

# Frequently Asked Questions: A Resource for Current SAA Families

## St. Ambrose Academy New Family Referral Program

Who should new families contact at SAA for more information?

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What is a Catholic Education?

Catholic education is education fully rooted in the truths of Christ and His Church. Our students study Catholic theology, attend Mass, have regular access to the Sacraments and are mentored by teachers who foster a deep love of Jesus.

What is Classical Education?

Our students are trained in the Trivium and move through three stages: grammar, logic, and rhetoric. The goal of classical education is to train students to become self-learners and seekers of the truth. To learn more about 'What is Classical Education' take 5 minutes and watch an informative videos on the topic filmed with Dr. Constance Nielsen. The video can be found at <https://ambroseacademy.org/academics/what-is-classical-education/>.

What courses are offered to St. Ambrose Academy students?

<p><b>Junior High – Grades 6-8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6<sup>th</sup> grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ World History</li> <li>○ English 6: Fables and Mythology</li> <li>○ Math 6</li> <li>○ Earth Science</li> <li>○ Religion</li> <li>○ Grammar 1</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ 7<sup>th</sup> grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ American History</li> <li>○ English 7: Poetry and American Lit</li> <li>○ Pre-Algebra</li> <li>○ Life Science</li> <li>○ Religion</li> <li>○ Grammar 2</li> <li>○ Latin A</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ 8<sup>th</sup> grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Church History</li> <li>○ English 8: Catholic Literature</li> <li>○ Algebra</li> <li>○ Physical Science</li> <li>○ Religion</li> <li>○ Latin B</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Junior High Course Offerings Continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Electives</li> </ul>	<p><b>Senior High – Grades 9-12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ English I – Ancients</li> <li>○ English II – Medieval / Renaissance</li> <li>○ English III – American</li> <li>○ English IV – Modern</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ History I – Ancients</li> <li>○ History II - Medieval / Renaissance</li> <li>○ History III – American / Government</li> <li>○ History IV – Enlightenment / The Modern World</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Religion I – The Church in the Pagan World</li> <li>○ Religion II – Sacred Scripture</li> <li>○ Religion III – Moral Theology</li> <li>○ Religion IV – The Church in the Modern World</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Algebra</li> <li>○ Geometry</li> <li>○ Algebra II</li> <li>○ Pre-Calculus</li> <li>○ Calculus</li> <li>○ Calculus II</li> <li>○ Business Math</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Art</li> <li>○ Music</li> <li>○ Band / Orchestra</li> <li>○ Gym</li> </ul>	<p><b>Senior High Course Offerings Continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biology</li> <li>○ Chemistry</li> <li>○ Biology 2</li> <li>○ Physics</li> <li>○ Advanced Chemistry</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Latin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Latin I thru Latin IV</li> <li>○ Advanced Latin for those preparing for Latin AP exams</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Electives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Art</li> <li>○ Choir</li> <li>○ Band / Orchestra</li> <li>○ Gym</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Why Latin?

- Latin aids in the study of the Romance languages; enhances a student’s ability to express himself well in English; hones logical and organizational thinking skills; and assists students who continue in science, medicine and the humanities and come across Latin terminology.
- *“Learning Latin has improved my grammar skills in writing in English and I also see it as a great advantage for myself in the pursuit of a future career in medicine, since a lot of medical terms have their root in Latin.”* – Mariana Antonio Serrano, Class of 2021
- *“Learning Latin has taught me how to problem solve and quickly apply common rules to understand new situations and contexts. Many Latin words build off others, so I have learned to take a step back when I encounter something unfamiliar and use information that I already know to discover something new. Latin has also helped me as a musician. Singing in different languages is easier after learning Latin pronunciation and I can better understand some of the terms I come across in my music.”* – Naomi O’Leary, Class of 2021

### How does St. Ambrose Academy support the individual learner?

- Our Learning Services department provides academic support for students who benefit from academic assistance outside the standard curriculum. Approximately 15% of the St. Ambrose Academy students take advantage of the academic support services offered within the regular school day. These services are directed by Director of Learning Services, Mrs. Angela Hinehine and overseen by our Dean of Academic Success, Mr. Michael Kwas.

### What sports are offered at St. Ambrose Academy?

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

### What other extra-curricular activities are offered?

- Aviation Design Club (GAMA)
- Band
- Board Game Club
- Debate
- Forensics
- Guardians for Life
- Model UN
- Musical Theater
- National Honor Society
- Student Ambassadors
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Bi-annual trip to Washington DC for March for Life

### What are St. Ambrose Academy's ACT statistics?

5-7+ points above the state average!

Year	SAA	Wisconsin	National
2022	27.6	20.1	20.6
2021	27.2	20.3	20.7
2020	26.9	20.5	20.8
2019	25.4	20.3	20.7
2018	28.5	20.5	21.0

### What are St. Ambrose Academy's post-graduate and college admissions statistics?

- 90% pursue higher education
- 3% enter the military
- 7% enter the work force

### Where is St. Ambrose Academy located?

- 2022-2024 location
  - St. Ambrose is currently located at 3 Point Place Suite 150, Madison. This is a temporary location while our capital campaign to build a permanent home is underway. For more information about the campaign, visit <https://ambroseacademy.org/campaign/>.
- 2024-beyond location
  - The new home of St. Ambrose Academy will be a 5-acre site in a desirable residential development centrally located in Fitchburg, west of McGaw Park.
  - For details contact Angela Hinline, [angela.hinline@ambroseacademy.org](mailto:angela.hinline@ambroseacademy.org), 608-827-5863

### Does St. Ambrose Academy offer a bus service?

- No, but our families have set up carpooling networks in Evansville/Brooklyn/Oregon/ Fitchburg/ Sun Prairie/Mount Horeb/Sauk City and on the east and west sides of Madison.

## How many students are enrolled?

- 160 students are currently enrolled in grades 6 thru 12.

## Describe the faculty and their backgrounds:

- 9 full-time, 11 part-time teachers
- Among our faculty, 6 possess doctorate degrees and 7 possess master's degrees.

## What is the student to faculty ratio?

- 10:1

## What is the cost of tuition in 2022-2023?

- \$8,500 for grades 6-8
- \$9,300 for grades 9-12

## What other fees exist outside of tuition?

- In addition to tuition, there are participation fees for each extra-curricular activity student chooses to participate in.

## Does St. Ambrose Academy offer financial assistance? What is the average assistance amount?

- St. Ambrose Academy does offer financial assistance. The average award is \$5,000 per year. More information can be shared by Angela Hineline. St. Ambrose Academy wants to work with any family pursuing this education for their children.

## What do graduates say about their St. Ambrose Academy experience?

- YouTube Alumni Testimonies:
  - [Justin Hineline, Class of 2017](#)
  - [Alumni Selfie videos](#)
  - [Nathan Tataje, Class of 2020](#)
- A few comments shared with SAA from alumni:
  - *"I owe SAA a debt of gratitude for preparing me academically. The focus on synthesizing information and the approach to learning in the classical education model has substantial overlap with how scientists consider problems in their original work."* - Dr. Thomas Carey, Ph.D., class of 2008
  - *"St. Ambrose gave me the opportunity to develop my will and my intellect along with knowledge and skills to learn more about the Faith. As a student, I was given the space and the time to fall deeper in love with God through daily masses, availability of confession, and prayer during the school day."* – Fr. Michael Wanta, class of 2013, ordained to the priesthood in June 2021
  - *"Learning strong writing and public speaking skills, areas I struggled with coming into SAA, has helped me be a better student and engineer."* – Shannon Seitz, class of 2016

## What is the school's mission?

- St. Ambrose Academy believes that parents are the primary educators of their children and that it is the mission of the school to assist parents in the formation of their children by providing a Classical education deeply rooted in the Catholic faith. For more information about our mission, visit <https://ambroseacademy.org/about/our-mission/>.

## Why does St. Ambrose Academy have a uniform policy?

- Uniforms create a mind-set for learning in our school and set the tone for the expected behavior of students within our classrooms.
- Uniforms teach students to dress for appropriately for their work in the world.
- Uniforms also allow our community of learners to focus on the dignity of each person encouraging us to see one another through the eyes of Christ.
- For more information about our uniforms, visit <https://ambroseacademy.org/uniforms/>.

## How does a small school like St. Ambrose Academy provide opportunities for its students?

- In a small school like St. Ambrose Academy, every student is valued as a unique child of God. Within St. Ambrose Academy's classical curriculum, students are continually challenged to grow as independent thinkers and search for the truth. Daily, St. Ambrose Academy students are encouraged to immerse themselves in each class discussion, to ask questions, to solve problems and to consider their purpose in the world. This style of education forms leaders organically – leaders willing to take risks as they find their own path to greatness.
- Small schools encourage participation in extracurricular activities, athletics, and community services. Within the walls of St. Ambrose Academy, it is common to see the fall Volleyball Player in the Spring Musical while participating in Debate Club and serving on Student Council.
- Our liberal arts classical curriculum gives students the academic foundation needed to be pursue any field of study they feel best suited to. Our graduates have been accepted to over 60 institutions of higher education across the United States. Our graduates are engineers, nurses, chemists, teachers, military officers, artists, musicians, physical therapists, computer software designers, psychologists, priests, religious sisters, lawyers, mothers, fathers and so much more!