mission of Duchesne Academy is to inspire and prepare young women to engage in a lifelong pursuit of their faith in God, intellectual vitality, social awareness and action, building of community and personal growth, in the living tradition of Sacred Heart education.

Sacred Heart Goals



GOAL 1
ACTIVE
FAITH



GOAL 2
INTELLECTUAL
VALUES



GOAL 3
SOCIAL
AWARENESS



GOAL 4
BUILDING
COMMUNITY



GOAL 5
PERSONAL
GROWTH

"The Goals are meant to express 5 aspects of an integrated life: a lively faith, which continues to develop as we grow; lifelong learning and using that knowledge to serve others; an awareness of the needs of an increasingly globally connected world and a desire to serve it; a realization that we are made to live in community; and a commitment to continue to grow humanly, acknowledging our journey to learn from our strengths and weaknesses to grow into wholeness."

- Sharon Karam, RSCJ

Meet Our Students

Private, Catholic, all-girls, identity-forming, college preparatory school serving age three through grade 12

- Total Enrollment: 763
- Upper School Enrollment: 299
- Freshmen: 89
- Sophomores: 74
- Juniors: 64
- Seniors: 72

2022-2023 School Year



13
COUNTRIES



79
ZIP CODES



\$2.0M+
TUITION
ASSISTANCE



22%
RECEIVE TUITION
ASSISTANCE

Social Awareness

Service Learning Requirement

Duchesne's signature experiential program is rooted in the Sacred Heart Goal that calls us to serve our community, act for justice, and be responsible citizens. Upper School students travel off campus to volunteer at schools, senior communities, and charitable organizations that serve the needs of marginalized populations throughout Houston. The program includes a reflection component in which students assess their volunteer experience to instill a lifelong sense of service.



Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart

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Grading Scale

An additional 0.5 quality point is awarded to the GPA for passing grades in all Advanced Placement courses and a 0.3 quality point for all Advanced courses.

97-100	4.0 points
93-96	4.0 points
90-92	3.7 points
87-89	3.3 points
83-86	3.0 points
80-82	2.7 points
77-79	2.3 points
73-76	2.0 points
70-72	1.7 points
67-69	1.3 points
63-66	1.0 points
60-62	0.7 points
Below 60	0.0 points

Graduation Requirements*

English	12 credits
Math.....	9 credits
Science	12 credits
Social Studies	12 credits
Theology	12 credits
World Languages	9 credits
Fine Arts.....	3 credits
Computer Science.....	3 credits
Physical Education	3 credits
Research Paper	1 credit
Electives	8 credits
Total credits	84 credits

* Equivalent to Distinguished Achievement Plan

Class Of 2024 Highlights

72 Students

- **Duchesne Academy does not report rank.**
- **Grade distribution (67 students):** Grade point average is cumulative and weighted through June 2023. *Transfer students are not included in the distribution.*
- **Top decile:** 4.16 – 4.06 **Second decile:** 4.02 – 3.96
- **Top quartile:** 4.16 – 3.92 **Top half:** 4.16 – 3.52

Students are not considered for National Honor Society membership until senior year.

Advanced Placement (AP) and Advanced Courses

- Departmental approval required for enrollment
- AP course enrollment limits: sophomores – 1, juniors – 2, seniors – 3
- Students enrolled in an AP course must take the AP exam
- AP courses audited and approved by College Board

AP Courses (20)*	Advanced Courses (12)
AP Biology	Advanced Algebra II
AP Calculus AB	Advanced Chemistry
AP Calculus BC	Advanced Choir
AP Chemistry	Advanced Dance Projects
AP Comparative Government and Politics	Advanced French III
AP Computer Science A	Advanced French IV - DELF B1
AP English Language	Advanced Geometry
AP English Literature	Advanced Physics
AP Environmental Science	Advanced Pre-Calculus
AP European History	Advanced Spanish II
AP Macroeconomics	Advanced Spanish III
AP Music Theory	Advanced Spanish IV
AP Physics I	Advanced Theatre Production
AP Spanish Language and Culture	
AP Statistics	
AP Studio Art	
AP United States Government and Politics	
AP United States History	
AP World History	
* Students may also enroll in any AP course offered online through SophieConnect or OneSchoolhouse.	

Online Courses

SophieConnect

Elective courses offered to schools in the North American Sacred Heart Network (grades calculated into GPA)

One Schoolhouse

Elective courses offered to students to inspire specialized learning (grades not calculated into GPA)

University of St. Thomas

Students receive elective credit at Duchesne and university credit at the University of St. Thomas (UST) and other accepting universities (grades not calculated into GPA)

Mod Schedule

The Upper School operates on a six-term modular “MOD” schedule. Each mod consists of 29 or 30 days. Classes last 80 minutes, a pace which allows concept and context to drive learning instead of content. Students take three to four courses per MOD and select classes from a combination of requirements and electives to fill up to 24 spaces each year. In keeping with our philosophy of balance, this curricula emphasizes cognitive depth, critical thinking, and skill-building. Offering students more autonomy in choosing how they gain those skills fosters intrinsic motivation to learn.

Curriculum Highlights

English

Courses are offered as topics. Students choose three topics to create a year-long sequence that fulfills the requirement. Any non-AP class may be added as an elective on top of the three-class requirement.

9th: Unearthing Ideas Thorough Writing; Demystifying the Essay; Now Analyze This

10th: In Theory... It's Star Wars!; Shakespeare: Time and Timelessness; The Bronte Sisters; Monsters Inc; I am Woman, Hear Me!; Walk Two Moons in Her Moccasins

11th: AP English Language and Composition; Rhetoric: Language & Persuasion; Short stories – Purpose and Craft; The American Dream; Virginia Woolf and Modernism; All Austen; Best Sellers and Prize Winners

12th: AP Literature: Studies in Africa, Shakespeare and the Meaning of Life, Blockbusters; Writing for Change; Indiana Jones and the Epic Bin; Home Free; “Still I Rise:” Black American Women Writers; Shakespeare and Power

Electives: Mythology: From Athena to Zeus; Humans of Duchesne: Community Connection Through Photo Stories

Math

Core Offerings: Algebra I; Geometry; Advanced Geometry; Algebra II; Advanced Algebra II; Data Science; Precalculus; Advanced Precalculus; AP Precalculus; Calculus; AP Calculus AB; AP Calculus BC; AP Statistics

Electives: Trigonometry; History of Mathematics; More About the Matrix Than Keanu Reeves Could Teach You – An Introduction to Linear Algebra; Selected Topics in Advanced Mathematics

Science

After completing Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, students may choose three topics to create a year of science. Any non-AP class may be added as an elective on top of the three-class requirement.

Core Offerings: Biology; Chemistry; Advanced Chemistry; Physics; Advanced Physics

Electives: AP Biology; AP Chemistry; AP Physics I; AP Environmental Science; Environmental Science; Introduction to Human Anatomy; Marine Biology; Food and Chemistry; Ecology: In Your Own Backyard; The Physics of Harry Potter; Genetic Disorders; Forensic Science; Epidemiology

Social Studies

9th: Introduction to Global Studies

10th: AP World History: Modern Era; Modern World History

11th: AP United State History; 20th Century US History

12th: AP US Government and Politics; AP Macroeconomics; AP Comparative Government and Politics; AP European History; American Government; Economics; America's Interplay Between Government and the Economy

Electives: Genocide Studies – Overview of the 10th Century Conflict; Duchesses of Duchesne; Business Wars - Women's Edition; The Holocaust through Literature and Film; Introduction to Psychology; World Area Studies; Through the Eyes of the World – A Close Look at International Film

World Languages

French: French I – Tout de Moi; French II – Ma Communauté et Moi; French III – L'amour est dans l'air; French III Advanced – Silence, moteur, action; French IV/V – French for Travelers – Destination Quebec; French IV/V – French Movies and Art; French IV/V – La Dégustation Francophone; French IV Advanced – DELF B1

Spanish: Spanish I; Spanish II; Advanced Spanish II; Spanish III; Advanced Spanish III; Spanish IV; Pre-AP Advanced Spanish IV; Spanish Literature for Spanish Speakers; AP Spanish Language and Culture

American Sign Language: American Sign Language I; American Sign Language II; American Sign Language III

Computer Science

Course Offerings: Computer Science for the Curious; Introduction to Java; Maker's Arduino Applications; Game Design; Digital Product Design; Introduction to Robotics; Engineer Your World I, Design, and Analysis; AP Computer Science A; Yearbook; Yearbook Editor; Digital Media I; Digital Media II;

Information Technology Internship: IT Interns are immersed in the fundamental knowledge of information technology and perform real-world tasks by working in the school helpdesk. They learn PC hardware and software, basic networking, and maintain CAVE resources and outreach.

Information Technology Apprenticeship: IT Apprentices deepen their knowledge of Information Technology by pursuing a Microsoft or Test Out certification in combination with working the school helpdesk.

Fine Arts

Visual Arts: AP Studio Art; Foundations of Art; Concepts of Art and Design; Drawing I; Drawing II; Painting I; Painting II; Digital Photography; Stained Glass; Mixed Media; Hand-Built Ceramics; Wheel-Thrown Ceramics; Sculpture I; Sculpture II; Idea Development

Art History: Art History - In the Beginning; Art History: Ages of Innovation; Art History: Rise of the Individual Music: Treble Choir; Advanced Choir; Guitar I; Guitar II; Vocal Development; Handbells; Music Theory; AP Music Theory

Theatre: Introduction to Theatre; Musical theatre; Improv Theatre; Scene Study; Advanced Theatre Production; Theatre Technology and Design I; Theatre Technology and Design II; Puppet Making

Dance: Dance I - Dance Styles; Dance II; Dance III; Advanced Dance Projects; Aerial Dance

Physical Education

Sports and PE Credit: Students who participate in an entire season of an afterschool sport at Duchesne receive one graduation credit towards PE. After a third bin is accomplished through afterschool sports, a PE class can only count as an "elective" towards graduation requirement.

Course Offerings: EmPOWERment; Mixed Martial Arts - Intro and Kickboxing Cardio; Pursuit of Healthiness; Yoga; Rhythm Based Activities; Zumba

Afterschool Sports: Basketball; Cross Country; Dance Team; Field Hockey; Golf; Lacrosse; Soccer; Softball; Swimming; Tennis; Track & Field; Volleyball

Theology

9th: History and the Bible; Jesus' Message; Acts, Paul, and The Early Christian Community

10th: Restorative Justice and Redemption; The Gospel and What it Means for Us; We are the Sacrament of Christ, the People of God

11th: Justice and Morality; Sacraments; Global and Social Awareness

12th: World Religions: Asian Traditions; World Religions: Indigenous Traditions, Judaism, and Islam; Peacemaking; Prayer and Worship; Bioethics; Global and Social Awareness

Research Paper

Beginning with an essential question of their choice, 11th grade students research a topic, develop a thesis, and complete a college level argumentative research paper. This carefully guided process teaches students essential skills in research, writing, and documentation. This course is required to be completed by the end of junior year.

General Electives

Cake Art; Introduction to Culinary Arts; How to Adult; Quilts for a Cause; Disability Studies; College Essays and Convos; SAT/ACT Prep; Communications Internship; Open Your Own Business; Introduction to Debate



Co-Curricular Programs



12 Sports - Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Teams



40+ Clubs and Activities



15 + Fine Arts Performances Annually



10,000+ Student and Community Volunteer Hours Served Annually

Award-Winning Robotics Program



Nationally Recognized Debate Team



State Championship Athletics

Head of School
Hillary Feerick-Hillenbrand
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Head of Upper School
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Head of Middle School
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Accreditation & Affiliations

- Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED)
- Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)
- Sacred Heart Commission on Goals (SHCOG)
- Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC)
- Houston Junior Preparatory Conference (HJPC)

College Matriculation (2020 - 2023)

We share this list in celebration of our recent graduates and the continuation of their academic journeys. At Duchesne, fit, which is multi-dimensional and individually assessed, is the ultimate outcome of the college application process. Our goal is that each student looks back on their college search with pride and moves forward with confidence. Wherever they ultimately go, we want them to continue to cultivate and carry with them the Sacred Heart Goals they have made their own. Schools in bold signify Class of 2023 matriculations.

University of Alabama, Birmingham
The University of Alabama (2)
Allegheny College
Arizona State University
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas (2)
Austin Community College District
Babson College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Blinn College
Boston College (3)
Boston University
California Polytechnic State University
Carnegie Mellon University
The Catholic University of America
University of Chicago
Claremont McKenna College
Clemson University
University of Colorado, Boulder
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Concordia University, Wisconsin
Cornell University
Dalhousie University
University of Dallas
Denison University
Drexel University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott
Emory University
The University of Findlay
University of Florida
Fordham University
University of Georgia
University of Houston
Johns Hopkins University
Lafayette College
Lewis & Clark College
Louisiana State University (4)
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
University of Miami
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
Mount Holyoke College
New Mexico Junior College
University of New Mexico

New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma (2)
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Mary's College
Sam Houston State University
Santa Clara University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Shenandoah University
University of Southern California
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
Saint Edward's University
St. Lawrence University
Stephen F. Austin State University
SUNY Brockport
Sweet Briar College
The University of Tennessee
Texas A & M University, College Station (4)
Texas A&M University, Galveston
Texas Christian University (4)
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The University of Texas, Arlington
The University of Texas, Austin (2)
The University of Texas, San Antonio
Culinary Institute of America
The George Washington University
Tulane University (2)
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy
University of St. Thomas (TX)
Utah Valley University
Valencia College
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Washington University in St. Louis
College of William & Mary
University of Wisconsin
Wittenberg University
Xavier University of Louisiana

Class Of 2023

28%
IN STATE

72%
OUT OF STATE

47%
PRIVATE

53%
PUBLIC