

**SAINT JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**5150 HYLAN BOULEVARD**  
**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312-5898**  
**(718) 984-6500**

## **QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK**

**Q. WHAT IS SEA'S MISSION?**

A. Catholic Education is a mission and that means that we take faith and values seriously. We encourage students to develop spiritually, academically, athletically and socially. We seek a commitment to service, to working for the common good. We urge students to explore the process of making moral and ethical judgments. We are committed to providing a quality affordable education, keyed to the needs and interests of students. We are on the move, and our focus on you is evident by the changes we have made in our academic program as well as in our sports program.

**Q. ON WHAT BASIS IS A STUDENT ACCEPTED AT ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA?**

A. Baptized Roman Catholic students who have received First Communion and who will receive Confirmation, who are residents of Staten Island and who score above our cut-off point in the TACHs exam are invited to join us at St. Joseph's. Preference is given to those students who indicate that Sea is "first" choice. **Third choice students are not accepted.**

While Sea is known for academic excellence, particularly in the Honors Program, our College Prep program offers the best preparation for college for the average student. A solid average student should be confident to put Sea as "first" choice on the TACHs.

**Q. WHAT TYPE OF ACCREDITATION DOES ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA HAVE?**

A. -- Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents  
-- Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
-- Supervised by the Education Department of the Archdiocese of New York

**Q. WHAT DOES ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA OFFER THAT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DOES NOT?**

A. Sea offers the students what public schools **cannot** – the opportunity to make a mature commitment to Catholic Faith and values with the help of Priests and Sisters, dedicated lay men and lay women in an atmosphere of discipline and order.

**Q. HOW IS A FRESHMAN PLACED INTO A PROGRAM?**

A. The two basic instruments used to place a freshman, are the TACHs scores in all categories and the results of a Placement Exam in Reading, Vocabulary and Math.

Students will be placed in either College Prep or Honors courses accordingly. Likewise, some students may be in College Prep for some classes and Honors for others.

In other words, St. Joseph by-the-Sea does not track students. Each student is individually programmed. St. Joseph by-the-Sea is NOT staffed to provide for IEP students with special needs.

Students who feel they are ready to study a Foreign Language on Level II are required to take a special language placement exam.

**Q. WHAT IS SEA'S TUITION?**

A. Sea strives to keep tuition affordable. Tuition for the 2005/2006 academic year is **\$455.00** per month. This includes the Academic Fee.

**Q. WHAT TRANSIT AUTHORITY BUSES SERVICE ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA?**

- A. In addition to regular Transit Authority routes and busses, St. Joseph by-the-Sea is serviced by “special” busses that run on the S-55, S-56, and S-58 lines. For some students a single transfer may be required. The Bloomingdale Road/Rossville area is serviced by “yellow” busses and shuttle upon request.

Many students travel to Sea each day from all different parts of the Island, including Westerleigh, Meirs Corners, Bulls Head, Graniteville, Travis, Rosebank, and Dongan Hills.

**Q. DOES SEA OFFER A MUSIC PROGRAM?**

- A. In addition to Music Appreciation, which is a required class for all students, Sea has a band which is also divided into several categories: Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Chamber Ensemble. A new \$500,000 Band Wing, blessed by John Cardinal O’Connor, opened in May 1996. We also have a Choral Group of nearly 100 students.

**Q. DOES SEA OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO INCOMING FRESHMEN?**

- A. Each Catholic high school on Staten Island has its own method of awarding scholarships to incoming freshmen. In previous years, Sea had a special scholarship exam. For the past 9 years, full and partial scholarships have been awarded to students who score at the top of the grid on the TACHs Exam. The TACHs Exam will **again** be used this year to offer scholarships.

**Q. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE SEA ACADEMIC PROGRAM?**

- A. All Sea students are programmed to take four years of Science, Math, English, Social Studies and Religion. Every student must complete a three year Foreign Language course in addition to which students in all Honors courses take a three year Latin course accredited by St. John's University.

All Sea students take a Freshman Writing Lab in our Technology Labs focused on grammar and good writing skills in conjunction with our English Department. The Sophomore Writing Lab is designed to teach students to write the type of research papers required in College.

In addition, all Sea students are programmed for a Public Speaking course in freshman and senior years.

Every student who receives a Sea Diploma will have exceeded New York State requirements for an Advanced Regents Diploma. This will be extremely beneficial for college acceptance.

**Q. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE SEA HONORS PROGRAM?**

- A. Sea students in Honors take accelerated courses on every level. They complete a three year Foreign Language Regents in two years. They take three years of Latin followed by the Latin Regents. Latin is the foundational language for Law, Medicine, and Science and it is very helpful for SAT vocabulary.

Sea Honors students have an opportunity to earn nearly 50 college credits offered through St. John's and SUNY Albany. These credits are accepted by a wide variety of colleges and universities throughout the country. Likewise, a wide variety of AP courses are offered as an alternative means of earning college credit.

This Honors Program is tried and true, as Sea has consistently led the Island Catholic schools in National Merit.