



# UPPER SCHOOL

AT A GLANCE

 **St. Francis**  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

St. Francis Upper School combines intensive, interdisciplinary coursework with increasing autonomy, empowering students to hone their talents and interests while continuing to explore new possibilities—academic, personal, and spiritual.

**2023-24 CORE CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**



# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

COURSE	CREDITS	NOTES
ENGLISH	4	Freshman: Genres; Sophomore: World Literature; Junior: American Literature; Senior: Modern Literature
HISTORY	3	Two years of World History, One year of US History
MATH	3	Includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and advanced offerings
SCIENCE	3	Includes Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (all are lab-based sciences)
WORLD LANGUAGES	2	Two consecutive years of foreign language in the high school
ARTS	2	Required trimester survey and two subsequent trimester electives freshman year
HEALTH & WELLNESS	0.33	Sophomore year
RELIGION	1.33	One trimester is taken every year; Old Testament, New Testament, World Religions, Ethics
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	Three trimesters of PE electives or participation in three sports

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### ADVISORY

The advisory program is an essential element of the Upper School experience. Groups of 10-15 students share a teacher who serves as an advisor for four years. In addition to being the first point of contact for students and their families, the advisor plays an important role helping students hone social/emotional and executive functioning skills. Students also lead the direction of parent-teacher conferences in partnership with their advisor, an experience that helps them reflect on their strengths, goals, and opportunities for growth.

### AP PROGRAMS

AP English Language, AP English Literature

AP US History, AP European History

AP AB Calculus, AP Statistics

AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Psychology,  
AP Environmental Science

AP Spanish

AP Art History, AP Portfolio

AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A  
(Coming 2024-25)

### STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION

In our student-centered education, students drive the learning process. Starting in freshman year, students begin the college counseling process and take part in the freshman retreat and freshman-oriented seminars which highlight social/emotional learning and foundational skills needed for high school. Throughout their high school years, students have set tutorial times each day so they can obtain timely learning support. Juniors and seniors can attend talks with alumni who are currently in college, develop independent study classes, or identify service and job shadowing opportunities to develop the skills of independence and resilience for life outside the home and after graduation.

### EPISCOPAL IDENTITY

Educating a child's spirit is as important to us as challenging the mind, and we strongly value our Episcopal identity. Students study one trimester of religion each year. We are privileged to gather together as a community in chapel twice a week.

### IMMERSIONS AND EXPLORATIONS

In these week-long intensives, students go beyond the confines of the classroom and into the Houston community to explore everything from the business of sports to building an art car. As students progress through high school, they can focus their attention toward areas of interest, including academic study, health and wellness, and service learning.

### ARTS PROGRAMMING

The Upper School arts program meets the needs of both the dedicated artist and the newcomer by exploring the possibilities, collaboration, and connectivity between the arts. As teaching artists, our faculty are committed to building the students' critical appreciation of art in the first years, then allowing them to learn by doing, working alongside the upperclassmen on a project of their choosing from concept to completion.

### CHEER TEAM

Our coed cheer team supports our athletic programs and leads pep rallies and other spirit activities throughout the school year. Tryouts take place in the spring.



### ATHLETICS

#### Boys Sports

Cross Country, Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Wrestling, Baseball, Golf, Tennis, Track & Field

#### Girls Sports

Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field

#### TAPPS

St. Francis is a member of TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools), which serves more than 230 schools across Texas. The Wolves compete as a 3A sized school; membership allows students to compete for individual and team honors in specific sports.

#### Coaches

Our Upper School head coaches have over 250 years of combined experience at the high school and collegiate levels, and members of our outstanding coaching staff have competed at the college level across the state and country. Each coach has a passion for teaching and coaching young adults and is excited about growing an excellent athletics program.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions? Please email [Admissions@StFrancisHouston.org](mailto:Admissions@StFrancisHouston.org)  
or contact a member of our Admissions Team:

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