

## Notre Dame Academy

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## Academic Office and College Placement

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# School Profile 2009-2010

**The School.** Notre Dame Academy is an independent, coeducational, day school for Grades 9-12. Its 90-acre wooded campus lies about 50 miles west of Washington, DC. The Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio, founded Notre Dame Academy as a small boarding school for girls in 1965. In the early 1990's the school became a larger, coeducational, day school. In 2000 a lay board of trustees purchased the school and in 2009 completed its transformation into a fully independent, ecumenical school with greatly expanded academic, arts, and athletic programs.

**Accreditation.** Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) through the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS); last ten-year full re-accreditation in 2007.

**Memberships.** Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, College Board, National Association for College Admission Counseling, and Secondary School Admission Test Board.

**Mission Statement.** Notre Dame Academy inspires students to excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics. We are a dynamic community of students, faculty and staff, parents, and alumni dedicated to lifelong learning, service to others, spiritual growth, and the success of each student. Our school strives to develop young men and women of moral integrity who are responsible leaders and citizens in a diverse and ever-changing world.

**Faculty.** The teaching faculty of 25 includes 13 with master's degrees and 6 with doctorates. 60 percent of the faculty have been teaching for more than 5 years. .

**Students.** Enrollment: 180; Class of 2010: 40. Percent of graduates accepted to college: 100%. Typical class size is 10-16 students, and the faculty/student ratio is 1:8. Students reside in the Virginia counties of Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock and the independent city of Winchester; and the West Virginia county of Jefferson. Twenty international students come from Germany, Korea, and Vietnam. .

**Admission.** Admission to Notre Dame Academy is selective and is based on previous grades (typically a B average or higher), standardized test scores (SSAT or

ISEE), school and teacher recommendations, student application and essay, parent statement, and student interview.

**School Year and School Day.** The school year is divided into four (4) quarters and two (2) semesters. The school day comprises modified blocks of 80 and 50 minutes. All courses meet three times each week either a full year (1.0 credit) or for one semester (0.5 credit).

**Diploma Requirements for the Class of 2010.** A Notre Dame Academy diploma entails meeting requirements in four areas:

**1. Total credits each year.** Each student must take and pass seven courses each year, for a total of 30 credits for a four-year student.

### 2. Departmental (distribution) credits.

<i>Department</i>	<i>Credits required</i>
English	4
Mathematics	4 (including Geometry and Algebra 2)
Foreign Language the	3 (to complete Level 3 in same language)
Science	3 (including Biology and Chemistry)
Social Studies	3
Religious Studies	3
Performing Arts	1
Visual Arts	1
Electives	8
Total	30

Notre Dame Academy's credit requirements exceed those of the Virginia Standard High School Diploma (22 credits) and the Virginia Advanced Studies High School Diploma (24 credits).

**3. Community service.** Verification of 25 hours of approved community service each year, balanced between on- and off-campus commitments.

### 4. Acceptance by a college or university.

### Strength of Academic Program.

**Honors Courses and Accelerated Study.** Strongly qualified students pursue advanced courses designated Honors (H), in English, Social Studies, and Algebra 2 in Grades 9, 10, and 11. In other departments students may accelerate their studies to enroll in Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses when they are ready.

**Advanced Placement Courses.** The school offers AP/College Biology, AP/College Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Computer Science A, AP/College English Literature and Composition, AP/College Physics C: Mechanics, AP Spanish Language, AP Studio Art, AP United States Government and Politics, and AP United States History, all certified by the College Board. All students in an AP course are required to take the AP exam in May.

**Dual Enrollment Courses (with College Credits).** The school offers courses taught for college credit by Notre Dame Academy instructors approved through the Virginia college and university system: College Applied Calculus (6 college credits), College Biology (8), AP/College Calculus AB (10), AP/College English Composition and Literature (6), College French (8), AP/College Physics C (4), College Statistics (4), and College Drawing and Painting (4).

### Highest Level Courses Available.

English: AP/College English Literature and Composition.

Mathematics: AP/College Calculus AB/BC.  
Foreign Language: College French, Latin 4, AP Spanish Language.

Science: College Biology, AP Chemistry, or AP/College Physics C.

Social Studies: AP United States Government and Politics and AP United States History.

Computer Science: AP Computer Science  
Visual Arts: AP Studio Art, College Drawing and Painting.

### Grading Scale, GPA, and Testing

**Numeric Grades:** 0-100 for all courses.

For general comparison to other schools' grading scales, Notre Dame Academy grades of 90-100 represent outstanding work (A); 80-89, commendable work (B); and 70-79, average work (C).

**Passing Grade:** 65.

**Qualifying Grade** to progress to the next level of study in a subject: 70

**Qualifying Grade** to enroll in an honors, AP, and dual enrollment courses: 85 to 90.

**CR and NC Grades.** With approval of the Academic Office, a department may designate some courses as CR (Credit) or NC (No Credit).

**WP and WF Grades:** With the approval of the Academic Office, a student may receive a grade of WP (Withdrawn Passing: credit earned) or WF (Withdrawn Failing: no credit earned).

**Rank in Class.** Notre Dame Academy does not rank its students.

**Grades Weighted for GPA.** Final grades in Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses receive five (5) extra points in GPA calculations.

**Distribution of GPA's.** Class of 2010, cumulative GPA's at end of Grade 11:

<b>100-95</b>	19%	<b>80-75</b>	21%
<b>95-90</b>	24%	<b>75-70</b>	2%
<b>90-85</b>	14%	<b>Below 70</b>	0%
<b>85-80</b>	19%		

#### SAT Reasoning (25-50-75 percentiles)

Class	2009
% Tested	100%
Reading	520-570-630
Math	500-550-630
Writing	530-600-670

**Transcript and GPA.** Notre Dame Academy transcripts and GPA's include only courses taken at the school. Photocopies of official transcripts of courses completed in other high schools or accredited programs are attached, if the student has placed an official transcript for that work on file at Notre Dame Academy.

**Standardized Test Scores.** SAT, ACT, and other test scores are not part of the student's Notre Dame Academy transcript. Each student is responsible for sending such scores directly to colleges and other institutions.

**Discipline Reporting Policy.** Notre Dame Academy informs its students of their responsibility to answer questions about discipline truthfully and reports major disciplinary actions to colleges at which its students have completed an application.

#### College Acceptances of Recent Notre Dame Academy Graduates:

Alabama State University  
Albright College  
American University  
Auburn University  
Berklee College of Music  
Binghamton University

Boston College  
Bridgewater College  
Bucknell University  
Butler University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Catholic University of America  
Christopher Newport University  
Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Colgate University  
College of Charleston  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of William & Mary  
Columbia University  
Corcoran College of Art and Design  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Davis & Elkins College  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
East Carolina University  
Elon University  
Emory and Henry College  
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University  
Florida State University  
Fordham University  
Franklin & Marshall University  
Georgetown University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
Gonzaga University  
Goucher College  
Greensboro College  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hobart College  
Hollins University  
Hood College  
Howard University  
Indiana University  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
John Carroll University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Johnson & Wales University  
Juniata College  
Lake Forest College  
Lehigh University  
Longwood University  
Loyola College in Maryland  
Lynchburg College  
Manhattanville College  
Marietta College  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Marymount University  
Marquette University  
McDaniel College  
Methodist College  
Miami University  
Misericordia University  
Mount St. Mary's University  
New York University  
Northern Virginia Community College  
Ohio State University  
Old Dominion University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Philadelphia University  
Pratt Institute  
Presbyterian College  
Providence College  
Purdue University  
Quinnipiac University  
Radford University

Randolph College  
Randolph-Macon College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Roanoke College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
Salisbury University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Sewanee: The University of the South  
Shenandoah University  
Shepherd University  
Shippensburg University  
Southern Methodist University  
St. John's College  
St. John's University  
Saint Joseph's University  
St. Leo University  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Saint Michael's College  
Sweet Briar College  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Trinity University  
Tufts University  
Tulane University  
Union College  
United States Air Force Academy  
United States Military Academy  
United States Naval Academy  
University of Alabama  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Maryland  
University of Miami  
University of Mississippi  
University of Notre Dame  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
University of Richmond  
University of Rochester  
University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School  
University of Scranton  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida  
University of Tampa  
University of Virginia  
University of Vermont  
Vanderbilt University  
Villanova University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Military Institute  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
Wake Forest University  
Washington & Jefferson College  
Washington & Lee University  
Washington College  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University  
West Virginia University  
Wheaton College (MA)  
Wheeling Jesuit University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Xavier University (OH)  
Yale University