

Holy Trinity School

Forming Saints and Scholars



Planning for High School

*Holy Trinity School is a Catholic educational community of excellence.
Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, and called to follow his example,
we are dedicated to the spiritual, academic, and social development of our students,
forming "saints and scholars."*

Fully Accredited by:

Western Association of School and Colleges
Western Education Association
Through June 2025

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Your child is now in middle school! What an exciting time it is! And it is never too soon to start thinking about the next important step in your child's educational journey – planning for Catholic High School. We hope that the information contained in this booklet, along with the information provided by the High Schools will provide you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child. Please know that we are here to help you in whatever way we can!

As Catholic parents, we understand that we must one day give an account of what we have done to help ensure our children's salvation. Parents have many educational options available. While Catholic education has long been recognized as offering an excellent balance in academics and faith, not all Catholic high schools are equal. Selecting the school that best meets your family's needs is a complex decision.

A Message From Our Superintendent of Secondary Schools

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic schools in the United States have a great legacy going back to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Neumann in the early 19th century. Often the question is asked why parents (Catholics and non-Catholics) choose Catholic schools. There are three usual answers: safety, academics, and Christian values.

Safety is not always an issue for government schools in affluent suburbs but in most of Los Angeles County safety is an issue. Transfer students from government schools talk about fights daily at break or lunch, having to "watch their back," alcohol, drugs, and gangs on campus.

Academics is a reason for many parents because most of our Catholic high schools have a 98%-100% graduation and college attendance rate while several of the local public school districts have only a 50% or less graduation rate.

Christian values are a hallmark of our schools. This fact is recognized even by non-Catholic parents. More than a few minister's sons and daughters are students in our Catholic schools.

Catholic schools infuse faith into every part of the school day not just religion class but also literature, history, math, discipline, and extracurriculars. Contrast that to a student who only attends CCD/religious education classes once a week for four school years – two years for First Communion and two years for Confirmation. In a Catholic school you will not find a teacher promoting atheism or ridiculing the faith of a student. You will not find a teacher ridiculing the Catholic Church or other churches. You will not find the promotion of premarital sex, abortion or other immoral issues.

But let's go deeper than safety, academics, and values. Catholic schools engage students with the world and help them interpret and influence it. Three characteristics help students to do this:

- Our schools are Christ-centered, Eucharistic schools. Jesus is the heart of our faith and the Eucharist is where we meet him. All Christians are called to know Jesus, to grow in friendship with him. We do this through daily prayer, scripture, and through the Mass. Prayer takes place many times a day in a Catholic school – before class, practices, and athletic competitions. Mass usually is celebrated weekly for elementary school students and monthly for high school students. Daily prayer and frequent participation in the Mass can sanctify the lives of young people and help them to continue these practices into adulthood. Here is a beautiful thought – students spend most of their young lives on a school campus. How much better when daily, frequent prayer rings out through that campus.

- Our students learn to apply faith to the world in our Catholic schools. Students are taught with values that can guide them as they meet and dialogue with the larger culture. When our students learn Catholic social teaching they receive core principles and a moral framework on a regular basis. These principles include the sanctity of marriage and family, the sacredness of all life, our responsibility toward the poor, and our duty to care for the earth.
- Our Catholic schools are places where faith and knowledge meet. The secular media gives us the impression that there is no connection between knowledge (especially the sciences) and faith instead that they are in opposition to each other. But we come from a long tradition that teaches us that faith and reason do not contradict each other but complement each other. Put together growth in faith and growth in intellectual development and you have wholeness or well roundedness that is psychologically very healthy. Life is not just about facts or the accumulation of knowledge. Life is also about mystery, wonder, and faith. Catholic schools give our students the intellectual tools and faith to navigate a complex world.

As educators, parents, and parishioners we are called to see our local parish and archdiocesan schools as our schools. We are called to support and encourage our schools; financially, through volunteer work, helping with scholarships and tuition assistance and most importantly with choosing Catholic schools for our children and grandchildren. Please keep our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and staff in your prayers as they continue to live the Catholic school adventure.

Catholic High Schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Students in our high schools are challenged to think critically, creatively, and faithfully. We encourage independent thinking and deep respect for self and others. Our students gain confidence through a strong curriculum that includes advanced placement courses in science, math, English, foreign languages, and other subjects.

The program works. Our students score consistently higher on standardized tests, and 97% of our graduates go on to college.

Catholic faith teaches us that each student really matters. Our faculty and staff believe this, and it shows as they go about their work in the classroom, laboratory, or gym. Our faith is what gives us authentic concern for each individual — and makes us more effective as educators.

Every Catholic high school in the Archdiocese meets rigorous college-preparatory standards and is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Almost all of our students complete the courses required by California state colleges and universities.

Parents and Educational Decisions

Parents want to be ensured their children are safe, the school is academically sound and, most importantly, spiritually, intellectually and physically formed within the context of the Church's vision for Catholic education.

*Parents are responsible for the education of their children and have the right to choose a school which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. As far as possible, parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators. **Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2229***

Parents are the primary educators of their children. When choosing a school, they need to feel they are in a partnership in the education of their children.

*Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. **Gravissimum Educationis, n.3; Code of Canon Law 793***

Parents want to know the program they have chosen is preparing their children for the future. In the case of Catholic education "to become saints." **Pope Benedict, 2010**

Parents want to know the value of a Catholic education justifies their decision to the opt out of the public sector or home school environment.

*Directors of Catholic schools are to take care under the watchfulness of the local ordinary that the instruction which is given in them is at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area. **c.806 §2***

*Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture. **Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (2013),no.134***

*Catholic schools are at the very heart of the New Evangelization. They are instruments of grace, sacred places where the Gospel comes alive daily—and where children and families encounter (and, not infrequently, re-engage) the faith. ...Catholic schools in the United States shine forth as beacons of hope in our increasingly secular culture. More than ever we need strong Catholic schools, perhaps our most effective means to bring families and children to completeness in the image of Jesus Christ. **Renewing Christian Witness: Reflections On Catholic Schools As Instruments Of The New Evangelization (USCCB)***

*The complexity of the modern world makes it all the more necessary to increase awareness of the ecclesial identity of the Catholic school. It is from its Catholic identity that the school derives its original characteristics and its "structure" as a genuine instrument of the Church, a place of real and specific pastoral ministry. The Catholic school participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. **Catholic Schools on the Threshold of the Third Millennium (1997), no. 11***

*Graduates of Catholic schools are more closely bonded to the Church, more deeply committed to adult religious practices, happier, and a greater awareness of the responsibility for moral decision making. **National Opinion Research Center (1988), General Social Survey***

Why a Catholic school?

Catholic high schools are unique faith-centered communities that integrate thinking and believing in ways that encourage intellectual growth and nurture faith and inspiration. They create a supportive and challenging climate which affirms the dignity of all persons within the school community.

Which school is right for us?

God made each one of us unique with special gifts and needs. High school is a new destination along the journey of faith and education. As one begins the task of choosing a Catholic high school one will discover that each has its own qualities. Think about your child, his/her strengths/weaknesses, what they like to do, their individual learning style. Listen to your child's input.

When should we start looking?

Sixth Grade is the time for families to start considering which high school would be most appropriate for the student. At this grade level, the approach should be low key and not pressured. Each student has different needs and every high school should be considered for its various strengths. Be sure to attend the annual High School Information Night in the fall to begin gathering information on schools you may wish to consider.

Seventh Grade students should begin thinking about the environment and the activities that are important to them. Students should be open minded and consider all options. Again - be sure to attend the annual High School Information Night in the fall, perhaps focusing in on two or three high schools that you believe would be a good fit for your child.

Eighth Grade students will experience many opportunities to finalize the decision on which high school will best meet their needs. Check with the high schools for specific deadlines and procedures for admission.

How do we decide on which school?

- ✓ **Step 1 – Prioritize.** List everything that is expected during the high school experience. Evaluate this list and arrange it in order of importance.
- ✓ **Step 2 – Worksheet.** Create a worksheet to help you formulate pertinent questions and record important information. Compare the information recorded and determine how each school meets your needs.
- ✓ **Step 3 – Visits.** Take advantage of shadowing, open houses, and other special events offered at the high schools.

Checking them out

- **Open house** days allow students and parents to visit and tour the schools, meet faculty, ask questions and gather information.
- **Special event** attendance at fine art shows, music performances, plays, worship opportunities, fundraisers and sporting events can give insight into student and parent involvement and the extra-curricular activities available.
- **Shadowing** provides a prospective eighth grader with the opportunity to visit the high school campus, observe classes and attend special programs. Currently enrolled high school students act as hosts and students observe a typical day.

If your child will be absent at Holy Trinity in order to attend a special HS event or Shadow Day, please notify the school office. Your child will be marked absent, however he/she will not be penalized in any way for this absence. Be sure to have your child check in with his/her teachers upon return in order to obtain the necessary make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to complete all of the necessary make-up work.

High School Open Houses

All local High School offer open house opportunities (whether virtual or actual) throughout the year. Information about these events best obtained from the school's website. We often receive notification at the school and will pass along that information as it comes in.

Considerations

It is important to evaluate each high school in light of the student's needs. Since many students are interested in Catholic education, it is necessary to meet all deadlines set by the individual high schools.

Admissions procedures have been established for each school. An outline of the procedures is available at the individual high schools.

The HSPT Admission Examination is administered every January. It is strongly recommended that students sign up to take the test at their "First Choice" high school location. Scores of the test can then be forwarded to other schools of interest. Some Catholic High Schools are transitioning to utilize STAR test scores in place of the HSPT exam. Therefore – it is absolutely **critical** that students put forth their very best effort on all 8th grade STAR tests.

Admissions Applications, References, and Transcripts

Admissions procedures have been established for each school and vary from school to school. An outline of the procedures is available at the individual high schools.

At Holy Trinity we ask that you submit all paperwork (applications, requests for transcripts, requests for references, etc.) to the front office. Our secretary will log each form that comes in and will ensure that it gets fully completed and processed in a timely manner so as to meet all individual high school deadlines. Please be sure that you have fully completed your portion of the form before handing it in to the school office. We will mail all forms directly to the high school of your choice.

For schools that collect references and other data through an online system, please provide the high school with the school email addresses as needed:

Office – prep.hts.la@gmail.com

Principal – klloyd@holytrinity-la.com

Ms. Bowman (8th Grade teacher – Language Arts) – obowman@holytrinity-la.com

Ms. Lloyd (6th Grade teacher – Mathematics/Science) - klloyd@holytrinity-la.com

Mr. Morrell (7th Grade teacher – Religion/Social Studies) – jmorrell@holytrinity-la.com

Financial Assistance

Many families need help to make Catholic school education more affordable. There are many tuition-assistance programs offered through the Archdiocese and through local Catholic high schools. The first step is making an appointment with the school admissions office to discuss your situation and options.

Tuition Assistance Guidelines

Catholic schools offer tuition assistance based on financial need. Some high schools offer academic-based scholarships as well, so it's important to contact the schools you are interested in attending for their guidelines

8th Graders who are currently receiving a CEF funded scholarship may apply for Cycle 1 Special 8th Grade Tuition Assistance as early as September 1st. You DO NOT need to know which High School your child will be attending in order to apply.

8th Graders who are **NOT** currently receiving a CEF funded scholarship, but who wish to apply for assistance for High School may apply for Cycle 2: High School TAP. These applications are available beginning November 1st.

1. You pick up your application packet at a participating Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles
2. You complete your application and return it to Holy Trinity for submission to CEF
3. You must submit the most recent federal tax returns along with any other proof of income

We encourage all families to complete this process, even if you feel you will be denied (based on income qualifications). This process is often the first step for any financial assistance available at the high school. The high school may offer scholarships to those who complete the form but who do not qualify for CEF funding.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles – Local Catholic High Schools Contact Information

Bishop Alemany - Co-Ed

11111 N. Alemany Dr
Mission Hills, CA 91345
818-365-3925

<http://www.alemany.org/>

Bishop Conaty – Our Lady of Loretto - Girls

2900 W. Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90006
323-737-0012

<https://www.bishopconatyloretto.org/>

Bishop Mora Salesian - Boys

960 S. Soto Street
Los Angeles, CA 90023
323-261-7124

<http://www.mustangsla.org/>

Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary - Co-Ed

329 N. Garfield Ave.
Montebello, CA 90640
323-887-2066

<http://www.cshm.org/>

Cathedral - Boys
1253 Bishops Road
Los Angeles, CA 90012
323-225-2438

<http://www.cathedralhighschool.org/>

Don Bosco Tech - Boys
1151 San Gabriel Blvd
Rosemead, CA 91770
626-940-2000

<http://www.boscotech.edu/>

Loyola - Boys
1901 Venice Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90006
213-381-5121

<http://www.loyolahs.edu/>

Providence - Co-Ed
511 S. Buena Vista
Burbank, CA 91505
818-846-8141

<http://www.providencehigh.org/>

Damien - Boys
2280 Damien Ave.
La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 596 - 7946

<https://www.damien-hs.edu/>

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Immaculate Heart of Mary (IMAC) - Girls
5515 Franklin Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90028
323-461-3651

<https://www.immaculateheart.org>

Notre Dame Academy - Girls
2851 Overland Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90064
310-839-5289

<http://academy.ndasla.org/>

St. Francis - Boys
200 Foothill Blvd.
La Canada, CA 91011
818-790-0325

<http://www.sfhs.net/>

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