



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL 2021 - 2022

PRESIDENT

Abbot Melvin Valvano, O.S.B. '56
Abbot of Newark Abbey

HEADMASTER

Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63

DEAN OF SENIORS AND COLLEGE PLACEMENT

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Prep Division Information:

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Black/African-American: 44%
Latino/Hispanic: 36%
White: 7%
Asian: 3%
Portuguese: 4%
Other: 5%

37% from Newark
9% from Irvington
8% from East Orange

The student body comes from 92 different cities, including 27 international students from 20 different countries.

FACULTY

Nineteen of the 70 teaching faculty are alumni of the school, and six are monks of Newark Abbey. Thirty-two faculty have master's degrees, and five have earned doctorate degrees.

ACCREDITATION

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

GRADING SCALE

A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0
"+ " or "- " a value of .333 is added or subtracted.

HONOR ROLL

Honors: (3.0 to 3.29)
High Honors: (3.3 to 3.69)
Highest Honors: (3.7 to 4.0)

www.sbp.org

Whatever hurts my brother or sister hurts me; whatever helps my brother or sister helps me.

About St. Benedict's

St. Benedict's Prep, a community of 959 students (128 Senior boys and 32 Senior girls*) and 70 faculty members, encourages students to fulfill their potential as emotionally mature, morally responsible and well-educated citizens. Operated by the Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey since 1868, St. Benedict's offers a rigorous curriculum that sharpens the mind, shapes the character and nourishes the spirit.

The school is composed of four divisions: Elementary Division - Kindergarten through Grade 5; Middle Division - Grades 6 and 8; Boys Prep Division - Grades 9-12; Girls Prep Division - Grades 9-12*.

The school motto, "Whatever hurts my brother or sister hurts me; whatever helps my brother or sister helps me," is an integral part of the education at St. Benedict's, an education of the mind, spirit and heart. From the classroom to the athletic field to the site of their latest community-service project, students of our 153-year old institution prepare not just for college but also for undertaking responsibilities of their own families and faith communities, and assuming leadership roles in a variety of professions and in the communities beyond the school.

*In Summer Phase 2020, for the first time in its 153-year history, St. Benedict's Prep opened its high school doors to young women. Not a co-educational institution, St. Benedict's school divisions each offer a single sex education to boys and girls, respectively.

Prep Division Calendar and Curriculum: 11-month, 3-part school year

The school year begins in late July with all students attending "Summer Phase," a five-week, four-hours per day session during which students take enrichment or intensive courses. This is an opportunity for both students and faculty to think about, study, and examine in-depth topics that interest them. During the eight-month "Fall/Winter Terms" students pursue a traditional liberal arts curriculum. While a majority of our students are on a college-prep/honors (senior courses are typically taught as honors) track, a number of students in different disciplines choose to take what would amount to advanced placement courses through our partnerships with New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University - Newark and Seton Hall University. We do not designate courses of different levels on the transcript but will certainly discuss on a case-by-case basis and in the counselor recommendation. After final exams at the end of April, all students join a "Spring Phase" project. This is an opportunity for students to explore experiential learning, or learning by doing. Many volunteer as part of a community service project, while others work in the theatre or the urban garden, or travel across the country to participate in the Network of Complementary Schools.

Block Schedule

In the four-by-four block schedule, all students take four seventy five-minute classes each day throughout Fall Term, and then take four different seventy five-minute classes during Winter Term. The schedule allows for deeper study within most, if not all, disciplines, as well as an increased number of courses available to our students. Course offerings now include but are not limited to: Biochemistry, Meteorology, Environmental Science, Anatomy & Physiology, Diversity and Social Justice, Humanities Seminar, Ancient Rome, Civics, African American History, Machiavelli and Shakespeare, News Production, Jazz Band, Chorus, Advanced Art, Morality, Christian Lifestyles, Forensic Science, Film, Engineering Fundamentals, Introduction to Journalism, Grammar and Composition, Fitness, Holocaust, Black Literature and the Essay, Creative Writing and Media, Public Speaking, Linguistics, Classical Mythology, and Coding. Senior students in excellent standing can also earn the opportunity to pursue an independent study year, with a faculty mentor, in an area of their choosing; current projects on which students are working are in engineering, humanities, and chemistry.

Graduation Requirements

English: 4 courses - Arts/Music: 1 course
Religion: 4 courses - Language: 2 courses (Spanish, Latin, or French)
Mathematics: 4 courses - Physical Education: 1 course
Lab Science: 4 courses - History: 4 courses (including 2 years of US History)
Summer Phase: 4 years - Spring Phase: 4 years

Covid-19 Information

St. Benedict's Prep returned to in-person school in May, 2021, after having offered full distance learning from March 16, 2020 through April 2021. The 2020 Summer Phase and Fall/Winter Term distance learning program provided all regular classes, regular college guidance counseling, counseling services and daily convocation, all virtually. Students learned remotely using Google Classroom and Google Meet. Students met each weekday for four one-hour block classes. Some athletic teams and activities practiced or met on the school grounds, following state mandated COVID-19 protection procedures while a host of new virtual activities were created to maintain community bonds.

Our experiential education Spring Phase term was held in person in May, 2021, but it did not provide the opportunity it usually does for meeting our 100-hour community service requirement.

Since August, 2021 activities and athletic teams have resumed meeting on a full pre-pandemic schedule, practicing and competing in person.

Financial Aid

St. Benedict's serves primarily students from low to moderate-income families. All students are admitted on a need-blind basis and receive a basic subsidy toward the full cost of their education. Financial aid is given on the basis of demonstrated need. Typically more than 80% of all students qualify for such aid.

Community Notes

Freshman Overnight: A week-long period at the beginning of "Summer Phase" where all incoming freshmen live here at school. This activity, conducted under the supervision of the Senior Group Leader and other student leaders, establishes for the freshmen what St. Benedict's is all about: trust and openness, challenge and teamwork, accomplishment and rewards.

Backpacking Project: At the end of the freshman year, freshmen form into teams of eight for three weeks of training before undertaking a week-long 50-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. Upon its completion, freshmen become full members of the school community.

Group System: Every student is drafted into one of 18 groups, which consist of about 25 students from every grade level. A Group Leader is elected to run the group and to represent it at meetings with the Headmaster. Groups, which meet four times a week, are responsible for running Convocation and for assisting their members in academic difficulty. Groups compete and are awarded points based on their academic performance, intergroup athletics results, attendance records and discharge of other responsibilities.

Student Leadership: Much of the everyday running of the school is in the hands of the appointed Senior Group Leader and seven other Senior Leaders. They, together with the elected Group Leaders, work with the Headmaster to oversee the general discipline and atmosphere of the school, as well as the running of the Group System.

Honor Code: A published list of regulations by which a student commits himself to respect the rights and property of his schoolmates and of the school community. Trust is a vital part of the spirit of the school (as evidenced by the absence of locks on lockers). The maintaining of integrity and trust in the school is the responsibility of the students themselves, with help from faculty and administration.

English as a Second Language: For many of our international students we offer this curriculum as a means of integrating them into our academic program.

Athletics & Activities

All students are required to participate in some form of extracurricular activity. Nearly 75% of our students participate in our nationally recognized interscholastic athletic programs in soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, track, fencing, wrestling, baseball, water polo, swimming, crew, and golf. Other activities include our Drama Guild, The Benedict News (school newspaper), Kayrix (literary magazine), Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, Drum Line, 520 Corporation (student-run facilities maintenance company), National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Gray Bee Ministry, Yearbook, Admissions Team, Booth Crew (audio-visual club), Stand and Deliver, Investment Club, Book Club, Gray Bee Garden, Broadcasting Team, Boy Scouts of America troop, Film Club, Star Wars Club, National Society of Black Engineers, Hot Cross Buns Baking Club, World Cultures Club, Race2Action, Anime Club, Board Games Club, Sunshine Club, Science Club, Cartooning Club, National Math Honor Society, Model Building Club, Mathletes, and True Crime Club.

College Matriculation

Listed is a selection of institutions where St. Benedict's students have matriculated in the years 2017 through 2021.

American University	Northwestern University
Amherst College	Ohio State University
Arizona State University	Pace University
Assumption University	Penn State University
Auburn University	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Bates College	Princeton University
Birmingham Southern College	Providence College
Boston College	Ramapo College
Bowdoin College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Brandeis University	Rider University
Caldwell University	Rochester Institute of Technology
Centenary College	Rowan University
Clark Atlanta University	Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Clarkson University	Rutgers University - Camden
College of Saint Elizabeth	Rutgers University - Newark
Columbia University	Saint Anselm College
Connecticut College	Saint John's University (MN)
Cornell University	Saint Peter's University
Dartmouth College	Saint Vincent College
Delaware State University	Seton Hall University
Drew University	Spring Hill College
Duquesne University	State University of New York - Buffalo
Endicott College	Stetson University
Essex County College	Stevens Institute of Technology
Fairfield University	Stockton University
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Swarthmore College
Felician University	Syracuse University
Franklin & Marshall College	Texas Tech University
George Mason University	The College of New Jersey
Georgetown University	The Culinary Institute of America
Georgian Court University	The George Washington University
Harvard College	The University of Akron
Haverford College	The University of Texas - Austin
Howard University	Tulane University
Ithaca College	Union County College
Kean University	United States Naval Academy/NAPS
Lawrence University	University of California - Berkeley
Lehigh University	University of Delaware
Lipscomb University	University of Hartford
Loyola University - Maryland	University of Maryland
Manhattan College	University of New Haven
Marist College	University of Notre Dame
Monmouth University	University of Pittsburgh
Montclair State University	University of Tampa
Morgan State University	Villanova University
Morehouse College	Virginia Commonwealth University
Muhlenberg College	Virginia Tech University
New Jersey City University	Wesleyan University
New Jersey Institute of Technology	William Paterson University
New York University	Xavier University - Louisiana
North Carolina State University	
Northeastern University	