



PORTSMOUTH
ABBEY
SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

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
- 19 Countries
- 75% Boarding Students
- 25% Day Students
- 21% International Students
- 49% Of our student body receives \$6.1 Million in financial aid

48 Faculty Members

(44 lay persons, 3 monks)

80% Hold advanced degrees

CO-CURRICULARS

Required involvement two hours or more a day with options ranging 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

1st

In Rhode Island to erect a utility scale wind turbine

40%

Of the School's and surrounding neighborhood's electricity is produced by our campus wind turbine



OUR OFFICE | T: 401.643.1254 F: 401.643.1344

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CEEB code: 400130

LOVE OF LEARNING

A student will carry a 6-credit course load. All courses are year-long and earn 1 credit with the exception of Ancient History and Basic Theology each of which carries half a credit in the Third Form year; and Fourth Form Humanities, a double-block, two-credit Great Books course that satisfies both English and European History requirements. The Abbey runs a Physics-First sequence. Portsmouth Abbey does not offer an honors track in History, Humanities, or English. Fall term grades are mid-year grades and are available in early December.

The school operates on a trimester system and classes are conducted six days a week. The school names class years using the British National system: Third Form is freshman year; Fourth Form, sophomore; Fifth Form, junior; and Sixth Form, senior year. Grades are reported on a letter scale: A+ through D; F is a failure. GPAs are calculated on a 4.0 scale. No courses are weighted. No cumulative GPA is reported. We do not rank students.

Discipline: If schools ask about discipline issues, students are expected to self-report; counselors confirm the accuracy of the details and outcomes if asked by the college.

By school policy, counselor and teacher recommendations are confidential.

19
Honors Courses

16
AP Courses

3
Post AP Courses

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	4 years
Math	4 years
Laboratory Sciences	2 years
Theology	4 years
History	2 years
Modern Language	3 years in 1 language OR 2 years each in 2 languages
Visual or Performing Arts	1 year
Latin	1 year
Independent Sixth Form Thesis	

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES MIDDLE 50%

SAT
Students Tested: 84
EBRW: 500-680 | Mathematics: 530-680
Total: 1030-1360
ACT
Students Tested: 13
Composite: 22-25

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

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 Sixth Form year.

HANEY FELLOWSHIP

Fifth Formers are invited to apply for grants to fund independent projects of their own creation over the summer before their Sixth Form year. Applicants must present a proposal for a project that will deepen a particular academic, artistic, or cultural interest, and competition is fierce.

Past Projects Include: working as a tutor within the Oglala, Lakota and Sioux Tribes; teaching a STEM-based curriculum to girls in Nigeria; shadowing a professor and medical parasitologist in the Philippines on Neglected Tropical Diseases; volunteering at an Asian American Civic Associate in Boston; and serving as a community scientist under the guidance of RI Clean Ocean Access

4-5 grants awarded per year

SIXTH FORM THESIS

The English Department requires each Sixth Former, as a graduation requirement, to write a major paper independently that analyzes a literary classic. The student does not rely upon research or secondary sources; instead, the student depends upon his or her own critical faculties to perform close reading and do critical analysis.

Past Novels Analyzed:
1984
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
The Awakening
Beloved
In the Lake of the Woods
Invisible Man
Gravity's Rainbow
Lolita
Pride and Prejudice
The Picture of Dorian Gray
The Sound and the Fury

SCIENCE GRANTS

Any Portsmouth Abbey student is eligible to apply for a Portsmouth Abbey Science Grant. These grants are awards up to 500 dollars to support independent student research in any scientific field. The proposals are modeled after the National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship program. Students must submit a research proposal, project timeline, and budget. The science department faculty serve as the review board evaluating proposals based on feasibility, grantsmanship, and impact on the community.

Past Projects Include: a systematic eco-footprint calculation of Portsmouth Abbey School; engineered sail foils and heart attack monitors using Arduino; and a bio-engineering project creating biofuels out of Portsmouth Abbey School's residual cooking oil.

10 grants awarded per year

SEE FULL COURSE CATALOG HERE:
portsmouthabbey.org/courses

MATRICULATION LIST:
portsmouthabbey.org/matriculation

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

New England Association of Schools and Colleges, National Association for College Admission Counseling, New England Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Independent Schools, and Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2024

Grade distribution for the final grades of Fifth-Form students

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Latin 1	1											
Latin 2H		1										
Latin 3H	3	3		1	3	2						
Latin 4 (AP)				1								
ENGLISH												
American Literature	7	14	21	14	8	10	12	6	5	1		
HISTORY												
U.S. History	1	12	16	13	6	4	3	3				
U.S. History (AP)		4	15	9	3							
U.S. Gov & Poli (AP)			1									
MATHEMATICS												
Algebra II (Analysis)		1		4		1	3		2	1	1	
Calculus AB (AP)	2	2	9	3		4	1					
Calculus BC (AP)	8	4	1									
Precalculus	2	6	4	16	3	2	5	3	2			
Precalulus Honors	1	3	1									
Statistics (AP)	2	1	3									
MODERN LANGUAGES												
Chinese 1					1							
Chinese 2			1	1			1					
Chinese 3		1	1									
Chinese 5 (AP)	1											
French 2H						1				1	1	
French 3H	3	6		2	1							
French (AP)	1	4		1								
Spanish 1		1					1			1		
Spanish 2		1		2			1	1				
Spanish 2H			1	1		1						
Spanish 3		1		2			1	2				
Spanish 3H			5	2			1	2				
Spanish 4H		1	1	3								
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS												
2_D Visual Art	2	1										
Advanced Art	1	1										
Art History (AP)		1	1	1	1							
Drama Workshop		1										
Ceramics	1	1										
Creative Writing			1									
Fundamentals of Art	1											
Photography	1											

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GRADE DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2024, cont.

Grade distribution for the final grades of Fifth-Form students

SCIENCE	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Biology		3	10	11	4	5	2					
Biology H		3	2		1							
Biology (AP)		3	1	2	1							
Chemistry		4	2	5	1	2	2	1	1			
Chemistry H					1							
Chemistry (AP)	5	3	2	3								
Infectious Disease					1	1						
Marine Science	1	1		1	2	1						
Physics (AP)	2		2			1						
THEOLOGY												
Advanced Theology	11	39	33	12	4							