



Abbey at a Glance

PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

For more in-depth information about Portsmouth Abbey School, its programs, and its community, including curriculum, test score ranges, and grade distribution, as well as contact information, please consult the full profile.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

English Benedictine Catholic Boarding & Day
Governed by a Board of Regents
Campus includes a working monastery
Accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges
CEEB Code 400130

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Calendar: Trimesters; *fall term grades are mid-year grades.*

All courses are year-long and earn 1 credit with the exception of Humanities, a double-block, 2-credit course.

Grading: Grades are reported as A – F; GPAs calculated on a 4.0 scale; no courses are weighted; no cumulative GPA reported; we do not rank students.

Minimum Graduation Requirements: theology, 4; English, 4; math, 3; laboratory sciences, 2; history, 2; foreign language, 3 in 1 language or 2 each in 2 languages; visual or performing arts 1; students entering in Form III must take a year of Latin; 95% of students graduate with 4 or more years of mathematics and 3 or more of laboratory science.

AP courses are offered in most academic areas; **honors courses** are offered in math, science, languages, Irish History Seminar.

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 6th form (senior) year.

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Portsmouth Abbey students are required to be involved in a co-curricular, after-school program each term. Other clubs and activities are offered during the school day, in the evenings, and on weekends.

Academic

Activities and competitions (generally conducted during the school day, evenings and weekends) include Model United Nations, New England Math League, American Mathematics Competition, Chemistry Club, National Latin Exam, Poetry Out Loud,

various robotics and computer programming competitions, and the annual Physics Department Build-a-Boat-Competition.

Community Service

All Abbey 4th formers (10th grade) are required to perform **10 hours of community service**. In addition, students may participate in one or more of the after-school service internships that provide support for local aid organizations and schools. Expanded service projects include the **Appalachia Service Project**, offered over March break, a Habitat for Humanity-style program during which students and faculty build or repair homes in economically depressed areas; the **Clothe-a-Child** program, which each year provides winter coats and clothes to more than 250 needy children in this area; the **DC March for Life**; and the local **Walk for Cancer**. Students are welcome to, and often do, **create new opportunities** for service.

Visual and Performing Arts

The Visual Arts Department's after-school program allows students to pursue independent projects under the mentoring of the art faculty. Many students submit work to and receive recognition from regional art competitions.

The Performing Arts Department offers after-school programs that include opportunities for the study of, participation in, and leadership in drama, vocal and instrumental music, and dance. Music students have successfully participated and/or successfully competed in the **Rhode Island All-State Music Festival and the Berklee College of Music's High School Jazz Festival**.

Athletics

Most Abbey students compete in at least one sport each year; many compete in 2 or 3. Portsmouth Abbey fields 24 varsity teams in 16 sports, with JV teams available in all sports. In the past three years, Abbey teams have won **11 league or regional championships; 7 coaches have been selected as league "Coach of the Year,"** and **8 student athletes have been named league "Player of the Year"** in their respective sports. In addition, **30 athletes have been selected All State and 3 have been selected All American**. The Abbey sailing team finished **12th in the nation** in the spring of 2014.

Publications

Abbey students are involved in the planning, writing, editing, art and photography, layout, graphic design, and publication of the school newspaper, literary magazine, yearbook, and scholarly journal.

SCHOOL-WIDE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Student Government: the Head Boy and Head Girl are elected by the student body and together function as student body presidents. In addition to the Head Boy and Head Girl, student government is made up of the president and vice president of each form (grade), as well as one elected representative from each house (dorm).

Prefects are chosen through an extremely competitive process to serve as liaisons between house parents and students. Their primary role is to set a positive and healthy tone in the dorms. Their responsibilities include everything from daily tasks—proctoring study hall, taking attendance, keeping order—to acting as mentors and role models in their dorms. Prefects are some of the best, most respected students on campus.

The Abbey's **Honor Committee** and **Discipline Committee** each include three student members. Selection to either committee is an indication of the high regard in which the student is held by the faculty, administration, and peers.

Red Key members are chosen by the Admission Office to serve as tour guides, help with admission functions, and assist in other ways with student recruitment.

International Student Leaders are a select group of 6th formers chosen from among our international student population to act as liaisons and mentors to our international community. The International Student Leaders arrive on campus ahead of the rest of the students so that they may participate in leadership training and prepare and help run the orientation for new international students and parents.

Other leadership opportunities include but are not limited to **editors** of the school's four major publications (yearbook, *Gregorian*; literary magazine, *The Raven*; scholarly journal, *Scriptorium*; and newspaper, *The Beacon*); **captains** of athletic teams; and in the **performing arts**, stage manager, section leaders, directors, arrangers, choreographers.

SUMMER PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Grants from the **Haney Fellowship** fund two or three students per year to pursue independent projects of their own creation over the summer before their 6th form year. Applicants must present a proposal for a project that will deepen a particular academic, artistic, or cultural interest, and competition is fierce. Recent grants have funded music study in

Boston, a wind turbine installation in South Africa, literacy projects in Tibet and India, AIDS/HIV care in Nepal, and turtle conservation in Costa Rica.

The **Ali Sacco Internship** funds 1 student a year to spend 2 weeks of their pre-6th form summer in Boston shadowing pediatric cardiologists at Boston Children's Hospital.

The **Lourdes Pilgrimage** sends a small, select group of Abbey students to Lourdes, France each summer for a week of assisting physically disabled pilgrims.

Students joining the **Salamanca, Spain, Study Program** spend a month in Salamanca studying the language and culture, under the auspices of the University of Rhode Island.

The **Humanities Rome Program** takes students to Italy for two weeks of interdisciplinary study.

Students participating in the **Prague Visual Arts Trip** spend nine days under the tutelage of the Visual Arts faculty exploring the culture and art of this ancient capital.

Important information to note:

- * **Abbey students apply to, on average, 8 schools**
- * **If schools ask about discipline issues, students are expected to self-report; counselors confirm accuracy of details and outcome.**
- * **By school policy, counselor and teacher recommendations are confidential.**
- * **Students are counseled not to list other schools to which they are applying.**
- * **Students are counseled to list schools in alphabetical order on the FAFSA.**
- * **Course rigor: Because of the unique graduation requirements, the number of honors and AP courses a student may take is somewhat limited. A curriculum that includes 6 to 8 AP courses and honors courses in most disciplines (if offered) would be considered the most rigorous available.**



Profile 2014 - 2015

PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

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FACTS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

History - Founded by the Rev. Dom Hugh Diman in 1926, as an independent Catholic preparatory school under the auspices of the English Benedictine Congregation.

Location - Portsmouth Abbey and School are located in Rhode Island, on Aquidneck Island, overlooking Narragansett Bay, seven miles north of Newport.

Student Body - Portsmouth Abbey School enrolls, on average, 360+ students in Forms III-VI (grades 9-12) each year, of which about 75% are boarding and 25% day students. This year's students come from 25 states and 21 foreign countries. There are 118 students in Form VI, all of whom are expected to attend college.

While the student body is predominantly Catholic (about two-thirds), students from Protestant, Buddhist, Muslim, Taoist, and Jewish faiths also find a warm welcome at the Abbey. Thirty-five percent of the student body receives \$3.25 million in financial aid. Portsmouth Abbey regularly enrolls students from such programs as A Better Chance, New Jersey Seeds, and other community-based organizations dedicated to providing an education for underserved populations. The Abbey also serves as a "prep year" for students entering the U.S. Military and Naval Academies, as well as for Thai Scholars, whose postgraduate study is sponsored by the government of Thailand.

Faculty - 50 lay teachers and 2 monks; 34 faculty members, or 65%, hold advanced degrees, 6 of them at the doctorate level.

Forms - Portsmouth Abbey School names its class years using the British National system. Third Form is freshman year; Fourth Form, sophomore; Fifth Form, junior; and Sixth Form, senior year.

Accreditation - Portsmouth Abbey School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Calendar - The academic year consists of three equally weighted terms. Each term ends with a formal examination period. The examinations are 1/4 of the term grade. First term (mid-year) grades are available in December.

Memberships - Portsmouth Abbey School holds memberships in the National Association for College Admission Counseling, New England Association for College Admission Counseling, The Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling, The College Board, National Association of Independent Schools, Association of Independent Schools of New England, Independent School Association of Rhode Island, National Catholic Education Association, The Association of Boarding Schools, The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, The Cum Laude Society, and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements include 4 years of religion; 4 years of English; 3 years of mathematics*, including Algebra I, II, and Geometry; 2 years of a laboratory science*; 2 years of history, including 1 year of U.S. History and 1 year of European History; 1 year in the arts; 3 years of a foreign language, or a combination of 2 years in any 2 foreign languages.

**Ninety-five percent or better graduate with four years of math and three or more years of science.*

Students in Form IV fulfill their religion, English and European History requirements by taking an integrated course in Humanities.

In addition, students who enter the School in Form III are required to take courses in Latin and Ancient History. All students must participate in community service, and all students are required to participate in athletics.

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU ENROLL AN ABBEY STUDENT?

Since its founding in 1926, the Portsmouth Abbey School has been immersing students in a rigorous study of the foundations of Western civilization, intellectual tradition, and culture. As a school in the Benedictine tradition, Portsmouth Abbey seeks to instill in its students the Benedictine love of knowledge, study, discussion, and the exchange of ideas. In addition, the Abbey fosters a strong sense of community and promotes spiritual growth in a non-judgmental, values-based, Benedictine Catholic setting.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN IN TERMS OF A STUDENT'S PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE AND LIFE?

❖ The Benedictine focus on the **discussion of knowledge** and the **exchange of ideas** dictates that classes be kept small and that they be conducted in a **seminar format** that fosters freedom of expression. Regular participation in discussions is expected.

- ❖ Students who enter as Third Formers are required to study **Latin** for one year, focusing on vocabulary and basic grammar, with **emphasis on thinking coherently and logically about language and its usage.**
- ❖ Students are required to take a religion course each year that they are enrolled at Portsmouth Abbey School. The religion courses include an **academic** exploration of **theology, church history, and ethics**, and an examination of the application of Catholic **doctrine** and **ethics** in such areas as **public policy** and **biomedical issues.**
- ❖ Comprehensive **writing instruction**, both structured and unstructured, takes place across all Forms and all disciplines:
 - **formal essay instruction** in all English classes;
 - a department-wide **writing assessment** at the end of the Third and Fourth Form years (all students write an *ex tempore* essay which is “blind” graded by all members of the English and Humanities Departments);
 - **small group writing instruction** during Fourth Form year, focusing on the mechanics and aesthetics of composition, modes of rhetoric, and the review, critique, and revision, individually and in groups, of student writing;
 - writing assignments that cover **all genre**;
 - **significant writing and research assignments in all disciplines**;
 - a **required Sixth Form Thesis** in the form of an **extended critical analysis** of a major work of literature;
 - an optional extended **formal research project** in the form of a Sixth Form Independent Study Project;
 - the opportunity to publish work in the School’s newspaper, *The Beacon*; literary magazine, *The Raven*; and in *Scriptorium*, the academic journal; and
 - **public speaking instruction and opportunities**, a natural extension of the writing program, are provided in all disciplines.
- ❖ An **in-depth, double-block/double-credit, interdisciplinary Humanities course** during the Fourth Form year provides all students with an intensive grounding in the language, literature, history, religion and thought of western civilization. Students study such foundational texts as Saint Paul’s *Letter to the Romans*, Augustine’s *Confessions*, Thomas Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae*, Dante’s *Inferno*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, and Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*, as well as works by More, Bacon, Locke, Descartes, Pascal, de Tocqueville, Kierkegaard, Marx, Freud, Joyce, and others. This seminar work is supplemented by “plenary” sessions discussing unifying themes and issues. Small section assignments include analysis of poetry, creative and expository writing, and major research papers on various topics.
- ❖ It is important to note that the **science sequence** at the Abbey **begins with a course in physics.** Students then go on to chemistry, then biology. **All science courses**, including the science electives, are **laboratory sciences.** While the graduation requirement is for 2 years of science, the only

students who do not take 3 or more science courses are those who are “doubling up” in another discipline, most often taking both Latin and a modern language. Ninety-eight per cent of our students graduate with 3 or more credits in science.

- ❖ Because of the **inherent rigor of the curriculum** and the **unique graduation requirements**, students are **limited in the number of honors and Advanced Placement courses in which they can enroll.** Therefore it is extremely rare for a Portsmouth Abbey student to take an AP course before Fifth Form (Junior) year; **our top students will graduate with 6 to 8 AP courses.** In addition, while Portsmouth Abbey School is prepared to offer a broad range of Advanced Placement courses, because of the small size of the school, in some years a particular course might not be available.
- ❖ The presence of twelve **Benedictine monks** in the abbey (or monastery) and on campus exerts a profound influence on our community. The monks participate in all areas of campus life, teaching, coaching, mentoring, studying, and joining in on lively, extemporaneous discussions with students and staff. No matter a student’s religious beliefs, he or she cannot help but benefit from **daily interaction with a community of men who have chosen to live their beliefs and practice their faith in a deeply personal manner.**
- ❖ As part of their stewardship of God’s world, the Monks and the Portsmouth Abbey community are committed to modeling a **“green” lifestyle.** Our **164-foot-tall wind turbine**, a landmark along Narragansett Bay, provides about **40% of our community’s electrical needs.** Beginning with a new girls’ dormitory that opened in 2007, all new construction will follow LEED guidelines and standards.

ADMISSIONS TESTING PROGRAM

The middle 50% of SAT scores for the class of 2015, as of June 2014 were as follows:

Total: 1610-1960 Critical Reading: 530-660*
 Math: 530-670* Writing : 520-650*

Sextile	Verbal		Math		Writing	
	high	low	high	low	high	low
First	800	690	800	730	800	700
Second	690	630	700	660	700	610
Third	630	580	650	590	610	560
Fourth	580	560	590	550	560	530
Fifth	550	500	550	480	530	490
Sixth	500	380	480	330	490	360

* Includes 28 students whose native language is not English.

GRADES

Grades are reported on a letter scale: A+ through D; F is a failure. For the purpose of computing grade point averages, quality points are assigned to letter grades as follows:

A+ = 4.3	B+ = 3.5	C+ = 2.5	D+ = 1.5
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.8	B- = 2.8	C- = 1.8	F = 0

Grade point averages reported are **not weighted and not cumulative.** Class rank is **not** reported.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Portsmouth Abbey offers a broad range of Advanced Placement courses, although the offerings vary from year to year based on interest. For the academic year 2014-2015, 101 members of the Class of 2015 are currently enrolled in AP courses in English, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Computer Science, European History, U.S. History, French, Latin, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Music or Art History. Sixty-four members of the Class of 2015 have already taken Advanced Placement courses and examinations as Fifth Formers in 21 different subject areas.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

All courses at Portsmouth Abbey School are year-long. Students earn one credit for each course completed with a grade of D or higher. In addition to AP courses, honors level courses are offered in classical and foreign languages, mathematics, Irish History, and science; they are designated "H" on transcripts. Well qualified students who have excelled in and exhausted our curricular offerings, including AP courses, in a particular subject area may be invited to participate in courses developed to provide college level instruction in that area of study. These courses are marked with

Religion

Basic Theology, Faith & Church, Faith & Life, and Schola

Humanities

Humanities – (English 2, European History, and Religion; 2 credits awarded)

English

In addition to an in-depth study of literature, all English courses incorporate the study of or instruction in grammar; vocabulary; the fundamentals of critical, analytical, expository and creative writing, as well as recitation and oral presentation skills.

Introduction to Literature (Third Form)

American Literature (Fifth Form)

English Seminar and Thesis (Sixth Form)

Creative Writing (elective, Fifth or Sixth Form)

English Literature AP (Sixth Form)

Outstanding Fifth Form (American Literature) students are encouraged to sit for the AP English Language and Composition exam.

Classical Languages

Latin 1, 1H, 2, 2H, 3, 3H, 4AP, 5 AP (seminar)

Greek 1, 2, 3H (seminar), 4H (seminar)

Modern Languages

French 1, 2, 2H, 3, 3H, 4H, French AP Language

Spanish 1, 2, 2H, 3, 3H, 4, 4H,

AP Spanish Language, AP Spanish Literature

Chinese 1, 2, 3, 4

History

Ancient and Medieval History

U.S. History, U.S. History AP

World History AP

Modern European History AP

Irish History Seminar (Honors)

Political Science/Economics/International Relations

There are also post-AP courses available in math and science for highly qualified students.

Based on scores through the May 2014 testing, 59 Abbey students received Scholar recognition: 19 Abbey students were named AP Scholars, 7 were AP Scholars with Honor, 29 were AP Scholars with Distinction, and 4 were National AP Scholars.

an asterisk (*) on transcripts. The Advanced Topics in Mathematics courses may include Multivariable Calculus, Topology, Differential Equations and/or Real Analysis.

Typically, a student will carry a six-credit course load, including religion. Students in Form IV carry five courses, earning two credits in the interdisciplinary, double-period Humanities course. While course offerings may vary slightly from year to year, Portsmouth Abbey School generally offers all or most of the following:

Mathematics

Algebra 1

Geometry, Geometry H

Algebra II/Analysis, Algebra II/Analysis H

Pre-calculus Topics, Pre-calculus, Pre-calculus H

Calculus AB (AP) Calculus BC (AP)

Statistics AP

Advanced Topics in Mathematics: Real Analysis*

Computer Science, Computer Science AP

Science

Conceptual Physics, Conceptual Physics H, Physics AP-C,

Independent Study in Physics*

Chemistry 1, Chemistry 1H, Chemistry AP,

Green Chemistry*

Biology, Biology H, Biology AP

Medical Physiology

Environmental and Marine Science

Visual Arts

The Fundamentals of Art

Visual Arts

Ceramics

Photography

Art History AP

Advanced Art

Art Independent Study

Performing Arts

Music Workshop

Music Theory AP

Advanced Music-Form and Analysis

Chamber Ensemble

Theater

Drama Workshop

GRADE DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2015 – FIFTH FORM YEAR-END GRADES

Portsmouth Abbey School does report rank for its students; we do supply grades distribution for the final grades of Fifth Form students.

COURSE:	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Advanced Art	1	3										
Algebra II/Analysis			1	3	1	5	4	4	6	1	1	
Algebra II/Analysis H		1										
American Literature	1	7	22	19	30	8	17	6	3	4	1	
Art History (AP)	1	2		1	1							
Biology		3	7	8	7	6	8	4	3	1	1	1
Biology H		1	1	3	2							
Biology AP				1								
Calculus AB (AP)		3	1		2	1	1					
Calculus BC (AP)	1	2	2	1		1	2					
Ceramics	1											
Chemistry		3	1	3	4	3	2	3	3	2		2
Chemistry H				1								
Chemistry (AP)		2	1	1	1	3	1					
Chinese 1				1	1							
Chinese 2			1		1	1						
Chinese 3	1		1	1	1							
Computer Science (AP)		1										
Conceptual Physics				2				1				
Conceptual Physics H				1								
Creative Writing						2						
Environmental/Marine Science			1		2	1	1					
Faith & Church	7	27	24	27	18	5	4	3	1	1		1
French 2H			4									
French 2			1	1						1		
French 3H	2	2	1	2	1	1			2			
French 4H	1	1	2	2	1		2					
Fundamentals of Art		1		1								
Geometry										1		
Greek 1	1	1		1								
Latin 2					1					1		
Latin 3H	2			3	1		1		1			
Multivariable Calculus	2											
Music Theory (AP)				1								
Photography								1				
Physics C (AP)		2	1	2								
Precalculus	3	6	8	8	10	8	6	5		1	1	
Precalculus Honors	1	1	2	4	1	2						
Spanish 1					1		1				1	1
Spanish 2			3	1	1	1			1			
Spanish 2H			1	1								
Spanish 3			1	9	6	1	2		2	2	1	
Spanish 3H	1	3	3	3	1	2						
Spanish 4H		2	3	2	1	1						
Spanish Lang (AP)			2									
Statistics (AP)		1	1	1	1		1					
U.S. History		1	12	22	16	10	5	2	3	2	1	1
U.S. History (AP)		2	18	9	4	1						
2D Visual Arts		3										
World History (AP)					2		1					

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Over the past three years, Portsmouth Abbey students were admitted to 332 colleges and universities in all regions of the US, as well as Canada, the UK, Europe, Latin America and Asia. PAS students are regularly accepted at large state universities, including the “flagship” universities often referred to as the “Public Ivies,” the Service Academies, several merchant marine academies, smaller specialty schools (art, business, performing arts, etc.) as well as a number of large private universities, and literally hundreds of liberal arts colleges. Members of the classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013 chose to attend the following 146 schools:

American University	Hamilton College - NY	Rhode Island School of Design (2)
The American University of Paris	Hampshire College	University of Rhode Island (3)
Architectural Association School of Architecture	University of Hartford	University of Richmond (3)
Auburn University (2)	Harvard University	Rollins College
Beloit College (3)	High Point University (4)	Rutgers at New Brunswick
Bentley University (2)	Hobart and William Smith Colleges (6)	Sacred Heart University
Boston College (9)	College of the Holy Cross (5)	Saint Anselm College (2)
Boston University (3)	Hult International Business School	Saint Joseph's University
Brandeis University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Saint Michael's College (3)
Bristol Community College (2)	James Madison University	San Diego State University
Brown University (5)	Johns Hopkins University (3)	Santa Clara University (3)
Bryant University (2)	Kenyon College (2)	Sarah Lawrence College
Bucknell University (2)	Lasell College	Savannah College of Art and Design
University of California, Berkeley	London School of Economics	Scripps College
Carnegie Mellon University (6)	Louisiana State University	Sewanee: The University of the South
The Catholic University of America (3)	Loyola University Maryland (2)	Skidmore College (3)
College of Charleston (5)	Loyola University New Orleans	University of Southern California (2)
University of Chicago	Lynn University	Southwestern University
Clarkson University	Manhattan College	Springfield College (2)
Columbia University (2)	Marist College	University of St. Andrews
Connecticut College (2)	Marquette University	Stonehill College (2)
University of Connecticut (2)	MCPHS - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	Stony Brook University
Cornell University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	Suffolk University (3)
The Culinary Institute of America	University of Miami	Swarthmore College
University of Dallas	University of Michigan (2)	Syracuse University
University of Delaware	Middlebury College	Tabor College
Dickinson College	University of Mississippi	The University of Tampa
Drew University (2)	Mount Holyoke College	Trinity College (4)
Drexel University (2)	Universidad de Navarra	Tufts University
Duke University (2)	New Hampshire Institute of Art	Tulane University
Eckerd College	University of New Hampshire	University of Tulsa
Elmira College	New York University (5)	Union College (3)
Emerson College (3)	University of North Carolina at Wilmington	United States Merchant Marine Academy
Emmanuel College	Northeastern University (9)	United States Military Academy (3)
Emory University (2)	University of Notre Dame (5)	United States Naval Academy (3)
Endicott College	Parsons The New School for Design	Universidad de Los Andes
Fairfield University (3)	Pennsylvania State University, University Park (2)	Universidad Metropolitana
Flagler College (2)	University of Pennsylvania (3)	Vanderbilt University
Florida State University	Princeton University (2)	Vassar College
Fordham University (7)	Providence College	University of Vermont (3)
Franklin and Marshall College	Purdue University	Villanova University (2)
The George Washington University (9)	Quinnipiac University (2)	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State U
Georgetown University (3)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (5)	Wake Forest University (2)
Georgia Institute of Technology		Washington and Lee University
Georgia Southern University		Wheaton College MA
Goldsmiths College, University of London		Wittenberg University

MISSION STATEMENT

The aim of Portsmouth Abbey School is to help young men and women grow in knowledge and grace. Grounded in the Catholic faith and 1500-year-old Benedictine intellectual tradition, the school fosters:

Reverence for God and the human person

Respect for learning and order

Responsibility for the shared experience of community life

Statement of Philosophy:

REVERENCE for God and the human person

Our conviction at Portsmouth Abbey School is that God is at the very center of the human search for meaning and that the perennial human questions – Who am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? How do I get there? – all find their answer in God. Accordingly, we seek to promote in the lives of our students a lifelong search for God as the beginning and end of their lives. This spiritual education of the heart, soul, and mind is the basis for intellectual and academic work at Portsmouth Abbey School.

RESPECT for learning and order

We believe it is vitally important to introduce our students to the classics and the best of the Western intellectual tradition, which includes both the humanities and the sciences.

Portsmouth Abbey School develops the mind, heart, and body through an integrated and ordered progression of learning in a structured environment. Our students are provided an excellent opportunity to discover fundamental truths, beliefs, and texts that have challenged every generation since antiquity, and to develop an abiding love of learning.

RESPONSIBILITY for the shared experience of community life

We are committed to living as a community that values each of its members. Portsmouth Abbey School is inspired by a monastic presence and the Benedictine tradition of common life that includes prayer, study, work, and recreation. We welcome students from diverse backgrounds, while encouraging an appreciation for the Catholic faith. We seek to honor the dignity of every person as a child of God, and strive to nurture the talents of each individual for service and leadership in our own community and in the larger world.



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