

SCHOOL PROFILE 2016/17

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

OVERVIEW

Traverse City St. Francis High School is a four-year comprehensive high school – part of the K-12 Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools system. Five local parishes maintain the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools to give students a thorough knowledge of the Catholic faith as well as to help them achieve excellence in the arts and sciences. The school serves an economically diverse population and has been in existence since 1877.

A “SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE”

Students at St. Francis High School receive an authentic Catholic education. For 2008/09, 2010/11 and 2012/13, and 2014, Traverse City St. Francis was named to the Catholic Schools Honor Roll. There is a profound emphasis on prayer and the Sacraments, including weekly Mass, opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation, and an emphasis on Catholic prayer and traditions. Students and their families serve a free hot meal to the area’s needy and participate in mission trips, the March for Life, Christian service programs and more. Parental commitment is key as we work together to promote growth in responsibility, confidence, competence and faith.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

St. Francis High School provides a rigorous curriculum based on research and best practices. Courses provide challenge for students of all ability levels, and include a variety of Advance Placement (AP) and honors selections. In 2015 and 2016 rankings compiled annually by the **Washington Post**, St. Francis High School ranked 7th and 11th in the state, respectively, on the list of America’s Most Challenging High Schools. Dual enrollment through Northwestern Michigan College and the Traverse Bay Intermediate School District Career Tech center is widely utilized. The environment is conducive to learning. Small class sizes (22:1 average), dedicated teachers, K-12 curriculum planning, and parental involvement all contribute to outcomes that place Traverse City St. Francis among the highest performing Catholic schools in Michigan.

CURRICULUM

A full range of college preparatory courses is offered including a variety of College Board’s Advanced Placement courses: Biology, Psychology, Statistics, Government, Spanish, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Literature and Language courses. An

honors curriculum is offered and students with demonstrated educational maturity may elect carefully assigned and monitored independent study coursework. Students are required to complete 24 Carnegie units of credit. Honors and accelerated courses are not weighted. Students may participate in the dual enrollment program at Northwestern Michigan College. Students may elect additional classes at the Traverse Bay Area Career Tech Center. Religion classes include instruction in the Theology of the Body.

- The Class of 2016 had an average composite ACT score of 25.3 versus 20.3 (state) and 20.8 (national)
- An average of 98% of St. Francis students go on to post-secondary education
- 81% of juniors and seniors take at least one AP course
- 77% of sophomores take at least one honors course
- 40% of students will dual enroll in at least one class at Northwestern Michigan College

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Approximately 95% of our students participate in extracurricular opportunities including athletics, drama, marching and concert band, Key Club, choir and much more! These programs instill self-discipline, team-building, self-confidence and school pride while engaging students in wholesome, enjoyable activities. A myriad of sports options exist for boys and girls, freshman through varsity levels. Nearly 75% of our students are involved in at least one athletic activity.

A RECOGNIZABLE DIFFERENCE

St. Francis High School students continually receive numerous scholarship recognitions from both independent and public colleges and universities. St. Francis students are consistently chosen for recognition of their leadership within the community. Recent college placements include the following:

*Ball State
Berklee College of Music
Boston College
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
College of William and Mary
Dartmouth College
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University*

*Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Loyola University
Marquette University
Marymount Manhattan, New York
Miami University of Ohio
New York University
Northwestern University
Purdue University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*

*St. Francis College, New York
St. Mary’s College, Indiana
Santa Clara University
University of Notre Dame
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Vanderbilt University*

Plus all Michigan colleges and universities