

**Educating  
Children  
for Life.**



GREY NUN ACADEMY

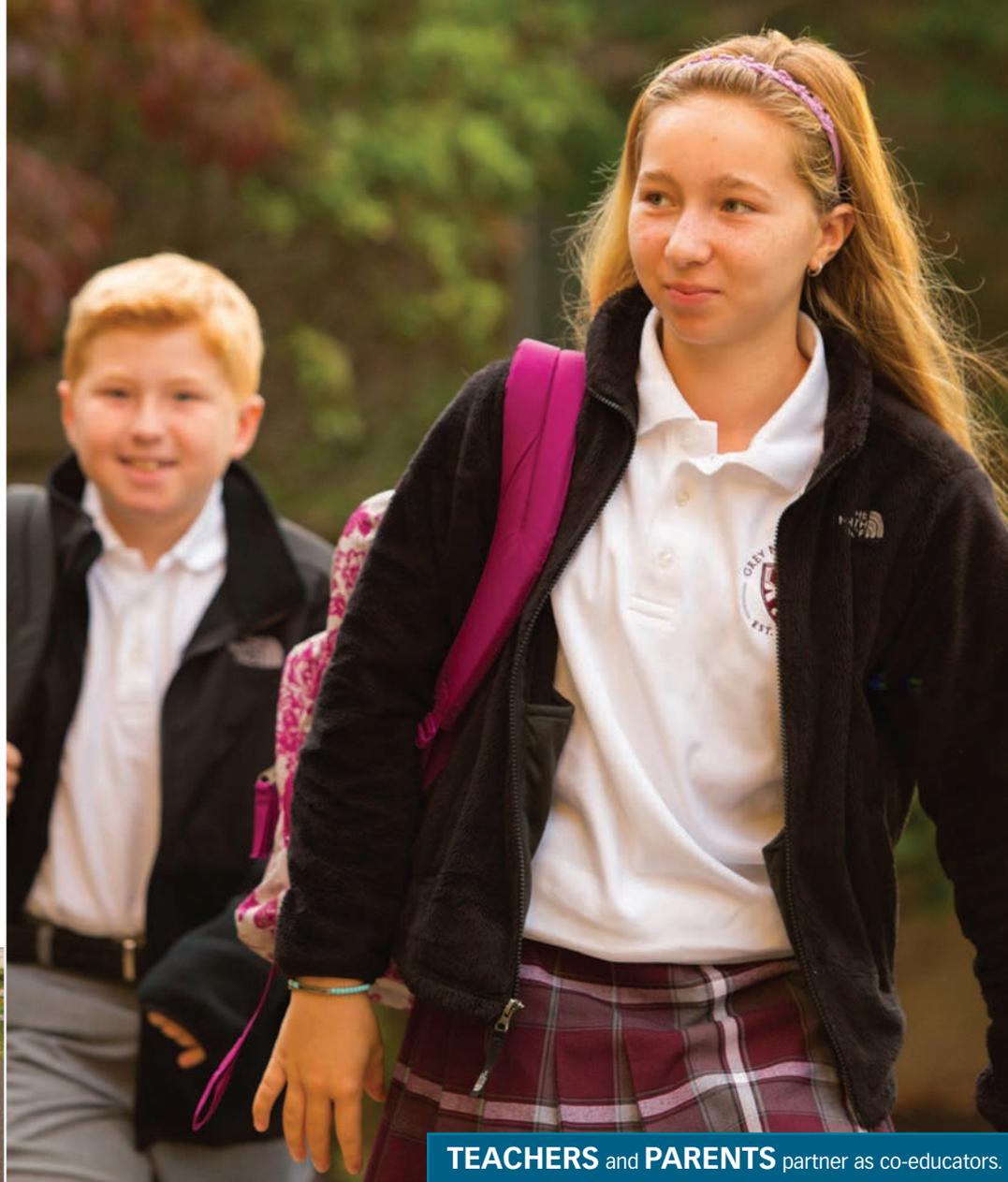
**Viewbook**



# Mission

**GREY NUN ACADEMY** is a Catholic, independent, coeducational school in Bucks County, Pennsylvania serving students in grades PreK through 8. In the tradition of Saint Marguerite d'Youville, Mother of Universal Charity, Grey Nun Academy welcomes children of all faiths and cultures. Within an academically rigorous environment, students progress developmentally through three distinct divisions: Primary, Middle, and Upper.

Embracing a more than 50 year commitment to academic excellence, Grey Nun Academy integrates learning with faith and action, while nurturing and encouraging the unique gifts found in each person. Students receive technologically advanced instruction with increasing specialization through their school career. Together, the members of the Grey Nun Academy community inspire responsibility and compassion while preparing students to succeed in a changing world.



**TEACHERS** and **PARENTS** partner as co-educators.

## Philosophy

**GREY NUN ACADEMY** is a community committed to a learning process that allows each child to attain a fuller knowledge of self, world and God. As a faith-based, Catholic educational institution rooted in the philosophy and mission of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, our Academy articulates the moral standards implicit in all learning as we make Gospel values real to our students. Through our community's emphasis on peace and social justice, students accept their responsibility to those in need and their role as good stewards of the earth.

We design an academically rich curriculum that meets the unique needs of individual students, respecting the rights, interests and dignity of each child. It is this environment of respect and acceptance that instills these same qualities in our students. Our learning methods foster creativity and stimulate an inquiring spirit. In all, we enrich each child's intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional, and physical development.



## History

Sponsored by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and located on the grounds of the former Motherhouse in Yardley, PA, Grey Nun Academy has a rich history and heritage dating back to 1963. Beginning with nine kindergarten students housed in the original Manor House on the Dietz estate in October of '63, the original school was called D'Youville Manor Academy in honor of our community foundress, Marguerite D'Youville.

As the Sisters became established and well known in the local community, and the Academy continued to grow, the school name was changed to Grey Nun Academy. By 1968, a Home and School Association was initiated and parents began to play an active and integral role at the Academy, which continues today.

By fall 1972, Sacred Heart Junior College was closed, remodeled and the Academy lower school took up residence there. Subsequent building projects have provided a multipurpose gymnasium, the McKenna Center and Moyle Gallery.

More than 50 years later, the Academy continues to thrive, proudly educating children to carry out the mission of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, and actively engaging students as thoughtful and compassionate members of society.

# Academics



**ENROLLMENT** Average class size offers a student teacher ratio of **7:1**

## Programs

The Academy's strong academic program is flexible by design. Students take a mix of core subjects including:

- ◆ English/Language Arts (ELA)
- ◆ Math
- ◆ Social Studies/History
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Religious Education

Co-curricular studies include:

- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Music and Performing Arts
- ◆ Visual Art
- ◆ Health and Physical Education
- ◆ Technology/Mac Lab
- ◆ Library/Media Center
- ◆ Challenge — Gifted and Talented
- ◆ STEM

Guided by its mission, Grey Nun Academy provides an academically challenging, developmentally appropriate, nurturing, and faith-centered PreK to 8th grade school, with a diverse, co-ed student population, and offers a full complement of core curricular classes as well as community service options.

Grey Nun Academy's unique identity includes an intentional, sequential curriculum with a primary emphasis on research, reading, writing, oral presentation, mathematics and science, and a commitment to special subjects and interactive learning in our classrooms.



### EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM: PREK (HALF- OR FULL-DAY CLASSES)

The PreK program provides an exceptionally nurturing environment focused on the education of the whole child. Our program meets the developmental needs of each individual while helping them grow emotionally, socially, spiritually, physically, and intellectually. In keeping with the Academy's mission, children learn decision-making skills, conflict resolution techniques, and respect for others and the environment.

Multi-sensory lessons allow students to explore and learn in child-centered activities. Introduction to technology begins in PreK, and students also receive instruction in Library/Media, Spanish, Physical Education, Art, and Music.



**Extended day program available both before and after school.**



## PRIMARY DIVISION: GRADES K-2

At Grey Nun Academy, we know our youngest learners thrive in a caring, family-centered community that provides plenty of opportunities for parents to get involved. From dropping by to join your child for lunch to participating in community service projects, our parents are an active presence on campus.

These early years lay the foundation for lifelong success, and our dedicated teachers are committed to instilling confidence and cultivating essential skills in literacy, mathematical thinking, and scientific exploration. Starting in Kindergarten, your child will study one world language, take religion, science and social studies classes, use innovative technologies to accelerate learning, and participate in a vibrant visual and performing arts program. Small classes and a



## Milestones

**The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are important milestones in the spiritual development of our Second Grade students. The celebration of sacraments is family oriented and recognizes all that is good and special about each child.**

flexible, student-centered learning approach allow us to meet the needs of the whole child and understand how he or she learns best.

Our nurturing and stimulating environment features numerous hands-on collaborative learning experiences. Classes are rooted in real life and build on our students' desire for active participation and their need for individualized attention and support. Character education is woven throughout our curriculum to reinforce positive behaviors and build good habits and strong character. Outside the classroom, students participate in our Extended Day Program, enroll in enrichment classes, and challenge themselves daily. Students don't just succeed at Grey Nun Academy, they thrive.

## MIDDLE DIVISION: GRADES 3-5

Students make dramatic leaps forward in the third through fifth grade years as they build on solidifying the foundational skills presented in the core curriculum disciplines.

The curriculum is supplemented and enhanced by classroom experiences in Art, Challenge (Gifted and Talented) Library/Media, Mac Lab, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish. The Middle Division curriculum also focuses on the development of critical and creative thinking, with a concentration in project and time management.

Fluid verbal expression is encouraged through a rigorous creative writing focus, as well as with frequent public speaking opportunities. Students move seamlessly between large group, small group, and individual activities to maximize potential learning opportunities.



### UPPER DIVISION: GRADES 6-8

When you step onto the second floor of the Academy, the heart of the Upper Division, the energy is palpable. Capitalizing on the enthusiasm and curiosity of these students, our faculty designs hands-on, student-centered learning experiences. On a typical day, you might see students testing building materials as they discuss solar energy in STEM class; hear students debating cultural topics in a foreign language as they expand their global horizons; feel students supported through our carefully aligned writing program as they begin to find their own voice; and experience the passion of students solving problems of the future logically through their understanding of mathematics and holistically through their learning from the past. When our students step on the theater stage or put on their Gator jersey, we help them see themselves as part of something bigger, something special.

We see the students both for who they are, and with an optimistic lens, for who they are becoming. We know our students. At this crucial and impressionable age, we know what makes them engaged, what they dream of, and what challenges them. Our community embraces our heritage of faith, perseverance, and character, seeking ways to live out the philosophy established by our foundress, Marguerite D'Youville. When our students complete their Upper Division journey, we celebrate their grace, their curiosity, and their independence.

For a full and comprehensive breakdown of each Division's academic discipline focus, please visit our website at [www.greynunacademy.org](http://www.greynunacademy.org) under the **ACADEMICS** heading.

## Challenge Program

The Challenge Program at Grey Nun Academy is designed to give qualifying students meaningful and authentic learning opportunities in a gifted and talented classroom setting.

The program presents a depth of content as an extension of traditional classroom topics, and delves into independent study and research using multiple resources, including the reading of original documents when possible. Challenge students explore intellectual passions and express them in varied disciplines and mediums.

Questions are open-ended to Challenge learners and encourage perseverance in the face of obstacles. The goal of the Challenge program is to stretch and stimulate divergent and evaluative thinking.





# Technology

Grey Nun Academy believes the use of technology, as a tool to **improve student learning**, is an important long-term investment.



## BLENDED LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Interactive whiteboards in every classroom support the integration of technology across the curriculum to meet the challenge of technological complexity in today's society. Students in grades 3 through 8 experience a 1:1 Chromebook ratio and students in grades

PreK to grade 2 have 1:1 iPads to further support student learners of the 21st century. In this blended learning environment, instruction is focused to meet students at their level, supporting advanced as well as on-target learning.

A device in the hands of every student makes his/

her educational experience positively transformative in the way learning takes place. This investment fosters a culture of student engagement that has long-term quantitative--and qualitative--benefits.

Our data-driven research into the use of 1:1 technology and our own experiences indicate

the following potential benefits related to student learning:

- ◆ Personalized Learning / Differentiated Instruction
- ◆ Enhanced Student Engagement, Motivation, and Ownership for Learning
- ◆ Access to Student Work Facilitates Ongoing Formative Assessment
- ◆ Enhanced Opportunities for Group and Project-Based Learning



# Enrichment Programs

## AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The After School Enrichment Program provides quality opportunities of engagement whereby students can broaden their horizons and stimulate creative thinking in a safe, convenient, and fun environment.

The Program fosters relationships between students in different grades, and offers avenues to form new friendships based on common interests. Classes are offered on a wide-range of subjects including the arts, after school music, foreign language, STEM, cooking, science, technology, and other categories.

## SPECIALTY ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Grey Nun Academy also offers the following specialty enrichment and educational opportunities for students:

- ◆ Athletics
- ◆ D.A.R.E.
- ◆ Reading Olympics
- ◆ Community Service
- ◆ Student Council
- ◆ Math Counts
- ◆ Future Cities (STEM)
- ◆ National Geographic Geography Bee
- ◆ Pairing Partners

## Pairing Partner Program

The Academy's Pairing Partner program assigns student partners from lower and upper grades each year to work together on special projects. The program benefits older children by educating them in the importance of mentoring younger children and what it truly means to be a good role model. Younger children build confidence and strong bonds with older students. This program is very popular among students and parents alike, because it fosters an environment of open communication, cooperation, and mutual respect throughout our school community.

# Faith & Service



## Faith

Grey Nun Academy welcomes students of all faiths and cultures. The Academy also knows that each student's religious journey is distinct to who they are as an individual. As such, respect for the diversity that our students and families bring to the Academy is paramount to our teaching philosophy.

In an exploration of faith, prayer services are often held in the Sacred Heart Chapel where all students are invited to participate, and family and school masses are offered several times during the year.

## Service

The Academy was founded to live out the mission and philosophy of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. As such, we participate in multiple monthly outreach projects in the local, national, and international communities.

The Academy has a campus ministry office for religious education, and the individual coordinates outreach efforts on behalf of all students, faculty, staff, and administration.





## HIGH SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY GRADUATES

- ARCHBISHOP WOOD HIGH SCHOOL
- CONWELL-EGAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
- COUNCIL ROCK (NORTH/SOUTH) HIGH SCHOOL
- GEORGE SCHOOL
- GERMANTOWN ACADEMY
- GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL
- GWYNEDD MERCY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
- HOLY GHOST PREPARATORY SCHOOL
- LA SALLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
- MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY
- NAZARETH ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
- NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
- PEDDIE SCHOOL
- PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL
- ST. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
- STUART COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART
- THE HUN SCHOOL OF PRINCETON
- THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL
- THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL
- VILLA JOSEPH MARIE HIGH SCHOOL
- VILLA VICTORIA ACADEMY
- WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL

# Guidance

A full-time certified school counselor provides regular instruction as part of the academic curriculum. Topics include: gratitude, compassion, teamwork, self-control, conflict resolution, and anti-bullying.

### OVERSIGHT IS ALSO PROVIDED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- ◆ Special needs and issues.
- ◆ Individual and small group counseling.
- ◆ Testing for Challenge Program.
- ◆ Student Council Leadership.
- ◆ Review of standardized testing scores.
- ◆ Learning support (cognitive, social and educational as well).
- ◆ Speech and language therapy.
- ◆ Conflict resolution.
- ◆ Math and reading specialists.
- ◆ Outside psychologists who test children's learning needs.
- ◆ Division meetings to ensure a seamless transition as students advance to the next grade.
- ◆ High school application and transition to high school.



# How to Apply

ENROLLMENT@GNAEDU.ORG



The best way to discover the advantage of a Grey Nun Academy education for your child is to schedule a parent meeting and campus tour followed by a student shadow day.

Individual parent visits involve meeting with the Director of Enrollment, touring the campus, visiting classes, and speaking informally with current students, parents, faculty, and staff members about their experiences at Grey Nun Academy. Our Director of Enrollment will serve as your child's advocate throughout the application process. During our discussion, we will seek to learn about your child, your family, and the type of independent school education you're seeking, as well as answer your questions and provide you with the information you need to determine if Grey Nun Academy is the right fit for your family.

To schedule a parent meeting and a student shadow day, please contact the Director of Enrollment at [enrollment@gnaedu.org](mailto:enrollment@gnaedu.org) or 215-968-4151.

## TUITION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Grey Nun Academy offers different options to those families in need of tuition assistance. One option is to apply online through the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment program. Another option to families seeking financial aid is to apply to the Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS), which requires a similar process.

- ▶ To submit an enrollment application and for information on current tuition rates, fees, and procedures for online financial aid applications, please visit our website at [www.greynunacademy.org](http://www.greynunacademy.org) under the ADMISSION heading.

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# Profile of the Graduate

## ACADEMIC

A fearless learner who is well prepared for the rigors of top area high schools, and beyond, as demonstrated by:

- ◆ Love of learning;
- ◆ Preparation in all subject areas;
- ◆ Competence and expertise with technology;
- ◆ Strong organizational, time management, and study skills;
- ◆ Project-based and creative thinking;
- ◆ Self-confidence and clear communications;
- ◆ Acceptance of challenges.

## RELIGIOUS

Embraces Catholic values, traditions, and beliefs by:

- ◆ Articulating and demonstrating the values of Jesus;
- ◆ Showing familiarity with the Old and New Testament;
- ◆ Participating in religious celebrations;
- ◆ Acting with a Christian conscience;
- ◆ Being knowledgeable about current Catholic social teachings and learning to be advocates for the poor and needy in their everyday lives.

## SPIRITUAL

A GNA graduate is developing a lifelong relationship with God by:

- ◆ Serving others;
- ◆ Practicing mindful prayer and meditation;
- ◆ Understanding and being open to other religions.

## SOCIAL

A GNA graduate creates a compassionate world by:

- ◆ Valuing every being including self;
- ◆ Advocating for peace;
- ◆ Acting with integrity;
- ◆ Showing respect for self and others;
- ◆ Making positive life choices;
- ◆ Understanding leadership is a form of service;
- ◆ Continuing a lifelong relationship with the GNA community.

