



## SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

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## Accreditations & Associations

**PAIS** (Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools)

**NAIS** (National Association of Independent Schools)

**Middle States Association**

**TABS** (The Association of Boarding Schools)

**PCIS** (Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent Schools)

**NACAC** (The National Association for College Admission Counselors)

**ACCIS** (The Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools)

# 2013-2014 SCHOOL PROFILE

## The School

Shady Side Academy is a nationally respected, co-educational private school in Pittsburgh for grades PK–12. **The Senior School**, located in the Fox Chapel suburb of Pittsburgh on a 130-acre college-like campus with six academic buildings, is a college-preparatory school with an optional five-day boarding experience. For nearly 130 years Shady Side has been a place of academic rigor and the pursuit of passions – home of teaching legends, visionary leaders and alumni renowned for their innovative thinking and strength of character. Energy animates our three campuses and our students.

## Our Community

Members of the Shady Side Academy community acknowledge and accept five **Guiding Principles** that serve as fundamental points of guidance for all adults and students living and working together in the school community: **Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Safety**. Shady Side Academy is a learning community; we work together to grow and learn.

### TOTAL ENROLLMENT (2013-2014): 935

Junior School: 216

Middle School: 227

Senior School: 492  
(including 44 five-day boarders)

56% male, 44% female

24% are students of color

17% receive financial aid; more than \$2.8 million in aid was distributed for the 2013-2014 school year

Student-to-teacher ratio: 8 to 1

Average class size: 13

Students come from 56 different ZIP codes in Allegheny County, 12 other PA counties and seven states

## Students

Abiding by the **Guiding Principles**, our students are engaged, articulate, diligent and responsible. They are bright, talented, ambitious and open-minded. Most students commit to community service on a local, regional and national level. Substantive opportunities for leadership exist beyond the norm, as our students serve as departmental associates for all academic disciplines, and are active voices on the Academy's Academic Program, Admissions, Discipline, Hiring and Strategic Planning Committees.

## Faculty

The 62 faculty members at Shady Side Academy Senior School, 63 percent of whom hold advanced degrees, are both professors and professionals; they teach and publish, mentor and perform on stage, inspire local university students as well as Shady Side students. The faculty receives \$250,000 annually in professional development funds. The depth of our teachers' intellectual passion and experience creates an experience that helps Shady Side students grow and gain knowledge. They challenge students to develop through a host of academic, artistic, athletic and community activities. If you ask Shady Side Academy students what is the most important part of their school experience, they would answer: teachers and the support and encouragement they provide each and every day.

## Academic Philosophy

The Senior School has a rigorous and extensive college preparatory curriculum, designed to help students collect, analyze and synthesize data; state and support arguments; and work effectively with groups of people. Our teachers elect not to "teach to a test;" rather, they see education as building the skills and habits of inquiry, research, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Classroom work is student-centered with the goal of encouraging and preparing students to be active, lifelong learners.

## Requirements for Graduation

Shady Side operates on a trimester system, and graduation requirements are expressed in credits. A full-year course will earn three credits. Students must take at least 15 credits (five full courses) a year, and must earn 55 credits total.

English (12)

Mathematics (9)

Laboratory Science (6)

Foreign Language (9, mastery of level 3)

History/Social Studies (9 *including* World History, Patterns of Western Identity and U.S. History)

Elective Courses (varies by student to achieve 55 credits)

Arts (3)

Computer Science (2)

Health (2)

Athletics (minimum of five seasons)

CPR Certification

## Curriculum Notes

*Shady Side does not designate certain courses as “honors”* because all courses follow a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

**Advanced Placement** courses are offered in three subject areas. Of these, the AP exam is a requirement in Calculus (AB or BC) and language (French V, Spanish V, or German V); AP Computer Science (Java) is also available. Overall, in 2013, 89% of students who wrote AP exams earned a score of 3 or higher, and 75% earned a score of 4 or higher.

**English:** After taking required 9th and 10th grade English foundations courses, students select from a wide variety of English electives as juniors and seniors. These rigorous, college-level electives must fulfill genre requirements in composition, drama and poetry; the prose and writing genres are also offered.

## College-Level Courses

**English:** All 11th and 12th grade electives in all major genres

**Mathematics:** Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations, Fractal Geometry, Chaos Theory. Students may earn credit from the University of Pittsburgh for Calculus and Statistics courses.

**Science:** Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, Chemical Equilibrium, Advanced Biology, Advanced Topics in Environmental Science, Advanced Physics, Advanced Astrophysics, Advanced Topics in Newtonian Mechanics

**World Language:** Levels IIA and IIIA in French and Spanish are considered “advanced”; Level IV is college-level.

**History:** Philosophy, Economics, Social Theory and Global Impact, Human Rights and Democracy in China, Social Justice.

## Special Academic Programs

**Independent Study:** Independent study allows a student to explore and investigate in depth a special area of academic interest that goes beyond our curriculum offerings. The student selects a faculty mentor willing to oversee the project on a regular basis. These projects must be taken for credit and carry with them the same responsibilities as regular curriculum offerings. Nearly 20 percent of juniors and seniors complete independent study programs, ranging from real analysis and proof writing to play writing to the science of gas drilling.

**Writing Across the Curriculum:** Writing occurs throughout the curriculum and across all disciplines from English to Science. Shady Side students are taught to think critically, to reason ethically, to listen carefully, to speak, to write and to read with clarity and precision.

**Off-Campus Semester Programs:** Shady Side is a member of The Chewonki School (Maine Coast), High Mountain Institute (Rocky Mountains), CITYterm (New York City), Alzar School (Idaho/Chile) and the Oxbow School (Napa, California). These programs offer an alternative experience for one semester in the sophomore or junior year, combining rigorous academic classroom and field experience with a theme that focuses on exploring people’s connections with their environment.

**Off-Campus International Programs:** Shady Side participates in School Year Abroad and an international exchange programs with The Wuhan Foreign Languages School in Wuhan, China, St. Joseph de Tivoli in Bordeaux, France, Gymnasium Oldenfelde in Hamburg, Germany, and Liceo Europeo in Madrid, Spain.

**Parkin Fellowships for Global Service:** Parkin Fellowships provide students with summer grants to complete international service or environmental projects around the globe.

## Statement on Discipline

Shady Side Academy holds its students to high standards of performance in all areas, including behavior. As a result, we view our discipline system as a critical element of our students’ learning and development. **Any student at Shady Side Academy is a student in good standing and one the Academy believes would be a worthy addition to any college community.** If a student were not, that student would not be a member of our school community. It is our hope to help students navigate adolescence in a manner that they develop the thoughtfulness and judgment that will serve them well at any institution and throughout life. For additional information, please feel free to contact our college counselors.

## Grading and Ranking

Shady Side Academy maintains rigorous standards of grading and awards letter grades as follows:

A+	(4.33)	Exceptional
A	(4.00)	“
A -	(3.67)	“
B+	(3.33)	Mastery
B	(3.00)	“
B -	(2.67)	“
C+	(2.33)	Qualified
C	(2.00)	“
C-	(1.67)	“
D+	(1.33)	Limited Comprehension
D	(1.00)	“
D -	(0.67)	“
F	(0.00)	Lacks Understanding

**Shady Side Academy does not rank.** Academy policy also prohibits the rating of a student’s course selection or any other rating scales.

## Junior Grade Distribution 2012-2013

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D↓
<b>ARTS</b>										
Visual Arts (architecture, ceramics, photography)	35	60	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts (acting, electronic sound studio)	5	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>ELECTIVES</b>										
AP Computer Science	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Problem Solving I & II (Computer Science)	4	13	5	3	2	4	1	0	0	0
Economics	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>ENGLISH</b>										
Upper Form Term Electives	23	114	105	118	75	41	3	1	0	3
<b>HISTORY</b>										
Patterns of Western Identity	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
United States History	0	29	29	31	21	6	3	0	0	0
Between the Wars	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>										
Trigonometry	2	9	10	9	12	7	4	4	1	3
BC Trigonometry	5	8	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Precalculus	0	14	12	13	13	3	3	4	1	1
BC Calculus I (AP)	2	4	2	7	4	0	0	0	0	0
Calculus	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
AB Calculus (AP)	0	3	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
BC Calculus II (AP)	3	13	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linear Algebra	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Variable Calculus	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Problem Based Mathematics II	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
Statistics	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Differential Equations	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fractal Geometry and Chaos Theory	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SCIENCE</b>										
Concepts of Physics	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concepts of Chemistry	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Biology I	6	13	13	25	14	6	1	3	0	1
Physics II	1	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	0	0
Advanced Topics: Astrophysics	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Advanced Biology	1	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advanced Topics: Environmental Science	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organic Chemistry	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical Equilibrium	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advanced Topics: Newtonian Mechanics	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>										
Chinese III	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
French I & II	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French II Advanced	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
French III	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
French III Advanced	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
French IV Advanced	2	1	2	4	1	0	2	0	0	1
AP French Language	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin IV Advanced	1	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish I & II	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish II Advanced	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish III	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0
Spanish III Advanced	1	2	4	5	1	0	0	2	0	0
Spanish IV	0	3	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
Spanish IV Advanced	0	3	5	6	5	2	0	0	0	0
AP Spanish Language	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
German III	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
German IV Advanced	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AP German Language	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Standardized Testing

In the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program, Shady Side has nine National Merit semifinalists and two National Achievement semifinalists.

*Standardized Test Ranges through June 2013*

### ACT (71 Tests)

Standardized Test	Mean	Middle 50%
Composite	28	26-31
English	28	24-33
Math	28	26-30
Reading	28	24-33
Science Reason	27	25-30

### SAT (117 Tests)

Standardized Test	Mean	Middle 50%
Critical Reading	619	550-690
Math	645	590-700
Writing	634	560-710
Combined	1898	1720-2080

### SAT Subject Tests

# Tested / Subject	Mean	Range
10   Biology:Ecology	661	590-730
6   Biology:Molecular	715	720 - 750
6   Chemistry	620	570 - 700
37   English Lit.	635	560 - 690
27   Math Level I	643	560 - 700
51   Math Level II	677	600 - 730
8   Physics	670	600 - 730
3   Spanish	603	520 - 740
13   U.S. History	572	530 - 600

## College Matriculation 2010-2013

Allegheny College (7)	Duquesne University (7)	Ohio State University
University of Alabama	Earlham College	University of Oklahoma
Amherst College	Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	University of Pennsylvania (11)
University of Arizona	Elon University (8)	Pennsylvania State University (14)
Auburn University	Emerson College	University of Pittsburgh (24)
Babson College	Emory University	Princeton University
Bard College	Fordham University	Providence College
Bentley University	Franklin and Marshall College	Purdue University
Berklee College of Music	Furman University (7)	University of Richmond (7)
Boston College (6)	Georgetown University	Rhodes College
Boston University (9)	George Washington University (15)	Roanoke College
Bowdoin College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Robert Morris University
Bowling Green State University	Gettysburg College	Rochester Institute of Technology
University of British Columbia	Grove City College	University of Rochester
Brown University	Hamilton College	Rollins College
Bucknell University (5)	Harvard College	Saint Joseph's University
University of California at Berkeley	High Point University	Sewanee: The University of the South
California Institute of Technology	Hiram College	Simmons College
California University of Pennsylvania	Hobart and William Smith Colleges (5)	Skidmore College
Carleton College	Indiana University at Bloomington (5)	Spelman College
Carnegie Mellon University (22)	Ithaca College	University of South Carolina
Case Western Reserve University	John Carroll University	University of Southern California
Catholic University of America	Johns Hopkins University	Stanford University
University of Chicago (5)	Kenyon College	Syracuse University
Clemson University	Lafayette College	University of Texas, Austin
Colby College	Lake Forest College	Trinity College
Colgate University	Lehigh University (5)	Tufts University
College of Charleston	University of Louisville	Tulane University
College of the Holy Cross	Loyola University Maryland	Union College
College of Wooster	University of Maryland, College Park (6)	United States Air Force Academy
Colorado College	Massachusetts Institute Technology	United States Merchant Marine Academy
University of Colorado at Boulder	McGill University	University of Vermont (5)
Columbia University	Miami University, Oxford (7)	University of Virginia
University of Connecticut	University of Michigan (11)	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Cornell University (6)	Montana State University, Bozeman	Vanderbilt University
Dartmouth College	Mount Holyoke College	Vassar College
Davidson College	Muhlenberg College	Villanova University (6)
University of Dayton	New York University (5)	Virginia Military Institute
University of Delaware	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Virginia Polytechnic Inst. and State Univ.
Denison University (5)	North Carolina State University	Wake Forest University (7)
University of Denver	Northeastern University	Washington and Jefferson College (5)
DePauw University	Northwestern University (6)	Washington University in St. Louis (7)
Dickinson College	University of Notre Dame (6)	Wesleyan University
Drexel University	Oberlin College	Xavier University
Duke University	Ohio University	Yale University