CREATING YOUR FUTURE

AT

VILLA MARIA

VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1872
WELCOME!

We are pleased that you are considering Villa Maria Academy High School. We invite you to visit our beautiful campus so that you can experience our loving faith community, meet our outstanding faculty and staff, and feel the energy of our all-girls environment.

Choosing the right high school is a major decision. It is not just about finding a vibrant learning community that nurtures success; it is about discovering an environment where a young woman can truly be herself.

We know that the students who grace our school have a once-in-a-lifetime experience, one that includes true sisterhood and opportunities for each young woman to discover her own God-given gifts. Villa Maria provides every girl with the opportunity to showcase her emerging intellect and talents, preparing her for leadership in our global world.

At Villa Maria Academy High School, we graduate women who change the world!

Sister Regina J. Ryan, I.H.M., Ed.D.
Principal
In the two short years that my daughter has been part of the Villa Maria community, she has come to realize the only boundaries are those that she places upon herself. Villa has given her the vehicle to learn more about herself, her community, and the world in which she lives. The teachers and counselors have opened doors that she may not have known existed for her future.

Ann Marie Carpenter ’89, P ’21 ’23
Villa Maria challenges each girl to develop her God-given potential. Every young woman at Villa Maria receives a personal academic experience with engaging instruction and challenging curriculum offered by our exceptional faculty and administrators. Students seek to acquire knowledge at the highest levels and prepare to enter the world as creative problem solvers, collaborative citizens, and lifelong learners.

Coursework at every level of instruction develops a learner who can think and work both independently and collaboratively. Traditional coursework is supported by opportunities for occupational experiences and research in addition to test preparation. Honors courses are taught at an accelerated pace to further challenge the student who is able to engage in an even more comprehensive level of study. For those students ready for college-level work, Villa Maria provides a broad range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Villa Maria’s daily schedule follows an A/B intensive cycle model, allowing for longer class periods that ensure more meaningful learning at higher levels of retention and application. The daily advisory period provides opportunities for independent work, cooperative research, additional review with teachers, and the pursuit of specialized interests.

Selected students are invited to participate in the Villa Maria Scholars Diploma Program, which provides high-level coursework tailored to individual goals, as well as articulated supported research. Students who complete this rigorous four-year program graduate with Scholars Distinction. Select dual enrollment courses are offered in partnership with Immaculata University onsite at Villa Maria. Dual enrollment enables high school students to take college-level courses, providing additional opportunities for our students to earn college credit outside of the AP courses.

Villa Maria students achieve distinction as AP Scholars and AP Scholars with Honors, as well as National Merit Finalists, Semi-Finalists, and Commended Students. Students are also members of the National Honor Society, as well as many subject-based honor societies.

I think the one thing that really separates Villa is just how much everyone here cares. The teachers are so dedicated, and they really want to help you succeed not only in school but in life. They work hard. I feel like everyone here really wants to help you in any way they can.

Giuliana Romeo ’20
Computer Science at Villa Maria is built on this central concept: *"Yes, you can code."* In the Lynch Design Lab, girls build foundational skills for computer programming. Girls can discover coding for the first time. They program robots, build websites, and create apps. Girls can advance their programming skills. Villa Maria offers AP classes in computer science principles and Java.

Girls can create and explore. There are classes using virtual reality, 3D printing, and augmented reality. The classroom learning environment is designed to prepare those students who are interested in a computer science career: students work collaboratively, act as project managers, and take personal responsibility.

**COURSE OFFERINGS**

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- Computer Programming
- Game Design
- Digital Media
- Computer Resources

The Lynch Design Lab is about so much more than programming, so much more than computers. It’s an independent, free-thinking space where students can come in and engage with all the amazing equipment we have here, from 3D to VR to augmented reality and robots. They come in here and engage and have fun. Students come in and create.

Erik Magness, Computer Science Faculty

**The Design Lab at Villa Maria is for everyone.** It is a crossroads for many different academic disciplines. A science class can use the 3D printers to give dimension to molecules, while a history class may tour the Colosseum wearing virtual reality goggles. Students stop in throughout the day to work on multi-media projects for class and after-school projects.

The Design Lab gives students access to a full array of cutting-edge technology, including:

- Makerbot 3D printers
- 3D printing pens
- CubiiiO laser engravers
- Finch robots
- Root robots
- Sphero/Ollie/BB8 robots
- 3D imagers
- Oculus Rift VR headsets and computers
- Oculus Go VR headsets
- Phantom 4 DJI drone
- Altair Aerial indoor racing drone/camera drone
EXPLORATION  Education extends beyond the classroom as our students are encouraged to develop their talents and discover their passions in every area of their lives. Whether they are playing a sport, performing in a concert, writing an article, creating a piece of art, or volunteering their time, our students encounter countless opportunities for growth. Students are encouraged to embrace new experiences, take some risks, and discover new passions.

LEADERSHIP  There are opportunities for every girl to lead. Villa Maria’s 35+ student-operated clubs ensure that every girl can step forward and discover her leadership abilities. Student Council offers leadership positions in every grade. The Student Advisory Board brings new ideas to the administration for more student activities and involvement. Honor societies, musical groups, and sports teams all have leadership roles for students.

INTELLECT  Students interested in writing can join Villa Maria’s award-winning yearbook, newspaper, and literary magazine. Other opportunities to broaden your thinking include Mock Trial, PA Mathematics League, Robotics Club, Tech Club, and World Language Clubs. Members of the National Honor Society provide peer tutoring.
Drama Girls from Villa Maria take part in the theater programs at neighboring Malvern Preparatory School and Devon Preparatory School, sharing the stage with students from many area schools. Open auditions for productions are held in the fall and spring. Students also participate in Marian Masques, Villa Maria’s drama club, where they perform both published and original works.

Athletics Our athletic program emphasizes the total education of the young woman by fostering team-building, self-discipline, and confidence. Over 65% of our students participate in one or more of the 14 sports available. The Hurricanes have a long tradition of winning at the league, district, and state levels. Each year, a number of student athletes go on to play in college.

Arts Our fine arts programs impart lifelong skills by inviting students to express themselves, cultivate their imaginations, and find inspiration in the world around them. Nearly one-third of our students study at least one musical instrument. We offer music ensembles, art clubs, and other avenues for students to develop their artistic talents. Musicians perform in a variety of selective ensembles and competitions, and artists display their work at local restaurants and art shows.

There are so many sides to Villa, and you can explore them all. We have so many clubs and activities; you can try anything you’d like.

Alivia Orvieto ’20
Finding Your Path

Villa Maria’s Counseling Program is the “I” of the Hurricane

Villa Maria’s Counseling Department takes a team approach—every student has both a school counselor and a college counselor, supported by a dedicated test prep instructor. The school counselor works with a student through her four years, getting to know and understand her, guiding her, and working together with her college counselor to help her achieve her personal goals.

The Counseling program addresses students’ needs at every stage of their high school years.


FRESHMEN Identify their vision for a year of transition and success, academically, personally, and socially.

SOPHOMORES Investigate how they interact with the world around them. They are introduced to the college and career search platform to learn more about potential careers and majors.

JUNIORS Implement an individualized plan to position themselves for college and career goals. They focus on test prep and test-taking strategies. They learn to articulate their strengths and complete coursework in preparation for writing personal statements and essays and participating in college admissions interviews.

SENIORS Imagine their possibilities, building on their plans to complete the college application process and select a school. Students also prepare for the expectations of college and the transition from high school to greater independence.

The students at Villa are special. And we’re able to recognize that, foster it, support it, and shout from the rooftops how special they are. We help them truly believe it, so that they reach their ultimate success.

Elizabeth Hashagen,
Director of School Counseling

Over 92% of last year’s class was accepted to one of their top choice colleges. We view college counseling as an individual journey as opposed to a process. Our students apply to schools that match both their academic aspirations and their personalities.

Kristin Cortese,
Director of College Counseling
Mission and Ministry programs assist each student along her own personal faith journey and foster a campus community that shares in the mission of the global Catholic Church. Campus Ministry, Outreach, Service Learning, and Social Justice initiatives invite students to deepen and live out their spiritual identity.

Campus Ministry fosters an environment of prayer and spirituality for the school community through liturgical celebrations, prayer experiences, daily Communion services in chapel, and annual retreats. Outreach, Service Learning, and Social Justice programs lead students to discover and share their God-given gifts. Students reach outside themselves to others in need and develop as leaders, problem solvers, and women of God.

Expressing Your Faith

Villa Maria Academy is the congregational high school of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM). The IHM Sisters have taught at the school and served in the school’s leadership since its founding in 1872. The school is grounded in and guided by the pillars of the IHM charism: Fidelity, Creative Hope, and Love.

Christian service allows our students to expand their worldview, explore their talents, and directly serve others through work that emulates the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Service Learning at Villa Maria includes education, prayer, action, and reflection. Villa Maria offers local and regional service opportunities as well as service immersion trips nationally and abroad.

Exploring Your World

Villa Maria offers multiple opportunities for students to broaden their horizons through international travel. Villa Maria students have experienced the cultures of:

- Amsterdam
- Assisi
- Barcelona
- Cinque Terre
- Lucerne
- Monaco
- Munich
- Nice
- Normandy
- Paris
- Pompeii
- Rome
- Strasbourg
- Venice
- Wengen

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“Villa has a service and social justice program to broaden the horizons of our students and faculty. We learn about our brothers and sisters in need. We learn about people who may be very different than ourselves, and we learn how important it is to work with them, not for them.”

Kara Bielli, Director of Service and Social Justice
I shadowed a pediatric anesthesiologist, Dr. John Bernardi, at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. I observed surgeries in the operating room and in short procedure rooms, including a scoliosis surgery, a lung mass excision surgery, implantations of ear tubes, a tonsillectomy, and the beginning of the removal of a benign tumor, among others. I also had the opportunity to visit the NICU.

In the operating room, I was alongside the anesthesiologists, CRNAs, surgeons, and nurses, witnessing their daily practices. I was able to see the process of how a patient is put to sleep using various methods depending on the type of surgery, and then I also had the opportunity to see the patient wake up.

Elizabeth D’Ascenzo ’19
Our decision to send our daughter to Villa Maria was based on its excellent reputation for academics and athletics. What we weren't anticipating is how much our daughter would fall in love with everything Villa has to offer, especially the sisterhood. We have watched our daughter blossom here as a student, athlete, and most importantly Christian steeped in the Catholic values of love, service, and charity. We could not feel more blessed with our decision!

Maria Yacovelli, P '20 '23
You should send your daughter to Villa because she will feel at home the moment she steps on this campus. It’s an inclusive space. It’s inviting. It’s warm. She will learn a lot here. She will be welcomed and part of the family.

Kaira Mack ‘20