



School Profile

Academic Year 2020/2021

CEEB Code: 460411

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Stats for the Senior Class

Avg GPA: 3.29 Class Size: 34

- Generated 3,120 hours of community service over the past 3 years
- 100% of the class of 2021 participate in the annual musical, many of whom take leadership roles on stage and in running backstage committees.
- 79% have engaged in a team sport, and 44% will participate in a team sport in their senior year
- 20% have participated in dual enrollment classes at the college level.
- Senior Accomplishments
 - Attend and lead our weekly all-school meetings
 - Teach and co-teach electives
 - Serve on our board of directors
 - Collaborated with faculty to create our dress code
 - Collaborated with faculty to create & organize annual all-school trip

THE MISSION

OF THE SHARON ACADEMY is to nurture intelligent, independent, and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world.



Background Information

Core Course: A course designed to last one year in the subject areas of math, world language, science, English and history.

Division 2: Students in grades 9 & 10

Division 3: Students in grades 11 & 12

School Overview

The Sharon Academy (TSA) is a state-approved, independent day school. Because we are an approved independent school, our tuition fees can be paid by any Vermont town that normally tuitions students to public schools.

- Founded in 1996
- 77% of the class of 2020 is committed to pursuing post-secondary education within 12 months of graduation at a four-year institution.
- 100% of our art faculty are working artists
- 60% of our faculty hold advanced degrees
- 20% of our students are first generation college-bound

Size: We serve 116 students in grades 9-12

Funding: 90% of our students are publicly funded

Accreditation: State of Vermont, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

Memberships: Coalition of Essential Schools, the Vermont Independent School Association, Independent Schools Association of Northern New England, National Association of Independent Schools.

Reading the TSA Transcript

Response to COVID-19

Reading Page 1 of the Transcript

- A GPA is calculated based on grades in the core courses completed successfully
- Seminar courses are the social-emotional health curriculum

Reading Page 2 of the Transcript

This page details TSA's approach to proficiency-based grading. This can be helpful to colleges in determining more precise information on student strengths and challenges.

Transcript Chart 1

The white rows show the number of times a student has met or exceeded the standard on a summative assignment each year AND the total number of times a student has met or exceeded the standard on a summative assignment. The grey rows show the class average.

Transcript Chart 2

The first row shows the number of times a student has met or exceeded the standard on a summative assignment throughout high school.

The second row shows how they compare with their peers in each standard. The total column provides an indication of the quantity of a student's overall academic achievement. Our school response to COVID-19 makes this metric less representative for students who could not access school in spring of 2020, see right.

The third row shows how many times a student will need to meet or exceed the standard on a summative assignment in order to meet our Minimum Graduation Requirements (MGR).

"0" in the third row would mean that a student is not required to do additional work in that standard area to graduate.

Transcript Chart 3

This chart lists the class name and the grade level in which a student met and exceeded the standard as well as the number of times. More listings in the exceeded row indicates higher quality of achievement.

Transcript Abbreviations

- Students receive letter grades from A+ to F based on their achievement on standards within each course.
- I=Incomplete
- W=Withdrawal
- E= Excellent (non core courses only)
- P= Pass (non core courses only)
- CLE= Course Load Equivalent replaces credit to describe each course duration.
- TR= Transfer credit for courses taken at accredited institutions while enrolled at The Sharon Academy.

Curriculum Highlights

As our classes are academically rigorous and college preparatory, we do not offer AP classes. Ability-grouping is utilized only in mathematics and world language.

Exhibitions

In 11th or 12th grade, students are required to complete a multi-faceted project called Exhibition, through which students complete in-depth research on a topic of their choice. Exhibition assessment is based both on a written component (8-12 pages) and on an oral presentation (20-25 minutes). The project also includes face-to-face feedback and evaluation from faculty. Successful completion of the Exhibition requires students to work independently, develop a thesis, think creatively, research complex topics, synthesize information from a variety of sources, and present confidently to an audience of faculty and peers.

March - June 2020

TSA adopted a "do no harm" grading policy for the remainder of 2019-20. With this policy in place, students were not penalized for the lack of access and hardship brought on by remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, a letter grade in a course could only be positively affected by the work a student did during remote learning. Transferable skills were available to be earned during spring of 2020, increasing some student's standings and quintiles relative to other students who could not access school.

Structure for this year

For the 2020-21 school year, we have divided our student body into two cohorts. Each cohort is on campus two days per week. As a result, students have 75 minutes of instruction per week in each core class. On the days they are off campus, students are completing work that is assigned by their teachers. Synchronous classes do not take place.



Graduation Requirements

To graduate, a four-year student from the Class of 2021 must complete, in any combination over the three years that TSA has worked in a proficiency system:

- 12 pieces of evidence for each standard, TSA 1- 7 (see below)
- 134 total pieces of evidence (reduced from 150 due to COVID-19 interruption),
- An exhibition or appropriate alternative

Students transferring to TSA after 2018-19 will have these amounts prorated appropriately.

Students accumulate evidence of TSA's transferable skills standards across all of their courses for promotion and in order to graduate.

The Seven TSA transferable standards are:

1. Acquire Information
2. Think Critically
3. Problem Solve
4. Communicate
5. Self-Direct
6. Engage Community
7. Explore Well-Being

As of school year 2018-19, class grading shifted to proficiency as required by the State of Vermont. Proficiency grading works well for our school because we believe:

1. Students should demonstrate proficiency in, or mastery of, critical skills and their understanding of knowledge,
 2. Academic achievement should be measured and reported out separately from habits of work, and
 3. Students should gain increasing responsibility over how they demonstrate their skills and knowledge.
- These beliefs support students' growth and development and allow them to understand their strengths and weaknesses rather than generalizing themselves as "good" or "bad" at a subject, or at school in general.
 - Each standard has between 4 and 7 sub-standards called indicators.
 - Each quarter-long course aligns with 2 to 4 TSA transferable skills.
 - Each year-long course aligns with approximately 16 TSA transferable Skills
 - Each summative assessment in a course will align with one of more indicators



Interim

The High School's Annual Musical, which is produced during "Interim," is one of the signature experiences at TSA. Interim is a two-week period set

aside to focus on community building and team-work through the production of an all-school musical. Interim challenges our high school students to mount an entire musical production, with students taking on significant responsibility throughout the process. Students run the box office, sell ads for the playbill, source and design the costumes,

students as they work through the real-world experiences of mounting a theatrical production, with the freedom to make mistakes, work through the consequences, and learn a tremendous amount along the way. It is these real-life successes and real-life challenges, experienced within the supportive community of our school, that make Interim a powerful learning and community-building tool.





Where We Are

The town of Sharon is located in Windsor County, VT. It is a rural New England town of 1502 people (census 2010) with a population density of 37 persons per square mile. The nearest urban/suburban town is Lebanon, NH, approximately 19 miles away. The school's population reflects the demographics of the region, a cross-section of socioeconomic strata. The majority of our students are publicly funded from 10 sending towns that are Vermont towns without a high school.

College Matriculation 2017-2020

77% of the class of 2020 is committed to pursuing post-secondary education within 12 months of graduation at a four-year institution.

American University	Dalhousie University	Nichols College	Southern New Hampshire University
Bard College	DePaul University	Northern Vermont University	St Lawrence University
Berklee College of Music	Emerson College	Oberlin College	Syracuse University
Bucknell University	Flagler College	Plymouth State University	Tufts University
Castleton University	Ithaca College	University of Portland	Union College
Champlain College	Keene State College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Utah
Clark University	Kenyon College	University of Rhode Island	Vassar College
Clarkson University	Lasell College	University of San Francisco	Vermont Technical College
Colby Sawyer College	University of Maine at Farmington	Saint Michael's College	University of Vermont
Colgate University	Maine College of Art	Simmons University	Warren Wilson College
College of the Atlantic	Marist College	Skidmore College	
Community College of Vermont	Merrimack College	Smith College	
University of Connecticut	University of New England	Southern Maine Community College	
Cornell University	University of New Hampshire-Durham		

