

SCHOOL PROFILE 2024-2025



PORTSMOUTH
ABBEY
SCHOOL



MISSION: TO HELP YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN GROW IN KNOWLEDGE AND GRACE.

Founded by the Rev. Dom Hugh Diman in 1926, as an independent Catholic preparatory boarding school under the auspices of the English Benedictine Congregation, Portsmouth Abbey School is located in Rhode Island overlooking Narragansett Bay. Students engage in a rigorous study of the Western intellectual and cultural tradition; life at the Abbey, both in the classroom and out, inspires in students the Benedictine love of knowledge, study, discussion, and free exchange of ideas. While the student body is predominantly Catholic (about two-thirds), students from all faiths find a warm welcome at the Abbey.

Benedictine Core Values: Community, Hospitality, Respect, Stewardship, Love of Learning

COMMUNITY

350 TOTAL STUDENTS

85 Sixth Form Students

28 States

19 Countries

75% Boarding Students

25% Day Students

21% International Students

48% Of our student body receives
\$6.6 Million in financial aid

CO-CURRICULARS

All students are required to take part in an afternoon activity which typically involves 2 hours or more of daily commitment. Options range from:

Athletics	Community Service
Theatre	Student Government
Music	School Publications
Dance	Spiritual Life
Visual Arts	Leadership
Robotics	Independent Projects

14	43	2
Student-Run Clubs	Athletic Teams	Plays per year

46 FACULTY MEMBERS

80.4% Hold advanced degrees
(17% have a Ph.D.)

7:1
Student-Teacher Ratio

Matthew Walter, Head of School | mwalter@portsmouthabbey.org
Diane Soboski, Director of College Counseling | dsoboski@portsmouthabbey.org
Kate Smith, Associate Director of College Counseling | ksmith@portsmouthabbey.org
Meghan Fonts, Assistant Director of College Counseling | mfonts@portsmouthabbey.org
Deanna Lloyd, College Counseling Coordinator | dlloyd@portsmouthabbey.org

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CEEB code: 400130

LOVE OF LEARNING

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students carry a 6-credit course load. Courses are year-long and earn 1 credit with the exception of Ancient History and Basic Theology (each ½ credit, taken in Form III) and Humanities (2 credits, taken in Form IV).

The school operates on a trimester system and classes are conducted Monday–Saturday. The school names class years according to the British National system:

- Form III – 9th grade
- Form IV – 10th grade
- Form V – 11th grade
- Form VI – 12th grade

Grades are reported on a letter scale: A+ through D; F is a failed course and will not receive credit. Our grade point averages are reported by year only (no cumulative GPA is provided), and are on a 4.3 scale (4.3 being an A+). No classes are weighted, and we do not rank our students.

If a student has transferred credit to the Abbey from another school, we will attach their prior transcript to the back of ours and make a notation on the transcript.

By school policy, all counselor and teacher recommendations are confidential.

CURRICULUM NOTES

- **Bolded** subjects – indicates new this year (i.e. this year's graduating students did not have the option to take Honors English last year)
- *Italicized* – not offered this year, but has been in past years (may be reflected on some students' transcripts)
- *Advanced Topics – post-AP level courses; math rotates annually between Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus & Differential Calculus
- All Form IV students are required to take Humanities which is a double-block, two credit Great Books course that satisfies both English and European History requirements.
- The Abbey runs a Physics first sequence for science, meaning students will begin with Conceptual Physics in Form III, then later move on to Biology and Chemistry.

17
Honors Courses

15
AP Courses

2
Post AP Courses

DEPARTMENT	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	MOST ADVANCED COURSEWORK
English	4 years AND Independent Form VI Thesis	American Literature Honors English Literature (AP)
Math	4 years	Geometry Honors Algebra II Honors Precalculus Honors Statistics (AP) Calculus AB (AP) Calculus BC (AP) *Advanced Topics in Math
Science	2 years (laboratory science)	Biology Honors Chemistry Honors Biology (AP) Chemistry (AP) Physics (AP) <i>Computer Science (AP)</i> <i>*Green Chemistry</i> *Advanced Topics in Research
Theology	4 years	
History	2 years	United States History (AP) Government & Politics (AP) Art History (AP)
Modern Language	3 years in 1 language OR 2 years each in 2 languages	Spanish 2 Honors Spanish 3 Honors Spanish 4 Honors French 2 Honors French 3 Honors French 4 Honors Chinese 2 Honors Chinese 3 Honors Chinese 4 Honors Spanish (AP) French (AP) Chinese (AP)
Visual or Performing Arts	1 year	Music Theory (AP)
Latin	1 year	Latin 2 Honors Latin 3 Honors Latin (AP)

SIGNATURE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

Portsmouth Abbey School is a member of the Cum Laude Society, which recognizes high academic achievement by secondary school students. Cum Laude members are chosen and inducted in the spring of their Sixth Form year.

SIXTH FORM THESIS

The English Department requires each Sixth Former, as a graduation requirement, to write a major paper independently that analyzes a literary classic. The student does not rely upon research or secondary sources; instead, the student depends upon his or her own critical faculties to perform close reading and do critical analysis.

Past Novels Analyzed:

1984

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

The Awakening

Beloved

In the Lake of the Woods

Invisible Man

Gravity's Rainbow

Lolita

Pride and Prejudice

The Picture of Dorian Gray

The Sound and the Fury

HANEY FELLOWSHIP

Fifth Formers are invited to apply for grants to fund independent projects of their own creation over the summer before their Sixth Form year. Applicants must present a proposal for a project that will deepen a particular academic, artistic, or cultural interest, and competition is fierce.

Past Projects Include: working as a tutor within the Oglala, Lakota and Sioux Tribes; teaching a STEM-based curriculum to girls in Nigeria; shadowing a professor and medical parasitologist in the Philippines on Neglected Tropical Diseases; volunteering at an Asian American Civic Associate in Boston; and serving as a community scientist under the guidance of RI Clean Ocean Access

4-5 grants awarded per year

SCIENCE GRANTS

Any Portsmouth Abbey student is eligible to apply for a Portsmouth Abbey Science Grant. These grants are awards up to 500 dollars to support independent student research in any scientific field. The proposals are modeled after the National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship program. Students must submit a research proposal, project timeline, and budget. The science department faculty serve as the review board evaluating proposals based on feasibility, grantsmanship, and impact on the community.

Past Projects Include: a systematic eco-footprint calculation of Portsmouth Abbey School; engineered sail foils and heart attack monitors using Arduino; and a bio-engineering project creating biofuels out of Portsmouth Abbey School's residual cooking oil.

10 grants awarded per year

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

New England Association of Schools and Colleges, National Association for College Admission Counseling, New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS).

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

If asked about disciplinary infractions, students must self-report and answer truthfully about the incident. They are required to share their written disclosure statement with their counselor, who may confirm the accuracy of the details and outcomes if asked by the college.

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Matriculation

COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS FROM 2022-2024

Over the past three years, Portsmouth Abbey students have chosen to attend the colleges and universities listed below. Each year our students enroll at a variety of colleges across the United States and internationally. Schools where multiple students have matriculated are indicated with the () including the number of PAS students represented at each of their campuses.

American University	Lehigh University (2)	The College of Wooster
Appalachian State University	Louisiana State University	The New School
Assumption University (2)	Loyola Marymount University	The University of Alabama
Babson College (6)	Loyola University Chicago	The University of Texas at Austin
Bates College (2)	Macalester College	Trinity College Dublin (2)
Bentley University (2)	Massachusetts Maritime Academy (2)	Tufts University
Boston College (2)	McGill University (2)	Tulane University of Louisiana (2)
Boston University (7)	Merrimack College	Union College (2)
Brandeis University (2)	Miami University-Oxford (3)	United States Air Force Academy
Brown University	Mississippi State University	United States Coast Guard Academy
Bryant University (3)	Nazareth College	United States Naval Academy (3)
Bucknell University	New York University (2)	University of Arizona
Claremont McKenna College	Northeastern University (2)	University of California - Irvine
Clemson University	Pace University	University of California - Los Angeles
Colgate University (2)	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of California - Santa Barbara
College of Charleston	Pennsylvania State University	University of Delaware
College of the Holy Cross (6)	Pitzer College	University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign
Columbia University	Plymouth State University	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Concordia University	Princeton University	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (3)
Connecticut College	Providence College (3)	University of Mississippi (2)
Cornell University (2)	Purdue University (3)	University of New Hampshire
Dartmouth College	Queen's University - Canada	University of New Haven
Davidson College (2)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (4)	University of Pennsylvania (2)
Denison University (3)	Rhode Island College (2)	University of Puget Sound
Dickinson College (2)	Rhode Island School of Design (2)	University of Rhode Island (2)
Duke University	Rhodes College	University of Rochester (3)
Eckerd College	Rivier University	University of South Florida
Elmira College	Roanoke College	University of Southern California (3)
Elon University (2)	Roger Williams University (4)	University of St Andrews
Emory University (2)	Sacred Heart University (2)	University of Vermont (2)
Fairfield University (9)	Saint Anselm College	University of Virginia (2)
Fordham University	Saint Louis University	Utica College
Franklin and Marshall College (2)	Salve Regina University	Villanova University (2)
Franklin University - Switzerland	Savannah College of Art and Design	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Furman University	Seton Hall University	Wake Forest University
George Mason University	Skidmore College	Washington University in St Louis (2)
George Washington University (6)	Southern Methodist University (2)	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Georgetown University (5)	Springfield College	Wesleyan University
Gettysburg College	St Catherine University	Williams College
Hamilton College (3)	St Lawrence University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Hampden-Sydney College	St. Edward's University	
High Point University	St. John's College	
Hobart William Smith Colleges (3)	St. John's University - New York	
Hood College	St. Mary's College of Maryland	
Ibero-American University	Stonehill College	
IE University - Madrid Campus	Suffolk University	
Indiana University - Bloomington	SUNY Buffalo State	
Johns Hopkins University (4)	SUNY College at Plattsburgh	
Kenyon College	SUNY Polytechnic Institute	
Lake Forest College	Swarthmore College	
Lake Superior State University	Syracuse University (2)	

