

Juan Diego Academy

Catholic Regional High School



Justice + Devotion + Action

Juan Diego Academy School Profile 2017-2018

VISION

Juan Diego Academy is a Christ-centered, Catholic learning community forming young men and women to answer the call to lead and be active participants in their Church and community.

MISSION

As a Catholic regional high school, Juan Diego Academy:

- Offers a quality, comprehensive academic curriculum
- Utilizes the latest in technology and innovation
- Educates the whole person: mind, body, and spirit
- Instills a sense of Christian responsibility and service to others
- Trains leaders to meet the current and future challenges of society

History

Founded in 2011, Juan Diego Academy is a private, 501c (3) Catholic regional high school serving the families of the upper Rio Grande Valley. Though a private school with its own Board of Trustees, the school is closely affiliated with the Diocese of Brownsville.

Accreditations

Juan Diego Academy is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department, as well as AdvancED. The school has a Level Two designation under Educational Testing Services/The College Board to administer the PSAT-NMSQT and AP Exams to its students.

Partnerships/Agreements/Memberships

Juan Diego Academy has an agreement with South Texas College to provide dual-enrollment courses for qualified students. The school has local chapters of the National Honor Society and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. The school participates in athletics and other extracurricular activities through membership/participation in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), and the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA).

Demographics

In its seventh year of operation, there are currently 85 students enrolled in grades 9-12. More than half of these come from Catholic elementary schools within a 50-mile radius of Juan Diego Academy. More than 80% of the student population is Hispanic. Slightly over 60% of the student population is female. The school participates in E-Rate, as well as Federal Funding under Titles I and II. The faculty includes 10 full-time and 1 part-time teacher, plus professional and paraprofessional staff. Eight faculty members possess Master's degrees. One faculty member has a Doctorate.

Awards

Since the school's inception, eleven students have been recognized as AP Scholars, five students as AP scholars with Honor, and this year, one has been awarded an AP Scholar with distinction. AP Scholar awards are bestowed on students who earn a 3 or higher on at least three AP exams taken during their high school career. AP with Honor students have earned a 3.25 average and passed at least four AP exams. AP Scholars with Distinction have earned a 3.5 average or higher and passed at least five AP exams. This year, 76 students took AP tests and 33% made scores of 3 and above on the tests. On the redesigned SAT, 75% of students who attempted the test surpassed the national average of 1000 and the state average of 1110. On the ACT, 33 students who tested this academic year made an average score of 23. The national average was 21.0 and the Texas state average was 20.9. Sixty-six students took the new PSAT in the fall of 2016. One student was identified as a National Hispanic Potential Scholar. The average score was 916.5 with the ERW (English-reading-writing) score in the 87th percentile for 10th grade and 92nd percentile for 11th grade.

Juan Diego Academy enjoyed a 100% college acceptance rate for our 34 graduating seniors, and two athletes advanced to the collegiate level. Eight graduating seniors were accepted into Texas A&M University and four have been accepted to The University of Texas at Austin—one of whom earning a full scholarship. This year's graduating class was offered over 3 million dollars in scholarships.

Academically, the school's Masterminds team once again advanced into the third round of competition earning a total of \$900 in library funds over the past three years.

Athletically, all but one of the school's team sports advanced into the TAPPS 3A State Playoffs this past year. One of our female golfers earned 5th place in the TAPPS State Tournament.

Academic Program

Juan Diego Academy offers a rigorous, college-prep academic program that includes Advanced Placement, as well as Dual-Enrollment courses through South Texas College. Requirements for graduation from Juan Diego Academy include a minimum of 28 credits meeting the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and Texas Education Agency guidelines:

Foundation High School Program with Endorsement in Multidisciplinary Studies (multiple endorsements, including STEM and Arts & Humanities are available)

Religion	4.0 credits	Health	0.5 credit
English	4.0 credits*	Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Mathematics	4.0 credits**	Physical Education	1.0 credit
Science	4.0 credits***	Communication App.	0.5 credit
Social Studies	4.0 credits****		
World Languages	2.0 credits †		
Electives	3.0 credits ^		

* Required: English I, II, AP English Language, AP English Lit

**Required: Algebra I, II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus

***Required: Biology, Chemistry

****Required: World Geography (or AP Human Geography), World History, AP U.S. History, AP Government, AP Economics

†must be in the same language

^may include online courses for high school or college credit

Endorsements Offered by Juan Diego Academy

STEM Endorsement	A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE courses with a final course from the STEM career cluster • Computer science • Mathematics • Science • A combination of no more than two of the categories listed above
Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement*	A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence • Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics • Four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts
Arts and Humanities Endorsement	A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social studies • The same language in Languages Other Than English

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two levels in each of two language in Languages Other Than English • American Sign Language (ASL) • Courses from one or two categories (art, dance, music, and theater) in fine arts • English electives that are not part of Business and Industry
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* All students earn the Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement as part of meeting JDA graduation requirements

Advanced Placement Courses

Specially designated courses developed according to the College Board's *Advanced Placement Program* prepare qualified students to take the nationally administered *Advanced Placement Tests* for college credit. Our *Advanced Placement* courses currently include:

Course:	Offered to:
Biology	Seniors
Calculus AB	Juniors and Seniors
Macroeconomics	Seniors
English Language and Composition	Sophomores and Juniors
English Literature	Juniors and Seniors
Government	Seniors
Human Geography	Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors
Physics (I and II)	Juniors and Seniors
Psychology	Juniors and Seniors
Spanish Language & Culture	Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors
Spanish Literature & Culture	Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors
United States History	Juniors

Every student in an Advanced Placement class is expected to take the AP® exam that is given in May. There is a fee for each exam. The school subsidizes part of the costs for these exams as it is able to. The amount of the subsidy for each student varies based on the number of AP® exams a student takes, as well as their financial need.

Juan Diego Academy utilizes a four-point grading system. Full-year courses count as 1.0 credit for graduation; AP courses are weighted 1.10. The school's grading scale is as follows:

- A=93-100
- B=85-92
- C=77-84
- D=70-76
- F=69 and below

Entering the 2017-2018 school year, GPAs of the current student body range from 4.03 to 1.72, with a median GPA of 3.0.

Christian Ministry Program

The Christian Ministry program at Juan Diego Academy is an opportunity for students to become involved in direct service to both the Church and the wider community. Students are required to perform a minimum of 100 hours of Christian Ministry beginning with the first day of classes in the fall of their freshman (or first year) at Juan Diego Academy and concluding by the deadline set during the student's senior year. Because this is an ongoing experience that will be reflected upon throughout one's time at JDA, Students are required to complete at least 25 hours by the end of each academic year. Five (5) of these must be earned through service in the student's home parish/church.

Clubs and Organizations

Participation in extracurricular activities is an integral part of school life. Students are encouraged to be involved in ways that are consistent with their talents and interests. Enthusiasm generated in student activities often overflows into academic diligence. Student activities and organizations are developed based on student interests. The following clubs and activities currently serve the students of Juan Diego Academy:

Book Club
Class Officers
Drama Club
Emeralds Dance Team
Japanese Club
Liturgical Ensemble
Liturgical Ministries

Masterminds
National Honor Society
Retreat Teams
Robotics Club
Spanish Club
Spanish Honor Society
Student Council

Athletics

The school offers the following competitive sports as a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS):

Basketball (Boys and Girls)
Golf (Boys and Girls)
Soccer (Boys)
Swimming (Boys and Girls)
Track & Field (Boys and Girls)
Volleyball (Girls)