



How to Choose the Right High School on the Northshore: A Parent's Guide

By Mimi Monteiro, Director of Admissions at Saint Paul's School

Choosing the right high school for your son is one of the most important decisions a family can make. With so many options on the Northshore – Catholic schools, private schools, and public schools – it can feel overwhelming. Families want an environment where their son will be challenged academically, supported socially, and nurtured consistently in their faith and values.

At Saint Paul's High School, we've worked with thousands of families through this discerning process for more than 114 years. Here are the key factors parents should consider when choosing a high school on the Northshore.

1. Exemplary Academic Programs That Prepare Students for College and Beyond

A strong academic foundation is the top priority for most parents. When comparing schools, it's important to look closely at the level of challenge, the variety of courses, and the support systems in place.

- *What are college acceptance and scholarship statistics?*

At Saint Paul's School, students are both supported and challenged at every level. Last year, eighty-six percent of graduates were TOPS eligible and were awarded over \$30M in collegiate scholarships. Our students, along with their counselor, also have the opportunity to **customize their course load**, reaching their highest potential while preparing for college success.

Academic Courses focus on developing independent thinkers who take initiative, think critically, and apply what they learn to the world around them. These courses review foundational skills with an emphasis on growth toward conceptual and abstract thinking.

Honors Courses require students to work at a deeper level of analysis, application, and synthesis. Students are expected to take initiative, problem solve, and think critically.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses align with College Board curriculum. Upon completion of the AP Exam, a score of 3 or higher may result in college credit.

Dual Enrollment Courses allow juniors and seniors to earn both high school and college credit by taking select courses during the school day. These college-level courses appear on an official transcript and are transferable to

many higher education institutions.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Testing allows students to earn college credit for knowledge gained through independent study or prior coursework, which enables students to reduce their overall degree requirements, save time and money on tuition.

Standardized Testing ACT scores far exceed the state and national averages. Enrichment courses for the ACT and PSAT are available for students to improve their test-taking knowledge and strategies. Saint Paul's boasts 73 National Merit Scholars in the past 6 years, a significant achievement that brings prestige, enhances college applications, and increases financial awards.

CORE Pack Program offers a responsive education for students with learning exceptionalities, including a mentor program for students to experience full immersion and inclusivity.

Together, these academic offerings ensure that every Saint Paul's student is prepared not only for college admission but also for success once they arrive on campus.

2. A Community That Develops Character and Values in Young Men

High school is about more than grades. Students spend a lot of time at their high school, so it's incredibly important that the environment should encourage growth, leadership, and values. For families seeking a Catholic education, it's important to ask:

- *How does the school integrate faith and service into daily life?*
- *Are there opportunities for retreats, liturgies, and service projects?*
- *What is the overall culture and community feel?*

Saint Paul's mission is rooted in **faith and living the gospel message of Jesus**. Students grow in faith while developing a sense of responsibility to serve others. Saint Paul's offers retreats at every grade level, along with service opportunities and faith-based groups such as Lasallian Youth Leaders and Wolves for Life.

Students at Saint Paul's are also part of something bigger — a **global Lasallian network of nearly 4,000 Brothers and 90,000 partners serving over a million students in 80 countries**. The hallmark of a Lasallian educator is a commitment to the relationship of presence, care, and accompaniment, where **the teacher–student bond is at the heart of transformative learning**. The Brothers of the Christian Schools is the largest religious order of Brothers in the Church dedicated solely to the mission of Christian education, a mission that began 346 years ago with St. John Baptist de La Salle's desire to provide a Christian education to the poor and marginalized in Rheims, France.

3. Athletics, Music & Arts, Extracurricular Opportunities and More

Look for a school that helps your child explore interests outside the classroom. Questions to ask include:

- *What athletic programs are offered, and at what levels?*

- *Are there opportunities in the arts, such as theater, choir, or visual arts?*
- *How many clubs and activities are available?*

Saint Paul's students can choose from **18 sports with 44 teams and 55 clubs and activities**, ensuring every young man finds a place to belong. Ninety-five percent of our Saint Paul's students participate in club or are part of a team, and we are constantly expanding opportunities to match student interests. Students can get involved in everything from the **VEX Robotics Club** and **Wolves on Wheels Eco Cars** to **Marian Players Drama Club** and **Ultimate Frisbee**.

Whether your son's passion is sports, leadership, the arts, or service, Saint Paul's provides countless ways to get involved and thrive.

4. Location and Facilities

Practical considerations matter, too. Parents should evaluate:

- *Is the campus accessible from your home or workplace?*
- *Does the school offer a safe and disciplined learning environment?*
- *Are facilities — classrooms, labs, athletic fields — modern and well maintained?*

Saint Paul's **44+ acre campus** has expanded over our 114 years to meet the needs of students and provide **state-of-the-art facilities for learning, competing, and performing**. From the classroom to the playing field to the stage, every space is designed to support student growth and success.

In just the last ten years, Saint Paul's has added a new gym and renovated the previous gym as part of the **Gene Bennett Sports Complex**, built a state-of-the-art Music Hall, renovated Benilde Hall, including a broadcasting studio, a modern digital library, and a PJs coffee shop, installed modern classroom seating, and completely renovated the Dining Hall. Saint Paul's School is committed to continuously improving campus facilities to enhance the student experience.

Highlights of our campus include:

Academic Spaces: Modern classrooms, Biomedical and Engineering Studios, Broadcasting Studio, and Art Labs

Athletics: Gene Bennett Sports Complex for training and competition, including Hunter Stadium (football/soccer/lacrosse/track & field), Heap Field (baseball), two gyms (basketball/wrestling), regulation practice fields, a weight room and an athletic training room.

Arts & Community: The Alumni Memorial Theater and Our Lady of Peace Chapel are spaces that bring our community together through performance and prayer. The 2,000+ max capacity Briggs Assembly Center is a gathering space for all students to experience traditions such as prom, graduation, and monthly celebrations of mass as a school community on the beautiful 44-acre campus.

Safety: Saint Paul's School employs a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) through the Covington Police Department to ensure the safety and well-being of the school community.

At Saint Paul's, we are proud to continually invest in facilities that keep our students challenged, inspired, and prepared for the future.

5. Student and Alumni Outcomes

Finally, consider what happens after graduation. Strong schools demonstrate success through their alumni. Ask schools to share:

- *Alumni achievements in academics, careers, and service*
- *Stories of graduates who remain connected to the school*

Saint Paul's graduates go on to top universities, military, and maritime academies and succeed professionally in a wide variety of industries while staying deeply connected to our alumni network. Over our 114+ years, Saint Paul's has thrived and now boasts **10,000+ alumni worldwide**.

Our alumni remain active and engaged through annual events such as the Crawfish Cook-Off, Alumni Golf Tournament, Homecoming and Reunion Week-Ends, and a Legacy Luncheon. These events not only keep our alumni connected but also provide networking and mentorship opportunities for past and current students.

Alumni Spotlight

Saint Paul's alumni are proof of what is possible with a strong foundation in academics, athletics, leadership, and faith. View our featured alumni and read their stories [here](#) of how Saint Paul's helped shape their careers and success.

Michael Sciortino '03 — Alumnus of the Year

See what Michael has been up to since graduation in [this link](#) to WolfTracks, Saint Paul's alumni magazine.

These stories represent just a fraction of the thousands of Alumni Wolves who are making an impact as leaders, innovators, and changemakers across the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What questions should I ask during a high school tour?

Ask about academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, faith formation, and support services. Meeting teachers, coaches, and current students can provide valuable insight.

When should families start the high school search?

Most families begin exploring options during 6th or 7th grade at open house or attend a shadow day in 7th grade.

Why choose a Catholic high school on the NorthShore?

Catholic schools provide rigorous academics within a faith-based environment, helping students grow in character and values while preparing for college.

Final Thoughts

The right high school **balances faith, academic excellence, diverse extracurricular opportunities, and a supportive community**. By asking the right questions and visiting schools in person, you'll find the place where

your son will thrive.

Choosing a high school is a big decision for students and their families. We are here to answer any questions you have. At Saint Paul's School, we welcome prospective families to experience our community firsthand through shadow days, open house, and events like the STEM Showcase Night and Blue & Gold Night.

👉 **Interested in learning more? Plan to visit Saint Paul's High School** and see how we are continuing the tradition of Brotherhood that began 114 years ago on Jahncke Avenue. Contact Admissions Director Mimi Monteiro at m.monteiro@stpauls.com for more information.