





WELCOME
TO VILLA.
WELCOME
HOME.



ALWAYS MORE, ALWAYS BETTER, ALWAYS WITH LOVE

— The Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas,
Our Foundress



THE SPIRIT OF VILLA

Villa's story begins quietly and unassumingly with the arrival of a young Lithuanian immigrant, Casimira Kaupas, to the U.S. in 1897. It was during her four-year stay in the United States that Casimira was attracted to an apostolic religious life. After years of study, spiritual guidance, and intense preparation, Casimira's dream was realized in 1907, when the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Casimir was founded, and she received the name Sr. Maria. Mother Maria traveled to Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania to prepare for the opening of the Congregation's first parish convent and school. Mother Maria's goal was to found a retreat house/school in Pennsylvania. After a lengthy search, Mother Maria and the Sisters eventually purchased a 203-acre plot of land named Maple Lane Farm (what is now known as Villa Joseph Marie High School). Students quickly flocked to Villa. While there, they boarded in Regina Hall and walked the short distance to Maria Hall for classes. As the student population grew, however, the Sisters realized they would need to build a new school and move to a traditional day-school structure. Therefore, in 1957, construction on the current school building was completed.

In the years since, many positive changes have come to Villa Joseph Marie. What was once a fairly simple curriculum has evolved into a premier college-preparatory educational experience. **One hundred percent of Villa's graduates are accepted into four-year colleges, and the 97 graduates of the Class of 2021 were offered over \$25 million in merit-based academic scholarships and grants.** Students enjoy modern

Science facilities with an innovative Engineering curriculum, a flourishing Fine Arts program, and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. The school itself has also changed physically.

In addition to Villa's classic one-hallway structure, the school has added three additional new floors of classrooms, seminar rooms, and offices in St. Joseph's Hall, which are connected to our original hallway and cafeteria by a newly renovated student lounge.

Villa's state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center opened in September 2019, and our fine arts curriculum continues to grow with this expansion.

**A CATHOLIC COLLEGE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
FOUNDED AND
SPONSORED BY THE
SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR**

EXCEPTIONAL EXPECTATIONS, EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT

Empowering Girls—Villa offers an experience fully focused on the needs and strengths of girls, exemplifying a model of single-sex learning consistently validated in national research.

The Right Level—Villa courses follow three paths—Academic, Honors, and Advanced Placement—meaning that every student can find exactly the right level for her.

Individual Attention—With a student-faculty ratio of just 9:1, Villa delivers an education on a personal scale. Extra help—or extra challenge—is always there for the asking.

The Transcend Program—Unique among area girls schools, Transcend provides specialized one-on-one support to students diagnosed with mild learning disabilities.

**“AT VILLA, LEARNING IS
A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.”**

Melissa Holdren, teacher



Small classes mean the chance for active and interactive learning.



LEARNING EXCELLENCE

**70% of the Class of 2021
entered college with
a STEM major.**

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS

Science at Villa is about outstanding experiences in the classroom and lab—and more. You might find yourself witnessing physics in action at Six Flags or as one of many Villa girls who complete independent research projects for science fairs.

ENGINEERING AT VILLA

Villa is a proud partner with Project Lead the Way in bringing our students an Engineering curriculum. This program empowers students to step into the role of an engineer, adopt a problem-solving mindset, and make the leap from dreamers to doers. Each PLTW Engineering course engages students in interdisciplinary activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices or robotic arms, or exploring algae as a biofuel source. These activities not only build knowledge and skills in engineering but also empower students to develop essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance. Students take from the courses in-demand knowledge and a skill set that they will use the rest of their lives.





A MISSION OF LOVE

STRONGLY SPIRITUAL

At Villa, we work every day to model the belief of the Sisters of St. Casimir in living a life of faith, love, and service, rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition. Our active Mission & Ministry program welcomes every student—of any religious background—to serve the community as part of her own spiritual journey. Highlights of spiritual life include the celebration of the liturgy, an excellent Theology Curriculum spanning all four years, and student-organized class retreats that are deeply meaningful and memorable.

COMMITTED TO SERVE

The community service program at Villa is highly active and a source of great pride to our school. Students engage in meaningful, person-to-person work, whether at the Sarnelli House or Twining Village retirement community; through the DePaul Youth and Young Adult Center (Junior Immersion); or most recently, through trips to Haiti and inner-city Chicago. Also, Villa oversees one service project that our students run themselves each year. Last year, our student-run “Hope-A-Thon” dance marathon raised over \$95,000 for charitable organizations. **All students meet a minimal requirement for service, but most go far beyond it.**



A FEELING OF FAMILY

“Villa girls are different. Everyone has such a positive vibe.”

Jaclyn, first-year student

“If the girls see someone sitting alone at lunch, they immediately say, ‘Come sit with us.’ At Villa, everyone is included.”

Marissa Brown, dean of students



BE STRONG
BE SMART
BE CREATIVE
BE YOURSELF

The Arts—You will find a world of options for discovering and developing your creative talents. Work side-by-side with a practicing professional artist. Take to the stage for sold-out plays or as a part of award-winning musical ensembles in our new Performing Arts Center. Choose classes that range from Music Theory and AP Portfolio Art to Dance and Theater Tech Practicum.

Athletics—At its best, athletics teach discipline and character, teamwork and hard work—and that’s our goal at Villa Joseph Marie. Our coaches are educators. Our playing fields are classrooms. And through their experience here, our athletes learn lessons that stay with them long after their days of competing as a Jem are over. We offer 15 interscholastic sports across 3 seasons, so there’s truly something for everyone.

Traditions—From a lunchtime sing-along to a ghost tour during Vespers, from our Thanksgiving Feast to Spirit Week, life at Villa is full of much-loved traditions and chances to relax and have fun. Yes, we work hard, but the sound of laughter is never far away.





“AT VILLA,
YOU CAN BE
WHO YOU
WANT TO BE.”

Samantha, first-year student





“AT VILLA, I ACQUIRED THE CONFIDENCE TO BE A LEADER. I WOULD NOT BE THE PERSON I AM TODAY WITHOUT IT.”

Mary Frances Whelan Szpila '75

“AT VILLA, I LEARNED TO TAKE RISKS. I LEARNED TO SPEAK UP. I LEARNED THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO WHAT I CAN DO.”

Nicole Prunetti '07

THE POWER OF A VILLA EDUCATION

As a college preparatory school, Villa focuses strongly on the goal of preparing every student for the rigors of studies at the college level. In addition, we offer a college counseling process that starts early and delivers an exceptional degree of individual support, helping ensure that each of our girls finds a college destination that represents an excellent fit.

“I LEFT VILLA ABSOLUTELY ACADEMICALLY PREPARED. I WAS READY FOR EVERY CHALLENGE COLLEGE HAD TO OFFER.”

Kelly Ann Adams Jourdain '97

Villa by the Numbers



100%

of graduates accepted to four-year colleges and universities

More than **95%** of classrooms equipped with Smart Board technology

8 PERIODS A DAY

(EACH 44 MINUTES)

MORE THAN \$25 MILLION

in merit-based scholarships and grants offered to the 97 members of last year's graduating class



395

students from across Bucks and Montgomery counties, Northeast Philadelphia, and nearby towns in New Jersey

89 YEARS of empowering girls through faith, learning, and service

15 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

40 CLUBS

—from Environmental Club and International Club to Mock Trial and Media Club

23 AP COURSES & 38 HONORS COURSES

8:1

STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

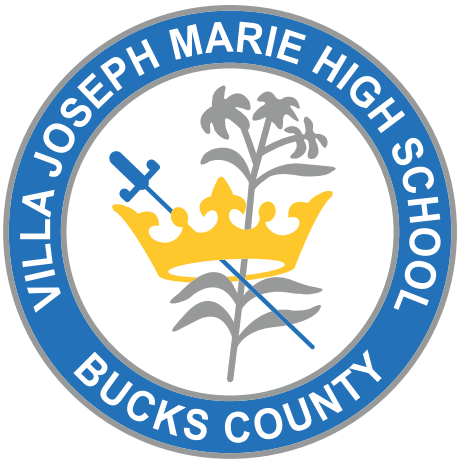
Dozens of unforgettable traditions, from the Thanksgiving Feast to the Mother-Daughter Tea

LEARN MORE

ABOUT VILLA, AND PLAN YOUR VISIT

vjmhs.org

admissions@vjmhs.org
215.357.8810 ext. 193



VISIT VILLA...

We invite our future Jems to **EXPERIENCE VILLA** with added safety precautions. Parents should contact Bailey Gorman, Admissions Associate, at (215) 357-8810, ext. 209, or bagorman@vjmhs.org, for additional information about how your daughter can visit our school.

Always more, Always better, Always with love

vjmhs.org

1180 Holland Road, Holland, PA 18966

SAVE THESE SITES

vjmhs.org/openhouse

Explore Villa from the comfort of your own home

vjmhs.org/aboutvilla

Our mission, history, future plans, and so much more

vjmhs.org/admissions/8

Everything your eighth grader needs to know

vjmhs.org/admissions/67

Everything your sixth and seventh graders need to know

vjmhs.org/calendar

The most up-to-date information about Villa events

STAY CONNECTED TO VILLA

