PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL



School Profile 2026-2027

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
80 Sixth Form Students
26 States
18 Countries
75% Boarding Students
25% Day Students
22% International Students
50% Of our student body receives $7.5 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

20+ Student-Run Clubs
44 Athletic Teams
3 Plays per year

48 Faculty Members
81% Hold Advanced degrees (17% 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
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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
- *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

17 AP Courses

4 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) Economics (AP) *Advanced Topics in Math
Science	2 years (laboratory science)	Biology Honors Chemistry Honors Biology (AP) Chemistry (AP) Physics (AP) *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) *** Spanish Literature** *** French Literature**
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

Matriculation

COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS FROM 2024–2026

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 International College
American University (4)
Appalachian State University
Assumption University (3)
Babson College (5)
Bard College
Bates College
Bentley University (3)
Bishop's University
Boston College (3)
Boston University (6)
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryant University (2)
California Institute of Technology
California Polytechnic State University
Carleton College
Citadel Military College of South Carolina (2)
Clemson University (2)
Colgate University (2)
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross (10)
Columbia University (2)
Concordia University (5)
Connecticut College (2)
Cornell University (3)
Dartmouth College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Elon University (3)
Emerson College
Emory University (2)
Endicott College
Fairfield University (2)
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University (2)
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
Furman University
George Washington University (5)
Georgetown University (4)
Gettysburg College
Hamilton College (3)
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Hood College
Ibero-American University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Kennesaw State University (2)
Lake Forest College
Lehigh University (2)
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Massachusetts Maritime Academy (2)
McGill University
Merrimack College (3)
Miami University-Oxford (2)
Nazareth University
New York University (4)
Northeastern University (10)
Ohio State University
Pace University
Providence College (7)
Purdue University (3)
Queen's University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)
Rhode Island College
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University (5)
Rollins College
Rutgers University (2)
Sacred Heart University (5)
Saint Louis University
Salve Regina University
Santa Fe College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Smith College
Southern Methodist University (4)
Springfield College
St. Francis Xavier University
St. John Fisher University
St. John's University
St. Lawrence University
Stanford University (2)
SUNY Buffalo State University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University (3)
Tecnológico de Monterrey
Texas Christian University
The Catholic University of America
The Pennsylvania State University
The University of Tampa (2)
The University of Texas at Austin
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin (2)
Tufts University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Coast Guard Academy
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy (2)
University of Arizona
University of Chicago
University of Dallas
University of Delaware
University of Massachusetts-Amherst (2)
University of Massachusetts-Boston
University of Miami (2)
University of Michigan (2)
University of Mississippi
University of New Hampshire (2)
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond (3)
University of Rochester (2)
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California (2)
University of St Andrews (2)
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin (2)
Utica University
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University (6)
Wake Forest University
Waseda University
Washington University (2)
Wesleyan University (2)
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute