

SAINT JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA HIGH SCHOOL
5150 HYLAN BOULEVARD
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312-5898
(718) 984-6500

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Q. WHAT IS SEA'S MISSION?

A. Catholic Education is a mission and that means that we take faith and values seriously. We encourage students to develop spiritually, academically, athletically and socially. We seek a commitment to service, to working for the common good. We urge students to explore the process of making moral and ethical judgments. We are committed to providing a quality affordable education, keyed to the needs and interests of students. We are on the move, and our focus on you is evident by the changes we have made in our academic program as well as in our sports program.

Q. ON WHAT BASIS IS A STUDENT ACCEPTED AT ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA?

A. Only baptized Roman Catholic students who have received First Communion and who will receive Confirmation, who are residents of Staten Island and who score above our cut-off point in the TACHs exam are invited to join us at St. Joseph's. Preference is given to those students who indicate that Sea is "first" choice. **Third choice students are not accepted.**

Q. DOES SEA OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO INCOMING FRESHMEN?

A. Each Catholic high school on Staten Island has its own method of awarding scholarships to incoming freshmen. In previous years, Sea had a special scholarship exam. In recent years, full and partial scholarships have been awarded to students who score at the top of the grid on the TACHS Exam. The TACHS Exam will **again** be used this year to offer scholarships.

Q. IF I RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP, WHAT MUST I DO TO MAINTAIN IT?

A. A student who receives a full or partial scholarship to Sea is guaranteed to receive that scholarship throughout his/her freshman year. Scholarships are renewable on an annual basis. Students on scholarship must finish the year with an overall average of 90 (89.5) or better in order to receive the scholarship the following year. Most students on scholarship do in fact maintain it throughout their four years at Sea.

Q. HOW DOES SEA COMPARE TO OTHER SCHOOLS ACADEMICALLY?

- Sea is the only school to place in all the Discovery Institute Island-wide Academic Olympics, distinguishing Sea among all the top Island public and Catholic schools.
- Every Sea student is required to earn an Advanced Regents Diploma and to pass the Chemistry Regents.
- Sea requires four years of Math, Science, English, Religion, and Social Studies.
- Only Sea offers three years of Latin and the Latin Regents to qualified students. Latin is the language of law, medicine, and culture.
- Only Sea students can earn sixty college credits while still in high school. These credits are accepted in most major universities.

Q. WHAT DOES ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA OFFER THAT A SPECIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DOES NOT?

- Sea offers students what public schools **cannot** – the opportunity to make a mature commitment to Catholic Faith and values with the help of Priests and Sisters, dedicated lay men and lay women in an atmosphere of discipline and order.
- Moreover, a student who attends Sea will receive a world class education **and** gain a complete high school experience with a wide variety of teams, clubs, and social activities, something specialized public schools are rarely able to offer.
- Likewise, a student with an academic scholarship to Sea stands out in the college application process as opposed to a student who attends the neighborhood public school, even if it is locally regarded.

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Q. HOW IS A FRESHMAN PLACED INTO A PROGRAM?

A. The basic instrument used to place a freshman is the TACHS scores in all categories. Students who feel they are ready to study a Foreign Language on Level II are required to take a special language placement exam. St. Joseph by-the-Sea is **NOT** staffed to provide for IEP students with special needs.

Q. WHAT ACADEMIC FACILITIES DOES SEA HAVE?

A. Sea has three impressive state-of-the-art science labs, one especially equipped for Chemistry, another for Physics, and the third for Biology. Sea also has three Technology Labs which are used to conduct our writing labs. Freshmen and juniors are all programmed for writing labs designed to help them write well with proper grammar (freshmen) and to write the research papers required by most colleges (juniors). Seniors take Introduction to Analytical Writing for which they can earn credit with SUNY Albany.

Q. WHAT ATHLETIC FACILITIES DOES SEA HAVE?

A. We are located on a 25-acre campus which includes an 11-acre sports complex called VIKING PARK with two gyms, a newly-resurfaced Olympic size track – the only one of its kind on Staten Island or in the Archdiocese of New York, 3 tennis courts, a Field Turf Baseball Stadium, a Field Turf Softball Stadium, and a Field Turf Football/Soccer Stadium that seats 2,000 with a press box and scoreboard. There are also extensive Field Turf practice facilities. In November 2001, a new \$750,000 Physical Fitness Center was dedicated by Edward Cardinal Egan.

Q. WHAT IS SEA'S TUITION?

A. Sea strives to keep tuition affordable. Tuition for the 2009/2010 academic year is \$5,750 -- \$575 per month for ten months. A simple comparison with other private and Catholic school tuitions will highlight our affordability.

Q. IS SEA EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PARTS OF STATEN ISLAND?

A. Sea is easily accessible by public transportation from all parts of Staten Island. In addition to regular Transit Authority routes and busses, St. Joseph by-the-Sea is serviced by "special" buses that run on the S-55, S-56, and S-58 lines. For some students a single transfer may be required. The Bloomingdale Road/Rossville area is serviced by "yellow" buses and shuttle upon request.

Q. DOES SEA OFFER A MUSIC PROGRAM?

A. In addition to Music Appreciation, which is a required class for all students, Sea has a band which is also divided into several categories: Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Chamber Ensemble. A magnificent Band Wing, blessed by John Cardinal O'Connor was opened in May 1996. We also have a Choral Group of nearly 100 students.

Q. WHAT TYPE OF ACCREDITATION DOES ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA HAVE?

- Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents
- Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- Supervised by the Education Department of the Archdiocese of New York

Q. WHAT SHOULD A PARENT KNOW ABOUT A HIGH SCHOOL'S ELECTIVE COURSES?

A. High schools boast about special introductory courses in such subject areas as anthropology, sociology, psychology, criminology, law courses, etc. These courses sound interesting and challenging for a young student, but do they offer the student an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to succeed in college?

Sea offers the most academically demanding courses that will teach the student how to read critically, to write clearly, to understand at least one foreign language, to think logically and to reason wisely.

For this reason, Sea students are required to take four years of English, four years of Social Studies, four years of Math, four years of Science, and four years of Religion. In addition to these courses, seniors take the introductory college writing and speech courses for which they can earn credit with SUNY Albany applicable to a wide variety of colleges. Qualified seniors also have the option of substituting a more difficult college or AP course for a required course.