

# **Saint Paul's School for Girls Walla Walla, Washington Territory**

**Washington State Library**  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Tumwater, Washington  
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The Washington State Library recently acquired an 1880s catalog and prospectus for Saint Paul's School for Girls in Walla Walla. It provides an interesting look at education for women during Washington's territorial days. The title page states that the school is in its ninth year. The school year consists of two terms each running 20 weeks. The Christmas term runs from September 1, 1881—January 18, 1882 and the Easter term runs from January 19 through June 7, 1882. Expenses are listed as \$125 per term for boarding pupils. Additional charges ranging from \$10 to \$30 for the half year are made for instruction in piano, organ, voice, drawing, painting, French, or German. Use of the piano for one hour each day is \$6 for the half year. Both day students and boarders have access to the library which boasts over 13,000 volumes.

The school's faculty is comprised of ten people—two Reverends, one Mrs. and seven Misses. Their specialties include: French, History, and Belles-Lettres; Mathematics and Natural Science; English Branches, Voice Culture and Instrumental Music; Drawing and Painting; Ethics and Evidences of Christianity.

A listing of students and their home towns is included. The students are primarily from Walla Walla but also from Ainsworth and Dayton in Washington Territory; Hepner, La Grande, Milton, Pendleton, Summerville, and The Cove in Oregon; and Boise in Idaho Territory.

The booklet states:

*All members of the School aid to some extent in the work of the family. The portion of time thus occupied is so small that it does not retard their progress in study, but rather facilitates it by affording exercise, and prevents them from acquiring a distaste for work and habits of physical indolence.*

*This work will be superintended by a matron and is, therefore, a lesson in house-keeping much needed in the education of girls.*

*It does not include, however, the kitchen work, washing or scrubbing.*

Ten "General Regulations" are saved for the last page of this 16 page booklet and they include the following:

3. *Each young lady should be provided with an umbrella, a pair of overshoes, a napkin ring, two yards of carpet for her room, and a clothes-bag. All articles of clothing should be distinctly marked with the full name. Fifty cents extra will be charged if this is left to be attended to by the school.*

Regulations regarding visitors include:

4. *Pupils can receive calls only from such acquaintances as are approved by their parents. Calls from young gentlemen are allowed only on joint permission of parents and the Principal. **Street interviews are strictly forbidden.** They will receive calls in the parlor; and in no case invite friends to their private rooms without permission.*

5. *They will not be allowed to visit oftener than once in five weeks, and then only at the places designed by their parents or guardians.*

8. *Calls on Sunday are not allowed.*

Regarding "Music" the prospective students and their parents are warned:

*Those desirous of obtaining a musical education should remember that the longer it is postponed, the more difficult will be the acquirement. ... Children of ordinary intelligence can safely begin at the age of six, and with the certainty of becoming artistic performers if placed under capable instructors.*

*It is of the utmost importance to begin with competent instructors, for the "Touch," if not learned correctly at the outset, can hardly be changed in later years.*

Academic Department tables show which term and at what level "Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Book Keeping, French, Roman, or Grecian History, Caesar, Vergil, Cicero, Constitutional Law, Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology, Ecclesiastical History, Painting in Water Colors or Oil," are covered.

Saint Paul's School (Walla Walla, Wash.)

**Annual Catalog and Prospectus of St. Paul's School for Girls: Walla Walla, Washington Territory.** Walla Walla, Washington: Saint Paul's School, 1871?-Portland, Oregon: Printing and Publishing House of Himes the Printer.

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