



128

Students, grades 7-12

17

Seniors, Class of 2025

26

Faculty (18 in upper school)  
7 Master's; 2 Doctorate

21

Average Class Section Size

6:1

Student/Teacher Ratio

## CONTACT

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Accredited: Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS)

Member: Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

CEEB Code 242104

Keith Phillips, Head of School  
Katherine Schultz, Upper School Head  
Debbie Montalvo, Lower School Head  
Jill Wirth, Registrar

# 2024-2025 UPPER SCHOOL PROFILE

## A CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Schaeffer Academy's primary purpose is to provide a Christ-centered and classical education which emphasizes rigorous academics in the liberal arts. As a Christ-centered school, all subjects are taught within a Christian worldview. As a classical school, the method of instruction is the Trivium – a system of education in use since the Middle Ages. In the younger grades students are first taught the grammar (the facts and rules) of each subject. Logic or dialectic follows, teaching students to fit together the facts and rules in order to produce a cohesive whole. Upper School students incorporate rhetoric – learning how to communicate clearly the knowledge acquired through grammar and logic. Schaeffer Academy's students graduate able to think clearly, reason soundly, write gracefully, and live faithfully.

## HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

Schaeffer Academy was established in 1993 by a group of parents in Rochester, Minnesota, and is named after Dr. Francis Schaeffer, a Christian philosopher, theologian and evangelist. The school's educational philosophy reflects his emphasis on a Christian worldview, which permeates all areas of life. The first graduating class was in 2001. The school has grown to 310 students in kindergarten through grade twelve. Schaeffer Academy is governed by a Board of Directors, made up of present and former school parents.

## SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Schaeffer Academy is located in Rochester, Minnesota, a city of 121,000 about 80 miles south of Minneapolis/St. Paul, and the third-largest city in the state. The city is home to the Mayo Clinic medical facility and IBM, which gives families a strong academic drive and a high interest in science and technology as a core part of the liberal arts education which they choose for their children.

## COST AND FINANCIAL AID

The annual operating budget is \$3,600,000. Annual tuition for 2024-2025 is \$10,296. About 29% of the student body receives need-based financial aid.

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Due to class size, Schaeffer Academy does not rank students. However, this is a GPA distribution breakdown of junior year-end GPAs for the class of 2025:

4.0 or higher	33%
3.5-3.9	33%
3.0-3.4	20%

Weighted cumulative GPAs appear on the transcript and are updated at the end of each semester.

## PANDEMIC IMPACT

All students switched to distance learning Feb 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. All students returned to daily on-campus learning for the 2020-2021 academic year, with an option for enrolling distance if they chose it (less than 1% did). Individual transcripts will note students who elected distance learning.

Occasional individual distance learning for mitigation, and one week of all-school distance learning in February 2021 may have had an impact on student learning.

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

Schaeffer has graduated 395 students since 2001. In a typical graduating class, 85% have gone on to four-year colleges, with 15% going to a two-year college.

The following is a partial list of college acceptance for Schaeffer students: Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University, Baylor University, Bethel University, Boston University, Bryn Mawr College, Carleton College, Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve University, Cornell University, Covenant College, Davidson College, Duke University, Emory University, Hillsdale College, Iowa State University, Loyola University Chicago, Mannes College The New School for Music, New York University, Northwestern University (Chicago), Notre Dame University, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic University, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, St. Olaf College, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, United States Air Force Academy, University of Minnesota (Honors), University of Illinois, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin (Honors), Vanderbilt University, Vassar College, Washington University at St. Louis, Wheaton College.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

College level texts are used in Physics, Algebra II, Chemistry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus and Spanish, while the humanities courses include substantial reading in original texts. Major writing or research projects are required throughout high school. Annual Science and History Fairs require students to produce projects with National History Day guidelines in 8th and 10th grades, and projects suitable for the Regional and State Science Fairs in 7th, 9th and 11th grades. Latin is required through grade 9, while Spanish is taught in 10th, 11th and 12th. Latin students take the National Latin Exam annually. Over the years Schaeffer students have won 111 gold medals, including seven for perfect papers.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**English:** 4 (Comp/Lit; American Lit; British Lit; Ancient Lit; 20<sup>th</sup> Cent Lit)

**Math:** 4 credits (Alg I; Geometry; Alg II; Functions/Stats/Trig; Pre-Calc; AP Calc BC)

**Foreign Language:** 4 credits (Latin II; Spanish I; Spanish II; Spanish III)

**History:** 4 credits (World Hist; US History; 20<sup>th</sup> Cent Hist; Government/Economics; Ancient History; Western Philosophy)

**Science:** 3 credits (Biology; Chemistry; Physics I; AP Physics C). All with labs.

**Fine Arts:** ½ credit (Art Appreciation; Music Appreciation)

**Religion:** 2 credits (Christian Worldview; Basic Christian Doctrine; Apologetics; Senior Theology)

**Logic & Rhetoric:** 1 ½ credits (Logic II; Rhetoric I; Rhetoric II/Debate)

**Physical Education & Health:** 2 credits

**Electives Available:** Band, Choir, Strings, Studio Art, Yearbook

*Honors option is available in all required subjects and many electives.*

## GRADING SCALE DATA

Schaeffer Academy uses a weighted grading scale. Students must earn an A or B in honors sections to receive honors credit.

Grade	Percentage	Standard Value	Honors Value	AP Value
A+	100%	4	4.12	5
A	95-99%	4	4.12	5
A-	92-94%	4	4.12	5
B+	89-91%	3	3.06	4
B	85-88%	3	3.06	4
B-	82-84%	3	3.06	4
C+	79-81%	2		3
C	73-78%	2		3
C-	70-72%	2		3
D+	67-69%	1		2
D	63-66%	1		2
D-	60-62%	1		2
F	0-59%	0		

## GRADUATE TEST SCORES, AP, & NATIONAL MERIT

- Average ACT Score, Class of 2024: 26.5
- Average SAT Score, Class of 2024: 1320
- On average, 12% of Schaeffer Academy students are recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as finalists, semi-finalists, or commended students.
- AP Testing: In 2024, 24 students took 48 tests in 9 subjects, with 75% scoring 3 or higher; 87% of seniors took at least one AP exam, and on average, seniors took 2.7 AP subject tests in high school.

## EXTRA-CURRICULARS

Schaeffer Academy offers the following sports: Boys Soccer; Boys and Girls Cross Country; Girls Volleyball; Girls Basketball; Boys Basketball; Girls Softball; Boys Baseball; Boys and Girls Track and Field; Boys and Girls Tennis. We also have Trap Club, Math League, and Lego Robotics Club. Many Upper School students also participate in Choir, Band and Strings, and in our Drama productions.