Our Mission:
To assist parents in the formation of their children by providing a classical education rooted in the teachings of the Magisterium and the primary works of civilization’s greatest thinkers. St. Ambrose strives to lead students to imitate the virtues which joyfully compel a life of knowledge, love and service of Christ.
Classical

St. Ambrose provides a liberal arts education, which means that students read, understand and discuss the primary texts of the most influential ideas of the most influential thinkers in Western Civilization. This classical education approach develops students' learning skills so they become intelligent, disciplined and well-spoken thinkers. Students come away able to memorize facts, read and understand primary texts, critically analyze complex ideas, form sound opinions, logically defend truths, and eloquently articulate conclusions. At St. Ambrose, we "teach 'em to think."

- Dr. Constance Nielsen, Director of Classical Education

Companies say they need flexible thinkers with innovative ideas – they're looking for candidates with a broader background [where they developed] critical thinking and problem-solving skills through long essays, in-class debates, and other hallmarks of liberal-arts courses."

- (Wall Street Journal - Apr 2016)

Catholic

Our faith infuses each school day, our curricula, relationships among students and teachers, our extracurricular activities, and our love for the Sacraments. Students begin each class with prayers, enjoy frequent opportunities for the Sacraments of Holy Mass and Confession, and end each school day with a visit to the chapel. Our religion curriculum includes comprehensive instruction in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the lives of the saints, Church doctrine, and Sacred Scripture. Non-Catholics are welcomed warmly into the community and our classical studies.

- A disciple of Christ is formed, not born. We recognize the primary causes of formation are home and school life, as well as the influence of friends (gateways to graces).
- Prayer throughout the day. Lifelong friendships and bonds of support. Various faith-forming groups and enrichment such as D.C. March for Life.
- We provide a school experience imbued by encounters with Jesus in Word & Sacrament, prayer & service – and in our interactions each day. Communion with God is not mere theory. It's our Way of being.
- Faith inspires exceptionalism! Students are not only abundantly ready for college and life – they’re agents of God's love and good.
- A great Catholic education is a right for all the baptized (regardless of ability to pay).

"So much of modern culture underestimates the abilities of young people. If we lower our expectations, they will do. Yet most are waiting to be challenged so they can prove themselves and discover their gifts. Our curriculum and methods give them something to strive for and of which to be proud.

- Jaimee Prado, class of 2017

Mass 3x and Adoration each week

"I chose St. Ambrose for its Catholic identity. We’re not all the same, but as a close community, we support each other to deepen our understanding and love in faith. I also like that St. Ambrose “Teaches you to think!” Socratic dialogue is common and we’re required to form opinions with supporting evidence; giving us a deeper understanding and the chance to learn and think by ourselves instead of simply being told what to believe."

- Jaimee Prado, class of 2017

Fun, spirited dialogue inspired by these Great Books! (sample High School reading list):
• Homer
• Plato
• Aristotle
• St. Augustine
• C.S. Lewis
• Hemingway
• Solzhenitsyn
• Sacred Scripture
• Beowulf
• De Tocqueville
• Pope Leo XIII
• St. Thomas Aquinas

Catholic

Even as our student body grows, we strive to keep a family atmosphere among our school community. At St. Ambrose, we encourage cooperation between older and younger students, fellowship between students and their teachers, strong friendships among classmates, and significant parental involvement. The ever-growing list of extracurricular opportunities at St. Ambrose enables students to have fun together outside the classroom. Extracurricular opportunities include music, theater, band, forensics, debate, yearbook, student council, Guardians for Life pro-life club, and a variety of sports teams.

- Small: Highly-individualized attention to support and develop each student’s extraordinary potential and interests. Not a monologue teaching approach – rather, a friendly tutor walking alongside his/her pupils in an immortal dialogue with care for their highest well-being.
- Private: We are free to pursue the True, Good, Beautiful and One – not pressured to conform to political trends or changing tides of public opinion.
- Close Knit: “I'm grateful for the loving, supportive teacher who challenged me to grow as a student and individual.”

Shannon Seitz, class of 2016

"I was let in on the most important dialogue of all time – spanning from Homer to Vatican II and today. A conversation about goodness, truth, beauty, and, ultimately, the meaning of life. [St. Ambrose students] are not merely learning facts about “stuff.” They’re growing competent in seeing the world aright – the most important thing we can do."

- Michael Bowden, class of 2010

Average Class Size
13

Results-Oriented!

St. Ambrose offers young people a better, complete solution in education today. Students come away equipped with self-control, decency, a strong work ethic and the ability to think critically and creatively. They graduate at the top of the state ready to matriculate to renowned colleges and live as mature Christians. Families don’t need to choose between excellent academic training and solid religious formation. Young men and women are prepared to achieve in the world and for the Church. This is the Ambrose Advantage, and young people can’t afford to miss out any longer!

NAPCI

ACCREDITED SCHOOL

Meeting 15 Rigorous “Standards of Excellence” since 2009!

Average Class Size
13

Class of 2016 top ACT composite score in Madison average: 25.0 above the state average. 25% of composite scores (4.0 or higher)

85% of SAT scores 3.0 Higher than 70% of all students

60% of all scores 4 or higher!

6 AP Scholar Awards in 2016!

100% High School graduation rate

At least 1 National Merit Finalist each of the past 5 years

College bound students: 100%

3.6 GPA average (all courses)

"Thanks be to God, St. Ambrose was there to help us develop [our children] into the best teen version of themselves!"

-Ramona Weehlan-Warden, alumni parent
Over **90%** of St. Ambrose graduates pursue higher education.

**Schools our graduates have been accepted:**

- American University
- Alverno College
- Arizona State University
- Belmont Abbey College
- Benedictine College
- Boston College
- Bowling Green State University
- Carroll College
- Carroll University
- Christendom College
- Clarke University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Georgetown
- George Washington University
- Hillsdale College
- Iowa State University
- Loras College
- Madison College
- Marquette
- Michigan Technological University
- Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology
- Princeton University
- St. Gregory the Great Seminary
- St. John’s University, MN
- St. Mary’s University of Minnesota
- Seton Hall University
- South Dakota School of Mines
- Southwest Technical College
- Truman State University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alaska/Fairbanks
- University of Chicago
- University of Dallas
- University of Kansas
- University of Kentucky
- University of Mary, Bismarck, N. Dakota
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Northern Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Southern California
- University of St. Thomas, MN
- University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- University of Wisconsin - Platteville
- University of Wisconsin - Stout
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- University of Wyoming
- Virginia Tech
- Viterbo University
- West Virginia University/Morgantown
- Wyoming Catholic College
- Winona State University

Visit or contact us to discover the **Ambrose Advantage** yourself.

“Liberal Arts may ultimately prove to be the most relevant learning model. People trained in the Liberal Arts learn to tolerate ambiguity and to bring order out of apparent confusion. They have the kind of sideways thinking and cross-classifying habit of mind that comes from learning, among other things, the many different ways of looking at literary works, social systems, chemical processes or languages. The world needs specialists and highly trained people with advanced degrees, no question about it. But the world also needs diversity and versatility. It needs people who know as much about our value system as they do about our solar system.”

-Roger B. Smith, Chairman and CEO of General Motors Corp *from 1981 to 1990.*