

SCHOOL PROFILE

2018 – 2019



Our School

ESTABLISHED

1908

ENROLMENT 2018–19

Total students: 374

Foundation Years (JK–Grade 4) 111

Middle Years (Grade 5–8) 114

Senior Years (Grade 9–12) 145

Avg. class size 16

Student:Teacher ratio 8:1

Boarding (Grade 7–12): 110
37% of school population

Countries of origin 25

INDUSTRY IDENTIFIER

Independent, not-for-profit all-girl school, registered under the Societies Act of BC.

ACCREDITATION

BC Inspector of Independent Schools

AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) | National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) | Independent Schools Association of British Columbia (ISABC) | Federation of Independent School Associations BC (FISA) | National Coalition of Girls Schools (NCGS)

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Cathy Thornicroft

SENIOR YEARS PRINCIPAL

Megan Hedderick

ADVISORS / GUIDANCE

Kathryn DaSilva, Academic Advisor
Kate Steele, School Counsellor

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Eight-person volunteer board

St. Margaret's School (SMS) is an all-girls, independent day and boarding school located in the city of Victoria, on the scenic west coast of British Columbia, Canada. Founded in 1908, SMS is an international centre for girls' learning and leadership development, providing empowering education for girls from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 (Boarding: Grades 7–12).

SMS values diversity and inspires excellence of mind and strength of spirit. Students here are challenged to take responsibility for their own learning experience; to develop individual worth, academic excellence, personal wellness, and a connection with nature; and to provide service to their local and global community.

CAMPUS & LOCATION

Our picturesque, modern campus is located at the intersection of urban and rural areas, which offers numerous advantages: our 22-acre property boasts access to extensive recreational sites and trails, while located less than 20 minutes from the city's vibrant downtown core. Our superior facilities include a LEED-certified building (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), modern residence houses, culinary arts room, and athletics centre. Other special places on campus include a greenhouse, dance studio, outdoor classroom, tennis courts, and our very own slice of west coast forest.

The capital city of British Columbia, Victoria is best known as Canada's most beautiful and temperate city. Greater Victoria's culturally-varied population totals 360,000 people. The city boasts a vibrant arts scene including world-class museums, galleries, and performing arts institutions including dance, music, opera and theatre. SMS makes use of its unique environmental and nearby wilderness for our outdoor education program, and other field trips.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At SMS, girls don't just get equal opportunity, they get every opportunity. Girls take the lead in student government and on our Steering Committee, and yearly extracurricular offerings respond to the interests of our students. In addition to an extensive program of clubs and recreational activities, there are options for private lessons in music, speech arts, driver training, and more.

CLUBS & COMMITTEES: Art Club | Belfry Theatre Club | Cheerleading Club | Dance Club | Gender Sexual Alliance (GSA) | Golf Club | Green Club | Math Competition/Challengers Club | Model UN Club | Outreach Club | Peer Tutoring | Robotics / FIRST LEGO League | Rock Band | Student Council | Steering Committee | Tennis Club | Triathlon Club | Yoga | Writing Club

ATHLETICS & WELLNESS

Physical Education at SMS emphasizes broad participation in order to foster enjoyment of physical activity as a benchmark for lifelong healthy living. We believe the experience of belonging and working together as part of a team should not be limited to just a few elite athletes. Students keep active with competitive teams and intramurals, as well as recreational clubs like cheerleading, tennis, triathlon, and yoga. SMS also recognizes and supports aspiring athletes in their individual training through scheduling accommodations and the Program of Distinction – and is proud to count some Olympic medallists among its alumnae.

TEAM SPORTS: Aquatics | Badminton | Basketball | Cross Country | Intramurals | Night League Basketball | Rowing | Soccer | Track & Field | Volleyball | Rugby

Academic Approach

SMS is Canada's first and only girls' STEM school: our rigorous, university preparatory program is delivered with an inquiry-based approach. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics but refers to a project-based, inter-disciplinary model of learning. It is important to note that a sound grounding in Humanities and an emphasis on Fine Arts education are equally important in a well-rounded STEM approach.

Advanced Placement (AP), accelerated learning, and self-directed projects for credit are options available to challenge our students and help them prepare for the next phases in their education.

Experiential learning is an important part of our educational approach: our leadership development program begins in Kindergarten, and all students benefit from participation in the annual outdoor education program (Outweek), and various opportunities for peer mentoring, public speaking, community service, job placements, the Duke of Edinburgh Program, and more.

Our Program of Distinction (PoD) is an elective, capstone project completed through independent study over the course of the senior years. Introduced in 2015, students are mentored and recognized/credited for pursuing excellence in their own chosen field such as Leadership, Fine Arts, Athletics, or Ecological Stewardship. To complete a PoD, students prepare and present a type of thesis and defend it before a panel of school officials and community members.



SENIOR YEARS COURSES: 2018–2019

AP Calculus (AB)
AP Computer Science Principles
AP English Literature & Composition
AP Human Geography
AP Studio Art
Beginning Band, 9–12
Biology, 11–12
Pre-Calculus, 11–12
Calculus 12
Career Education, 9
Chemistry, 11–12
Choir, 9–12
Communications, 12
Comparative Civilizations, 12
Drama, 9–12
Economics, 12
English, 9–12
English Literature, 12
Fitness for Life / Racquet Sports, 10–12
Foods & Nutrition, 11
Foundations of Mathematics, 11–12
French, 11–12
Graduation Transitions, 12
History, 12
Independent Project, 11–12
Information / Communications Technology 11–12
Intro to Investing / Money Matters, 11
Jazz Band, 9–12
Intro to Japanese, 11
Japanese, 11–12
Law, 12
Leadership, 9–12
Mandarin, 11–12
Media Arts, 11–12
Music / Concert Band, 9–12
Outdoor Recreation, 11–12
Planning, 10
Photography / Yearbook, 11
Physical Education, 9–12
Physics, 11–12
Psychology, 11
Raquet Sports, 11–12
Science, 9–10
Social Studies, 11
Intro to Spanish, 11
Spanish, 11–12
Sustainability Studies, 11
Textiles & Design, 11
Visual Art, 9–12
Visual Arts 3-D, 11–12
Writing, 12

MOTTO Servite In Caritate ~ Service with Love
VISION Confident girls ~ Inspiring women
MISSION Empowering her to set her own course and shape her own dreams

Our Graduates

One hundred percent of SMS graduates receive offers of admission from post-secondary institutions of their choice. This year, of our 39 grads, two students chose to take a gap year for travel or work. Of the 60 scholarships offered to our graduates in 2018, the largest awards were from DePaul University valued at \$72,000 USD, and the University of New Hampshire valued at \$24,000 USD.

THE CLASS OF 2017

39	graduates
149	offers of admission (80% of grads accepted to their first-choice institution)
\$423k	in scholarships and awards (CAD, including four-year renewable awards)

FIELDS OF STUDY

With the school's focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), we are proud that 31% of our grads are going into pure and applied sciences. Including degree programs with significant Math components increases this STEM ratio to 50%. The remaining 50% will be studying Arts and Humanities disciplines which ground and connect the STEM fields.

Our guidance department provides resources and one-on-one advising to help students explore career paths, post-secondary programs, scholarship opportunities, and their own strengths and interests.

DISCIPLINE (NUMBER OF STUDENTS) *

Arts / Humanities / Social Sciences (11)
Visual Arts (3)
Food and Nutrition / Dietetics (1)
Business (8)
Civil Engineering (1)
Economics (2)
Health Sciences / Nursing (2)
Sciences (9)
General Studies (2)

* These numbers reflect the graduates who applied to schools by June 2018. Two students are taking a GAP year to work, travel and volunteer. Another student applied to schools Japan, whose admissions decisions were still pending at the time this document was published.

UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS

You will find our graduates at universities world-wide.

LOCATION	ALL OFFERS
CANADA	82%
US	10%
UK	8%
JAPAN	N/A*

Prestigious institutions who accepted our students in 2018 include:

UNIVERSITY

Acadia University	
American University	
Australian National University	
Bentley University	University of Michigan
Boston University	University of New Hampshire
Brock	University of Northern BC
Camosun College	University of Ottawa
Clark University	University of Sydney
Denver University	University of the Fraser Valley
DePaul University	University of Toronto
Drexel University	University of Victoria
Evergreen State College	University of Warwick
Guelph	University of Washington
Indiana University	University of Waterloo
John Hopkins University	Washington University in St. Louis
King's College London	Waterloo
King's Dalhousie	Western University
London School of Economics	Williams
McGill University	York
McMaster University	
Miami University	
Nanyang Technical University	
National University of Australia	
Ohio State University	
Ottawa	
Queen's University	
Ryerson	
Simon Fraser University	
Singapore Management University	
The George Washington University	
Thompson Rivers University	
Trent	
UBC	
UC Berkeley	
UC Irvine	
UCLA	
University College London	
University of Alberta	
University of Bath	
University of Birmingham	
University of Edinburgh	
University of Manchester	
University of Maryland	
University of Massachusetts	
University of Melbourne	



ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL | *Confident girls. Inspiring women.*