



# St. Stephen's

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## 2021-22 School Profile

### School, History and Founding Principles

St. Stephen's Episcopal School is a pioneering coeducational school serving 700 boarding and day students in grades 6 through 12.

We provide a distinctive college preparatory curriculum within a balanced program of academics, service learning, athletics and the arts. Founded in 1950 by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the school has a rich history of teaching students of all backgrounds and cultures to live together in community. St. Stephen's was the first coeducational Episcopal school in the United States and the first integrated boarding school in the South. Our mission and core values are rooted in progressive, yet resolute, principles: honor all faiths and traditions, support equity and inclusion, respect other cultures and perspectives, promote social justice, serve others and be good stewards of the environment.

### Signature Programs

Deeply committed to intellectual freedom and academic rigor, St. Stephen's offers a distinctive curriculum that allows students to explore individual interests while developing skills in critical analysis, reasoned discourse and persuasive writing. Academic offerings also give students a shared intellectual experience, bolster their sense of community and reinforce the school's core values. The school's signature programs range from core courses in history, English and theology, to Social Science Seminars and service learning.

**Core Courses** History 11, English 12 and Theology 12 form the core of students' shared intellectual experience and must be taken in residence.

- **History 11:** Students investigate the U.S. experience in a broad context through topics such as imperialism, globalization, conflict in the Middle East and dissolution of the Soviet empire. The course equips students to think critically about social, cultural and political change, culminating in a major research paper using scholarly articles and primary sources.
- **English 12:** During fall and winter terms, seniors choose electives that showcase advanced theoretical approaches and creative assignments. Spring term is devoted to The Novel Project, designed to give students the freedom to craft their own curriculum and the guidance to pursue interdisciplinary scholarship. Each senior builds his or her own reading list of three novels and one alternative text (film, non-fiction, poetry, graphic novel or short story collection). Students then spend spring term researching, writing and presenting their projects.
- **Theology 12:** In this full-credit non-doctrinal course, students explore the nature of religious experience, patterns in religious thought and behavior, moral theology and ethics. Texts include Mircea Eliade's *The Sacred and The Profane*; Paul Tillich's *Dynamics of Faith*; and primary sources from a variety of world religions, including the *Tao Te Ching*, the *Bhagavad Gita*, and Jewish and Christian scriptures.

**Social Science Seminars** This three-term course offers a variety of electives open to juniors and seniors. Recent topics have included Modern China; Dealing with Difficult People (Including Ourselves); Modernization and the Contemporary Middle East; Economics; Psychology; Alternative Narratives of Gender and Sexuality in America; Forging Our Sustainable Future; History of Modern Mexico; and Topics in Constitutional Law.

**Independent Study** Students may design and propose advanced topics of study beyond the school's regular curriculum in all departments. Topics have included Aerospace Engineering, Bioinformatics, Comparative Literature, Genetics, Music and Neuroscience, and Quantum Physics. Faculty-designed independent studies are also available in advanced languages and mathematics.

**Daily Chapel** All students participate in daily chapel services conducted in the Episcopal tradition. Through music, scripture readings, chapel talks and prayer, students examine their own beliefs in the context of different religions and faith perspectives and consider how those beliefs affect the way they understand themselves, their relationships and the world around them.

**Service Learning** St. Stephen's seeks to inspire a lasting love of learning and spirit of service. Students are required to work at least 10 hours per year addressing the needs of marginalized populations and/or environmental concerns. Students also have opportunities to serve others by working with nonprofits such as Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT) and Central Texas Food Bank, as well as through school-sponsored service trips to Haiti, India and Nicaragua.

### Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship

Beginning in Middle School, students may pursue numerous outdoor educational experiences—from the Devil's Canyon Wilderness Program to research expeditions exploring biocultures as diverse as the Peruvian Amazon and Big Bend National Park.

### Soccer Academy, Tennis Academy, Theatre Focus

Students follow the school's college preparatory curriculum while receiving highly specialized training.

## Academic Program and Diploma Requirements

All Upper School courses at St. Stephen's are taught at an honors level or higher, and there are no advanced tracks except in mathematics and Spanish. Although the school does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses, our faculty design courses whose depth and complexity go well beyond that of the prescribed AP program.

SUBJECT	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	ELECTIVES
<b>English</b>	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12 English 9T and 10T are Transitional English classes that prepare international students for mainstream English classes.	Advanced Creative Writing Creative Writing (half credit)
<b>Theology</b>	Theology 12	
<b>History</b>	History 9 (World History) History 10 (U.S. to 1900) History 11 (20th Century U.S./World)	Advanced European History Social Science Seminars
<b>Mathematics</b>	Algebra I Geometry or Advanced Geometry Algebra II or Advanced Algebra II	Precalculus Advanced Precalculus Calculus Calculus AB Calculus BC Multivariable Analysis Statistics and Selected Topics Advanced Statistics Computer Science Advanced Computer Science App Development
<b>Classical and Modern Languages</b>	Completion of Level III Chinese, French, Latin or Spanish (or Advanced Spanish III)	Chinese IV/V Independent Study Advanced Chinese French IV Advanced French V/VI and VII/VIII Latin IV Advanced Latin V/VI and VII/VIII Spanish IV-V Advanced Spanish IV-VI and VII/VIII
<b>Science</b>	Biology I Chemistry I Physics I	Advanced Biology II Advanced Chemistry II Advanced Physics II Astrophysics Electronics and Robotics Environmental Science Geology Principles of Engineering Projects in Science and Technology Maker Studio (half credit)
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<p><b>One Credit Required</b></p> <p><b>Full-Credit Courses:</b> Visual Studies I-III, Advanced Visual Studies, Advanced Art History, Advanced Music Theory</p> <p><b>Half-Credit Courses:</b> Electives in Art, Ceramics, Choreography, Dance, Digital Imaging, Dramatic Literature, Film, Graphic Design, Music, Photography, Theatre</p>	

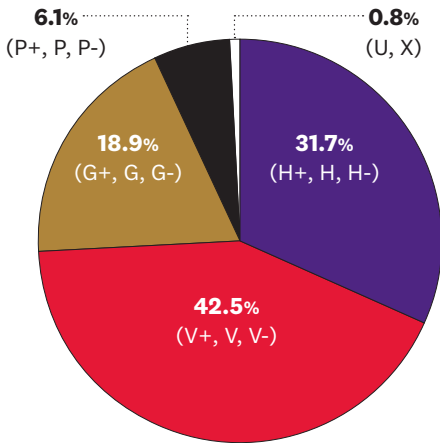


## Academic Policy and Grading Scale

St. Stephen's is a non-ranking high school and uses a non-traditional grading scale. The highest grade in this scale is an H+, which corresponds to 100 on a 100-point scale. It is important to note that grades in the V range do not equate with conventional B-range grades. Rather, these grades represent a high level of mastery in a subject,

comparable to 90-94. The lowest passing grade is P-, which is comparable to 72. All full-credit courses are included in the GPA. For a weighted GPA, all full-credit courses are weighted by a factor of 1.15. St. Stephen's maintains an institutional commitment to the integrity of our grading scale and resistance to grade inflation.

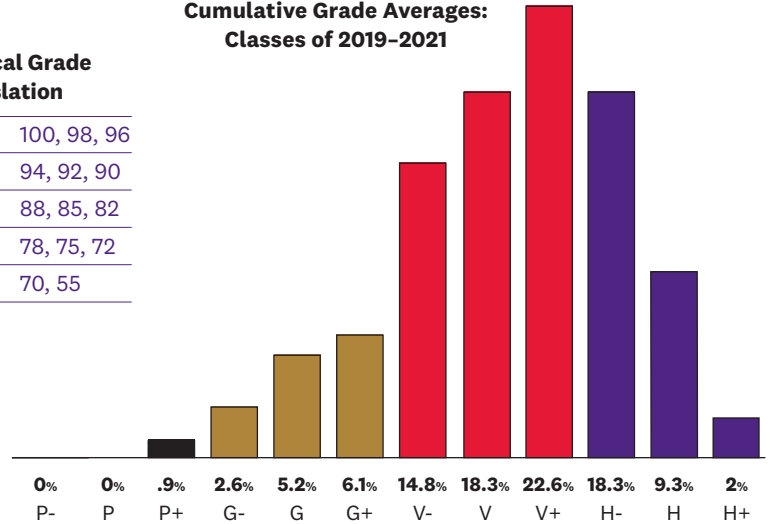
**Distribution of Course Grades in the Upper School, 2019-2021**



**Numerical Grade Translation**

H+, H, H-	100, 98, 96
V+, V, V-	94, 92, 90
G+, G, G-	88, 85, 82
P+, P, P-	78, 75, 72
U, X	70, 55

**Cumulative Grade Averages: Classes of 2019-2021**



## Standardized Testing: Classes of 2019-2021

### ACT COMPOSITE

Mean = 31  
Median = 32  
Middle 50% = 29-34

### SAT COMBINED

Mean = 1375  
Median = 1405  
Middle 50% = 1290-1480

## National Academic Recognition: Classes of 2018-2020

**27** National Merit Semifinalists  
**51** National Merit Commendations

## Upper School Community, 2021-22

**491**

Upper School Students

**159** boarding, **332** day

**36%** domestic students of color

**18%** students from outside the United States

Boarding students from **27** cities in Texas, **13** states and **17** countries

**24%** of students receive financial assistance

**8:1**

Student:Teacher Ratio

**94** Upper School faculty and academic administrators

**76%** hold advanced degrees

**17** live on campus

**17**

Average Class Size

## Discipline Reporting Policy

St. Stephen's maintains and benefits from relationships with colleges and universities that are based on openness and collegial respect. When a college or university asks us to provide information about a student's disciplinary history, we will respond honestly and completely, in compliance with NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission. We will also report patterns or major cases of academic dishonesty.

## Accreditations and Memberships

National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)  
Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)  
National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES)  
Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES)  
The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS)  
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)  
Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)

## College Matriculations, Classes of 2017-2021

Abilene Christian University	2	Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising-Los Angeles	2	Rice University	14	University of California-Santa Cruz	2
Amherst College	2	George Washington University	6	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	4	University of Chicago	4
Babson College	2	Georgetown University	4	Santa Clara University	5	University of Colorado-Boulder	9
Barnard College	3	Hamilton College	2	Sewanee: The University of the South	3	University of Denver	4
Bates College	2	Harvard College	6	Southern Methodist University	12	University of Georgia	2
Baylor University	2	Harvey Mudd College	2	Southwestern University	2	University of Houston	3
Blinn College	3	Indiana University-Bloomington	5	St. Edward's University	6	University of Michigan	8
Boston College	4	Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey	5	Stanford University	4	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	3
Boston University	5	Johns Hopkins University	5	Texas A&M University-College Station	11	University of Oregon	2
Brandeis University	2	Kenyon College	3	Texas A&M University-Galveston	2	University of Pennsylvania	4
Brown University	3	Lehigh University	5	Texas Christian University	5	University of Southern California	8
Bryn Mawr College	3	Lewis & Clark College	3	Texas Tech University	2	University of Texas-Arlington	5
Bucknell University	3	Macalester College	2	Trinity College (Connecticut)	2	University of Texas-Austin	69
Carleton College	2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	Trinity University	9	University of Texas-Dallas	7
Carnegie Mellon University	9	McGill University	5	Tufts University	6	University of Virginia	4
Case Western Reserve University	5	Middlebury College	2	Tulane University	7	University of Washington	4
Chapman University	2	New York University	16	United States Air Force Academy	3	University of Wisconsin-Madison	3
Colgate University	3	Northeastern University	4	University of British Columbia	2	Vanderbilt University	4
Colorado College	3	Occidental College	3	University of California-Berkeley	9	Villanova University	2
Colorado State University	6	Pennsylvania State University	3	University of California-Davis	3	Wake Forest University	2
Columbia University	3	Pitzer College	4	University of California-Los Angeles	14	Washington University in St. Louis	15
Cornell University	4	Pomona College	4	University of California-San Diego	8	Wesleyan University	2
Dartmouth College	3	Princeton University	4			Yale College	2
Denison University	2	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	3				
Duke University	3	Rhodes College	5				
Elon University	3						
Emory University	2						

### In addition, St. Stephen's has sent one graduate to each of the following in the past five years:

American University, Arizona State University, Auburn University, Austin College, Berklee College of Music, California Institute of Technology, California State Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo, Carleton College, CEU Cardenal Herrera University, Claremont McKenna College, Clemson University, Columbia College (Canada), Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Davidson College, Emerson College, Fashion Institute of Technology, Florida Southern College, Fordham University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Gonzaga University, Grinnell College, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, James Madison University, Lindenwood University, Loyola Marymount University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Michigan State University, Northumbria University, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Oxford College of Emory University, Pace University, Purdue University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Roger Williams University, Rollins College, Saint John's University (Minnesota), Salem College, Sarah Lawrence College, Scripps College, Smith College, Swarthmore College, Syracuse University, Tampere University, Temple University, Trinity College (Ireland), United States Naval Academy, University of Arizona, University of California-Santa Barbara, University of California-Irvine, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Oklahoma, University of Sydney, University of Pittsburgh, University of Puget Sound, University of Redlands, University of Rochester, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, University of South Florida-Tampa, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, University of Toronto, University of the Arts, University of Tulsa, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Western Washington University, Whitman College, Williams College

**CEEB Code:** 440315

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#### Commitment to Ethical Practice

St. Stephen's adheres to and promotes best practices as determined by NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.