

***Lauren Schultz, '04**, will be graduating from Marquette Dental School in a year less than it usually takes. Her outstanding record earned her a 4-year scholarship as well as a place in the accelerated program.*

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FOSTERING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

"At Queen of Peace you are able to learn about so many different things. If you're interested in accounting, they have an accounting class. If you're interested in psychology, they have a psychology class," explains Nicole Anusevich, '04. "Peace offers a small school, community feeling, but at the same time it offers so many options and a diverse set of classes." There is one thing that all Queen of Peace students have in common: the chance to experience a unique curriculum that makes learning accessible, fun, and challenging.

With a robust core curriculum, electives ranging from computer programming to economics to world history, from 13 Advanced Placement courses to team-taught interdisciplinary courses, and a "zero hour" option for students wishing to take an extra class, it is easy to understand why Women of Peace consistently excel.

"Queen of Peace really prepared me for college," says Lauren Schultz, '04, who graduated in the top ten of her class and was accepted into an accelerated program at Marquette Dental School with a 4-year scholarship. "I didn't just learn facts that everyone knows. I learned how to think for myself and organize my time. I feel confident that I will do well at Marquette because I did at Queen of Peace."

Lauren is not alone. Peace graduates continue their education at some of the most prestigious universities and colleges in the nation. In fact, Queen of Peace maintains a 100 percent college placement rate for students.

In addition to the outstanding curriculum, all programs are designed to ensure that Peace graduates are ready for life after high school. Queen of Peace was one of the first high schools in the nation to engage all faculty in an annual Professional Portfolio Program and all students in a cross-disciplinary Student Portfolio Program.

Throughout her four years, each student gathers examples of her best work in every class and uses them to reflect on her growth as a scholar. Together with their teachers, students assess their progress using criteria informed by ACT, Advanced Placement and state/national standards. As seniors, students share their portfolio work with first-year students to explain the value of the process and to serve as role models, open to growth and serious scholarship. Then, when graduation rolls around, Peace students leave with a sense of accomplishment and a tangible body of work to back it up. "I could really see how my writing had improved," explains Megan Tribe, '04. "It felt great to look back and see all the work that I'd done."

Better yet, graduates have been given college credit for their outstanding Peace Portfolios. The evidence keeps mounting: The academic program at Peace combines the best research-based teaching and learning strategies with systematic innovations, like the school-wide portfolio program, to give each Peace graduate every possible academic advantage.

The St. Catherine of Siena Scholars Program also encourages Peace students to go above and beyond their course studies. Girls choose a topic they'd like to research in depth and partner with a mentor who is already an expert in the field. The program inspires students to think critically and follow their dreams.

Perhaps most importantly, Queen of Peace students agree that their teachers make all the difference in supporting their academic success. "The classes are small and the teachers get to know you one on one," says Erica Hutchinson, '04. "They make learning fun. I can honestly say that."

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