Residential Life at St. Ben's in the Early Years

1941 Facula
Coming to campus

*College Days 1923 p. 227*
Railway and Telephone Connections

The main line of the Great Northern Railroad passes through St. Joseph, and connections with various lines of railroad can be made at St. Cloud. Pupils coming for the first time will be met by a Sister at any station in St. Cloud, if timely notice is sent to the College. The St. Benedict’s office of the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company is within the building. There is also a telegraph office, through which communication may be held with all outside points.

Buildings

The building is constructed of brick and a basement of stone. It is really made up of five buildings erected at different times to meet the increasing demands. A large and elegant fringed building with all modern conveniences has been erected within the last year. Notable features of this institution are its many cupping, in which the pupils live in the dormitory, dining hall, and other halls, open familis.
St. Benedict’s College and Academy, conducted by the sisters of St. Benedict, is situated in a beautiful and pleasant locality, eight miles from St. Cloud and four miles from St. John’s University. St. Benedict’s was founded in 1880 and incorporated as an educational institution March 23, 1887.

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The buildings are amply protected by outside fire-escapes. Canvas fire escapes, chemical fire extinguishers, and standpipes with fire hose attached, are distributed on every floor. There is also a plug in the College yard. A night watch makes regular rounds of the buildings several times each night.

Annual Year-Book, 1912, St. Benedict’s College and Academy, p. 5
SBMA photo 942 (student) and 006 (view)
Main/Teresa Hall photo from CSB Archives
SBMA photo 942 (student) and 006 (view)
Main/Teresa Hall photo from CSB Archives
Annual Year-Book, 1916-1917, St. Benedict’s College and Academy, p. 6
SBMA photo 595 and 596
Long walks to Mill Stream Farm, and rambles in the woods, are pleasant recreations to the girls in spring and autumn, and are frequently sought again by those who have long since bidden adieu to St. Benedict’s.
PRIVATE ROOMS AND DORMITORIES

The private rooms are perfectly heated and admirably arranged for light and sunshine. They have mahogany finish, with furniture to correspond. All of the rooms have hardwood floors, tinted walls, clothes closets, and set bowls with running water, hot and cold. Some of them have private baths attached. For the safety of property, chafing dishes or other portable heating appliances may not be used in the rooms.
In the dormitory, each student has a separate curtained alcove containing bed, wash-stand, and chair. Closely connected with the sleeping apartments are numerous baths plentifully supplied with hot and cold water.

The care of their rooms is largely in the hands of the students themselves, and they are held responsible therefor. This aspect of the school's life and discipline is founded solely on the wholesome and fundamental teaching of St. Benedict himself—"Ora et labora"—"To labour and to pray." The practice of this admirable doctrine is universal to the school, as it is an essential part of the religious life of the faculty.

Annual Year-Book, 1912, St. Benedict's College and Academy
http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/stbm/id/1910
1955 Facula p.69
Student Rooms

Student rooms have lavatories with hot and cold water, and are furnished with bed, dresser, study table, and chairs. A limited number of rooms may be had with private baths. Bed linens, lamps, draperies, rugs, and pictures are provided by the students. Linens are laundered without extra charge to the student. The rooms open into a rotunda comfortably furnished with davenports, radio, grand piano, and open shelves on which are current magazines and daily newspapers.
Rotunda. SBMA photo 218
Rotunda. SBMA photo 055
Special Remarks

Pupils will be received at any time and charged from the date of admission to the end of the term. No deduction is made for partial absence, nor for the Christmas and Easter vacations.

Parents are requested not to have their children visit home during the session without a reason furnished which can be approved by the faculty.

Express charges on packages should invariably be prepaid.

**NO EATABLES EXCEPT FRESH FRUIT AND CANDY MAY BE SENT TO PUPILS.** Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter form an exception.

Our table is supplied with every variety of wholesome food. The drinking water is pure and unusually healthful.

Dentistry, shopping, and dressmaking ought to be attended to as far as possible before coming to school, so as not to interfere with the regular school work of the pupil.

Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school premises except under the care of a chaperone, whose expenses must be paid.

No pupil who owes any debt to the Institution will be graduated.

**PUPILS ARE RECEIVED ONLY UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO CONFORM TO THE RULES OF THE INSTITUTION.**
Annual Year-Book, 1913-1914, St. Benedict's College and Academy, p.10
http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/stbm/id/2127
Annual Year-Book, 1916-1917, St. Benedict's College and Academy, p.11
HEALTH AND COMFORT

Particular care is taken to preserve the health of the students. Our table is supplied with every variety of wholesome food, and special attention is paid to providing fresh vegetables during the winter months. The drinking water is pure and unusually healthful in mineral elements.

Playgrounds, a gymnasium, and recreation halls afford ample opportunity and incentive for healthful exercises.

Rooms are set apart, and arranged especially for the comfort of the sick, or those requiring rest or temporary relief from study. A separate building furnishes complete isolation in case of contagious disease. A trained nurse is charged with the supervision of the health of the students, and the House Physician is within immediate call. Physician's fees and medicine bills must be paid by the students, and hospital rates are charged for nursing during prolonged illness.

Annual Year-Book, 1912, St. Benedict's College and Academy
http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/stbm/id/1922
photo 1912 p.31
SOCIAL TRAINING

A series of talks is given throughout the year upon polite usage and the requirements and obligations of good breeding. Individual personal faults are pointed out as privately and as kindly as possible.

One evening of almost every week is devoted to social functions of some kind, under the direction of the faculty. These consist of plays both of artistic and educational merit, musical programs, literary entertainments, lectures with stereopticon, and receptions by the different classes. These occasions have as their object the cultivation of social life, as well as recreation and pleasure.

Lectures on various subjects by lecturers of distinction are given from time to time during the year, and are a permanent feature of the college program.
RELIGIOUS TRAINING
The institution, as distinctly Catholic, offers every opportunity to obtain a thorough knowledge of Christian Doctrine; therefore, religious instruction forms an organic part of the curriculum.
Students of all denominations are received, but, for the sake of uniformity and the preservation of discipline, all students are required to be present at the public religious exercises.

THE SODALITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin has for its members Catholic young ladies who, by exemplary deportment, have proved themselves worthy to become the children of Mary.
REGULATIONS FOR WARDROBE

Uniform: Black dress for Sundays. For school wear, dress of any color; material to suit season. All dresses must be made with high neck and with sleeves well below the elbow.

Children under 12 years old are not obliged to wear the uniform for Sundays. They should be equipped with four long-sleeved aprons.

Shoes must have rubber heels. Every pupil must be provided with a head wrap and sweater-jacket of any color.

Starched clothing must be laundered at the expense of the pupil, with the exception of the dresses and aprons for the children.

Each pupil should be furnished with two veils (to be procured at the Academy), towels, and all other toilet necessaries; a sufficient supply of plainly made underclothes, three changes of heavy underwear for the winter season, and all facilities for mending and sewing, as needles, thimbles, thread, scissors, cotton for darning; kimona, one pair of rubbers, a napkin ring, four napkins, a silver knife and fork, teaspoon, soup spoon, a glass goblet, tooth-mug, a carpet rug for bedside, one double woolen blanket, a fine comb and dressing comb.

Each article of clothing is marked with a number procured at the Academy.

The Institution will not hold itself responsible for the loss of jewelry brought by the pupils.

Thirtieth Annual Year-Book, 1912, St. Benedict's College and Academy, p. 50
http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/stbm/id/1943
Woman with hat: SBMA photo 890
REGULATIONS FOR WARDROBE

No uniform is required. For school wear, dress of any color, material to suit the season. A better dress for Sundays. An inexpensive white dress for special occasions. Dresses must not be low in the neck; sleeves must reach to the wrists or lace sleevelets may be worn with short sleeved gowns.

Shoes must have rubber heels. Every student must be provided with a head wrap and sweater-jacket of any color; also a suit for gymnasium, consisting of a white middy blouse, full bloomers of navy blue material, and black tennis slippers.

Each student should be supplied with a long-sleeved apron, to be worn in her dormitory alcove or her private room while caring for them. Children under twelve years of age should be supplied with four long-sleeved aprons.

Each student should be furnished with two veils (to be procured at the College), towels, all other toilet necessaries, etc.; sufficient supply of plainly made underclothes, three changes of heavy underwear for the winter season, kimono, and all facilities for mending and sewing, as needles, thimbles, thread, scissors, cotton for darning; one pair of rubbers; carpet rug for bedside; one double woolen blanket.

Table Service: Glass, four napkins, a napkin-ring, a silver knife, fork, teaspoon, and soupspoon. The napkin-ring and silver should have the initials of student engraved upon it.
Our Uniform, Forty-First Annual Year-Book, 1923-1924, St. Benedict College and Academy

white dress SBMA photo 905
REGULATIONS FOR WARDROBE

The adoption of a distinctive college dress has met with the hearty approval of students.

The uniform style selected is any simple, one-piece dress of dark blue serge or silk, with long sleeves, white collar, and white cuffs, made in a becoming design to be worn from October to May.
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College Bulletin 1931-1932, College of St. Benedict, p.17
http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/stbm/id/5152
SBMA photo 069
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Besides the uniform dresses, each student should have simple gowns of any color suitable to be worn at entertainments and other school functions. These dresses should be modest in style—not sleeveless or exaggeratedly short or low in the neck.

College Bulletin 1931-1932, College of St. Benedict, p.17
http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/stbm/id/5152
SBMA photos 941 and 614
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Every student must be provided with a suit for gymnasium, consisting of two white middy blouses, full-pleated bloomers, a navy blue or of black material, and tennis slippers.
ROOM REGULATIONS

1. Hang all pictures and wall decorations from the moulding with picture wire or cord. It is not permissible to use adhesive tape or any kind of gummed paper, not to tack, nail, or paste articles of any kind to the walls. Any damage will be repaired at your expense.

2. Keep all furniture one inch from the wall.

3. Clothes hangers are not to be hung over the doors.

4. A payment of $1. is made to the Dean of Residence before a radio may be installed. (Our plant operates on direct current) No grills, irons, or electrical appliances of any kind may be used in the private rooms.

5. You will help maintain cleanliness and order by having your room in order by 8:15 each morning.

6. You are asked to prevent waste by turning off your lights when you leave your room.

7. Whenever you leave over a weekend, have your room in order, close the windows, and leave the key to your locked door with the Sister in charge of the floor.

8. Money, jewelry, and other valuables are kept in your room at your own risk. You may, if you wish, leave such valuables with the Burser or with the Sister in charge of the floor.

9. When preparing for bed, students are asked not to appear outside their rooms without wearing a house coat. Nets are not to be taken during or after Compline.
1958 *Facula*, Juniors
CSB Staff Residents and Resident Assistants, 1985-86
Rotunda Christmas tree. SBMA photo 358