



ST. ALBANS SCHOOL

*“Going to school next to a Cathedral and on a hill overlooking the nation’s capital inspires us to become part of something larger than ourselves. We learn to serve others. We strive to understand the best that is thought and said, to play for a team and push ourselves on its behalf, and to discover the joy of art.”* HEADMASTER VANCE WILSON



ST. ALBANS SCHOOL

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# THE BIG PICTURE

**Over the past century, we’ve built a community that nurtures strength, inspires character, and promotes academic excellence. This school provides the ideal setting for boys to learn and grow.**

**FROM OUR BEGINNING IN 1909**, the emphasis at St. Albans School has been helping our students grow into strong, capable individuals, prepared to face the challenges of the modern world. What has a century of experience taught us? A complete education extends beyond the classroom to every corner of our campus.

**WE’VE SEEN THE BIG PICTURE:** Nurturing the intellect, body, and spirit of our students is essential for cultivating confident adults who are prepared for their next challenges—college and the life that awaits them afterward.

To achieve these goals, our campus has grown. A hundred years has brought four classroom buildings, two gymnasiums, two libraries, a theater, a refectory, a dormitory, six science laboratories, computer facilities, three art studios,

tennis courts, athletic fields, and an indoor swimming pool. But the spirit of the school—an intimate community that thrives on close relationships between faculty and day and boarding students, on family-style lunches, on a challenging-yet-caring environment—remains. In our classrooms, gymnasiums, and theaters, boys in grades 4–12 undertake a rigorous course of study that inspires them to make the most of their talents as they stretch their minds and develop their character.



**NOT JUST LUNCH**

Every school day, students and teachers gather together for a family-style lunch in the refectory, the physical and symbolic heart of the school. Lunch in our dining hall provides an opportunity to relax with friends and meet students in other grades while partaking in lively

conversations and enjoying a tasty and nourishing meal. Throughout the year, students rotate to different teachers' tables so that each boy truly gets to know—and be known by—the faculty. The tradition goes back decades—and remains a beloved memory among alumni.

**ST. ALBANS' HISTORY SURROUNDS** the boys as they eat. The names and pictures of every graduate cover the refectory walls, reminding the boys that they are part of something much bigger than themselves. They are part of a family that spans more than a century. Family-style lunches have become a

tradition at St. Albans because of a belief that the best in a boy emerges when he knows that he has the support of his peers and teachers.

**THIS PHILOSOPHY UNDERLIES** everything at St. Albans. Healthy and positive relationships create a community in

which boys flourish. Playful table games (“Recite for me, the table master, the worst poem that you can craft. The best poets will have to clear the table.”)—and lively debates cultivate a spirit of camaraderie that bridges lectern, desk, sideline, and stage. That’s why lunch isn’t *just* lunch at St. Albans. It is so much more.

*“Lunch provides a real break after a long day of classes. I loved being able to join the entire student body for a meal, relaxation, and conversation. I also enjoyed interacting with faculty members outside the classroom on a more casual and personal level.”* WILL GAROFALO '11

COMMUNITY



*“St. Albans teachers understand the whole boy—through small classes, on the athletic field, at the lunch table, and on the stage. Their dedication and wisdom produce engaged learners and self-confident young men.”*

MARY CRAWFORD,  
MOTHER OF THREE ALUMNI



### IN THE CLASSROOM

St. Albans believes that a well-rounded education is the best education and seeks to develop in each student a *breadth* as well as a *depth* of knowledge. Every student has important books to read, math problems to solve, labs to conduct, and art to create.

**AS A BOYS' SCHOOL**, St. Albans is a place of great energy and enthusiasm, boisterous voices and constant motion, as well as serious intellectual inquiry and reflection. Our 100 talented teachers, experts in helping boys develop academically and socially, fully understand the best ways to reach and teach boys at different stages in life. St. Albans offers coeducational opportunities within a single-sex environment through its

long-standing coordinate program with the National Cathedral School for girls. This academic, athletic, and artistic partnership allows our students to benefit from coeducation, while receiving every advantage of a single-sex environment.

**LOWER SCHOOL** Our forty 4th grade boys bound into St. Albans with expectations, excitement, and energy. In 4th and 5th grade, boys learn how to learn. Organizing a binder, decoding a math problem, working with a partner, conducting an experiment, and structuring a sentence get equal air-time in our classrooms. Balanced with an ample amount of free-play at recess, the skills taught within our traditional program lay a foundation for the challenges that await our youngest students.



A boy's world expands as he moves into 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. New friends enroll, the curriculum departmentalizes, and interscholastic athletics begin. Developmentally, boys enter adolescence. Their minds grow and change. Abstract and complex notions entrance them as their teachers stretch, encourage,

and support. Adolescent boys search for their center, and here is a where a boys' school is most crucial: At moments

when boys feel unsure, they are reaffirmed; they are allowed to be themselves, to take intellectual risks, to make mistakes which yield breakthroughs, fresh insights, and a glimpse of the man they are becoming. Boys emerge from the Lower School confident and well equipped for the Upper School.

**UPPER SCHOOL ON A CO-ED CAMPUS** Upper School life provides greater opportunities as students in grades 9–12 explore a core curriculum of the humanities, sciences, and arts. Nearly 75 percent of our teachers have advanced

degrees; masters of their subjects, they keep their students current with recent research. Around 20 new students start at St. Albans in 9th grade, a quarter of them as part of our boarding program. When the boys enter the Upper School, their lives overlap with the girls from the National Cathedral School. Artistic and athletic coordination begins as boys and girls participate together in select arts and sports. Many Upper School English and elective classes are also coeducational. The boys and girls approach these new experiences with self-assurance, a result of their single-sex education.

# ACADEMICS





# FAITH

*“I like chapel because it gives me time to reflect. Students’ personal talks have helped me understand the beliefs of others while encouraging me to explore my own faith.”* JOSHUA HARMON '13



## ENGAGING THE SOUL

Since St. Albans’ founding, the boys and their teachers have gathered for chapel in the Little Sanctuary to worship, pray, and learn. Chapel services engage the big questions in life, meeting boys where they are in their spiritual development: Who am I? Who is God? How do I relate to God? What makes for a good life? Is it okay to doubt? What gives my life meaning?

AS AN EPISCOPAL SCHOOL with a pastoral commitment to all, St. Albans welcomes students of all faiths and respects the religious beliefs of all members of the diverse school community. Lower School chapels are led primarily by

our Lower School chaplain and faculty. Seventh and eighth graders volunteer for the vestry to assist in the services. In the Upper School, the boys assume a leadership role, reinforcing the notion that they have a place in the life of the school and the church. In addition to the chaplains and other adults offering homilies, students elected to the vestry address their peers in chapel. The chapel serves as a true sanctuary, a safe and supporting place where boys can wrestle with the complexities of the 21st-century world.

THE LITTLE SANCTUARY is a powerful symbol of a St. Albans education. The boys learn about their friends and their

teachers, but they also learn about themselves. They contemplate the meaning and purpose of their life, and they are assured that they have friends and mentors along the way. Humility and confidence grow out of this experience.

Boys are equipped to pursue excellence and take risks because of the community that surrounds them.

WHETHER IN THE CHAPEL, in the classroom, or on the playing field, building

a moral and ethical foundation is an integral part of a St. Albans education. Faculty, staff, alumni, and parents support students as they learn to lead lives of honor and commitment. This philosophy requires action in service of the broader Washington, D.C., community and the world. Lower School boys participate in social service projects; the 6th grade volunteers monthly as part of the curriculum. Upper School boys complete at least 60 hours of service. Through precept and example, students learn that good character comes from kindness, from an open heart and mind, and from embodying what has become



a touchstone of ethical behavior at St. Albans: choosing the hard right over the easy wrong.



### THE BODY/MIND CONNECTION

The tradition of *mens sana in corpore sano*—a sound mind in a sound body—is central to St. Albans School. Sports are part of the curriculum, and every boy plays a sport every season. Establishing a respect for fitness, encouraging honorable sportsmanship and fair play, and channeling ambition and drive into competitive sports builds both physical strength and moral rigor. Courage to persevere, commitment to excellence, and a desire to achieve personal and team success through generosity, mutual respect, and teamwork are traits that transcend athletics.

**LOWER SCHOOL BOYS GAIN SELF-**confidence and refine physical skills by learning fundamentals in intramural and interscholastic sports. They learn how to challenge themselves and to

work as a team while developing their strength, coordination, and mental acuity.

**IN THE UPPER SCHOOL,** the emphasis is on competitive athletics. A diverse interscholastic schedule of competition—including baseball, basketball, crew, cross-country, football, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, paddling, rock-climbing, soccer, swimming, track, tennis, and wrestling—appeals to the interests and talents of any student. In addition, boys have an opportunity to play intramural sports, to study dance, and to join a vigorous outdoors program—Voyageur—that operates in coordination with the National Cathedral School.

**THE SCHOOL STRESSES** the importance of responsibility and the value of a competitive spirit, while highlighting the virtues

of fair play and best effort. Sports take boys out of their comfort zone, asking them to take chances for the good of the team and to trust in their teammates and coaches. Recognizing the importance of adult role models in athletic endeavors, the school considers all of its head coaches to be members of the faculty and seeks, whenever possible, to employ teacher-coaches.

**EACH SEASON,** these coaches talk with students about—and model for them—the core values of a St. Albans athlete: loyalty, leadership, honor, sacrifice, pride, courage, discipline, and excellence.



# ATHLETICS

*“Winning the cross-country championship made me extremely proud of my team. I was excited not just because we won but because we won for St. Albans.”* JAMES MELLODY '11





*“My first day at school, I heard the boys’ choir in the Cathedral. They sounded incredible. I thought, I want to be part of that.”*

JULIAN KUSNADI '07

#### ARTISTIC EXPLORATIONS

Each December, on a wintry night, the St. Albans community gathers in the Cathedral to celebrate an evening of lessons and carols. Situated throughout the glorious Gothic space, five hundred student musicians from St. Albans and National Cathedral School sing, dance, and play music before an enthusiastic audience of families, friends, and teachers. In late spring, student visual

artists have a chance to display their talents and commitment to the arts during the annual art show. Transformed into colorful galleries, the halls of the Upper and Lower School feature paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs by every student enrolled in an art class.

**THESE ANNUAL EVENTS SHOWCASE** the school’s flourishing arts program. Art classes foster creativity, insightfulness, empathy, and focus. Preparing for performances, students gain self-confidence and discipline while learning to work in a group. On stage and in the studio, students receive a direct and deep understanding of great works of music, literature, and art. As students explore diverse creative opportunities, they are encouraged to develop their particular talents. They leave St. Albans with a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

**MUSIC** Founded as a school for the Cathedral boy choristers, St. Albans maintains a strong tradition of musical education. All Lower School boys take music class; about 20 boys sing in the Cathedral choir. Lower Schoolers may also elect to join co-ed wind and string ensembles or to sing in the school’s all-boys chorus. By the time they begin Upper School, the boys have grown into talented performers, finding positions in the school’s many performing groups, which range from a jazz ensemble and small *a capella* groups to a coed chorale of 160 singers.

**THEATER** Theatrical arts are also part of the St. Albans curriculum, starting in 7th grade. Classes in acting, directing, stagecraft, public speaking, theater design, stage production, and filmmaking allow every thespian to develop his skills. Boys and girls participate in all aspects of the six annual



productions—as actors, musicians, dancers, and designers working with stage lighting, sound, and set construction. Seasoned performers and first-time actors venture onto the stage for lively musicals, classic masterpieces, and student-written and -directed plays.

**VISUAL ARTS** The visual arts are nurtured in studio classes from the very beginning of a St. Albans education. Whether constructing models of medieval castles or painting *papier mâché* globes, Lower School artists often pursue projects tied to lessons learned in homeroom. Hands-on experience and encouragement to experiment with a variety of media often lead to a more serious exploration of drawing, painting, and sculpture during the Upper School years. Upper School classes focus on a close study of the world around us and the development of each boy’s individual expression.

arts





## EXPANDING THE EXPERIENCE

St. Albans is committed to broadening students' horizons and promoting diversity. The school's location in Washington, its rigorous curriculum, and its strong financial aid program attract the best students from across the metropolitan area, the nation, and the world. The 575 students represent multiple states, nationalities, socio-economic levels, races, and religions. Approximately 35 percent are students

of color. The dormitory houses approximately 30 students from as far away as Northern Ireland, Bulgaria, China, Mexico, and Korea and as close as the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. St. Albans graduates enter a broad spectrum of professional paths: law, medicine, business and finance, architecture, theater, teaching, music, and more. The school encourages each student to discover his own interests and talents and to pursue them with passion.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Beyond the school day, St. Albans and National Cathedral School students participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Student Councils provide a direct link between the students and the faculty; vestry members help present chapel services and sponsor social-service activities. Students produce *The Saint Albans News*, *The Independent*, Upper and Lower School yearbooks, a literary

# GROWTH

journal and other lively publications, as well as CD's of student music.

**IN THE UPPER SCHOOL**, more than 30 student-led and faculty-sponsored clubs—including the Math Team, the Fed Challenge, the International

Students Club, and the Improv Club—appeal to diverse interests. The Government Club, one of the school's most well-established student organizations, engages St. Albans and National Cathedral School students in the issues of the day. Students match wits in debate and benefit from an impressive roster of guest speakers.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**, such as Lower School Field Day, the Art Show, the Science Fair, and Grandparents' Day, enliven the academic year.

## EXPLORING THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Our academic, arts, and social service programs benefit greatly from the school's location in Washington, D. C. Students often study at nearby university libraries or the Library of Congress

and take advantage of summer internship opportunities at local institutions, including the National Institutes of Health. Teachers and students have access to great museums, government institutions and agencies, Washington National Cathedral and other houses of worship, and major historical sites. Student musicians perform at such venues as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the White House, and various embassies. St. Albans' athletic teams have competed on area university fields as well as the home field of the Washington Nationals. Our Social Service Program engages agencies in Maryland, D.C., and Virginia; school clubs, including the Model U.N., Government Club, and Fed Challenge benefit greatly from access to government institutions, policymakers, and other civil servants.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** Almost half of our students go overseas on a school-sponsored trip during their high school career. St. Albans encourages and



supports student travel through well-established school exchanges with home stays in Australia, South Africa, France, the United Kingdom, and the Czech Republic. The school also offers a rich assortment of fellowships that allow students to travel almost anywhere in the world in pursuit of a project that inspires them. Past travelers have investigated such topics as Basque separatism in Spain, Noh theater in Japan, prehistoric settlements in Scotland, Aboriginal rights in Australia, the Ireland of poet

*“Students have a wide variety of interests, and they are encouraged to pursue them all. As you get involved in the numerous activities available, led by outstanding teachers and coaches, you become a more complete person.”*

MICHAEL WIACEK '12

W.B. Yeats, and cheetahs in Namibia. Wherever they travel, students immerse themselves in the everyday life of the people, while gaining a better understanding of themselves and the role they play in the world.





**VISIT ST. ALBANS SCHOOL** and see the big picture for yourself. At [www.stalbansschool.org](http://www.stalbansschool.org), you will find detailed descriptions of all our offerings and course requirements, pictures of our campus and our students, and our school handbook. Through the website, you can contact our admissions office and arrange a guided tour of the St. Albans campus. When you see all that we have to offer, you'll understand how St. Albans provides our students with the ideal setting for boys to grow, learn, and thrive.

### ST. ALBANS SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

St. Albans prepares students for a wide variety of demanding colleges and universities, with each boy encouraged to apply to schools that best fit his unique strengths and interests. Over the past five years, the following schools have enrolled the most students:

|                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Amherst                           | Stanford                   |
| Bowdoin                           | Tufts                      |
| Columbia                          | University of Chicago      |
| Cornell                           | University of Michigan     |
| Dartmouth                         | University of Pennsylvania |
| Georgetown                        | University of Virginia     |
| Harvard                           | Wake Forest                |
| Indiana University at Bloomington | Wesleyan                   |
| Princeton                         | William & Mary             |
|                                   | Yale                       |

**YEAR OPENED**  
1909

**ENROLLMENT**  
575

**GRADES**  
4-12

**NUMBER OF BOARDERS**  
30 (Grades 9-12)

**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**  
Episcopal

**CAMPUS**  
Part of the 59-acre Washington National Cathedral Close in Northwest D.C.

**AVERAGE GRADUATING CLASS SIZE**  
75-80

**STUDENTS OF COLOR**  
35%

**STUDENT- FACULTY RATIO**  
7 to 1

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE**  
13 students

**PERCENTAGE OF FACULTY WITH ADVANCED DEGREES**  
73%

**STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID**  
25%

**AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID AWARD**  
More than \$25,000

**MASCOT**  
The Bulldog



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