



PORTSMOUTH  
ABBEY  
SCHOOL



# SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

**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. The School immerses students in a rigorous study of the foundations of Western civilization, intellectual tradition, and culture to instill in its students the Benedictine love of knowledge, study, discussion, and the 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  
**95** Sixth Form Students  
**28** States  
**16** Countries  
**75%** Boarding Students  
**25%** Day Students  
**20%** International Students  
**50%** Of our student body receives \$7 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 commitment. Options range from:

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

**14** Student-Run Clubs    **43** Athletic Teams    **3** Plays per year

**49** Faculty Members  
**82%** Hold Advanced degrees (18% have a Ph.D.)  
**7:1** Student-Teacher Ratio

### ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

Portsmouth Abbey School  
 285 Corys Lane, Portsmouth, RI 02871  
 T: 401-643-1254 F: 401-643-1344  
 www.portsmouthabbey.org  
 CEEB code: 400130

# LOVE OF LEARNING

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 semester 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
>
- *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
- The English Department requires each Form VI student, as a graduation requirement, to write a major paper independently that analyzes a literary classic.
- 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 Chemistry and Biology.

**17**  
Honors Courses

**16**  
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	3 years	Geometry Honors Algebra II Honors Precalculus Honors Statistics (AP) Calculus AB (AP) Calculus BC (AP) <b>Economics (AP)</b> *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 (Form III students)	Latin 2 Honors Latin 3 Honors Latin (AP)

## 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.

**SEE FULL COURSE CATALOG HERE:** [www.portsmouthabbey.org/departments-and-curriculum](http://www.portsmouthabbey.org/departments-and-curriculum)

# Matriculation

## COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS FROM 2023-2025

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 (2)	Kenyon College	The Pennsylvania State University (2)
Appalachian State University	Lake Forest College	The University of Tampa (2)
Assumption University (3)	Lehigh University (2)	The University of Texas at Austin
Babson College (5)	Louisiana State University	Trinity College
Bates College (2)	Loyola Marymount University	Trinity College Dublin (2)
Bentley University (2)	Loyola University Chicago	Tufts University
Bishop's University (2)	Loyola University New Orleans	Tulane University of Louisiana (2)
Boston College (3)	Massachusetts Maritime Academy (3)	Union College (2)
Boston University (5)	McGill University	United States Air Force Academy
Brandeis University (2)	Merrimack College (3)	United States Military Academy
Brown University	Miami University-Oxford (4)	United States Naval Academy
Bryant University (2)	Mississippi State University	University of Arizona
Bucknell University	Nazareth University	University of California-Los Angeles
California Institute of Technology	New York University (4)	University of California-Santa Barbara
Carleton College	Northeastern University (8)	University of Chicago
Clemson University (2)	Pace University	University of Dallas
Colgate University (2)	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of Delaware
College of Charleston	Princeton University	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
College of the Holy Cross (8)	Providence College (4)	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Columbia University (2)	Purdue University (3)	University of Miami (2)
Concordia University (2)	Queen's University	University of Michigan (2)
Connecticut College (2)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)	University of Mississippi (2)
Cornell University (2)	Rhode Island College (2)	University of New Hampshire
Dartmouth College	Rhode Island School of Design (2)	University of Notre Dame
Davidson College	Rice University	University of Pennsylvania
Denison University	Rivier University	University of Richmond
Dickinson College	Roger Williams University (7)	University of Rochester (3)
Duke University	Rutgers University	University of South Florida
Eckerd College	Sacred Heart University (4)	University of Southern California
Elmira College	Saint John Fisher College	University of St Andrews
Elon University (3)	Saint Louis University	University of Utah
Emory University (2)	Salve Regina University	University of Vermont (2)
Endicott College	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Virginia (2)
Fairfield University (5)	Seton Hall University	University of Wisconsin
Flagler College	Skidmore College	Utica College
Florida Atlantic University	Southern Methodist University (3)	Vanderbilt University
Franklin and Marshall College	Springfield College	Villanova University (3)
Franklin Pierce University	St. Francis Xavier University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Furman University	St. John's College	Wake Forest University
George Washington University (9)	St. John's University	Washington University (2)
Georgetown University (4)	Stanford University	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College	Stonehill College	Wesleyan University
Hamilton College (4)	SUNY Buffalo State	Williams College
Hampden-Sydney College	SUNY College at Plattsburgh	
High Point University	SUNY Polytechnic Institute	
Hobart William Smith Colleges (2)	Syracuse University (2)	
Hood College	Tecnológico de Monterrey	
Ibero-American University	The Catholic University of America	
IE University - Madrid	The College of Wooster	
Johns Hopkins University (3)	The New School	

