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Excellence All Around

Archmere Academy Develops the Whole Student for College and Beyond

Amidst an array of stately, attractive buildings, energetic students mill about a grassy quad on their way to and from classes. If you didn't know better, you would think you're on the campus of an exclusive East Coast college. But this isn't college. This is Archmere Academy, an independent Roman Catholic college preparatory high school in Claymont, Delaware.

Archmere has a tradition and heritage of educating the whole student. As such, the school is committed to academic excellence, social development, community service and faith reflection. It provides a complete educational experience that few schools can rival. "One thing that characterizes Archmere is our dedicated faculty," says Carmen Franceschino '72, Director of Institutional Advancement. "80 percent hold a master's degree. Their caring and expertise create a unique environment, building powerful relationships and rapport between students and teachers. Our faculty isn't afraid to push students toward success." And with an average class size of just 15, successful learning is the norm.

"Yes, the campus is beautiful; yes, the facilities are great. But my favorite part has been the people — not just my friends, but my teachers as well. My teachers have been more than just teachers, but also mentors and friends." — Sarah Park '09, Valedictorian

Many Challenges, Many Rewards

"Challenging" and "caring" are words often associated with this college-prep school. "We set the bar high for our students," says John Jordan '80, Director of Admissions. "And, with clearly articulated expectations, our students achieve great things." Archmere welcomes faculty and students of diverse cultural backgrounds and religious beliefs. This diversity is part of an atmosphere that is warm, welcoming and nurturing. The school offers a substantial program of scholarships and financial aid grants, totaling $1.3 million for the 2009-2010 school year.

Archmere emphasizes "the three A's" — academics, athletics and activities. The school strives for excellence at all levels and features an extensive AP program that includes 19 offerings. The Auks, members of the Diamond State Athletic Conference, compete in a wide range of varsity sports: 11 for girls, 11 for boys and two that are co-ed. In addition, extracurricular activities of all sorts are available, including community service, campus ministry and religious retreats.

A High School That Thinks Like a College

"Archmere doesn't just look like a college, it has a collegiate mentality," says Principal Bill Doyle. "We give the students a lot of freedom with their schedules and that requires them to be able to manage their time. It helps them develop the responsibility and maturity that will serve them later in life.

"Consistently, 100 percent of Archmere graduates go on to four-year colleges," adds Doyle. "In the past three years, nearly 80 percent of seniors have received some kind of scholarship, meriting a total of $32 million in awards." Recent Archmere graduates have attended prestigious colleges such as Yale, Georgetown, Brown, Notre Dame, Bryn Mawr, North Carolina, Virginia and Boston College.

All told, Archmere's caring community of committed faculty, alumni, families and friends is responsible for the school's reputation for bringing out the best in young people, encouraging and supporting students' unique talents and abilities. The end product is as unmistakable as it is outstanding: young men and women who are prepared not just for college, but for achieving great things in whatever field they choose.

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