



ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ENGAGING MINDS. INSPIRING VIRTUE.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES APPLYING FOR FIRST GRADE

CAMPUS TOURS

Individualized campus tours are scheduled daily throughout the year. During the tour, you will have the opportunity to see the campus, view classes in session, and meet with the Director of Admissions. To schedule a tour, please call the Admissions Office: 512-327-7755.

WEEKLY MASS

One way to experience the vibrant spiritual life of St. Gabriel's is to participate in our weekly Mass. Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. the St. Gabriel's Catholic School community gathers for morning Mass. We invite you to join us for this unifying community event. To make a reservation to attend Mass with a member of the Admissions staff, please call the Admissions Office: 512-327-7755.

OPEN HOUSES

We encourage you to join us for one of our Open House events. They afford you the opportunity to tour the campus, view classes in session, and meet with faculty, administrators, and current parents.

Open House Dates 2011-2012

Tuesday, November 15, 2011	8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 10, 2012	8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, April 3, 2012	8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

STUDENT SHADOW VISITS

Children applying to First Grade are required to spend a partial day (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. "shadowing" a current student at St. Gabriel's Catholic School. Children visit in the grade in which they are currently enrolled. During the shadow visit, children complete an academic skills assessment. Student shadow visits are scheduled from November through February. For reservations and information, please call the Admissions Office: 512-327-7755.

TESTING

Applicants to First Grade participate in a one-on-one evaluation and entrance examination in January. The evaluation and entrance examination are designed to determine a child's developmental and academic readiness for the St. Gabriel's First Grade program. The Admissions Office will schedule this required appointment after the application is received.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Students are selected on the basis of their overall academic ability, their developmental readiness for the St. Gabriel's program, their social, emotional and physical maturity as appropriate for their age, and their ability to contribute to a diverse and well-rounded class. It is understood that the St. Gabriel's program is not appropriate for every child and that the Admissions Committee is not only deciding what is best for the school, but more important, what is best for the child.

ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

Admissions decisions are mailed on March 9, 2012 to candidates whose completed applications are received by the priority deadline: January 13, 2012. Families are asked to inform St. Gabriel's of their enrollment decision by March 23, 2012. Applications received after the priority deadline will be considered as space permits.

continued on reverse



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**APPLICATION CHECKLIST
APPLYING FOR FIRST GRADE**

Please note: First Grade applicants must be six years of age by September 1, 2012.

- Complete an application form and submit it with a non-refundable \$250 application and testing fee via check payable to St. Gabriel's Catholic School
Due Date: As soon as possible after October 1, but no later than January 13
- Complete the parent perspective form
Due with the application
- Provide a current photo of the applicant
Due with the application
- Submit a copy of a certified birth certificate
Due Date: As soon as possible after October 1, but no later than January 13
- Submit immunization records (Note: Documentation of past and current immunizations is required of all students that attend St. Gabriel's as mandated by the Diocese of Austin)
Due Date: As soon as possible after October 1, but no later than January 13
- Arrange for completion and submission of the *Confidential Teacher Recommendation* form
Due Date: Between November 1 and January 13
- Provide the current school's registrar with a completed and signed *Authorization to Release Student Records* form.
Due Date: Between November 1 and January 13
- Schedule the evaluation and playgroup appointments
Due Date: After submitting the application

REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS

- Submit the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) online to the School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS):
<http://sss.nais.org>
The application fee for submitting the PFS online is \$37
Due Date: March 2
- Submit the required backup documents (Signed 2010-2011 Federal Tax Returns with all Schedules and W-2's included, and a signed 4506-T form) to the School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) online with submission of the PFS or by mail (School and Student Services, P.O. Box 449, Randolph, MA 02368-0449)
Due Date: March 2

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION (PK-8)

Priority Application Deadline: January 13, 2012. Please return the completed application with a non-refundable \$250 application and testing fee (Pre-Kindergarten-First Grade) or \$150 application fee (Second - Eighth Grade) via check payable to St. Gabriel's Catholic School. Applications submitted after the priority deadline will be considered as space permits.

Student Photo

Please note the following age limitations:

- Applicants to Pre-Kindergarten must be four years of age by September 1, 2012.
- Applicants to Kindergarten must be five years of age by September 1, 2012.
- Applicants to First Grade must be six years of age by September 1, 2012.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applying for Grade _____ in 2012-2013

Previous Applicant? Yes, year: _____ No

Class Preference (Pre-Kindergarten Only):

Morning (8 a.m. - Noon) Afternoon (11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) No Preference

Saber Tots (Extended-care) Preference (Pre-Kindergarten Only):

Morning (8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) Afternoon (Noon - 3:30 p.m.) No Preference Not interested in Saber Tots

Note: Both options include care from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

If interested in Saber Tots, how many days per week? 1 2 3 4 5

Full Legal Name (please print): _____
Last First Middle Preferred Name

Male Female Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Birthplace: _____ U.S. Citizen: Yes No

Applicant's first language: _____ Primary language spoken at home: _____

Ethnic origin (optional): African American Asian American or Pacific Islander Caucasian Latino/Hispanic

Native American or Native Alaskan Multi-racial Middle Eastern American International—Students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents Other: _____

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Current School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Street Address of School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Schools Previously Attended:

1) School Name: _____ Dates of Attendance: ____ / ____ – ____ / ____ Grade(s): _____

School Address: _____ School Phone: (____) _____

2) School Name: _____ Dates of Attendance: ____ / ____ – ____ / ____ Grade(s): _____

School Address: _____ School Phone: (____) _____

Has the applicant ever skipped or repeated a grade? Yes No If yes, which grade and why? _____

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2500 Wimberly Lane • Austin, TX 78735 • www.sgs-austin.org • 512-327-7755 • fax 512-328-4192

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Has the applicant ever been subject to major disciplinary action (probation, suspension, dismissal) in any school? Yes No
If yes, provide grade, date, and explanation on a separate sheet of paper.

Has the applicant ever been evaluated for any of the following? Yes No
(If yes, please check all that apply and explain on a separate sheet of paper. **A copy of the professional documentation or report is required with this application.**)

Learning Differences / Disabilities Date: ____ / ____ Doctor/Evaluator: _____

Vision Issues Date: ____ / ____ Doctor/Evaluator: _____

Hearing Issues Date: ____ / ____ Doctor/Evaluator: _____

Speech Issues Date: ____ / ____ Doctor/Evaluator: _____

Does the applicant take any prescribed medication(s) or need any special medical attention? Yes No

If yes, please explain and list the condition(s) and medication(s): _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

Father/Step-Father/Legal Guardian

Mr. Dr.

Last First Preferred Name

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

Business Phone: (____) _____

Mother/Step-Mother/Legal Guardian

Mrs. Ms. Dr.

Last First Preferred Name

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

Business Phone: (____) _____

Student lives with: Both parents Mother Father Other: _____

Check all that apply: Parents married Parents separated Parents divorced Single parent Mother remarried
 Mother deceased Father remarried Father deceased

continued on reverse

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FAMILY INFORMATION

If parents are divorced, who has legal custody of the applicant? _____

If parents share custody, please indicate the applicant's primary residence. With mother With father With legal guardian

If parents are divorced, who will assume financial responsibility for the applicant? _____

Religious Affiliation: _____ Place of Worship: _____

Are the following Catholic? (check if yes) Student Father Mother Guardian

Brothers and Sisters of Applicant

1)	_____	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Present Grade</i>
2)	_____	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Present Grade</i>
3)	_____	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Present Grade</i>
4)	_____	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Present Grade</i>

Please list all siblings/relatives who attend or have attended or graduated from St. Gabriel's Catholic School: _____

FINANCIAL AID

Do you plan to apply for financial aid? (Requests for aid have no bearing on admission decisions.) Yes No

If yes, please request a financial aid packet from the Admissions Office.

PLEASE READ AND SIGN BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION FOR REVIEW.

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that failure to disclose information about the applicant's educational, medical, emotional, or behavioral history may affect St. Gabriel's admission decision. The School reserves the right to reverse its decision, even after acceptance and enrollment, if such information has been withheld or falsified.

Father/Legal Guardian: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Mother/Legal Guardian: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

St. Gabriel's Catholic School complies with applicable local, state and federal laws regarding discrimination.

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PARENT PERSPECTIVE FORM

Applicant Name _____ Applying for Grade _____

Please answer the questions as completely as possible in the space provided or on an attached sheet of paper. We appreciate your effort in trying to help us get to know your child better.

Please briefly describe your child's current preschool or school program and comment on your child's experience in that program (if applicable).

Please tell us about your child's characteristics, personality, and maturity so we may have a clear picture of how you view him or her.

Please tell us about your child's talents, accomplishments, challenges, extra-curricular interests, etc.

Please share with us any factors that have had an impact on your child's academic or social progress (examples: health concerns, learning challenges, and changes in home, school, or family situation).



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PARENT PERSPECTIVE FORM

How do you view your role in your child's education?

How might St. Gabriel's be a good match for your child and family?

What are your expectations for your child's experience at St. Gabriel's?

Please share any additional comments that might allow us to get to know your child.

Parent Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



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TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE
2011-2012

GRADE	TUITION	NEW STUDENT FEE	COMPREHENSIVE FEE	LAPTOP COMPUTER
PK	Half-Day / Full Day \$7,525 / \$12,325	\$2,500*	\$95 **	N/A
K - 3	\$13,300	\$2,500*	\$245**	N/A
4 & 5	\$13,300	\$2,500*	\$315**	N/A
6	\$14,900	\$2,500*	\$500**	\$795
7 & 8	\$14,900	\$2,500*	\$575**	\$795

*This is a one-time fee for new students. The annual re-enrollment fee for returning students is \$350.

**For a detailed list of expenses included in the comprehensive fee, please see the reverse side of this document

Sibling Discount for families with three or more children enrolled at St. Gabriel's

Families with three or more children currently enrolled in the school will receive a 10% reduction of tuition for the third child. Families with more than three children enrolled in the school will receive an additional 10% reduction for each child beyond the third.

Tuition Payment Options

- 1) Single Payment due May 3 or with enrollment contract (Discount applied if paid on or before May 3 is \$350)
- 2) Semi-Annual payments due May 3 and September 1
- 3) Ten Monthly payments starting May 2011 and ending in February 2012

OPTIONAL FEES

Team Sport Fee	\$50-\$200
Lunch program	\$6 (approx.) per meal
Saber Tots: Extended-Care Program (PK)	
1-5 days per week (8:00am-11:30am or noon-3:30pm)	\$2,000-\$4,800 annually
Saber Kids: Extended-Care Program (Grades PK-4)	
5 days per week (3:30pm-5:30pm)	\$250 per month
Drop-in (3:30pm-5:30pm)	\$20 per day
Saber Study: Extended-Care Program (Grades 5-8)	
5 days per week	\$100 per month
Drop-in use (3:30pm-5:30pm)	\$25 per day

As is the case in other independent schools, tuition at St. Gabriel's covers approximately 87% of the cost of educating each student. The difference is made up with gifts given through our Angel Fund and our annual fundraising events. A large component of the strength and success of the St. Gabriel's Catholic School program is the generosity and loyalty of our current and past parents, alumni, and friends of the School. Through their contributions to the Angel Fund, the Gala, and Golf Tournament, and graciously volunteering time at the School, our families enable St. Gabriel's to provide quality academics, spiritual education, resources, and the environment to the students it serves and will continue to serve for generations to come. We share this information in an effort to inform families about and inspire the giving culture in our community. The most important thing to remember is that every gift makes a difference.

Need-based financial aid is available. For further information, please contact the Admissions Office.



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**TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE
2011-2012**

COMPREHENSIVE FEES:

Pre-Kindergarten

- Beginning of the year school supplies, including, but not limited to: notebooks, markers, pocket folders, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, tissues, and pocket folders
- Health Screenings (vision, hearing, and speech)

Grades K through 3

- Two Field Trips*
- Yearbook
- Beginning of the year school supplies, including, but not limited to: notebooks, markers, pocket folders, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, tissues, and pocket folders
- Health Screenings (K & 1st=vision, hearing, and speech; 2nd & 3rd=vision and hearing)

Grades 4 and 5

- Two Field Trips – 4th grade*; Two Field Trips and one retreat – 5th grade*
- Yearbook
- Beginning of the year school supplies, including, but not limited to: notebooks, planners, markers, pocket folders, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, tissues, and pocket folders
- Health Screenings (4th=vision and hearing; 5th=vision, hearing, and scoliosis)

Grade 6 (Laptop Computer is not included)

- One Field Trip and one retreat**
- Health Fees (Vision and Hearing)
- Yearbook
- Dances (entire year)
- P.E. Uniform (3 each)
- Beginning of the year school supplies, including, but not limited to: pencils bag, markers, dividers, paper, graph paper, notebooks, and pocket folders

Grades 7 and 8 (Laptop Computer is not included)

- Two Field Trips and one retreat**
- Health Fees (7th=vision and hearing; 8th=vision, hearing and scoliosis)
- Yearbook
- Dances (entire year)
- Beginning of the year school supplies, including, but not limited to: pencils bag, markers, dividers, paper, graph paper, notebooks, and pocket folders

Computer Purchase: New Middle School students (Grade 6-8) are required to purchase a computer through the School which they will use in their Middle School courses; since students purchase these computers, they will keep them after graduation. The current cost of the laptop computer is \$795.

*covers the cost of a coach bus, applicable entrance fees, snacks and bottled water for students

**covers the cost of a coach bus, applicable entrance fees, lodging and meals, and bottled water for students



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CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION: APPLYING FOR GRADES 1-8

Applicant's Name: _____ Candidate for _____ grade in August _____

I waive my right of access and that of my child's to this recommendation form. I grant permission for the person completing this form to speak with an administrator from St. Gabriel's Catholic School.

Parent signature: _____

TO THE TEACHER:

If the parent signature appears above, this recommendation will remain confidential and will not become part of the student's permanent record. Your input is a vital part of our process. Please complete this form carefully and thoroughly.

How long have you known the student? _____

In what grade(s) and subject(s) have you taught him/her? _____

If you had to indicate the outstanding attributes of this student in a few words, what would they be? _____

ACADEMIC QUALITIES (please check appropriate box)

No Basis for Judgment	Weak	Below Average	Average	Good	Outstanding
Academic potential					
Academic achievement					
Effort					
Study habits					
Ability to work independently					
Class participation					
Homework preparation and completion					
Intellectual curiosity					
Use of time					
Willingness to ask for help					
Ability to follow directions					
Attention span					

ENGLISH SKILLS (please check appropriate box)

No Basis for Judgment	Weak	Below Average	Average	Good	Outstanding
Reading skill and interest					
Written expression					
Oral expression					

ACADEMIC QUALITIES (please check appropriate box)

No Basis for Judgment	Weak	Below Average	Average	Good	Outstanding
Computation accuracy					
Conceptual understanding					

continued on reverse



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CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER RECOMMENDATION: APPLYING FOR GRADES 1-8

MATH PLACEMENT

Current course level (Grades 6-8 only): _____ Textbook used: _____
 Recommended placement for next year: _____

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT (please check appropriate box)

No Basis for Judgment	Weak	Below Average	Average	Good	Outstanding
Integrity					
Respect for others					
Social adjustment with peers					
Responsibility					
Conduct					
Maturity					
Creativity					
Sense of humor					
Emotional stability					
Self-confidence					
Attendance					
Punctuality					

Please list any strengths/weaknesses or problems of which we should be aware. List any special or unusual circumstances (positive or negative) that may be relevant to the student's performance in school. _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

Parents are an important part of our relationship with a student. Please share any thoughts you have regarding this family.

Communication with school: Rarely Sometimes Usually Always

Cooperation with faculty/administration: Rarely Sometimes Usually Always

Participation in school community: Never Seldom When given opportunity Very helpful

Participation in child's education: Rarely involved Sometimes involved Appropriately involved Overly involved

To your knowledge, are the parents' perceptions/expectations of their child consistent with the school's understanding of the child?

Are you aware of any family circumstances that affect the student's life at home?

What kind of support might the student need from our school to reach his/her potential?

Is there any additional information that can be better conveyed in a phone conversation? Yes No

I recommend this student: Enthusiastically Strongly With reservation Not recommended

TEACHER INFORMATION

Name of person completing this form (please print): _____

School Name: _____ Phone number : (____) _____

Signature: _____ Position: _____ Date: ____/____/____

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and candor. To ensure your confidentiality, please return this form directly to St. Gabriel's Catholic School: 2500 Wimberly Lane, Austin, TX 78735



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AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE STUDENT RECORDS

Instructions to Parent/Guardian: Please complete all information on this form and submit it to your child's current school.

The following student has applied for admissions to St. Gabriel's Catholic School.

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Grade: _____ Grade Applied For: _____ Year: _____

I hereby authorize the release of the information requested below to St. Gabriel's Catholic School.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Instructions to School Registrar: Please send the following information to St. Gabriel's Catholic School no later than **January 13, 2012**.

- Current report card
- Transcripts/report cards of the past two completed school years
- Standardized testing of the past two completed school years (if applicable)

Please send these materials to the address shown below:

Admissions Office
St. Gabriel's Catholic School
2500 Wimberly Lane
Austin, TX 78735

For questions, please call: 512-600-6455.

Thank you for your assistance in submitting the requested documentation.



ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Virtue. Excellence. Leadership. Service.

FACT SHEET

Mission

St. Gabriel's Catholic School educates students in a challenging environment that fosters character formation through scholastic excellence and physical, emotional, and spiritual growth. Our goal is to instill in each student a lasting love of learning and a lifelong commitment to Christian values and service.

Background

St. Gabriel's is a coeducational school for grades pre-kindergarten through eight. The school, founded in 1999, is a non-profit organization governed by a Board of Trustees and operated under the authority of the Head of School. The existing campus accommodates a 430-student population.

Educational Philosophy

St. Gabriel's provides a child-centered learning environment that celebrates each child's individuality while fostering excellence in the arts, academics and athletics. Excellence is achieved by addressing both the student's strengths and weaknesses. The legacy of the educational programs at St. Gabriel's lends itself to a mastery of content, creative problem solving and a love of learning.

At St. Gabriel's, however, we believe academic excellence alone is not enough. The truly educated child must acquire knowledge and develop virtue. Therefore, St. Gabriel's is committed to instilling in each child the Cardinal virtues of Prudence (Sound Judgment), Justice (Responsibility), Fortitude (Personal Courage), and Temperance (Self-Mastery).

The Catholic culture at St. Gabriel's provides a safe and nurturing environment for our students to practice these virtues, as well as the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. The virtues taught at St. Gabriel's are meant to instill in our students a spirit of generosity and lifelong commitment to family and community.

Accreditation

St. Gabriel's is accredited through the Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED) and holds membership in the National Catholic Education Association (NECA), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), the National Middle School Association (NMSA), the Texas Association of Non-Public Schools (TANS), the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the National Council of Teachers and Mathematics (NCTM), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and Independent School Management (ISM).

Student Population

A regional school, St. Gabriel's serves students from all over the Austin area. The majority of the student body is Roman Catholic; however, children of all faiths are welcome.

St. Gabriel's is committed to serving a diverse student population and seeks to recruit students from different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. A financial aid program to ensure diversity was established with the support of the Catholic Diocese of Austin in 1999. In addition, the Sister Thecla Cain Academic Scholarship Fund was established in 2001, whereby seventh graders are eligible to apply each year for the two merit-based scholarships awarded for the eighth grade.

Our admission policies appreciate differences in students and promote an ethic of caring. The admission committee evaluates applications based on each child's potential to succeed in St. Gabriel's unique and challenging educational environment and the students and parents' ability to commit to an environment rooted in Christian ethics.



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Curriculum

The curriculum includes the following academic subjects: language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, religion, and foreign language, as well as art, music, technology, and physical education. St. Gabriel's uses the goals and objectives of the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department as a baseline for instruction. The school curriculum extends these standards in developmentally appropriate ways and provides additional educational offerings to extend and enrich all subjects.

Extra-Curricular Activities

As enrichment to the basic disciplines, all students can participate in a variety of after-school activities. Although the specific offerings vary from year to year, activities abound from the arts to science and have included Chess Club, Mad Science, Boy and Girl Scouts, tennis, drama, piano instruction, and math enrichment.

The school's athletic programs thrive with a "no-cut" inclusive philosophy for teams. The programs promote physical fitness and encourage participation, teamwork and sportsmanship.

St. Gabriel's is an active member of the Austin Inter-Parochial League and fields both competitive and inclusive teams from the fifth through eighth grades in soccer, basketball, tackle and flag football, and volleyball, as well as participating in league track meets and golf and tennis tournaments. Club sports, such as lacrosse, are also offered to students in fifth through eighth grade.

Spiritual Life

St. Gabriel's fosters in our students a relationship with God through the teachings and devotions of the Catholic Church, in order to affect moral character, teach the joy of more meaningful relationships, and ultimately, create a lifelong desire for service to others. By understanding the teachings of Christ and accessing the graces which result from a personal encounter with God, students will be better equipped to understand the happiness one experiences in living a virtuous life.

Facilities

The campus is located on 32 acres of rolling hill country in a residential area of southwest Austin. The education building has a central commons facility, chapel, library, gymnasium, dining area, computer laboratory, classrooms for Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, and dedicated classrooms for Spanish, music, art, and science. The newest addition to our facility, Knotts Hall, features a full science laboratory, art studio, wireless technology, and spacious classrooms for Sixth through Eighth Grade. The extensive outdoor athletic complex includes a football field with a perimeter track, a multi-purpose field, tennis courts, and a covered playground facility for lower school children.

Community Service

The school participates in extensive community service activities each year in order to promote a sense of ethical responsibility in our students. In addition, students may participate in leadership and enrichment programs, including Student Council, Honor Society, mathematics and science competitions, and various student clubs.

Community Support

St. Gabriel's is special because of the dedication and generosity of many people. The facilities and programs were a gift by founding families and it is both an honor and a privilege for each new St. Gabriel's family to help continue this heritage.

The school is financially independent from the Diocese of Austin and operates without monetary assistance from state or local governments. Annual tuition does not cover the actual cost of educating each student. All parents play a vital role in supporting and sustaining St. Gabriel's through a variety of charitable giving programs.



ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

The following “Frequently-Asked Questions” are intended to clarify how St. Gabriel’s, is both an independent and Catholic school and uniquely different from other educational options.

What distinguishes St. Gabriel’s as a private or independent school from public institutions?

- Selective admissions criteria
- An extraordinary faculty
- Academically challenging 21st century curriculum competencies and skills
- High academic standards and expectations for students behavior and work
- Responsive management structure with simple lines of authority and easy access to all
- Well-rounded curricular and co-curricular programs, including the arts
- Small grade-level environments and low student-teacher ratios allowing for increased individual attention
- Parent partnership and involvement
- Learning is valued by students; it’s cool to be smart
- Complete control of educational mission and programs
- Freedom to act decisively and quickly when needed
- Education of the whole child: virtue and manners matter
- First-class facilities
- Innovative and differentiated school program
- A safe and healthy environment
- Receives no public funding

What are the differences between a private or independent school and a public school?

Since St. Gabriel’s does not receive public funding it is independent from public education mandates and regulations, school boards, unions and state agencies. This means that St. Gabriel’s has the authority to determine, implement, and evaluate the entire educational program for the school and make all personnel decisions and desired changes.

The leadership at St. Gabriel’s is provided by an appointed Head of School and a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees who are invited to serve, and are not elected by the residents of a public school district. The school’s mission, educational principles, and practices, not popular opinion or majority vote, dictate the school’s direction and programs.

What are the differences between an independent Catholic School (St. Gabriel’s) and a Diocesan or Parish School?

Diocesan or parish schools are church-affiliated which means they receive and are dependent upon financial support from a local church and/or a Diocese. As an independent Catholic school, St. Gabriel’s is financially independent of the Diocese of Austin. And, because we are not affiliated with a particular Catholic parish, we are not part of a parish’s operating budget.

Also, while parishes or churches must distribute their resources among several ministries because they have multiple priorities and obligations, including a school, St. Gabriel’s can focus solely on the educational and spiritual development of its students. This singular commitment is reflected in the quality of the faculty, facilities, extensive educational and spiritual programs and opportunities available to St. Gabriel’s students.



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WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL? (CONTINUED)

Finally, though financially independent of a local church and the Catholic Diocese, St. Gabriel's Catholic School operates under the auspices of the Bishop and receives accreditation from the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED) which assure that it maintains a clear and strong Catholic identity. And though St. Gabriel's does not have a church on the school property, it does have a chapel with a Eucharistic presence open throughout the school day for all members of the community. In addition, St. Gabriel's is fully accredited by the Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS).

Why is St. Gabriel's tuition higher than that of a Catholic parish school?

While Diocesan or parish schools subsidize the cost of tuition with monies received from the church collections and the Diocese, St. Gabriel's must set the tuition closer to the actual cost of educating each child.

Does St. Gabriel's welcome non-Catholic students?

Yes, all faiths are welcome at St. Gabriel's! In fact, 27% of the students at St. Gabriel's are not Catholic. As a Catholic school we are a community of openness and inclusivity. Indeed, the root of the word "Catholic" (katho likos) means "universal" or "embracing all." As Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J. observes: "To be truly Catholic, in the literal sense of the word, is to be universal and open to all truth and goodness from whatever source it may come."

When students and families from diverse backgrounds join our school community, they add richness and depth to our journey. As we open our minds, hearts, and spirits to others we grow in our understanding of ourselves and one another. In this movement out of our personal experiences, we begin to appreciate the rich and varied gifts present not only in our school community, but also in the larger world outside of St. Gabriel's. At the same time, we ask that all parents and students support the mission of St. Gabriel's and appropriately participate in our Catholic traditions regardless of their particular faiths.

Why would a non-Catholic family choose an independent Catholic school like St. Gabriel's?

Families who choose a private, Catholic education seek an academic community with a commitment to excellence, service and a spiritual and moral center. Catholic, private schools have served American families since the 17th century often preceding the first public educational institutions. Competition between public and private schools has strengthened both, while guaranteeing that families have a meaningful alternative for their children's education.

The specific reasons for a non-Catholic family to select St. Gabriel's, in particular, for their child's education are: (1) The extraordinary faculty (2) The academic advantage and commitment to excellence in all areas of school life (3) The programmatic emphasis on virtues, service and leadership (4) The freedom to express and discuss religion and values (5) The innovative and differentiating school programs and opportunities (6) The strong focus on preparing world-ready citizen leaders.

How is the quality of St. Gabriel's evaluated?

Two accrediting bodies evaluate the school's mission, identity, instructional programs and practices: the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED) (www.txcatholic.org) and the Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS) (www.isasw.org). St. Gabriel's has received full accreditation from both agencies.