

Middle and High School

VIEWBOOK



Divine Savior Academy

A Christian Academy Dedicated to Excellence

Welcome Letter from the Administration

Divine Savior Academy was founded with the mission of providing excellence in education rooted in the timeless truths of God's Word. More than a decade later, we have never been more confident, proud, and thankful to God for how well this is being accomplished on our campus.

Through our supportive community and Christian environment, Divine Savior's students are given the opportunities they need to succeed. DSA is a place where they can discover, nurture, and maximize their God-given talents.

DSA has a rigorous, college-bound academic program, as well as fine arts, competitive athletics, personal guidance services, and new state-of-the-art facilities. This program begins in preschool and is carried to completion through high school. We invite you to read on to learn more about our programs and what our students are accomplishing here at Divine Savior.

The decision of where to send your child during these formative years is not an easy one. Critical choices that are made during middle and high school will affect your child's academic, social, emotional, and spiritual development for years to come. We are confident that Divine Savior Academy is prepared to meet all of these needs to give students the foundation they need to transition into the rigors of college and, ultimately, life.

We are excited to share more about our programs with you, so we invite you to meet our committed staff, tour our beautiful new facilities, and see the impact an excellent education in a loving and Christ-centered environment can have on your family. Please read on and then give us a call or schedule a tour online. Our doors are open to help both you and your child make this important decision. We welcome the opportunity to share our Academy with you!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Carlos Leyrer, M.Div, MBA
President

Tim Biesterfeld, MSIE
Head of Schools

Shawna Mehlberg, M.A.Ed.
Director of Early Childhood Education





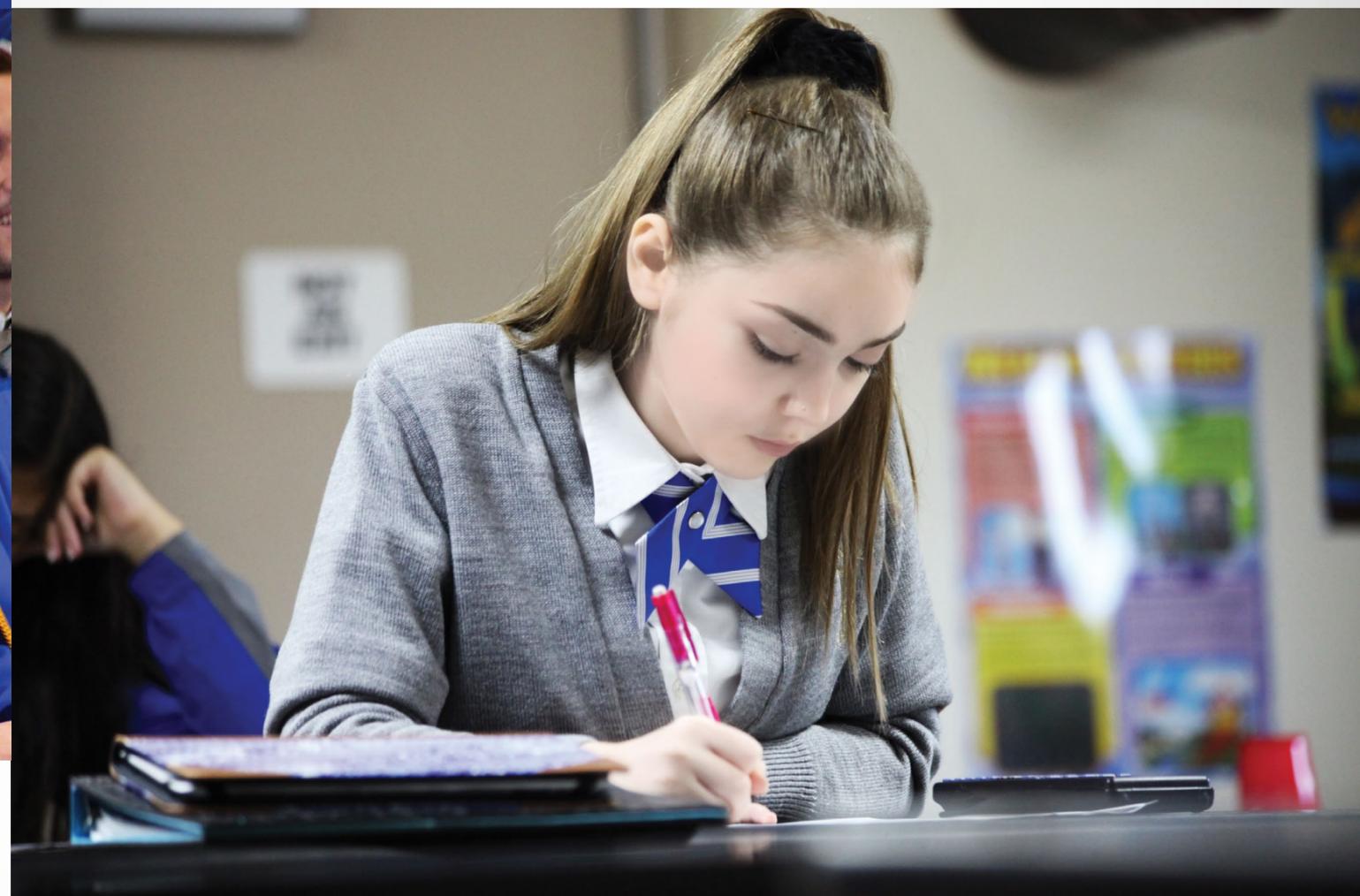
A Tradition of Excellence

Divine Savior Academy is part of one of the largest private school systems in the United States and operates campuses in Doral and Delray Beach, Florida



College-Prep Academics

Divine Savior offers a comprehensive and varied curriculum to prepare students for the rigors of college and the workplace. All subjects are taught from a Christian perspective to educate the whole child: academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.



Divine Savior Academy is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), one of the largest private school systems in America. The WELS has a rich tradition of academic excellence and has operated highly-regarded schools across the United States, the Caribbean, and the world for over 165 years. Currently, WELS churches and associations operate 403 early childhood centers, 313 elementary schools, and 25 high schools across the nation.

On average, students attending WELS schools annually outperform their peers by a considerable margin on national achievement tests. We humbly thank God for His blessings on our schools and are excited to continue this rich tradition of academic excellence in the communities of Doral and Delray Beach.

Accreditation

Divine Savior Academy is accredited by the following agencies:

- The Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF)
- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- Accreditation International (AI)
- The National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)
- Middle States Accreditation (MSA-CESS)

Divine Savior's rich curriculum is designed with flexibility to meet the needs of each student as it fosters exploration, critical thinking, problem solving, and sound study habits. As a community of learners, students are given opportunities to collaborate and explore. The ultimate goal is to cultivate and maximize each student's unique talents and abilities so that he or she will be well-equipped to serve as a valuable member of today's society.

At the middle school level, our academic program is focused on mastering the core classes of math, grammar, literature, science, and history. This schedule of classes is fully departmentalized and also includes enrichment instruction in art, music, physical education, foreign

language, and technology. Our eighth grade students have the opportunity to take high school courses that may be listed on their high school transcripts, as well as our new middle school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses.

In high school, our college-prep curriculum offers honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. DSA also offers Project Lead the Way, a nationally-recognized STEM program. Our curriculum encourages students to realize individual goals and motivates them to use their God-given abilities. High-level research, speech, and writing assignments across the disciplines prepare students for college success.





Academic Programs

Divine Savior graduates exceed the Florida Statutes Accelerated High School Graduation Requirements with our college-preparatory curriculum. Students may also participate in the Advanced Placement program, Project Lead the Way STEM program, or one of DSA's pre-professional programs.



Advanced Placement Program

Divine Savior offers the nationally-recognized Advanced Placement program (AP). Advanced Placement courses are modeled after college courses and are taught by specifically-trained teachers. At the conclusion of an AP class, students take a college-level exam.

Advanced Placement courses are recognized by most 2-and 4-year colleges around the world. Students who successfully pass an AP exam may qualify for college credit or advanced placement at the college level and demonstrate to admissions officers that they are prepared for the rigors of college.

Students may participate in the Advanced Placement program at DSA by taking individual classes, becoming AP Scholars, or enrolling in the AP Capstone program.

Project Lead the Way, DSA's STEM Program

Project Lead the Way is the nation's leading provider of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. This challenging STEM curriculum is project-based to encourage critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration while engaging learners in exciting and relevant content. STEM classes are taught by certified instructors in DSA's state-of-the-art STEM lab.

"I cannot teach anybody anything.
I can only make them think."
- Socrates



Pre-Professional Tracks

- Business
- Information Technology (IT)
- Mass Media
- Science
- Fine Arts

English Language Learners Program (ELL) and English as a Second Language Program (ESL)

To better serve our diverse communities, Divine Savior Academy is proud to offer its English as a Second Language Program in middle school and its English Language Learners Program in high school. Both programs assist and support students who are learning the English language.

The ELL Program is a rigorous program that enables high school students new to the language to learn English while simultaneously receiving credit in their designated grades.

The ESL Program is designed to meet the varied language needs of our student body. Students receive one-on-one or small group instruction as a pull-out class during the regular school day.





Supportive Teachers

Teachers at Divine Savior care about our students and their families. They partner with you to provide your children with one-on-one attention to cultivate their unique talents and abilities.



Divine Savior Academy is dedicated to providing excellence in education for all our students. Our highly-degreed and continuously-trained teachers are committed to achieving this excellence by maintaining

- High academic standards
- A safe, disciplined, and nurturing environment
- Individualized and personalized attention
- Proactive home-school communication
- A low student-teacher ratio
- A personal dedication to continuing education

At Divine Savior, our teachers tailor their instruction to challenge each student, not a class average, by encouraging, engaging, and motivating students to use their unique abilities and talents. The faculty also focuses on educating the whole child: spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.

The learning environment created by our teachers and administration affords students the opportunity to grow as scholars, musicians, artists, athletes, leaders, citizens – and most certainly as Christians – all to God’s glory.



College Counseling at DSA

Divine Savior’s college-preparatory curriculum prepares your child for the future with rigorous academics and a college counseling program that begins in middle school.



With over 40 years of experience, Divine Savior’s college counseling department is eager to assist students in planning for the future. Our counselors partner with parents and students so families are able to meet the challenges of the college application and decision process. DSA’s college counseling program also seeks to guide parents and students with individualized attention and frequent communication: weekly updates, parent-student planning meetings, on-site financial workshops, and one-on-one consultations.

Students are prepared for the rigors of test-taking and the college application process with

- Seminars on essay writing and application skills
- Personality and skills assessments
- On-site SAT, PSAT, and ACT test preparation seminars, as well as professional partnerships with test preparation services
- A robust schedule of college campus visits and on-site college representative visits
- Guest presentations on financial aid and financial planning for college





Christian Environment

Divine Savior Academy fosters a love for Christ and for others, as well as respect, kindness, and responsibility. Your child will grow mentally, physically, and spiritually in a safe and moral environment.



Christian education is Christ-centered education. Our Savior and His love for us are at the heart of all we think, say, and do. All subjects in our curriculum are taught from a distinctively Christian point of view, and all activities are centered in a Christian environment.

Divine Savior Academy is a place where the Bible serves as the framework for guidance and truth. It is a place where a love for God and His Word are instilled and nurtured in our precious children. It is a place to learn Bible stories and apply them to everyday life. It is a place

to mold and shape the hearts and minds of impressionable children for a life of faith. DSA is a place where children grow in their relationship with the Lord on their journey toward Christian maturity.

Divine Savior Academy is supported by Divine Savior Church. With its full-time pastoral staff, Divine Savior Church serves and supports the families of DSA with Bible classes, counseling, and worship services within a loving, supportive community. For more information, please visit www.DivineSaviorChurch.com.

“Before attending DSA, I had a general image of God and His Son, but that was about it; I knew some accounts from the Scriptures and I knew about how Christ came and died for my sins, but I did not live it in my everyday life. Through weekly chapels, daily exposure to God’s Word, and a school missionary trip to Peru, I was “reintroduced” to Christ and the truth. DSA has provided me with the education needed for me to serve our awesome God.”

**-Christian Edward Rodriguez,
Class of 2015, Cornell University**



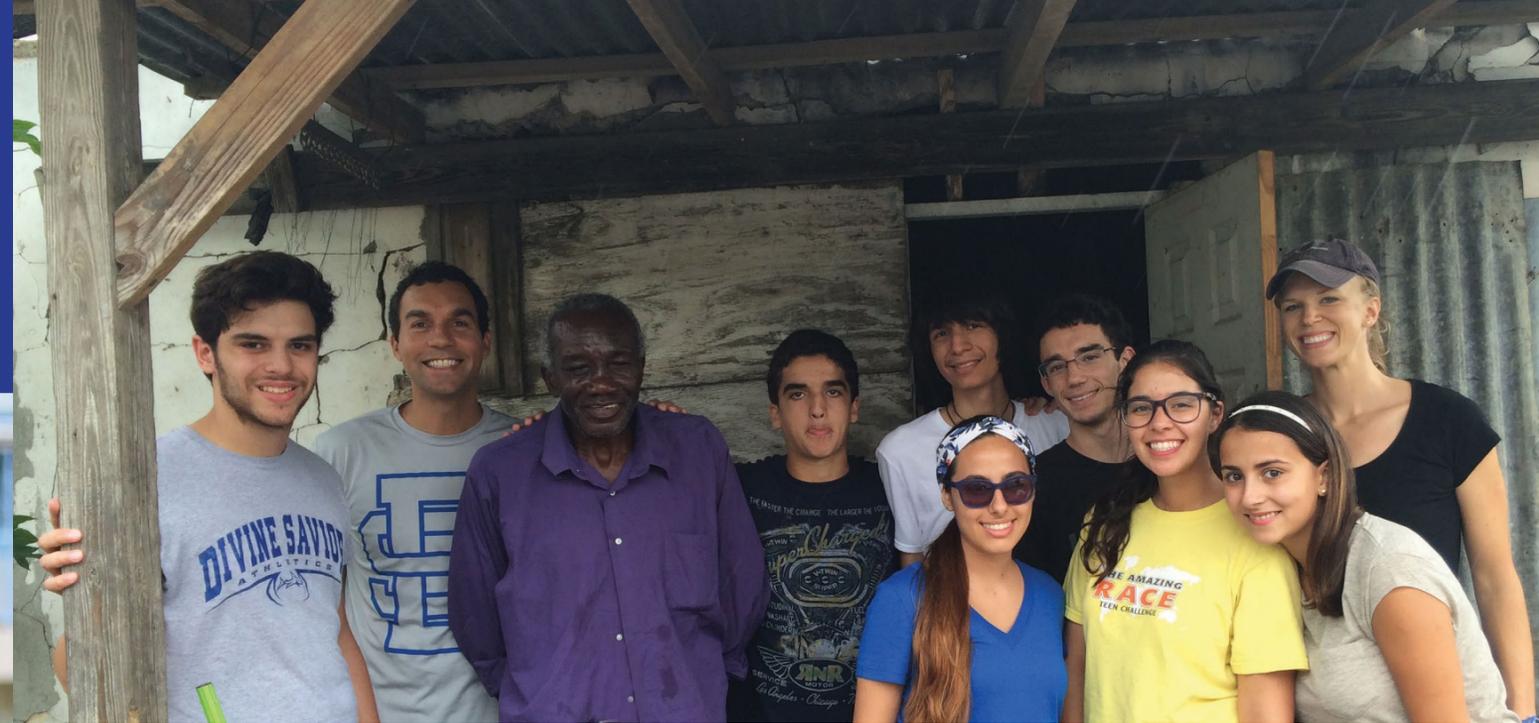
Preparation for Lives of Service

Divine Savior students express love for their Savior through acts of service, not only within the walls of DSA, but also in our community and beyond.



“Being taken out of my comfort zone and made conscious of others’ reality was an extremely eye-opening experience.”

-Monica Coloma, Class of 2016



Volunteering

To encourage community involvement and a spirit of service, all students are required to have a minimum of 80 hours of community service for graduation. Students can obtain these hours through a wide variety of service projects.

Youth Rallies and Camps

Every summer, our students have the opportunity to be encouraged in their faith in a fun atmosphere by attending national youth rallies or a regional summer camp. These opportunities start in fifth grade and continue through high school.

Mission Projects

Each week our students attend a chapel service on campus. All offerings collected during chapel services are donated to our yearly mission project. Past offerings have been used to fund a school in Africa, a church in Chile, and an orphanage in Haiti.



Student Council

With the motto of “Learning to Lead, Learning to Serve,” DSA’s Middle and High School Student Council is an active group of students who learn not only to lead their fellow students, but to serve others whether they are collecting school supplies for in-need students or gathering canned goods for DSA’s annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Mission Trips

Whether it is traveling to the Midwest to help run a soccer camp or to Antigua to build a home for someone in need, DSA students have opportunities to participate in mission trips during the summer months.

National Honor Society

National Honor Society (NHS) is a national organization that recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated leadership and excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, and character.

At Divine Savior, the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society are active within our community, participating in events like the Toys for Tots Toy Drive, Doral Adopt-a-Street, and the City of Doral Veteran’s Day Parade.





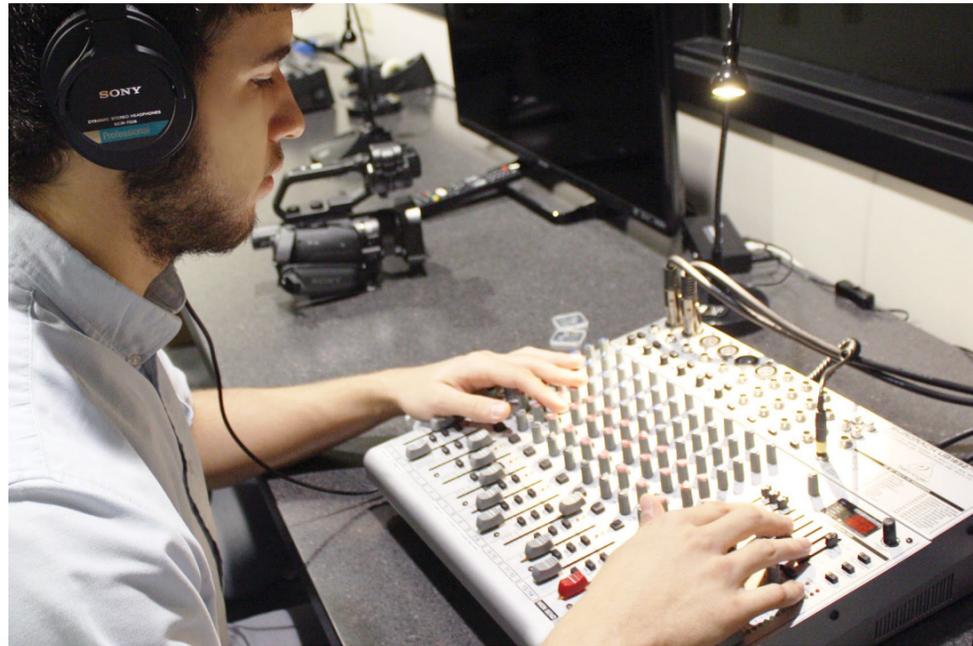
Technology at DSA

At Divine Savior Academy, technology plays an important role in the classroom learning environment.



Our 1:1 iPad program and our campus-wide WiFi connect our students to valuable online resources in every class. Intentional integrations throughout the curriculum foster communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, 21st-century skills necessary for college and career readiness. Our faculty also regularly combines technology with learning assessments, allowing students flexibility and originality as they demonstrate their knowledge.

While our 1:1 iPad program puts a device in the hands of every student, Divine Savior Academy also provides other opportunities for students to regularly interact using technology. Each classroom is equipped with a projector, digital or interactive display, capable of displaying content from any device. Our robust network is set up to provide students with a safe learning space, while offering access to a multitude of tools for research and innovation. Additionally, our high school media center includes a 23-seat Mac lab and a state-of-the-art video recording studio.



Divine Savior Academy also leverages technology to effectively communicate with students and parents. We make use of an online student information system and an online campus learning management system, providing access to our school families no matter where or when they need it. Likewise, we use automated email and phone messaging systems to keep our parents up-to-date with important information.

Our school website is updated regularly, and our dedicated parent resource section provides answers to most questions parents seek. Our communications department is also active on social media providing reminders, sports and activity updates, and even glimpses into classroom activities.



Divine Savior Academy's New Facilities

[Click here to enjoy our video tour](#)



- Auditorium
- Cafeteria
- Library
- Media Center
- Music Studio

- Science Labs
- STEM Lab
- Audio Visual Lab
- Computer Lab
- Art Studio

- Gymnasiums
- Tennis Courts
- Soccer Fields
- Weight Room
- Dance Studio

- Chess Room
- Playground
- College Center
- Outdoor Classroom
- Lecture Halls



Athletics

The mission of Divine Savior's athletics program is to strengthen the talents and abilities of our student-athletes, as well as develop qualities such as teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship, and humility.

Divine Savior Academy encourages its students to have healthy lifestyles through physical education classes in our middle school and high school curriculum. Courses like health, lifetime sports, and weight training encourage students to learn the skills they need to be active adults.

Divine Savior Academy is a member of the South Florida Middle School Conference and the Florida High School Athletic Association. Our competitive teams are led by a qualified coaching staff. Trained and experienced in their fields, Divine Savior's coaches are dedicated to improving athletic skills and developing character traits that extend beyond the field of athletic competition. Our expanding sixth to twelfth grade program has middle school, junior varsity, and varsity teams that require tryouts and commitment on the part of the student-athlete.



ATHLETICS

- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Golf
- Track and Field
- Tennis





The Arts

While more and more schools cut the arts from their curriculums, Divine Savior Academy has a growing, thriving fine arts program.



Designed to create a well-rounded education for all its students, DSA's fine arts program also seeks to develop the God-given abilities of each individual student.

Music is a focus and strong tradition within our school system and among our faculty. Music classes with units like world drumming and music theory are offered as electives, while private piano, instrumental, and voice lessons are offered after school from our large panel of passionate music teachers. Students can also explore their vocal skills in one of our performance choirs.

Visual arts is an ever-expanding program taught in our beautiful art studio. Students take art classes that include classical instruction in pottery and painting or modern art instruction in creative photography, video production, and graphic design. Student work is exhibited throughout our school, as well as in art fairs and student publications.



Championship Chess Team

Divine Savior Academy has a nationally-recognized competitive chess team, as well as a chess program for kindergarten to twelfth grade students.



Whether students choose to take chess as an elective course or as an after-school activity, they are exposed to the intricacies of chess including skills training, strategic planning, and tournament play under the tutelage of a chess grand master.

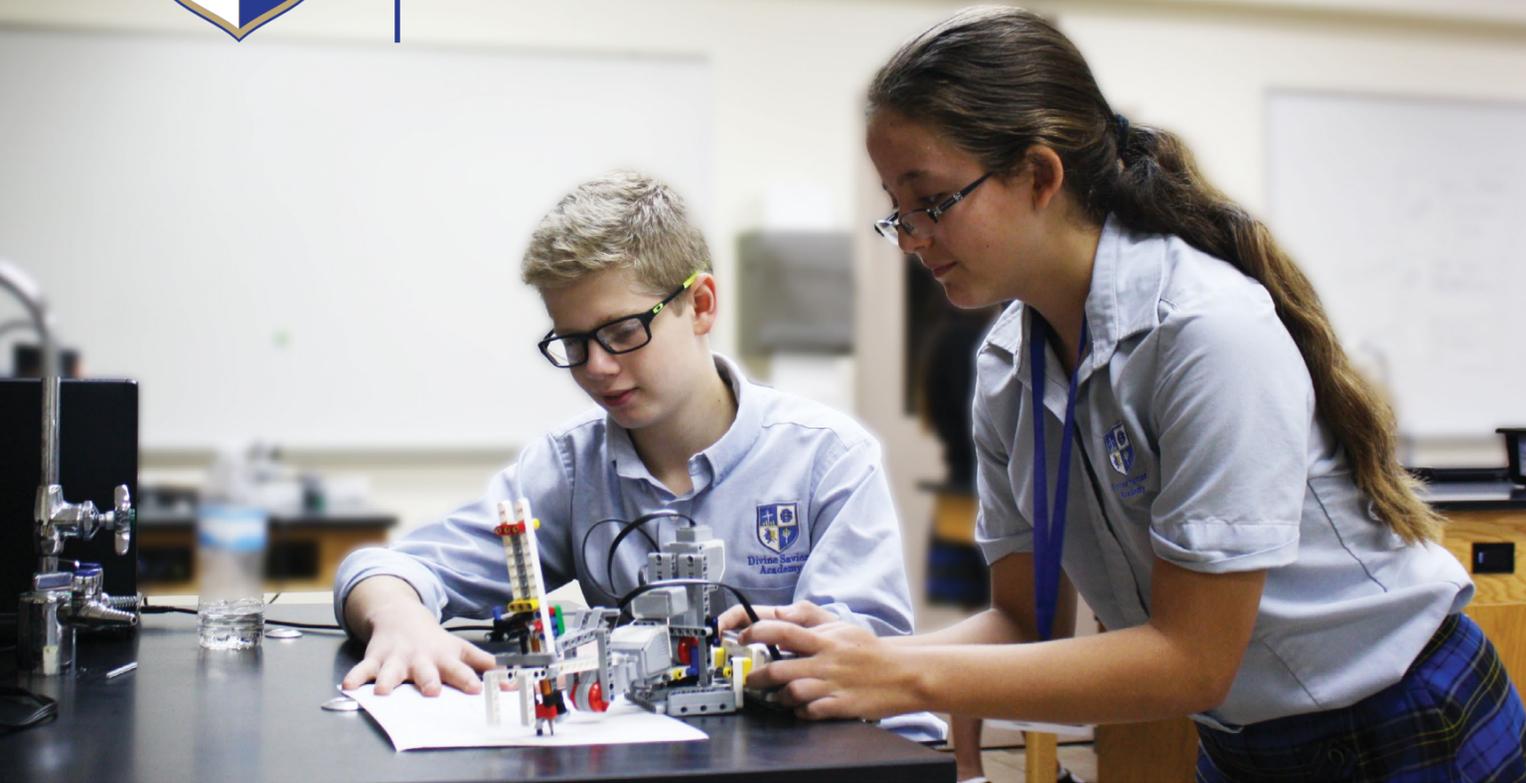
Past Championships:

- 2017 K12 and K8, U1000 Florida State Champions
- 2016-17 K12 and K8, Squares Grand Prix Champions
- 2015-16 K12, 64 Squares Grand Prix Champions
- 2015 K8, U900 Regional Champions
- 2015 K12 Super Championships, 1st Place
- 2013 National U1600 High School Champions
- 2013 Florida State High School Champions
- 2012 High School All Star Champions
- 2011 National Youth Action East Champions



Beyond the Classroom

At Divine Savior Academy, students are encouraged to pursue their individual gifts and interests in a variety of opportunities that exist beyond the classroom.



Clubs

Students develop their educational interests and passions in a wide variety of after-school clubs. Leadership, teamwork, and a service mentality are developed in addition to the enjoyment of pursuing personal interests. Students are encouraged to start new clubs yearly. Our growing list of extracurricular clubs includes Robotics, Drama, Teen Safety, Model United Nations, and many more.



Travel Experiences

Students at Divine Savior have the opportunity to expand their worldview, serve others, and experience hands-on learning with school-sponsored travel opportunities. Whether it is a study trip to a marine biology institute in the Florida Keys, a class trip to Washington D.C., or a service trip to the Caribbean islands, our students benefit from these educational experiences.



Student Journalism

Headquartered in Divine Savior's fully-equipped media center, Network 58 is DSA's student journalism media group.

Working in our Mac lab and new audio-visual lab, students gain real-world journalism skills and experience through a variety of media outlets:

- *Network 58 Online* is our website for current campus news and interactive media.
- *The Golden Legacy* is our flagship publication, a printed feature magazine published quarterly.
- *Shark News Network* is our video production group that produces monthly news updates and other projects around campus.
- *Chroma* is our literary magazine, published annually in the spring, which showcases artwork and written compositions from our student body.



Network 58 also gives students the opportunity to promote their news via social media on Twitter ([@network58online](https://twitter.com/network58online)), Instagram ([network58online](https://www.instagram.com/network58online)), and Facebook ([network58online](https://www.facebook.com/network58online)).



“The best part of Divine Savior Academy is simply not what is taught in the classroom; it is the gift passed on to each and every student that they will take with them throughout the course of their lives: God’s gift to us all, a sense of worth, honesty, and integrity set by the daily example of each and every teacher, faculty, and staff member at Divine Savior Academy. This is what defines Divine Savior Academy and sets it apart from the rest.”

-Maite Casas, DSA Parent





Our alumni have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Adelphi University
 American University
 Antillas Adventist University
 The Art Institute of Miami
 Barry University
 Baylor University
 Bethany Lutheran College
 Boston College
 Boston University
 California State University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Chestnut Hill College
 Concordia University
 Colorado State University
 Cornell University (Ivy League)
 Emerson College
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Florida International University

Florida State University
 Fordham University
 Full Sail University
 Georgetown University
 George Washington University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Hilbert College
 Indiana University-Bloomington
 Ithaca College
 Johnson & Wales University
 The King's College
 Martin Luther College
 Massachusetts Institute of
 Technology (M.I.T.)
 Manchester University
 Mercer University
 Miami University of Art & Design
 New York University

New York Institute of Technology
 Northeastern University
 Northwestern University
 Nova Southeastern University
 Ohio University
 Penn State University
 Pratt Institute
 Purdue University
 Quinnipiac University
 Rice University
 San Francisco Art Institute
 St. John University
 St. Thomas University
 Stetson University
 University of California-Berkeley
 University of California-San Diego
 University of Central Florida
 University of Florida

University of Georgia
 University of Kansas
 University of Kentucky
 University of Massachusetts
 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Puerto Rico
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Saint Thomas
 University of South Florida
 University of Tampa
 University of Virginia
 Suffolk University
 Vanderbilt University
 Wentworth Institute of Technology
 Wisconsin Lutheran College



divinesavioracademy.com
 (305) 597-4545



Doral Campus
 10311 NW 58th Steet, Doral, FL 33178

Delray Beach Campus
 15935 Lyons Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446