



"Bruna's exchange year at St. Bernard enriched her culturally, academically, and personally. She experienced unforgettable moments with friends, teachers, and in a beautiful school setting. We are grateful for the kindness, support, and constant updates throughout her time there."

Marlus & Daniela, parents of Bruna from Brazil

# St. Bernard Preparatory School Alabama

St. Bernard Preparatory School (SBP) in Cullman, Alabama, is a historic Roman Catholic boarding school. Established in 1891 by the Benedictine monks of St. Bernard Abbey, SBP offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum within a nurturing environment.

## Quick Facts

**Founded:** 1891

**Niche.com Score:** A

**Students:** Co-educational

**Climate:** Mild winters / Hot summers

**Population:** 140

**Accepting students:** Grade 7-12

**Diploma Year offered:** Yes

**Interview Required?** Yes

**English as Second Language (ESL) support:** Yes

**University Acceptance rate:** 100%

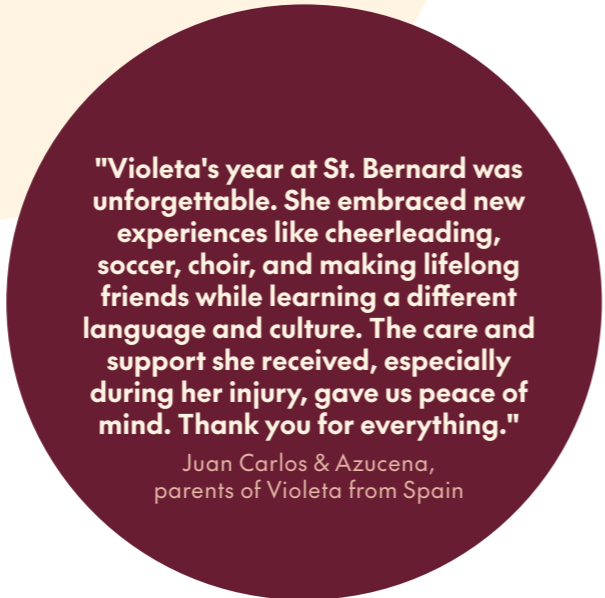


## Academic Excellence

SBP emphasizes a strong academic foundation, offering a great range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual enrollment opportunities. Over 75% of the faculty hold master's or doctoral degrees, ensuring high-quality instruction. Graduates have been accepted into prestigious universities such as **Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, and MIT.**

## Student Accomplishments

In 2025, senior Willa Smith was named a Semifinalist in the **National Merit Scholarship Program.** Additionally, students have been recognized by the College Board National Recognition Programs for their academic achievements.



**"Violeta's year at St. Bernard was unforgettable. She embraced new experiences like cheerleading, soccer, choir, and making lifelong friends while learning a different language and culture. The care and support she received, especially during her injury, gave us peace of mind. Thank you for everything."**

Juan Carlos & Azucena,  
parents of Violeta from Spain

## Campus Facilities

The 800-acre campus provides a serene environment conducive to learning and personal growth. Facilities include **modern classrooms, science laboratories, a library, athletic fields, tennis courts, Abbey Byre Theater** and residential dormitories for boarding students. The campus also features wooded nature trails, offering opportunities for reflection and recreation.

## Residential Life

SBP's residential program accommodates boarders from across the United States and various countries, including Asia, Europe, and South America. Dormitories are designed to provide a **comfortable and supportive living environment,** fostering a sense of community among students.



## Athletics and Arts

As a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, SBP offers a variety of sports programs, including baseball, archery, volleyball, basketball, cross country, soccer, tennis, and bowling. These programs promote teamwork and physical development.

In the arts, students can participate in programs such as photography and choir, where they develop their creative skills and have received recognition for their work.



## Stats

<b>18</b> # of AP Courses	<b>75%</b> Teachers with Advanced Degrees	<b>#4</b> of the Best Catholic High Schools in Alabama	<b>100%</b> University and College Acceptance
<b>6:1</b> Student Teacher Ratio	<b>92%</b> Students are Competitive	<b>25</b> Average ACT Score	<b>1300</b> Average SAT Score

## Lists

**Sports:** Baseball, Archery, Volleyball, Basketball, Cross country, Soccer, Tennis, Bowling

**Arts:** Drawing, Film History, Musical Theater, Photography, Theater, Visual Arts, Band – Concert, Choir, Jazz Combo, Jazz Ensemble, Music Theory

**Advanced Placement courses:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Psychology, Pre-Calculus, Calculus AB, Calculus BC (also offered as dual enrollment), Statistics, Computer Science A, Drawing, Music Theory, English Language, English Literature, Government, European History, US History, World History

International students at the school have come from **Austria, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ivory Coast, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Mexico, The Philippines, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand**

## Community

Located in friendly Cullman, Alabama, with a population of 20,000, SBP combines small-town charm with easy access to larger cities. The city is 50 miles north of Birmingham and 55 miles south of Huntsville, with Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport nearby. Local attractions include the Ave Maria Grotto, and events like the Bernard Blues and BBQ Festival, offering a rich cultural experience. Nearby Huntsville is the home of **NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center** and multinational tech companies such as **Boeing**, **General Dynamics**, and **Lockheed Martin**.

## Climate in Cullman, Alabama

Cullman experiences a humid subtropical climate, characterized by hot, humid summers and mild winters. Average high temperatures range from 50°F (10°C) in January to 90°F (32°C) in July. The area receives about 58 inches (1,473 mm) of precipitation annually, with March typically being the wettest month.



"Isabela had a wonderful experience at St. Bernard. The care and love she received over the past 10 months made us proud to have her at such a prestigious school. She will cherish the memories and friendships she made for life. Thank you for everything."

Roberto & Clarice, parents of Isabela from Brazil

"Ramon had an incredible year at St. Bernard, often calling Ms. Perry his 'best teacher ever' and the Dailys his 'American family.' His time there strengthened his spirituality, maturity, and readiness for his future studies in veterinary science. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and support he received."

Mario, father of Ramon from Spain

"Enrico returned home happy but also sad to leave the friends and relationships he built at St. Bernard. His time there helped him grow so much as a person. Thank you for all the support and care you provided to him and to us."

Maria, mother of Enrico from Brazil

video

Academics  
from a Parent's  
Perspective

