



## 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

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

**Lucas Frankel**  
College Counselor  
lfrankel@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)

# 2017-2018 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 four 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 (2017-2018): 1,035

Country Day School: 120

Junior School: 245

Middle School: 210

Senior School: 460

(including 61 boarders: 23 five-day and 38 seven-day)

55% male, 45% female

28% are students of color

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

Student-to-teacher ratio: 8 to 1

Average class size: 15

Students come from 53 different ZIP codes in Allegheny County, plus 10 other PA counties, nine states and nine 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 73 faculty members at Shady Side Academy Senior School, 80 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)

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: math, foreign language and computer science. Of these, the AP exam is a requirement in Calculus (AB or BC) and language (AP French, AP Spanish, AP German or AP Chinese); AP Computer Science (Java) is also available. For the class of 2018, 45 students took a total of 93 AP tests. Eighty percent of these students scored a 4 or a 5 and 95% scored a 3 and above.

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

## College-Level Courses

**English:** All 11th and 12th grade term courses.

**History:** All 11th and 12th grade term electives; year-long courses in Philosophy and Economics.

**Mathematics:** AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC; All 11th and 12th grade term electives. Students may earn credit from the University of Pittsburgh for year-long Calculus and Statistics courses.

**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 Languages:** AP Spanish, AP French, AP Chinese and AP German; Course titles noted with “A” are considered “Advanced;” Level IV and V of all languages are college-level.

**Computer Science:** AP Computer Science

## 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 or introductory; 200 level - 10th grade; 300 level - 11th grade; 400 level - 12th grade, 500 level - AP or highest level offered.

## 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 2017, 19 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.

## Junior Grade Distribution 2016-2017

|                               | A+ | A  | A- | B+ | B  | B- | C+ | C | C- | D↓ |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| <b>ARTS</b>                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| Visual/Performing Arts        | 48 | 28 | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| <b>COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| Problem Solving I             | 7  | 22 | 10 | 4  | 7  | 0  | 4  | 0 | 1  | 0  |
| Robotics                      | 2  | 5  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| <b>ENGLISH</b>                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| Upper Form Term Electives     | 8  | 84 | 93 | 68 | 85 | 40 | 17 | 5 | 1  | 4  |
| <b>HISTORY</b>                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| Patterns of Western Identity  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| U.S. History                  | 1  | 31 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 5  | 4  | 5 | 0  | 1  |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b>            |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| BC Calculus, Pt. I            | 0  | 2  | 7  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| BC Trigonometry               | 2  | 7  | 8  | 3  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Calculus                      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Calculus AB                   | 3  | 7  | 2  | 6  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| BC Calculus, Pt. II           | 0  | 6  | 3  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Precalculus                   | 2  | 22 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 5  | 10 | 5 | 3  | 2  |
| Trigonometry                  | 4  | 15 | 17 | 7  | 15 | 4  | 3  | 2 | 0  | 2  |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| Advanced Biology              | 5  | 3  | 3  | 4  | 4  | 2  | 1  | 1 | 1  | 0  |
| Biology I                     | 6  | 15 | 14 | 16 | 3  | 6  | 3  | 5 | 3  | 1  |
| Chemistry                     | 0  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 1  | 0  |
| Physics II (Algebra)          | 5  | 1  | 0  | 3  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| <b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>        |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |
| Chinese III, IIIA, IVA, V, VA | 5  | 11 | 8  | 7  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| French I, II, III, IIIA       | 2  | 2  | 6  | 3  | 4  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| French IVA, V, VP             | 2  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Latin III, IVA                | 2  | 5  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Spanish IIA, III, IIIA        | 0  | 3  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Spanish IV, IVA, V            | 3  | 10 | 15 | 6  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |

Note: The classes listed had five or more juniors enrolled

## 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.

## 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)  |

A student's grade point average is calculated based on year-end grades.

**GPAs are not weighted. Shady Side Academy does not rank.**

The highest GPA in the Class of 2018 as of the end of Junior Year: 4.24

## Standardized Testing

In 2016-2017, 10 students were named National Merit Semifinalists.

*Standardized test ranges for the past four graduating classes combined, 2014-2017*

### SAT (424 Tests)

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

### rSAT (43 Tests)

| Standardized Test                | Mean | Middle 50% |
|----------------------------------|------|------------|
| Evidence Based Reading & Writing | 627  | 600-690    |
| Math                             | 646  | 590-700    |

### ACT (120 Tests)

| Standardized Test | Mean | Middle 50% |
|-------------------|------|------------|
| ELA               |      | 24-31      |
| English           | 29   | 26-34      |
| Math              | 28   | 26-31      |
| Reading           | 29   | 27-34      |
| Science           |      | 25-31      |
| STEM              |      | 25-31      |
| Writing           |      | 20-26      |
| Composite         | 28   | 26-32      |

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