



St. Agnes Academy

Open House
November 5, 2009
SAA Auditorium
7 p.m.

Opening Prayer	St. Agnes Triple Trio
Welcome	Sr. Jane Meyer, O.P., Head of School
Student Speakers	Johanna Lucas, Class of 2013 Lindsay Buchanan, Class of 2010
Slide Show	Deborah Whalen, Academic Dean & Director of Admission

Campus tours will begin following the presentation in the auditorium. Representatives from the Office of Admission will be available in the Center for the Sciences and Student Services all evening to distribute and receive application materials.

St. Agnes Academy
9000 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77036
713-219-5400
www.st-agnes.org

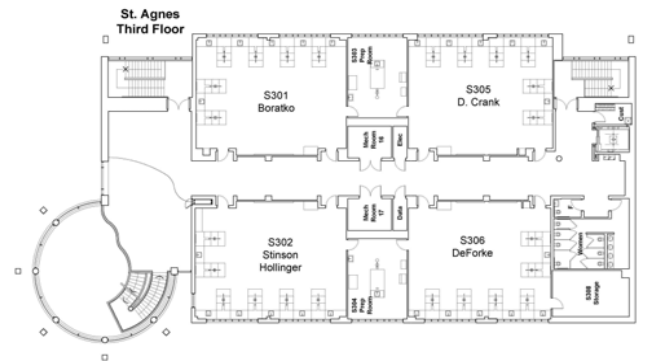
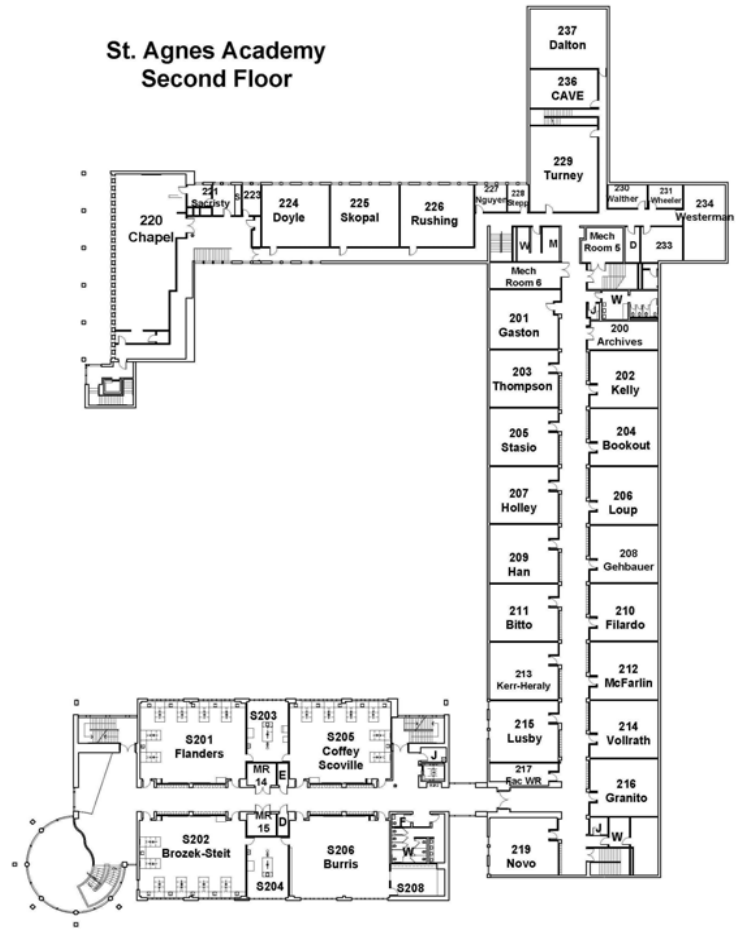
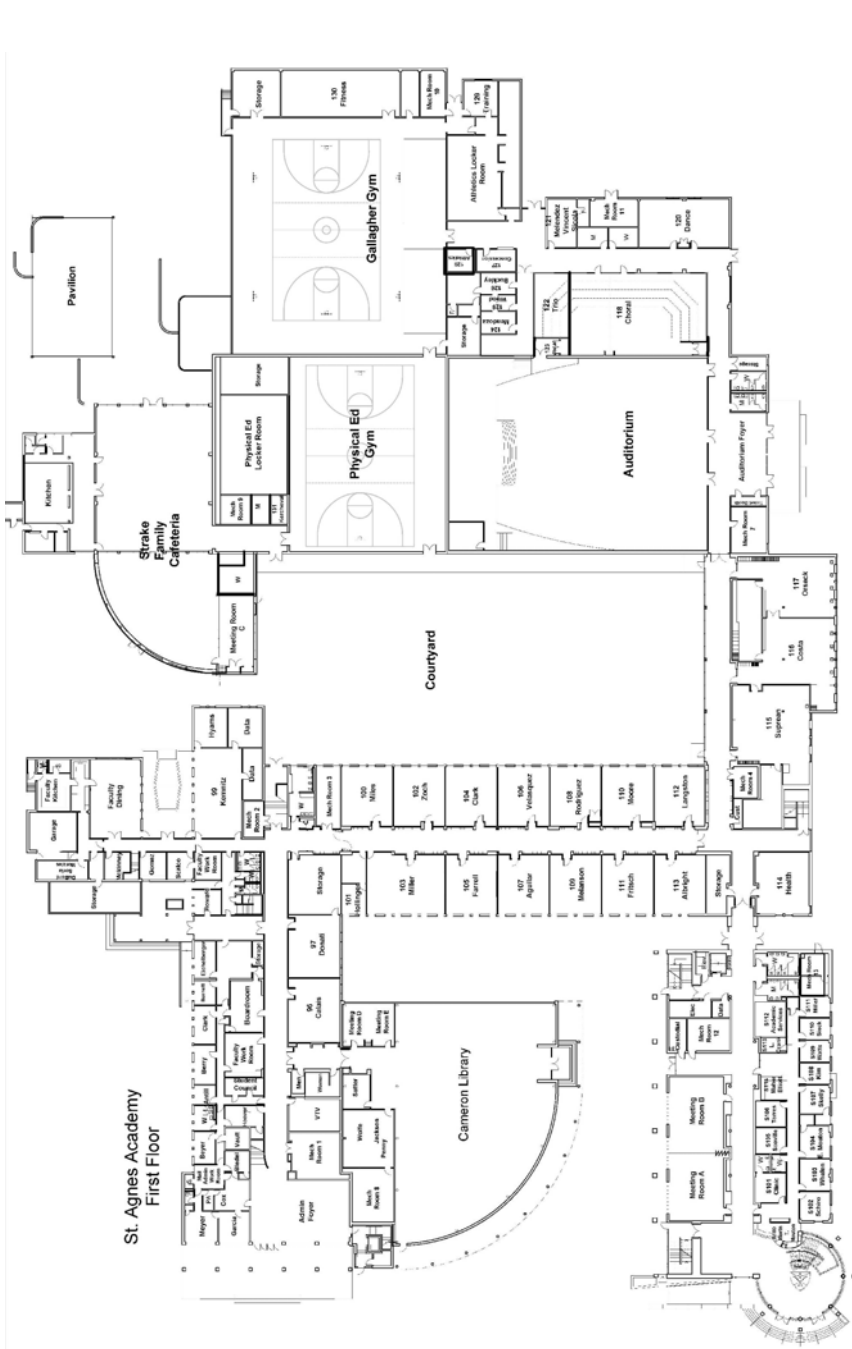
St. Agnes Academy Mission Statement

Rooted in the Dominican tradition, St. Agnes Academy provides a Catholic college preparatory education that encourages young women to develop intellectual curiosity, to work for social justice and to act with integrity and compassion.

St. Agnes Academy History

Founded by the Dominican Sisters in 1906, the original St. Agnes Academy campus was located in downtown Houston on Fannin Street. In 1963, SAA opened its doors at the current 9000 Bellaire Boulevard location in southwest Houston. Today, with an enrollment of 874 young women, St. Agnes enjoys a legacy of tradition and excellence as the school celebrates its 104rd year.

St. Agnes Academy admits students without regard to race, color or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission and educational policies, financial aid programs, employment practices, and other school-administered programs.



St. Agnes Academy Curriculum

The curriculum of St. Agnes Academy revolves around core subject areas of Theology, English, Mathematics, Science, Language, and Social Studies. The elective program offers students the opportunity to pursue areas of special interest or go into greater depth in the core subjects. All courses are constantly evaluated and changed (as appropriate) to meet the needs of the students within today's society. They are designed with the development of capable and well-rounded women in mind.

Twenty-six credits are required for graduation with a minimum of six credits taken per year.

4	Theology	1½	P.E.
4	English	½	Health
4	Mathematics	½	Speech
4	Science	1	Fine Arts
3	History	1	Computer
2	Foreign Language	½	Service
2 ½	Electives		

9th Grade

Scripture
English 1
Mathematics
Science
Foreign Language 1
Physical Education/Health
Speech

10th Grade

Catholicism
English 2
Mathematics
Science
World History
Foreign Language 2
Physical Education
Computer Applications

11th Grade

Christian Morality/Social Justice
English 3
Mathematics
Science
US History
Foreign Language (optional)
Electives

12th Grade

Theology Electives
English 4
Mathematics
Science
Government & Economics
Foreign Language (optional)
Service Program
Electives

Science Department

Josephine DeForke '83 Department Chair	Ph.D., University of Houston B.S., University of St. Thomas
Cynthia Boratko	M.Ed., Houston Baptist University B.S., University of Minnesota B.A., University of Missouri
Kathryn Brozek-Streit	Ph.D., University of Wisconsin B.S., University of Wisconsin
Harold Burris	M.A., Rice University
Sandra Coffey	M.Ed., University of Houston B.A., University of Texas
Debbie Crank	M.Ed., University of St. Thomas B.A., University of St. Thomas
Jeanne Flanders	M.Ed., University of Houston B.S., Wayne State University
Jeffrey Hollinger	B.A., University of Texas
Kim Scoville '95	M.Ed., University of Houston B.S., Stanford University
Lisa Stinson	Ed.D., Texas A&M University (in progress) M.Ed., Texas A&M University B.S., Oklahoma State University

Overview: In their science courses at St. Agnes, students are encouraged to explore the interactions among society, technology, and science. By understanding past achievements, present projects and future possibilities in scientific study, students will lay foundations for a lifetime of interest and possible career in science. St. Agnes students must take four years of science from a total of eight full-year courses and three one-semester courses.

Courses: Ninth grade students will start in one of two courses in the fall: Biology I or Honors Biology I. Courses offered after the ninth grade include Environmental Systems, Chemistry I, Honors Chemistry I, Physics, Honors Physics, Geology, Marine Science, Astronomy, Biology 2, Honors AP Biology, Chemistry 2 and Honors AP Chemistry.

Placement: The science department will use the following to decide which course best suits the student's ability and background: Entrance exam scores, math placement and science placement test scores

Clubs: Pre-Med Club, Green Club, Engineering Team

English Department

Constance Bitto Department Chair	B.A., Wellesley College
Jonathan Filardo	B.A., Nicholls State University
Sharon Gehbauer '89	B.A., University of Houston
Stephanie Granito '99	B.A., Texas A&M University
Eric Kerr-Herally	M.A., University of Houston B.S., Baylor University
Cynthia Lusby	M.A., University of Houston Clear Lake B.S., Southern Illinois University
Tricia McFarlin	Ph.D., University of Houston M.A., University of Houston B.A., University of Houston
Felicia Miller	M.A., University of Houston (in progress) B.A., University of Houston
Charles Novo	Ph.D., University of Houston M.A., University of Houston B.A., University of St. Thomas
Lesli Vollrath	M.A., University of Houston B.A., University of Mississippi

Overview: St. John begins his gospel by telling his readers that “in the beginning was the word.” We members of the English department take the word as seriously as we do our faith. The English department -- committed to the beauty and necessity of literature and the rigor, beauty, and utility of writing -- strives to employ the practical implementation of grammar and vocabulary study as well as practice in classroom speaking and discussion to create skilled as well as faith filled students.

Courses: All of our students take four years of English. Ninth grade students will start in one of two courses in the fall: English 1 or Honors English 1. Courses offered after the ninth grade include English 2 which is a study of British Literature, English 3 which is a study of American literature, and English 4 which is a study of World literature with an emphasis on significant literary works in translation. Honors or AP courses are available at each level. Each course description can be viewed on the St. Agnes website.

Placement: The process of placing a student in the appropriate course is very important. We want our students to feel challenged yet comfortable with the pace of instruction. The English department will decide which course best

suits the student’s ability and background; the emphasis for placement in Honors English 1 will be on test scores, though recommendations and sample writing may also be examined. Students in the regular college prep course may have the option to enter into Honors English 2 in their sophomore year if their grades are sufficiently high.

Library Facilities & Services

Herman Sutter, Library Director	M.S., University of North Texas B.A., University of St. Thomas
Carol Jackson, Assistant Librarian	B.S., Our Lady of the Lake University Library Certification

Overview

The Isabel Cameron Library contains a wide variety of print and non-print resources to support the library's mission: to ensure that students and staff are effective researchers and efficient users of ideas and information.

The library’s facilities include:

- 18,000 volumes
- 140 periodicals
- 1300 videotapes
- 8 networked Windows terminals

The library is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mathematics Department

Laura Bookout Department Chair	B.S., Texas A& M University
Kathi Thompson	B.S., Louisiana Tech University
Garvin Gaston	B.A., Emory University
Kai-Yu Han	M.Ed., University of Illinois B.A., University of Texas
Lisa Holley	M.Ed., University of Houston M.Ed., Houston Baptist University B.A., University of Illinois
Lauren Kelly '00	M.A., University of St. Thomas (in progress) B.A., Texas Tech University
Janet Loup	B.S., University of New Orleans
Denise Stasio	M. Ed., University of Houston B.A., Texas A&M University
Rose Ann Stepp	M. S., University of Kentucky B.S., Transylvania University

Overview

The goal of the Mathematics Department is twofold. First, as a college preparatory school, we want our students to successfully complete as many math courses as possible and be ready for a challenging curriculum at the university level. Second, we want our students to see mathematics as a valuable tool for the future.

The Mathematics Department strives to provide a learning environment where students can see the power of mathematics and enhance their mathematical confidence. We want our students to be confident in their ability in the following areas:

- Applying a Variety of Appropriate Strategies to Solve Problems
- Reasoning and Proof
- Communicating Ideas Orally and in Writing
- Recognizing, Connecting, and Applying Concepts
- Representing Phenomena Symbolically
- Using Technology Appropriately and Effectively

Courses

Ninth grade students will start in one of four courses in the fall:

- Algebra 1
- Honors Algebra 1

- Ninth Grade Geometry
- Ninth Grade Honors Geometry

Courses offered after the ninth grade include:

- Geometry
- Honors Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Honors Algebra 2 with Trigonometry
- Trig/College Algebra
- Pre-Calculus
- Advanced Placement Calculus AB
- Honors Advanced Placement Calculus BC

Recent research shows that students who take a math course higher than Algebra 2 in high school are more likely to be successful in college than other students. Each course description can be viewed on the St. Agnes website.

Placement: The process of placing a student in the appropriate course is very important. We want our students to feel challenged yet comfortable with the pace of instruction. The Math Department will use the following information to decide which course best suits the student's ability and background.

- Entrance exam scores
- Placement test scores
- Recommendations from middle school math teachers
- Report cards from middle school
- Standardized test scores

History & Social Sciences Department

Mark Albright Department Chair	B.A., Lycoming College
Marcy Aguilar '92	B.S., Texas A&M University
Kellie Farrell	M.A., University of Wyoming
	M.A., Northeastern University
	B.A., College of the Holy Cross
Katie Fritsch	M.A., National University
	B.A., Trinity University
Sharon Gehbauer '89	B.A., University of Houston
Ann Melancon	B.A., University of St. Thomas
Rodney Miles	J.D., University of Houston
	A.B.D., University of Houston
	M.A., Virginia Poly. In. & State U
	B.A., College of William & Mary
Brigid Schiro '81	B.A., University of Texas

Overview

The goal of the History and Social Sciences department is threefold. First, we work to help students better understand the world around them by understanding the world that came before them. It is impossible to appreciate our own circumstances without knowing how they came to be. With this background, we pursue our second goal: to teach the students about the modern world and how it works. Third, and most important, we strive to help our students see their place within the present, how they can impact the future and thus contribute to what will become their history.

Courses

Students are required to take two years of History and one year of Social Sciences beginning their sophomore year:

10 th grade:	World History or Honors AP World History
11 th grade:	U.S. History or Honors AP U.S. History
12 th grade:	Government or AP Government and Economics or Honors Macroeconomics
Electives:	Psychology (11 th or 12 th grade), The 1960's (12 th grade)

Extra-Curricular Activities

Close-Up in Washington D.C., Harvard Model Congress, Model United Nations, Junior Statesmen of America, Young Democrats, Young Republicans, People to People International

Foreign Language Department

Mary Jo Langston '63 Department Chair	B.A., Webster University
Marcia Clark	B.A., University of Houston
	M.A., University of Houston
	M.A., Tecnológico de Monterrey, México
	B.A., Tecnológico de Monterrey, México
Marie Moore	B.A., University of Houston
Alvaro Rodriguez	M.S., Hunter College, CUNY
	B.A., Queens College, CUNY
Jennifer Velasquez '00	M.Ed., Texas A&M University
	B.A., Texas A&M University
Deborah Whalen	M.S., California State University
	B.A., Santa Clara University
Paul Zoch	M.A., Indiana University at Bloomington
	B.A., University of Texas

Overview: The primary goal of the Modern and Classical Languages Department is developing student proficiency in the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, with an emphasis on speaking. The program aims to increase the students' knowledge and appreciation of the geography and culture of the countries studied.

Courses: Students are required to complete two consecutive years of the same language at St. Agnes. We encourage students to pursue their chosen language beyond the 2 year requirement. We believe the premise that it takes at least 3 years to become competent with the language. Most competitive colleges and universities also require 3 years of study. Many of our students who complete 3 years of a language place out of college hours.

Ninth grade students will start in one of the following courses in the fall: French 1, French 2, Latin 1, Latin 2, Spanish 1 or Spanish 2. Courses offered after the ninth grade include French 2, 3, 4, 5, Latin 2, 3, 4, AP Latin – Vergil, Spanish 2, 3, 4, 5, AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature.

Placement: If the student wishes to continue with the same language that she has studied in middle school, she must take a placement test. The placement test covers the material that has been mastered in level one at St. Agnes. Using the results, the student is placed in the appropriate level of the language. If she wishes to start a new language, she will automatically be placed in the first level of that language.

Cultural Enhancement: Students are encouraged to join the language clubs, take part in the National Contests and take advantage of the travel options available during spring break and summer vacation.

Theology Department

Diana Turney	M.A., University of St. Thomas
Department Chair	B.A., University of St. Thomas
Arthur Buckley	M.R.E., University of St. Thomas
	B.A., Boston University
Tommy Calais	M.A., Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
	S.T.B./M.A., Universite Catholique de Louvain
	B.A., St. Joseph Seminary
Julie Donati	M.A., University of St. Thomas
	M.A., University of Maryland
	B.A., University of Colorado
Anne Doyle	M.A., University of St. Thomas
	B.A., Our Lady of the Elms College
Martin Nguyen	M.A., University of St. Thomas (in progress)
	B.A., Georgetown University
Becky Rushing	B.A., U. of Southwestern Louisiana
Georgia Skopal	M.A., St. Joseph's College
	B.A., University of Florida
Ben Walther	B.A., Franciscan University of Steubenville
Dan Westerman	M.A., Niagara University
	B.A., University of Dallas

Overview

The goal of the Theology Department is twofold. First, we strive to provide students with the context and the theological tools necessary to understand the Judeo-Christian tradition, specifically within the Roman Catholic faith. Second, we provide students the opportunity to reflect upon and develop their own faith.

The department sees the task of the theology teacher to be evangelical, catechetical and incarnational. The teacher proclaims, instructs and gives witness to the Christian message, provides opportunities for the students to gain academic knowledge and to reflect on their own faith life. The teacher of theology is involved in the education ministry of the Church which “. . . is a continuation of the mission of Jesus Christ” (To Teach As Jesus Did, section 151).

The department also recognizes the nature of this ministry as one of challenge and opportunity as stated in To Teach as Jesus Did, section 155:

The Christian community has every reason for hope in confronting the challenge of educational ministry today . . . We face problems; so did those who came before us, and so will those who follow. But as Christians we are confident of ultimate success, trusting not in ourselves, but in Jesus Christ, who is at once the inspiration, the content, and the goal of Christian education: “the way the truth, and the life.”

Courses

First Year:	Scripture
Second Year:	Catholicism
Third Year:	Christian Morality/Social Justice
Fourth Year:	Choice of two one-semester electives at SAA or Strake Jesuit

The method of scripture interpretation used by the Catholic Church, and thus by our theology classes at St. Agnes, is the contextualist or historical-critical method. It is very different from the fundamentalist method. The following explanation is an excerpt from a Scripture textbook used in the ninth grade:

Biblical Fundamentalism interprets scripture in an absolutely *literal* way. A fundamentalist would say, for example, that according to the creation account in Genesis, the earth was created in seven, twenty-four hour days, the equivalent of one of our weeks. This literal approach doesn't consider changes in language over the centuries and the cultural differences between our age and that of biblical times.

Historical-Critical Method [Contextualism] - The Catholic faith community endorses the historical-critical method of biblical interpretation. Vatican II had this to say about interpreting scripture:

Since God speaks in sacred Scripture...in human fashion, the interpreter of sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writer really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words. Those who search out the intention of the sacred writers must...have regard for “literary forms.” For truth is proposed and expressed in a variety of ways, depending on whether a text is history...or whether it is that of prophecy, poetry, or some other type of speech. The interpreter must investigate the meaning the sacred writer intended to express and actually expressed in particular circumstances as he used contemporary literary forms in accordance with the situation of his own time and culture. [*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, No.12*]

Source: Michael Pennock. Discovering the Promise of the Old Testament. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1992, pp. 36-37

Business and Computer Department

Jeff Wheeler	B.S., University of Massachusetts
Department Chair	
Sharon Kemnitz	M.S., University of Houston
	B.S., Bus. Adm., University of Nebraska at Lincoln
	B.S., Bus. Ed., University of Nebraska at Omaha
Rodney Miles	J.D., University of Houston
	A.B.D., University of Houston
	M.A., Virginia Poly. In. & State U
	B.A., College of William & Mary

Overview

The focus of the business and computer department is to provide the student with basic business training on several levels: computer skills, business attitudes, and economic, financial and legal understandings. Students will learn to use technology appropriately, to solve problems, to acquire and analyze information and to communicate the results in electronic format. In addition, students will learn by creating different formats, such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation and web designs.

Courses

9th - 12th Grades

- Introduction to Microsoft Office
- Web Mastering

10th – 12th Grades

- Multimedia and Image Management
- Video Production

11th-12th Grades

- Accounting
- Introduction to Law
- Business as a Vocation

Tablet PC Program

St. Agnes Academy is committed to the use of technology as a means of extending and enriching our educational mission. Computers are becoming more and more an integral part of the educational experience. St. Agnes Academy requires that incoming students purchase a Tablet PC.

Our Information Technology Department, along with our computer vendor MDL Enterprises, has put together a bundled package, which includes the Fujitsu Tablet PC, Windows Tablet Operating System and a 4-year warranty. Access to the SAA electronic library, Adobe products, anti-virus and MS Office is provided at no cost while your daughter is attending St. Agnes Academy. The purchase of this specific computer ensures SAA families of hardware and software compatibility with the software library, network and teaching objectives. St. Agnes Academy has an on-site computer repair center for repair and warranty issues. After hours support can be obtained from the manufacture and other computer vendors in the Houston area.

We are committed to working closely with our vendors to keep pricing as low as possible as computer model pricing changes. The current package pricing for the Fujitsu Tablet PC is \$1,950. This pricing is subject to change. More details regarding specifications for new computers and other technology information will be available in early spring.

Why Tablet PCs?

The Tablet PC provides an additional level of classroom viability through its advanced communication ability, portability and handwriting recognition software. From a learning standpoint, a one-to-one computing environment provides the following advantages:

- Permits differentiated learning within the classroom setting.
- Engages all types of learning modes, re: tactile, auditory and kinetic.
- Encourages problem solving and project based learning.
- Empowers learners at all academic levels.
- Students are accustomed to learning in a multi-input environment with the tablet; they are engaged and involved in the process.
- Provides a wider range of participation methods and immediate feedback.
- Prepares students for a college computing as well as real world environment.

We welcome any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Student Computer Purchasing Requirements. Please feel free to contact Jason Hyams, Director of Information Technology, at 713-219-5445 with any questions.

Performing Arts Department

Arthur Buckley	M.R.E., University of St. Thomas
Department Chair	B.A., Boston University
Kimberly Fuselier Mendoza	M.F.A., Indiana University
	B.A., Baylor University
Felicia Miller	M.A., University of Houston (in progress)
	B.A., University of Houston
Jeremy Wood	M.M., Baylor University
	B.M., Southwest Baptist University

Drama

Students interested in theater may choose from several electives, such as acting and theater production classes, which will fulfill their fine arts requirement. The St. Agnes and Strake Jesuit theater programs present several productions every year which are open to all students at both schools, including a fall play at each school and student-directed one-act plays.

The following electives are available in the area of theater arts:

- Introduction to Acting
- Advanced Acting
- Technical Theater
- Theater Production (meets after school)
- Stage Production (meets after school)
- Dramatic Performance

Vocal Music

The St. Agnes/Strake Jesuit Mixed Chorus meets every school day, Monday through Friday, from 7:10 to 7:55 a.m. Students study basic music theory, sight singing and a broad spectrum of vocal literature. An audition is required. St. Agnes' varsity vocal ensemble, the Triple Trio, meets daily as a scheduled class. These vocalists are also enrolled in the Mixed Chorus.

Performance Workshop, a group of 12-16 students chosen by audition, presents a broad spectrum of musical styles including popular, jazz, rhythm and blues, rock, country, Broadway and contemporary music. Private lessons, available to any St. Agnes student, allow the student to work one on one with a professional vocal instructor, one class period a week.

The Mixed Chorus performs several times a year, including a holiday concert featuring highlights from Handel's Messiah. The group also tours in the spring and in the past has visited cities including Washington D.C., New Orleans and Orlando. The St. Agnes Music Department produces a spring musical which is open to any interested student.

The following electives are available in the area of vocal music:

- Vocal Performance
- Mixed Chorus (meets daily before school)
- Performance Workshop
- Private Voice Instruction (non-credit)
- Triple Trio

Band and Orchestra

The objective of the Strake Jesuit Instrumental Music Program is to develop the aesthetic values and talents of our students. Also stressed is the development of a sense of pride, self respect and responsibility within each student. Individual as well as group performance is accentuated in many of the ensembles. A pep-band performs at all football and home basketball games. The symphonic band and orchestra perform at Christmas and spring concerts as well as statewide festivals and graduation ceremonies. The jazz ensemble affords those interested in big band music a chance to express themselves. Individual instrumentalists are encouraged to audition for both public and private school Region / State Bands and Orchestras.

Both the Symphonic Band and Orchestra classes receive a full academic credit. Band meets daily before school from 7:00 to 7:45 a.m., and the orchestra rehearses after school from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. Students may participate in Band and Orchestra all four years.

The following electives are available in the area of instrumental music:

- Music Theory 1
- Music Theory 2
- Freshman Music Lab
- Symphonic Band (meets daily before school)
- Chamber Orchestra (meets daily after school)
- Orchestral Winds (meets twice weekly after school)

Remix Dance Team

The purpose of the Remix Dance Team is to promote school spirit and create enthusiasm for St. Agnes Academy. Remix dancers develop good sportsmanship, self confidence, self discipline, and a high standard of dance. Remix dancers perform in pep rallies, various home games, and competitions. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Remix Dance Team must audition. Practices take place after school three days a week from 3:15 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Students can earn Physical Education credit for their participation in Remix.

Speech and Communications Department

Anne Dalton	M.S., National University
Department Chair	B.A., University of Texas at San Antonio
Eric Kerr-Herally	M.A., University of Houston
	B.S., Baylor University
Kathi Thompson	B.S., Louisiana Tech University
Jeff Wheeler	B.S., University of Massachusetts

Overview

The goal of the communications department is simple: to help our students become more effective communicators. We believe that all of the courses offered in the communication department will enable the students to have a successful career at St. Agnes. Communication is key to life and St. Agnes equips young ladies to flourish successfully beyond our walls.

Courses

The communications department offers a variety of courses to expand the student's mind and creativity. All students are required to take one semester of public speaking during the ninth grade year and communications electives are offered over the next three years.

Courses offered after the ninth grade include:

- Yearbook
- Journalism
- Debate/Oral Interpretation
- Student Leadership

Each course description can be viewed on the St. Agnes website.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students may participate in the following communications organizations and publications:

- Veritas (Yearbook)
- The Columns (Newspaper)
- Reflections (Literary magazine)
- National Forensics League
- Speech/Debate Club
- Veritas TV Club

Art Department

Laura Costa '78	B.F.A., University of Houston
Department Chair	
Ellen Orseck	M.A., New York University
	M.A.T., George Washington University
	B.F.A., Frostburg University
Terry Suprean	M.F.A., Texas Christian University
	B.A., Houston Baptist University

Overview: The goal of the Art Department is to enrich student lives with art and to help them see the world around them in new ways. By introducing the study of art of various periods, styles and media, we help students to appreciate, develop critical thinking skills and engage in the practice of making art. The Art Department provides opportunities for students to develop lifelong skills that bring joy to their lives. Students are encouraged to develop a passion for creating and/or understanding art through:

- The study of art history as a source of awareness and inspiration
- Learning the technical skills that are necessary for art production
- Building essential communication skills for speaking and writing about art
- Developing conceptual and planning skills
- Offering portfolio and competitive opportunities
- Incorporating technology and a wide variety of media to help students actualize their creative ideas
- Field trips that provide exposure to international collections at local museums, galleries and artist studios.

Courses: Students are required to complete 1 credit in the area of fine arts before graduation. The Art Department offers nine different courses to satisfy this requirement. Drawing I is the entry level art course for freshmen and first-time art students. Experience and ability are not necessary for success but a will to create and a joy of learning are essential. The Art Department offers the following courses:

- Beginning Drawing*
- Advanced Drawing
- Beginning Painting
- Advanced Painting
- Advanced Studio Art A
- Advanced Photography and Video
- Art History A*
- Art History B*
- Graphic Arts
- Digital Photography

*Courses open to freshmen

Campus Ministry

Martin Nguyen	M.A., University of St. Thomas (in progress)
Campus Minister	B.A., Georgetown University
Ben Walther	B.A., Franciscan University of Steubenville
Assistant Campus Minister	

St. Agnes Academy is committed to the task of Catholic education which is accomplished through the ministries of teaching, of proclaiming the Word, and through various kinds of leadership. A unique characteristic of Catholic education is its integration of faith with life experience. Faith is shared and celebrated through liturgical celebration, prayer, individual reflection, small and large group sharing.

Retreats: Faith is also nurtured and celebrated through retreats. Retreats give students the chance to “step-back” and reflect on their lives, their schoolwork, their family and friends, and most importantly, their faith. Retreats are overnight programs which vary in length depending on grade level. 9th and 10th graders have a one-night retreat while 11th and 12th graders attend two-night retreats. The Campus Ministry office designs each retreat to reflect the issues and topics that are most pertinent to each class. Additionally, each retreat focuses on one of the four Dominican pillars – Community, Prayer, Study and Preaching.

Service: Service has been characteristic of the students of St. Agnes Academy for many years. Service to others is both a natural response given by a maturing individual and an opportunity for further personal development of the individual. All students are required to give **one hundred** hours of service to Houston and surrounding communities prior to graduation.

Daily Prayer, Masses and Prayer Services: Each day students join in prayer in their first period class and in their theology class. We have mass in our chapel every Thursday during lunch and many opportunities are given to students for Mass and prayer services for special occasions.

Campus Ministry Team: Juniors and seniors are given the opportunity to plan and implement retreats after leadership training in this area. They also plan liturgies and service opportunities.

Dominican Preaching Conference: Each summer, three students from the sophomore class are chosen to attend the Dominican Preaching Conference. Students from Dominican schools throughout the U.S. attend this one-week event at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan. This is a unique opportunity for these students to expand their knowledge about the Dominican heritage of our school. Upon completing the conference, the students come back to school with the mission of sharing the knowledge and experiences they have gained.

Guidance Department

Deborah A. Skelly	M.Ed., University of Houston
Director of Guidance	Counseling Cert., Houston Baptist University
	B.S., Houston Baptist University
Jamie L. Kim	M.Ed., Peabody College of Vanderbilt
	Principal Cert., University of St. Thomas
	B.S., Vanderbilt University
Mary Ann Miller, LCSW	M.S.W., Tulane University
	M.R.E., Notre Dame School of Theology
	B.A., Our Lady of the Holy Cross College
Debbie Sieck, LMSW	M.S.W., University of Houston
	B.A., Cornell College
Sarah Torres	M.S., University of Houston
	B.S., Texas A&M University Galveston
Katherine Watts	M.A., Chapman University
	B.A., California State University Hayward

Overview: The counseling department at St. Agnes Academy provides a comprehensive service to the young women of the academy. Our services are aimed at meeting the needs of students in the following areas: academic, learning, social, emotional, college and career. Information is provided to our students through individual and group guidance.

Each year the counseling department hosts seven evening presentations for parents. Each grade level has at least one parent information night with the junior parents having two, one in the fall and one in the spring. The department also hosts a College Information Night and an evening of information about college for ninth and tenth grade parents. St. Agnes also serves as a host to various colleges in need of facilities for their local information nights. Sophomores and juniors take the PSAT in the fall each year. Sophomores also are administered the PLAN in the fall, while ninth graders take the ERB CTP IV test in the spring.

Academic Services Center

Lisa Crank	M.Ed., University of St. Thomas
Coordinator of Academic Services	B.A., University of St. Thomas

The Academic Services Center is a source for all students to develop effective learning and academic strategies to help meet the curriculum demands of St. Agnes Academy. The Center also provides a place for students with various learning differences to attain skills in study techniques, time management, organizational strategies and goal planning, as well as providing reasonable accommodations for students to ensure their full participation in the academic programs at St. Agnes Academy.

Physical Education and Athletics

Lynn Kercheval Athletic Director	B.S. University of Texas
Alice Melendez Department Chair	M.Ed., Grand Canyon University B.S., Baylor University
Jocelyn Vincent '99	B.S., Iona College
Jana Sicola '96	M.Ed., The Citadel B.F.A., Stephen F. Austin University

Physical Education and Health

St. Agnes students take a year and a half of physical education and one semester of health. All ninth graders will take Physical Education 1 and Health. Physical Education 1 is designed to give students a basic understanding of the principles of individual and team sports. The goal of health education is to develop an awareness of and appreciation for the total human being: physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual.

The remaining physical education requirement can be fulfilled in one of three ways. Physical Education 2 is a continuation of team sports begun in Physical Education 1 and an introduction to lifetime sports. Fitness and Conditioning offers a variety of training methodologies, including resistance training, anaerobic and aerobic conditioning. Students who are members of an athletic team can receive up to one year of credit for Physical Education. Playing on an athletic team for one season during the sophomore, junior or senior year will yield .5 credit. This means that a student who plays two full seasons of any sport after ninth grade will not need to take any other physical education course to graduate.

Athletics

St. Agnes Academy is affiliated with Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). TAPPS offers a district schedule with a play-off format similar to UIL public institutions. State championships are acknowledged in many sports, including cross country, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, golf, tennis, track, and softball. Water polo and lacrosse are governed by independent organizations and compete towards state play-off competition with public schools. Students are allowed to compete in one sport per season:

Fall

Volleyball
Cross Country
Water Polo

Winter

Basketball
Soccer
Swimming

Spring

Softball
Track & Field
Tennis
Golf
Lacrosse

Junior Varsity and Varsity teams are fielded in nine sports, with basketball and volleyball also offering a third ninth grade-only team. All sports conduct practices each day of the week in which a team is not competing in a game, match, or meet. This generally constitutes three practices per week along with two competitions, or, as in track and cross country, practice is held throughout the week with competitions on Saturdays. Practices are primarily after school, and most are two hours in length. Because volleyball and basketball have three teams, each of the three teams may be required to attend one morning practice per week. All other practices are after school.

The golf, lacrosse and tennis teams train at off campus sites. Our home golf course is Braeburn Country Club and the Marti Driving Range and the tennis team works out at Lee LeClear Tennis Center. Lacrosse plays at St. Francis de Sales School. The cross country team trains on campus as well as Memorial Park, Storey Park and other running venues. All other sports practice on campus, or at Strake Jesuit's facilities. Coaches transport team members to and from practice and competition sites daily. St. Agnes Academy has approximately 215 students involved in the athletic program. An Athletic Fee of \$75.00 is required per athletic participant per sport.

We are very proud of our student-athletes who successfully combine the challenges of athletics and academia with equal enthusiasm. Please visit the Athletics section of the St. Agnes web site, www.st-agnes.org for questions concerning any sport offered at St. Agnes Academy. Contact information for the coaching staff is also available on the web site.

