

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School

Alexandria, VA, United States



Born of a 1991 merger between two historic single-sex schools, this Episcopal day school spans three campuses just outside Washington, D.C.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	67/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	67/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	59/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School occupies a strong niche in the Washington market: an Episcopal, all-through day school with real scale, a long local history and a three-campus structure that keeps each phase age-appropriate. Founded in ****1924**** and formed in its current shape through a 1991 merger, it offers an American college-preparatory education from age 3 to 18 across Lower, Middle and Upper School sites within a tight Alexandria radius. That matters. Many all-through schools talk about continuity; SSSAS has built it into the geography. Children do not vanish into a single oversized campus. They move through distinct environments, with the advantages of one community behind them. The religious character is explicit rather than cosmetic: this is an Episcopal school that talks plainly about

goodness as well as knowledge, service and the value of each child.

What puts it on a shortlist is breadth without the sprawl or institutional fog that larger US independents can suffer. The school publishes a **1:8** student-teacher ratio, and the Upper School offers **34** AP courses, which signals serious academic range for a day school. Add visible commitment to athletics, arts and service, and the proposition becomes clear: this is a school for families who want strong preparation for university without reducing childhood to a test-prep exercise. *Fearless curiosity*, *a caring community* and *college dreams become reality* are not unusual phrases in school marketing; at SSSAS, the structure of the school gives them more credibility than they get at many peers. Three campuses, one leadership spine and one institutional identity can produce both intimacy and momentum.

The best fit is a student who wants a full, busy school life and can use a broad platform well. This suits children who thrive with academic stretch, who want teams, performances, service and community to sit alongside classroom work, and who benefit from clear pastoral framing rather than a purely secular, sink-or-swim culture. It also suits families who want access to the Washington area while staying rooted in Alexandria. The trade-off is plain. Parents seeking a progressive, anti-structure environment or a narrow specialist academy in STEM, arts or sport will find SSSAS too balanced, too traditional and too intentionally values-led. For the right child, that balance is the point: *warm but not soft*, *ambitious without frenzy*, *grounded in service* and built for students who want to grow up in one coherent school community over **three** campuses.

STRENGTHS

- Episcopal ethos is explicit in mission and identity
- Educates ages 3-18 through grade 12
- Three campuses, one community structure
- Noted ISL basketball, rowing and football programmes

TRADE-OFFS

- Religious framing may not suit non-Episcopal families
- Day school only; no boarding option
- American curriculum may hinder later system switches

ADMISSIONS

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School is a co-educational Episcopal day school in Alexandria for children aged 3 to 18, with main entry spanning the Lower School (age 3 to Grade 5), Middle School (Grades 6–8) and Upper School (Grades 9–12). The school operates across three campuses, so admissions are structured by division rather than through a single all-through intake. As a college preparatory American school, it is reasonable to expect age-appropriate review at each stage, but the school does not publish detailed assessment methods, interview format or testing requirements in the material provided here.

Likewise, no public deadline information is given in the supplied sources, so families should check directly with the admissions office for current timelines and year-group availability. The school presents itself as serving families from Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., which suggests a broad local applicant pool. Financial aid or bursary provision is not described in the source material supplied, so it would be unwise to assume availability without confirmation. A distinctive feature, however, is the clearly segmented three-campus structure, which shapes both the admissions experience and the pastoral fit at each stage.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_a98ee26ec2.