

# St. Paul Central High School

1998 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

## 2008-2009 Profile



**Central High School** is the oldest high school in the state of Minnesota. Its many rich traditions, including academic excellence, are widely acclaimed and copied throughout the state. Founded in 1852 in downtown Saint Paul, Central has educated many leaders in business, government, literature, arts, sciences, and education

throughout the state of Minnesota and the United States. Central also prides itself in having had more **Rhodes Scholars** than any other public high school in this country with our most recent scholar being announced in 2003. Central is a model for public education serving diverse populations.

### Many Traditions, One School

Central is located in Saint Paul, Minnesota's Capital City, which is home to 287,000 people. Central has the largest enrollment of the seven Saint Paul public high schools. Students in Saint Paul can attend any one of the seven.

Principal	Mary Mackbee
Counseling Dept. Chair	Paula Sweeney
Accreditation	North Central
Control	State of Minnesota
Staffing Ratio	29:1
Stud./Counselor Ratio	446:1
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	548 students
10 <sup>th</sup> grade	548 students
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	525 students
12 <sup>th</sup> grade	489 students
Total enrollment	2116 students
Caucasian	33%
Black/not Hispanic	34%
Asian/Pacific Islander	28%
Hispanic	4%
Native American	1%
40 Languages spoken in students' homes.	
51% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch.	

### GRADE POINT DETERMINATION\*

Grade		Grade	
A+ (excellent)	4.0	C	2.0
A	4.0	C-	1.7
A-	3.7	D+ (below av)	1.3
B+ (above avg)	3.3	D	1.0
B	3.0	D-	.7
B-	2.7	N (fail)	0
C+ (average)	2.3	I (incomplete)	0
P (pass)	Not used for GPA		

\*Students may take up to 6 courses per quarter and all grades earned in years 9-12 are used for GPA and class rank determinations.

\*\*All grades from courses designated as honors will be figured for GPA via a 1.25 multiplier effect, e.g. an "A" in an honors course will be multiplied by 1.25 to yield a weighted grade point of 5.0: (4 x 1.25 = 5.0).

### Weighted honor points are earned in the following courses:

- **International Baccalaureate (IB)\*:** 46 IB courses;
- **Quest\*:** 25 Quest honors courses;
- **Advanced Placement (AP):** 11 AP courses
- **Language classes:** Chinese, French, German, Latin, Russian and Spanish are offered, levels III through VI are awarded honor points;
- **College in the Schools (CIS):** Instructors trained by U of M faculty teach English for University credit at the high school;
- **PSEO:** Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in courses at colleges or technical institutes through the MN Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

\*See description on the back of this page.

**Highest GPA: Class of 2009 (10/08) .....5.0**

### SAT DATA

#### Central scores:

05/06 (90 students) ... Reading-622; Math-604; Writing-590  
 06/07 (100 students) . Reading-625; Math-626; Writing-602  
 07/08 (94 students) ... Reading-630; Math-628; Writing-600

#### Minnesota scores 07/08:

Mean verbal-596; Mean math-609; Mean writing-579

#### National scores 07/08:

Mean verbal-502; Mean math-515; Mean writing-494

### ACT DATA

Central Composite Averages:

2005-06 (266 students).....	22.3
2006-07 (282 students).....	22.5
2007-08 (312 students).....	22.3
07/08 MN ACT average .....	22.6
07/08 National ACT average .....	21.1

### NATIONAL MERIT COMPETITION

2009 Merit Program:

Commended Students .....	15
Semifinalists.....	9

2008 Merit Program:

Commended Students .....	14
Semi-Finalists .....	8

2007 Merit Program:

Commended Students .....	13
Semi-Finalists .....	7

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM	
Number of exams, May 2008	374
Students taking exams	222
Subject areas	19
Passing rate	62%
<b>Advanced Placement Tests:</b> biology, calculus AB, calculus BC, chemistry, economics-macro, economics-micro, English language & composition, English literature & composition, environmental science, French, government & politics-US, human geography, physics B, physics C-E&M, physics C-Mechanics, statistics, US history, world history.	
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM	
Number of exams, May 2008	452
Students taking exams	235
Passing rate	78%
Full Diplomas Awarded	11
Highest Diploma Points	35
<b>IB Program Tests:</b> English, German, French, Latin, Mandarin, philosophy, economics, history, biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, art/design, music.	

### Survey of the class of 2008

Students surveyed .....	424
Four-year college .....	62%
Community/Technical college .....	32%
Other .....	6%

## **Graduation Requirements**

---

85 quarter credits must be earned in the following areas:

- English – 16 quarters
- Social Studies – 14 quarters, including 4 in American History, 2 in economics, 2 in US government, 4 in world history, and 2 in geography
- Math – 12 quarters, through IM3/Algebra II
- Science – 12 quarters, including 4 in biology
- Physical Education – 2 quarters
- Health – 2 quarters
- FACS/Industrial Tech – 2 quarters
- Fine Arts – 4 quarters
- Electives – 21 quarters

Students must also:

- pass the MN Basic Standards Tests (class of 2009) in reading, math, and writing; or
- pass the MCA II Tests in reading, math, and writing (class of 2010 and beyond);
- complete an online six-year plan that encompasses postsecondary and life plans

## **Small Learning Communities**

---

Central has a 9th Grade Academy and upper grade level advisories (10, 11, 12) that connect staff and students in small learning communities. Advisories meet daily for the Central Morning News, and to participate in curriculum that supports the completion of students' six-year plans.

## **Academic Specialties**

---

Central offers students five options for rigorous college preparation:

### **1. Quest**

For over 30 years, Quest classes have combined traditional group learning with individual pursuit of academic interests and artistic talents. Students are trained to think independently and to learn from each other and from the instructor. The humanities-based curriculum delves into ancient and modern texts by multiethnic authors of both genders. Quest classes stress analysis and synthesis of ideas as well as critical thinking processes articulated in written and oral assignments.

### **2. International Baccalaureate**

The IB program for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders is a global pre-university program that provides an interdisciplinary curriculum and incorporates multicultural perspectives and internationally-based standards of achievement. IB and pre-IB courses develop and refine higher level thinking skills, writing techniques and oral communications. Central offers the following IB courses/exams: Chinese (Mandarin); French; German; Latin; Spanish; Russian; English; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Math Methods; Math High Level; European History; History of the Americas; Economics; Philosophy; Art/Design; Music; and Theory of Knowledge. Central scores have consistently been above average for IB students throughout the world.

### **3. Advanced Placement**

Central High School was awarded a 2008 Siemens Award, given in recognition of the schools that are leading their state in AP participation and performance in science, math and technology, based on data from all schools participating in AP.

### **4. College in the Schools (CIS)**

Instructors trained by U of M faculty teach English for University credit at the high school

### **5. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program**

Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in courses at colleges or technical institutes through the MN Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO).

## **Other Specialties**

---

### **Media Communications**

Central has a dedicated recording studio. In the audio studio, musicians, singers and technicians rehearse daily to prepare, perform, and record original compositions with state-of-the-art equipment. In the TV studio, broadcast journalism students produce CMN, the Central Morning News.

### **Performing Arts**

Experience is available in acting, band, choir, jazz band and orchestra. Central's *Touring Theater Group* has won many honors and awards, including special recognition from the state legislature and the Mayor's Public Art Award. Vocalists and

instrumentalists in Central's Music Department perform throughout the school year. Central musicians have a tradition of first place awards and superior ratings at local, state and national festivals and competitions.

### **Visual Arts**

The visual arts department provides a solid introduction to the formal, technical, and expressive qualities of several art media. After completing introductory courses, many students continue work focusing on ceramics, drawing, jewelry/sculpture, photography, painting, and art history in upper level, honors, IB and AP courses. Central's visual artists participate in several juried exhibits throughout the year, including an end-of-the-year exhibit put on in partnership with Concordia University.

### **Building Technology Academy**

BTA is an experientially-based program which seeks to raise awareness of craft and management careers within the construction field and to provide positive hands-on experiences.

### **Teaching Career Academy**

This Academy encourages and prepares students to consider and pursue a teaching career by providing a rigorous, standards-based curriculum, offering field experiences; and linking students to post-secondary opportunities.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

---

Extracurricular activities at Central support optimal youth development and engage every segment of the school's diverse student population. Central's athletic program includes swimming, tennis, football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, badminton, wrestling, gymnastics, track and field and cross-country running and skiing. Central teams consistently participate in post-season competition for regional and state championships.

Central also has a rich variety of extracurricular activities including theater, jazz band, honor society, community service activities (Fresh Force, Roots & Shoots), Habitat for Humanities, speech, debate, Science Olympiad, math team, juggling, a yearly multicultural festival, and much more.