



# 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.