

The gift of opportunity

You are about to give a gift. In fact, it's one of the greatest gifts you can give your child -- a quality education. We know you want the best for your daughter, and at Padua Academy, we live to help her realize the promise and joy of life, its full panorama.

Your daughter has a wealth of God-given talents and a world of opportunities. Since we concentrate on the needs of young women, they freely explore their talents and enthusiastically achieve *excellence*. By helping the minds, bodies, and souls of young women, Padua prepares them for a life of fulfillment, success, and service.

Padua Academy is a school with a *soul*. Padua is a gift. It is a place filled with wonderful moments, challenge and success, pictures of opportunity. Let us show you . . .

Dear Parents and
potential Students,

Thank you for considering joining the Padua Academy family. We understand the importance of your decision and encourage you to visit the school and ask questions.

Padua is a place for success. We are a nationally recognized "School of Excellence" and are dedicated to individualized education. Our Catholic values and the diversity of our students are central to our achievements and spirit.

We are one family focused on living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and finding excellence in all areas. Our goal is to help our students express their potential and the love of God.

We think you'll want to be part of "a school with a soul." We're looking forward to meeting you soon!

--Sr. Ann Michele Zwosta,
O.S.F., Principal

Opening the future

Self-discovery and success require training. With over 98% of Padua graduates going on to higher education, and our status as a Blue Ribbon School, we're looking to the future -- our students' future. They are nurtured and prepared for academic excellence in *all fields*. Vision, high standards, and our focus on the educational needs of young women, are key to our progressive, rigorous program.

Our nationally recognized school is based on a balanced approach. Students participate in diverse courses from Science, Fine Arts, and Health, to Social Studies, Mathematics, and Religious Studies. Most subjects are taught together using projects that require mastery of several areas and advanced educational technology. Further, community service and other school events give students more opportunities to apply their knowledge. With academic activities designed to integrate spiritual, personal, and social values, Padua is preparation for life.

Each girl receives individual attention and is encouraged to deeply explore her intellectual gifts. With smaller class sizes and dedicated teachers, Padua students are challenged with material at *their own level*. They discover their potential and come out with great confidence to pursue any field at some of the most prestigious Universities and Colleges in the Nation.

"I definitely had a lot of ideas about what it would be like to go to a single-sex school. But, when I got here I found that no other learning environment in my history, or that I participate in now, really even parallels the environment I had while I was here.

"Single sex education is unique in its ability to allow students to participate and feel confident in what they are doing. At Padua, I never felt scared about participating in class or worried about making friends."

--Maureen Vernon, Graduate

"I've been very surprised here at Padua about the teacher-student relationship. I haven't really been in a spot like this where I could feel like I could go to a teacher and have them come and really address my needs personally."

--Gina Blocker, Graduate

A foundation of excellence

Padua Academy gives young women a foundation for life – the yearning for excellence. We believe it is critical that our students *strive* and perform with high academic standards. Teachers, staff, parents, and students all contribute to our culture of achievement.

Student performance is impressive. This year, nearly \$2.8 million in scholarships was awarded to the Class of 2000, 98 percent of which pursued higher education. In recent years, Padua had a national Merit Finalist and several Commended Students. In addition, Padua has won awards for the past four years in the National History Day Competition. And, there are yet *many more* national and local honors.

Our faculty is also noteworthy. More than 60 percent have advanced degrees, and 8 percent hold doctorates. Teachers have received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation. Finally, Padua is a National School of Excellence, one of only 3 percent of such schools nationwide.

Padua is a culture of success and saturates young women with powerful values and habits. We nurture and reward their vision, courage and hard work. They're ready to discover the joys of excellence and add to our legacy.

The spirit to fly

At Padua there is a sport and a place for everyone. We have 22 choices and 10 varsity sports as well as rallies, awards ceremonies, and other fun events. The athletic program is a wonderful way for students to develop their physical side, meet new friends, and apply the Padua philosophy.

Padua's got the power. Our school spirit is *fantastic*. We have a steady stream of championships in Cross Country, Track, Swimming, Diving, Softball, Basketball, and more to come! Many of our girls are not only a major force in Delaware, but are recruited for athletic scholarships at colleges around the Country.

For our athletes, performance in a sport is the same as performance in the classroom, community service, or at home. Everything we do is permeated with the Padua approach: We strive to develop the *whole person*. Our program promotes the acquirement of a solid moral character of discipline, fairness, focus, and service. Athletics at Padua is not only a lot of fun, but also a great opportunity to develop self-esteem. It's another cornerstone for a happy, satisfying life.

“Participating in athletics at Padua has helped mold me physically and mentally. I’ve become a better student and leader. I’ve focused on my schoolwork and learned how to plan.

“Being a member of a team has given me the opportunity to learn what it’s like to be counted on. All these things have had a positive effect on my self-esteem.

“Participating in athletics is a great way to meet new people and get to know yourself. Throughout the years, I’ve built strong friendships with my teammates. These are the foundations I’ll build my future on.”

-- Laura Taylor, Senior

The most important relationship

Visit Padua, and you'll feel it. Look at the lives of these young women, and you'll see it. Joy, friendliness, security, confidence, success, mutual support – these are the fruits of the Spirit in the students, teachers, and staff. By teaching and living the Gospel of Christ, we help students develop lifelong spiritual habits for friendship with God.

With the guiding principles of St. Francis of Assisi and Saint Francis de Sales, students are taught how to forgive others, pray, meditate, and include God in every part of their lives. Many become involved as Eucharistic ministers at our beautiful chapel or help in other activities. Students learn that nourishment and exercise for the soul is the *first priority* and the basis of a happy meaningful life.

It's no wonder Padua students get along so well and have such constant unity. These young women treat each other with understanding and kindness because they know God in each other and in themselves. By teaching friendship with God, morality, and service to others, we're giving the most essential education.

“Attending Padua gives me the chance to love, learn, and experience all that a Catholic education has to offer.

“I've learned the importance of God, morality, and service. I've learned to make moral decisions following Jesus' example. This school has a strong sense of self through service to others and I'm proud to give back to the community.”

--Nicole DeFeo, Senior

A place to get involved

Padua is about growth, exploration, and a lot of fun. It's a safe caring environment filled friends, good times, a diversity of people, and many treasured moments. Here, young women feel safe to express themselves and achieve excellence in any area. Here, students *respect and care* for each other as they participate in many school activities and in the local community.

Everywhere they go in the school, students are saturated with learning and the Padua philosophy. Hallways reveal beautiful mosaics; walls are lined with fine art; the classrooms are spacious and bright. The clean, beautiful surroundings just don't end.

Teachers, parents, and staff work together to give students opportunities to try out their talents and choose a direction. Since learning doesn't occur in a vacuum, Padua students do service projects, socialize with boys, go to sports events, and explore their community.

From freshman welcome week to state championships, from Fine Arts to Science, from the cafeteria to the athletic field, students are one family -- a sisterhood. Coming from different backgrounds with many different gifts, these young women learn to know God and care for each other as children of God. They are creating their lives and a school with a soul.

"This is an incredible school. The spirit is great. It's so organized and everybody's just wonderful. The people here are incredible and the education and the curriculum is just really excellent. It's like we have tons of fun and are actually learning."

--Eileen Arcilla, Sophomore

"I chose Padua because my sister had gone here two years before and she absolutely loved it. And she told me so many great things about Padua, the sisterhood and about how she really fit in. I wanted to really have that in my life."

--Gina Blocker, Graduate

A new journey for your daughter

Very soon, your child will begin a new phase in her scholastic career. As a person, she has unique gifts and life experiences. As a young woman, she enjoys a distinct approach to life and has special academic, social, physical, and spiritual needs. The key is to find the right place to meet all these needs.

Padua Academy is such a place.

We will prepare your daughter for the life God wants for her. She will explore herself and find excellence in academics, sports, community service, and social events. Your child will feel safe and comfortable, loved and supported, appreciated and rewarded, challenged and confident – ready to pursue her dreams.

Come visit our family and *see what we mean*. Walk around the school. Talk to teachers and students. Ask questions. Breathe in the atmosphere. Feel the joy and excitement. See the results.

Arrange a visit today. Call us at 302-421-3739 and see our Web site at < www.paduaacademy.org >.

Let us celebrate this new journey with your family. Enjoy the gift of Padua.