



SCHOOL PROFILE

2021-2022

3 Point Place
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 827-5863
www.ambroseacademy.org

St. Ambrose Academy was accredited by the
National Association of Private Catholic and
Independent Schools in 2009.
CEEB #501147

CLASSICAL EDUCATION

Classical education is grounded in the notion that training in the *Trivium*- Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric - must precede specialized study in a particular field. The goal is to equip students with a well-trained mind so that they can be self-learners for the rest of their lives. These three "skill sets" are also commonly referred to as "stages," because attention to the intellectual development of students show that they pass through periods of growth that are more conducive to training in the different tools of the *Trivium*. Though we offer the same core subjects, what sets a Classical School apart is this commitment to training in the *Trivium*. The skills learned via Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric apply equally to our robust STEM courses. Math and Science have their own methods distinct from the humanities, but they employ the same intellectual faculties of observation, analysis, and expression. The *Quadrivium* builds on the skills learned via the *Trivium*.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Ambrose Academy (SAA) as a private, Catholic co-educational school is to assist parents in the formation of their children by providing a classical (liberal arts) education rooted in the Catholic Faith. Our students study theology and college preparatory subjects through the teachings of the Magisterium and the primary works of civilization's greatest thinkers. Through a unified and rigorous program of study, SAA equips students with progressive tools of learning, critical thinking, and elegant expression of truth. Such an education frees them to pursue and choose the true, the good, the beautiful, and the one – and thus, they are able to bring wise order, compassionate help, and radiating joy to our world, that always finds itself in the tension of this freedom.

HISTORY

SAA was founded in 2003 and is located on the west side of Madison - not far from the University of Wisconsin, state government, and business districts. The lay founders – mindful of St. John Paul II's call for a New Evangelization – recognized a need to recover the genius of a liberal arts training married to intentional Catholic formation, in order to foster wisdom and virtue most reliably and fruitfully. Since opening its doors with 10 students, the Academy has grown to 125 full-time students today – enjoying a growing breadth of athletic, club, and extracurricular activities and service opportunities that assuredly contribute to the well-rounded maturation of each individual student.

STUDENT BODY

Average GPA for class of 2020: 3.5
Senior class size for 2021-2022: 14 students
9-12 enrollment: 77
Students receiving financial assistance: 50%
Total financial assistance provided: \$325,000

FACULTY

SAA has 7 full-time teachers (three with a doctorate and 11 with master's degrees) and 7 part-time teachers. In 2007, one teacher received the U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholar Teacher Recognition Award.

Executive Director: Joan Carey; Principal: Scott Schmiesing; Dean of Faculty: Dr. Constance Nielsen; Dean of Academic Success: Michael Kwas; Dean of Students: Dr. Mary Skemp; Guidance Counselor: Christine Kelly

FORMING THE COMPLETE PERSON

The pursuit of education begins with wonder and aims for wisdom. Most students will pursue continuing education, because truth sets a person free to think and act rightly, with more forceful impact for the common good. As the school has matured in effectiveness in teaching and guidance, increasingly, students see the economic and salvific value of pursuing higher education. Nevertheless, there will always be room for a vocational call to go into the work force or military and we do not see following this call after high school (thus lowering college placement stats) necessarily as a negative. It is vocational, and we'll always encourage each individual to reach out for his or her highest potential and gift to society.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SAA grants three types of diplomas: Classics, Standard and Transfer.

A *Classics Diploma* is the highest level of education SAA offers and requires 24 core course credits with a total of 26 credits.

A *Standard Diploma* requires 20 core course credits and 22 total credits.

A *Transfer Diploma* is offered for late transfers with a customized course of study.

	<u>Classics</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Religion	4	4
English	4	4
History	4	4
Math	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Pre-Calculus	3
Science	4	3
Latin	Completion of Latin IV	Completion of Latin II
<u>Electives</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals:	26	22

GRADING SYSTEM:

SAA uses a four-point grading system:

A = 4.0	B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D+ = 1.33
A- = 3.67	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.00
	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	D- = 0.67

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM:

Since SAA began taking the exam in 2006, we have had 49 Gold Summa Cum Laude medals. List below are test results from Latin I to Latin V.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Gold Summa Cum Laude	6	2	2	5	3	6	4	1	3	4	5	41
Silver Maxima Cum Laude	4	5	8	9	7	14	5	4	3	8	6	73
Magna Cum Laude	1	5	3	4	4	6	9	4	5	5	6	52
Cum Laude	1	2	4	1	2	6	1	0	4	7	3	31

ACT RESULTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>SAA</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>National SAA Tested</u>	<u>SAAT</u>
2021	27.2	20.3	20.7	69%
2020	26.9	20.5	20.8	93%
2019	24.5	20.7	20.7	80%
2018	28.5	20.8	20.8	60%
2017	27.6	20.5	21.0	100%
2016	28.0	20.5	20.8	100%

ADV. PLACEMENT TESTS

AP courses are **not** offered because the liberal arts approach esteems versatility and penetration of thought, fineness of analysis, and gifts of expression over ability to regurgitate a copious set of facts. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to take AP exams and the soundness of academic prep at St. Ambrose prepares students for success on these exams.

	<u>Exams Administered</u>	<u>Exams with Score of 3 or Higher</u>
2020	25	68%
2019	18	89%
2018	11	82%
2017	15	80%
2016	31	74%

AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
6	4	2	4	2

NATIONAL MERIT HONORS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Class size</u>	<u>National Merit Honors</u>
2021	13	1 Finalist
2019	10	1 Finalist
2018:	10	1 Finalist
2017:	11	1 Semi-Finalist
2016:	7	1 Finalist
2015:	8	1 Finalist
2014:	9	1 Finalist
2012:	10	1 Finalist
2011:	6	2 Commended
2008:	4	2 Commended

USDE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR:

One student from the class of 2007

POST-GRADUATE PLANS

128 graduates since school's inception:

Post-secondary School	90%
Military	4%
Work	6%

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activities offered include:

- National Honor Society
- debate
- forensics
- yearbook
- music and drama
- band
- student council
- student service days
- field science club
- biannual trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life
- various faith-forming groups

ATHLETICS

- Cross Country
- 8-Man Football*
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball*
- Boys Soccer**
- Girls Soccer**
- Girls Volleyball*
- Boys Track & Field**
- Girls Track & Field**
- Boys Golf**
- Girls Golf**

*Co-op with Abundant Life Christian School

**Tri-op with Abundant Life Christian School and Madison Country Day School

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS*

Our graduates have been accepted to the following institutions:*

American University
 Alverno College
 Arizona State University
 Belmont Abbey College
 Benedictine College
 Boston College
 Bowling Green State University
 Carroll College
 Carroll University
 Christendom College
 Clarke University
 Colorado School of Mines
 Franciscan University of Steubenville
 Georgetown University
 George Washington University
 Hillsdale College
 John Carroll University
 Iowa State University
 Loras College
 Madison College
 Marquette University
 Michigan Technological University

Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology
 Princeton University
 St. Gregory the Great Seminary
 St. John's University, MN
 St. Mary's College of California
 St. Mary's University of Minnesota
 St. Norbert College
 Seton Hall University
 South Dakota School of Mines
 Southwest Technical College
 Truman State University
 United States Naval Academy
 University of Alaska/Fairbanks
 University of Chicago
 University of Cincinnati-College
 Conservancy of Music
 University of Dallas
 University of Illinois
 University of Kansas
 University of Kentucky
 University of Mary, Bismarck, N. Dakota
 University of Michigan

University of Minnesota
 University of Nebraska
 University of Northern Michigan
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Southern California
 University of St. Thomas, MN
 University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
 University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
 University of Wisconsin - Madison
 University of Wisconsin - Platteville
 University of Wisconsin - River Falls
 University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
 University of Wisconsin - Stout
 University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
 University of Wyoming
 Villanova University
 Virginia Tech
 Viterbo University
 West Virginia University/Morgantown
 Wyoming Catholic College
 Winona State University
**not a complete list*