



SHADY SIDE ACADEMY

423 Fox Chapel Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
(t) 412-968-3000
(f) 412-968-3231

www.shadysideacademy.org

Thomas M. Cangiano
President

Sophie Lau
Head of Senior School

Lauren Lieberman '98
Director of College Counseling
llieberman@shadysideacademy.org

Tom Colt
Associate Director
of College Counseling
tcolt@shadysideacademy.org

Julie A. Hertz
Associate Director
of College Counseling
jhertz@shadysideacademy.org

Louise Ford
Assistant to the College Counselors
lford@shadysideacademy.org

CEEB: # 393901

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)

PACAC (Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counselors)

ACCIS (The Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools)

2016-2017 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 suburban Fox Chapel neighborhood of Pittsburgh on a 130-acre college-like campus with six academic buildings, is a college-preparatory school with an optional five- or seven-day boarding experiences. For more than 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 (2016-2017): 925

Junior School: 235

Middle School: 210

Senior School: 480

(including 65 boarders: 36 five-day and 29 seven-day)

56% male, 44% female

28% are students of color

30% receive financial assistance including 29 students in our merit and legacy programs

Student-to-teacher ratio: 8 to 1

Average class size: 15

Students come from 56 different ZIP codes in Allegheny County, plus 11 other PA counties, 10 states and five countries

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 74 faculty members at Shady Side Academy Senior School, 77 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 in the Senior School)

Laboratory Science (6 of a laboratory science)

Foreign Language (9, mastery of level 3)

History/Social Studies (9) & U.S. History paper

Elective Courses (varies by student to achieve 55 credits)

Arts (3)

Computer Science (2)

Health (2)

Athletics (minimum of five seasons)

CPR Certification (in Health)

Swimming Safety (in Health)

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 (AP French, AP Spanish or AP German); AP Computer Science (Java) is also available. For the two most recent graduating classes, 85% of students who took an AP exam earned a score of 3 or higher, and 69% earned a score of 4 or 5.

- After taking required 9th and 10th grade **English** foundations courses, students select from a wide variety of English electives as juniors and seniors.

College-Level Courses

English: All 11th and 12th grade term electives.

History: All 11th and 12th grade term electives. Year-long courses in Philosophy, Economics.

Mathematics: Students may earn credit from the University of Pittsburgh for year-long Calculus and Statistics courses. All term electives in 11th and 12th grade.

Science: Year-long courses in: Organic Chemistry, Advanced Biology, Environmental Science, Physics II (different sections delineated by Algebra or Calculus), Advanced Topics in Physics, Advanced Astrophysics, all Chemistry electives, and Psychology.

World Language: Levels IIA and IIIA in French and Spanish are considered “advanced”; Level IV and V of all languages are college-level.

Course Numbering

Course Numbering on Transcript – Because Shady Side Academy offers so few designated advanced classes, we use an internal numbering system on our transcripts. The course numbering system indicates curricular sequence as follows: 100 level - 9th grade; 200 level - 10th grade; 300 level - 11th grade; 400 level - 12th grade, 500 level - AP or Very Advanced. College level courses are 400 level and higher and use college texts or reading materials.

Special Academic Programs

Independent Study: Independent Study allows a student to explore and investigate in depth a special area of academic interest which 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. In the 2015-2016 academic year, 19 percent of juniors and seniors completed independent study projects, ranging from real analysis and proof writing to play writing to the science of gas drilling.

Senior Project: The Senior Project is designed to recognize and meet the special needs of those seniors who are ready for a substantial and serious learning experience outside the traditional setting of the classroom. The senior project emphasizes the importance of planning and setting goals in researching and proposing an original project. In 2016, 15 students completed a Senior Project.

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 students an alternative experience for one semester in the sophomore or junior year. These programs combine rigorous academic classroom and field experience with a theme that focuses on exploring people’s connections with their environment.

International Programs: Shady Side students may participate in School Year Abroad and international exchange programs with The Wuhan Foreign Languages School in China, St. Joseph de Tivoli in Bordeaux, France, Gymnasium Oldenfelde in Hamburg, Germany, and Liceo Europeo in Madrid, Spain.

Parkin Fellowships for Global Service: Awarded in a selective competition, Parkin Fellowships provide students with summer grants to complete international service or environmental projects around the globe.

Statement of Discipline

In adhering to the Statement of Principles of Good Practice of the National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC), Shady Side Academy will honor all specific requests concerning a student’s disciplinary record. Most college applications require that students, and the college counselors, truthfully answer all questions regarding disciplinary violations from 9th grade forward. We ask each student to provide a written explanation within two weeks of disciplinary action, which is then followed-up by counselor contact with colleges. The College Counseling Office also will report any significant change in a student’s academic status or qualification, including personal conduct record, between the time of recommendation and graduation. This would include any changes following acceptance to college, or a significant drop in academic average in the spring of the senior year. In addition, students are expected to complete all college applications with complete honesty. We hold students to the same high standards of integrity in the production of college applications as they are held to in their academic work.

Junior Grade Distribution 2015-2016

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D↓
ARTS										
Visual Arts	33	31	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts	1	12	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVES										
AP Computer Science	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Problem Solving I	3	18	8	8	2	3	1	1	0	0
Robotics	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intro to Economics	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
ENGLISH										
Upper Form Term Electives	14	87	99	80	57	22	7	0	2	0
HISTORY										
Patterns of Western Identity	1	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
U.S. History	3	29	23	21	26	7	6	0	0	0
MATHEMATICS										
BC Calculus, Pt. I	0	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	0
BC Calculus, Pt. II	4	4	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
BC Trigonometry	3	1	2	1	3	1	2	0	0	0
Calculus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Calculus AB AP	1	8	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Differential Equations	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discrete Structures	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linear Algebra	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Multi-Variable Calculus	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Precalculus	2	15	15	13	10	6	1	2	1	2
Trigonometry	7	12	14	10	5	7	3	5	2	0
SCIENCE										
Acid Base Chemistry	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advanced Biology	1	6	3	4	0	2	1	0	0	0
Biology I	3	18	23	22	15	10	4	2	2	0
Chemistry Equilibrium	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Environmental Science	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ionic Equilibrium/Qual. Analysis	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organic Chemistry	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physics II (Calculus)	4	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
WORLD LANGUAGES										
Chinese I, IIIA, IVA	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
German I, II, III, IVA	0	5	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
Latin III, IVA	5	8	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish IIA, III, IIIA	1	2	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Spanish IV, IVA, V	7	11	14	5	3	1	1	2	0	0
French I, II, III, IIIA	3	2	5	3	4	1	0	0	0	0
French IV, IVA and AP	3	0	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0

Note: The classes listed had three or more juniors enrolled

Grading and Ranking

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

A+ (4.33)	C+ (2.33)
A (4.00)	C (2.00)
A- (3.67)	C- (1.67)
B+ (3.33)	D+ (1.33)
B (3.00)	D (1.00)
B- (2.67)	D- (0.67)
	F (0.00)

Shady Side Academy does not rank.

Academy policy also prohibits the rating of a student's course selection or any other rating scales. GPAs are not weighted.

Standardized Testing

In Fall 2016, 10 students have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

Standardized Test Ranges for the past four graduating classes, 2013-2016

ACT (340 Tests)

Standardized Test	Mean	Middle 50%
English	27.8	25-33
Math	27.3	25-30
Reading	27.6	25-32
Science Reasoning	25.3	23-38
Composite	27.1	25-31

SAT (476 Tests)

Standardized Test	Mean	Middle 50%
Critical Reading	627	560-690
Math	646	590-700
Writing	639	570-710
Combined	1912	1740-2090

SAT Subject Tests

# Tested / Subject	Mean	Range
54 Biology - Ecology	653	590 - 730
47 Biology - Molecular	683	600 - 740
45 Chemistry	657	570 - 720
2 Chinese with Listening	660	560 - 760
179 English Literature	626	570 - 680
22 French	579	520 - 630
3 German	500	440 - 550
2 German with Listening	410	400 - 420
2 Italian	685	620 - 750
2 Korean with Listening	775	770 - 780
29 Latin	664	590 - 730
126 Math Level I	623	570 - 690
200 Math Level II	697	640 - 750
34 Physics	670	600 - 750
21 Spanish	585	520 - 650
2 Spanish with Listening	700	660 - 740
50 U.S. History	640	560 - 720
7 World History	580	490 - 580

Allegheny College (6)	Gustavus Adolphus College	The College of Wooster (3)
American University (3)	Hamilton College (5)	The George Washington University (11)
Amherst College (4)	Harvard University (3)	The Ohio State University (2)
Arizona State University (2)	High Point University	The University of Akron
Assumption College	Hobart and William Smith Colleges (6)	The University of Alabama (6)
Baldwin Wallace University	Indiana University at Bloomington (10)	The University of Arizona (2)
Bates College (2)	Kenyon College (4)	The University of Texas, Austin
Beloit College	Lafayette College (4)	Trinity College
Berklee College of Music	Lake Forest College	Tufts University (4)
Boston College (6)	Lehigh University (7)	Tulane University
Boston University (7)	Loyola University Maryland	United States Air Force Academy (3)
Bowdoin College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (3)	United States Military Academy - Army (2)
Brown University (2)	McGill University (2)	United States Naval Academy
Bryn Mawr College	Mercyhurst University	University College London
Bucknell University (11)	Miami University, Oxford (11)	University of British Columbia
Carnegie Mellon University (13)	Middlebury College (2)	University of California (5)
Case Western Reserve University (5)	Mount Holyoke College	University of Cambridge
Champlain College	Muhlenberg College	University of Chicago (2)
Clarion University of Pennsylvania	New England College	University of Colorado at Boulder (3)
Coastal Carolina University	New York University (10)	University of Dayton
Colgate University (6)	North Carolina State University	University of Kentucky
College of Charleston (4)	Northeastern University (2)	University of Louisville
College of the Holy Cross (2)	Northwestern University (2)	University of Maryland, College Park
Colorado College	Notre Dame College of Ohio	University of Miami
Colorado State University	Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences	University of Michigan (4)
Columbia College Chicago	Ohio University	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Columbia University (3)	Ohio Wesleyan University (2)	University of Mount Union (2)
Connecticut College	Pennsylvania State University (15)	University of New Hampshire at Durham
Cornell University (3)	Pennsylvania State Honors College (4)	University of Notre Dame (3)
Dartmouth College (2)	Point Park University	University of Pennsylvania (15)
Davidson College (3)	Pomona College	University of Pittsburgh (32)
Denison University (7)	Princeton University (5)	University of Richmond (5)
DePaul University (2)	Purdue University	University of Rochester (2)
DePauw University (2)	Reed College	University of South Carolina (3)
Dickinson College (4)	Rice University	University of Vermont (4)
Drexel University	Rochester Institute of Technology (2)	University of Virginia (3)
Duke University (4)	Rollins College (2)	University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)
Duquesne University (6)	Saint Anselm College	Vanderbilt University
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	Saint Joseph's University	Villanova University
Elon University (10)	Saint Vincent College (2)	Virginia Military Institute
Emory University (9)	Sewanee: The University of the South (2)	Virginia Tech
Emory University - Oxford College	Shawnee State University	Wagner College
Florida State University	Smith College	Wake Forest University (6)
Fordham University (4)	Southern Methodist University (3)	Washington and Jefferson College
Franklin & Marshall College (4)	Spelman College	Washington and Lee University (2)
Furman University (5)	St. Lawrence University	Washington University in St. Louis (12)
Georgetown University (8)	Stanford University (3)	Williams College (4)
Georgia Institute of Technology (3)	Syracuse University (6)	Xavier University
Grove City College (3)	The Catholic University of America	Yale University