



St. Margaret's School



Belong.

Believe.

Become.

Belong. Believe. Become.



ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL

St. Margaret's School (SMS) mission is expressed through a simple, three-word phrase: Belong. Believe. Become. At St. Margaret's School, every girl will undertake this journey in one form or another.

Belong.

SMS uses the word "belong" because St. Margaret's students are an unusually close, inclusive group. The supportive, non-judgmental community gives students the confidence to try new things and discover new talents.

Believe.

St. Margaret's School uses the word "believe" to reference the power St. Margaret's students harness once they learn to believe in themselves. Their tradition as an Episcopal school also teaches girls to believe in something greater than themselves. Under St. Margaret's Honor Code, students learn that they can believe in each other.

Become.

St. Margaret's School uses the word become to complete the sequence of growth an SMS student experiences during her time here. Students graduate prepared to realize their full potential and success in a challenging world while knowing they will always have a place within the SMS community.

The historic campus is located on the beautiful Rappahannock River in the small and safe town of Tappahannock, Virginia. The weather here is known for being not too hot and not too cold, experiencing all four seasons. Tappahannock is in close proximity to airports and the nation's capital.

ACADEMICS

The academic program is designed to prepare girls for success in college and beyond. Because we all learn differently, students are encouraged to develop their intellectual strengths and build study skills through small classes assigned by readiness, rather than grade level. The teachers believe in learning by doing and encourage students to put theory into practice through hands-on experiences. It's the perfect complement to traditional learning because you use both sides of your brain to solve problems and answer questions. The ultimate goal for a St. Margaret's student, after all, is to be an independent thinker.

Because St. Margaret's School is a small school, it strives to meet the specific needs and interests of each student. The strength of our academic program is rooted in its flexibility. Placement tests determine which courses a student takes in the areas of English, history, math, science, and world languages during her first year. Outstanding students are presented with opportunities for more advanced study, such as online courses and Dual Enrollment, while all students are given the support they need to acquire mastery. This kind of support helps girls become active participants in their education.

Emphasizing St. Margaret's commitment to the growth of students in every area of their lives and inspiring them to make the best of themselves, the Wiley H. Wheat Center for Innovative Learning fosters a learning culture that is engaging to each individual student and promotes curiosity, creativity, collaboration, and perseverance.

The Office of College Counseling helps navigate students and their families through the process of choosing a college that will offer the right fit for their interests and abilities.

St. Margaret's offers one of the oldest international programs among American boarding schools - an unmatched educational option for girls looking to enroll in any grade level for one or more years. At St. Margaret's, international students strengthen their English skills, take challenging academic courses, and immerse themselves into American culture. The entire school community celebrates our diversity and embraces their individual roles as global citizens.

SCHOOL LIFE

St. Margaret's is a community first and foremost. Shared values, encapsulated in the Honor Code, make living and learning with others a rewarding experience. Each afternoon between the end of classes and the beginning of dinner, the campus comes alive with the energy of girls in action. Then, on the weekends, they fill their social calendar with outdoor adventures, shopping, mixers, and more. St. Margaret's understands that an important part of the St. Margaret's School experience happens outside the classroom, and so, girls are challenged to try a variety of things and not limit themselves to what they know.

Living in a boarding school community provides a unique opportunity for our students, and we understand that a great deal of learning happens outside the classroom. With this in mind, we have crafted a Co-Curriculum Program that challenges our students to become confident, responsible, and self-aware individuals. By meeting students where they are socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and intellectually engaged, the components of the program work collectively to establish connections between individuals and promote a sense of community.

ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Our arts program seeks to develop highly creative artistic personalities who are intellectually informed and skilled in the visual and performing arts. Music, drama, dance, ceramics, photography, drawing—no matter which creative outlet you prefer, our arts program offers an environment where you can build skills, experiment, and refine your artistic vision. The Fine Arts curriculum, student clubs, individual instruction, and after-school activities offer many ways for students to creatively express themselves and discover new interests. In addition, SMS artists enrich the surrounding community by participating in art-themed service projects, performances, and local contests.

At St. Margaret's, the playing field is like a classroom, where the student-athletes learn valuable lessons on the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and grit. There are 13 athletic teams and a 42-acre athletic complex.

RIVER PROGRAM

St. Margaret's - a river school, not just a school on the river. The overarching goal of the River Program is to render St. Margaret's a river school, where the Rappahannock - as a pristine icon of the great outdoors and natural environments in need of our protection - is central to our identity and culture.

Director of the River Program has found creative ways to integrate the river into our science curriculum, afternoon activity time slot, Minimester program, and students' free time. The program is to serve as a vehicle for advancing our mission to help young women grow in intellect, creativity, physical wellness, individual and collaborative initiative, and social concern. Simply put, it's a lens into the larger world.

Quick Facts

Location: Tappahannock, Virginia - 1 hour northeast of Richmond and 2 hours south of Washington, D.C.

Type of School: Girls Episcopal

Number of Students: 125

Student to Faculty Ratio: 5:1

Boarding Years: 8-12

International Students: 30%