

**Xavier Charter School**  
**School Profile 2014-2015**



**XAVIER CHARTER SCHOOL**  
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## **Xavier Charter School**

### **School and Community**

Xavier Charter School is a K-12 tuition-free public liberal arts charter school in Twin Falls, Idaho. The school opened its doors to students in grades K-8 for the 2007/2008 school year. Xavier Charter School currently serves approximately six-hundred and forty K-12 students within the Twin Falls area. Xavier has had four graduating classes with an average size of sixteen students – each graduating class being larger than the last. The student body is primarily composed of middle class and lower middle class socioeconomic status students with 91 percent of students identifying as white, six percent Latino, and other three percent as Black, Asian, Native, and Pacific Islander. The city of Twin Falls has about 40,000 people, but the town services the needs of many of the smaller rural communities in the valley. Industry within Southern Idaho is typically agriculturally oriented.

### **Xavier Charter School Mission and Vision**

Xavier Charter Schools are dedicated to providing a classical, academically rigorous, content-rich liberal arts education, preparing students to excel in every duty and guiding them toward wisdom and virtue. The primary way by which this mission is accomplished is through the Socratic method of teaching. Our charter school agrees with the teacher and author Benjamin Barber when he states, “Well-taught students learn to suspect every claim to truth and then to redeem truth provisionally by its capacity to withstand pointed questioning.”

### **Xavier Grading Procedures/ Student Rankings**

Xavier Charter School grades on a standard 4.0 grading scale. All individual student rankings are based on a simple cumulative GPA calculation. It is worth noting that it is not easy to achieve high grades at Xavier. Our classical liberal arts curriculum is demanding and not all students at Xavier earn excellent scores. English classes at our school are modeled after 200 level collegiate literature survey courses. Students read 20 to 25 major literary works from the Western Canon each year, supplemented with poetry, in addition to writing formal MLA composition essays every three to four weeks. Our students also complete additional summer coursework in both English and Mathematics classes during the summer holidays. Unlike most Idaho schools, our high school has additional history, art, and music graduation requirements. Simply put, Xavier Charter School wants high scores to represent high achievement. Through Xavier’s grading system and rigor, our school hopes to alleviate the grade inflation that seems to be a common nationwide problem.

## **Xavier Achievements**

**4-Star Rating:** Xavier Charter School currently has a four out of five statewide star rating in the state of Idaho. Four-Star and Five-Star Schools are publicly recognized and celebrated for their excellent performance as top-performing schools across Idaho.

**Top Three Percent of Idaho SAT Scores:** Xavier Students had the fifth highest SAT Scores in the state of Idaho in 2014.

**Eighth Place at Nationals in Academic Decathlon:** 2013-14 school year was the first year that Xavier participated in Academic Decathlon. We won the state competition in the small school division and placed eighth in the national online competition.

**National Poetry Out Loud Finalist:** All Xavier students participate in the national recitation contest Poetry Out Loud program. Our school has won the regional competition for the last five years and the state competition the last three years. For the past two years we have sent a student to the national competition in Washington D.C. in which our student placed in the top nine finalists.

**All-State Musicians/Vocalists:** Each year Xavier Charter School is well represented in the Idaho All-State Choir/Band/Orchestra. In 2013 one of our students performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the Honors Performance Series.

## **Colleges Attended by Graduates of Xavier Charter School**

American Musical and Dramatic Academy  
Boise State University  
Brigham Young University Idaho  
College of Southern Idaho  
College of William and Mary  
Emory University  
Linfield College  
Northwest Nazarene University  
Northwest University

Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Southern Utah University  
St. Johns University  
University of Idaho  
University of Oregon  
Utah State University  
Utah Valley University  
Wabash College

United States Marine Corps  
United States Air Force