



Prefect of Studies

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP

CHICAGO, IL

www.ignatius.org

START DATE – JULY 2022

Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC



MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Ignatius College Prep, a Jesuit Catholic school in the heart of Chicago, is a diverse community dedicated to educating young men and women for lives of faith, love, service and leadership. Through outstanding teaching and personal formation, the school challenges its talented student body to intellectual excellence, integrity, and life-long learning and growth. Inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ, this community strives to use God's gifts to promote social justice for the greater glory of God.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1869, Saint Ignatius College Prep is Chicago's flagship Jesuit high school and undoubtedly one of the pre-eminent Catholic college preparatory schools in the United States. Saint Ignatius is a member of the Jesuit Schools Network of North America which includes 75 different Jesuit institutions.

Some 1,470 students are currently enrolled, 30% receive financial aid, and approximately one-third of all students are students of color. The academic program, faculty, and student body are stellar. Enrollment is at an all-time high with the current freshmen class among the largest in school history. Demand for admission is intense, and generations of alumni are profoundly grateful for their Ignatius experience. As one faculty member notes, "The way people live the mission here seeps into your soul—it is a living thing, a constant and inspiring force for good."

Building on the legacy of its founder, Fr. Arnold Damen, S.J., President John Chandler has spent the past 47 years serving the school community in various capacities. The school's programming in intellectual and spiritual growth is robust, while its historic role as a beacon of opportunity and transformation in Chicago's urban core continues to be an essential element of its mission and reputation. The school recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, exceeded its most recent capital campaign goal and raised \$80 million, and has renewed its calling as a Jesuit school steeped in Ignatian values and identity.

In this school's next chapter, a new leadership model will emerge under the President in which two Prefects—one for the academic program and one for the ministry program—will work in tandem to chart a mission-minded path forward in curriculum and the formation process of students. The Prefect of Studies position is a rare and exciting opportunity for a courageous academic leader with passion for the Jesuit mission to lead one of the finest Catholic secondary schools in the country.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1869, the school recently celebrated its sesquicentennial year and is recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Saint Ignatius College Prep's original school building is one of only five existing Chicago structures to predate the Great Fire of 1871. The school began on two acres of land and now occupies a stunning 26-acre campus with skyline views of Chicago and ambition to expand further in the years ahead. The campus includes the original building and modern facilities adjacent to the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is located 1.5 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Beautiful works of art and statuary throughout inspire students and faculty alike.

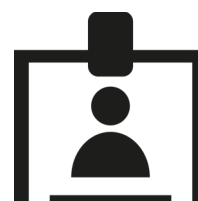
The student body at Saint Ignatius is diverse. Students come from every neighborhood of Chicago, the surrounding suburbs, and even Northwest Indiana. The gender makeup is approximately 50% female and 50% male. Approximately 80% of students are Catholic, and over 30% are of Asian, African American, and Latino background. The school takes care to maintain open discussion around diversity issues by creating opportunities for the school community to show and develop greater respect and appreciation for differences. These include collaboration among diversity themed student groups and faculty committees, programming for diversity education, and participation in outside events and speaking forums. Last year, the school appointed a Director of School Culture to expand further the school's focus in these key areas.

FAST FACTS



1470

students enrolled



181

faculty and staff members



20%

Non-Catholic students

Through four years of strong academic programming, exceptional fine arts and athletics offerings, and faith development, Saint Ignatius graduates possess five mutually related and intertwined qualities:

- **Religious:** The graduate will have examined his or her religious feelings and beliefs with a view to choosing a fundamental orientation toward God and establishing a relationship with a religious tradition and community. S/he is beginning to take more responsibility for exploring, confirming, and living out of his or her own faith.
- **Loving:** The graduate is on the threshold of being able to move beyond self-interest or self-centeredness in relationships with others. He or she is beginning to be able to risk some deeper levels of relationship in which one can disclose self and accept the mystery of another person and cherish that person. He or she has personally experienced moments of God's love. The graduate is coming to know, accept, and love self as a person worthy of love.
- **Open to growth:** The Ignatius student at the time of graduation has matured as a person emotionally, intellectually, physically, socially, and religiously to a level that reflects some intentional responsibility for one's growth.
- **Committed to doing justice:** The Ignatius student at graduation has achieved considerable knowledge of some of the many needs of local and wider communities and is preparing for the day when he or she will take a place in these communities as a competent, concerned, and responsible member.
- **Intellectually competent:** The graduate will exhibit a mastery of those academic requirements for advanced forms of education. The graduate moreover is beginning to see the need for intellectual integrity in his or her personal quest for religious truth and in his or her response to issues of social justice.





JESUIT TRADITION

The expression of Catholic faith, further animated by Ignatian spirituality and the school's Jesuit heritage, is at the heart of everything at Saint Ignatius College Prep. The Formation and Ministry Department coordinates the worship and faith formation of the internal community of students, faculty, and staff. This includes all liturgies, retreats, community service opportunities, justice advocacy programs, and other programming that celebrates the active presence of God and gives students opportunities for spiritual growth.

As a Christian, Catholic community, Saint Ignatius invites the entire student and adult community to full participation in the celebration of Mass and the Eucharist. Students and faculty gather in Church of the Holy Family, the landmark church directly west of Saint Ignatius, to pray as a school community. The school year begins with the Mass of the Holy Spirit and concludes with a year-end liturgy. The year is punctuated by all-school liturgies, class Masses, and Catholic Feast days such as the Solemnity of All Saints, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and Ash Wednesday. The Eucharist is offered every day before school for faculty and students. Each school day concludes with a daily Examen in the tradition of Ignatian spirituality.

Retreats are an integral part of the way each student is challenged to grow in Christian self-understanding, to develop a life of prayer and worship, and to respond to Christ's call to serve others. Every student is required to attend a retreat in his or her first, second, and third years at Saint Ignatius. Building on successive themes, the first three retreats incorporate elements of service, prayer, small group process, and large group activities to introduce

FAST FACTS

BIPOC

36%

students of color



8

religious on staff



31

AP courses

FAST FACTS



90%

faculty with advanced degrees



28%

students receiving financial aid



\$5.1M

financial aid awarded annually

students to faith sharing, prayerful reflection, and various forms of prayer. Senior retreats are optional, and students can currently choose between Kairos and Oramus, which reinforce themes developed in the first three experiences and provide a much deeper, personal experience of God's grace.

Ignatian Values Days (IVDs) are days of prayer, mission-reflection, and worship. As a community, Saint Ignatius engages in creative, faculty and student-generated reflection activities that feature speakers, prayer experiences, and alternative cross-curricular programming. IVDs are planned and facilitated by a committee of student-leaders, faculty, and staff.

Service and immersion opportunities are offered throughout the year under the guidance of class year chaplains. Additionally, all members of the Saint Ignatius community are encouraged to undertake service work at appropriate department-approved locations. Service is an opportunity to build relationships directly with people in need. Excellent opportunities are available through tutoring programs, nursing homes, soup kitchens, hospitals, parish outreach, advocacy organizations, and other not-for-profit organizations. Freshmen commit themselves to complete 10 hours of service. Sophomores commit themselves to complete 25 hours of service and more fully reflect on this experience through their Religious Studies class. Ideally, Juniors and Seniors are then moved to a lifelong commitment of service, justice work, and faith. This can be highlighted by participation in the summer immersion program leading up to the student's senior year, as well as enrolling in the senior Religious Studies honors class, which includes a service learning opportunity.



ACADEMICS

Saint Ignatius College Prep offers a rigorous academic curriculum in the Jesuit tradition. Students enroll in a strict liberal arts program in order to develop critical thinking, communication, and learning skills. The school is committed to using the most recently available technology to enhance its educational programs.

Students are encouraged to be curious, thus discovering and exploring new ideas and issues. All students at Saint Ignatius are expected to carry a minimum of five courses in every semester of attendance. Generally, this means six courses per semester in freshman/sophomore year and five courses per semester in junior/senior year. Courses include English, language (Spanish, Latin/Greek, French, Chinese), mathematics, religious studies, science, social studies, fine arts, wellness, and electives. Many courses are available at the Honors and Advanced Placement levels. Saint Ignatius has also partnered with Saint Louis University to establish a dual enrollment program. Students enrolled in approved courses can register for college credit through Saint Louis University. College credit earned through the program has been accepted at over 100 colleges and universities.



ATHLETICS

The Athletic Department at Saint Ignatius endeavors to match the academic excellence of the school by offering eight club sports and 26 interscholastic sports for girls and boys. In total, more than 80 different teams compete annually representing the school. Coaches educate and condition the minds and bodies of student-athletes, effectively teaching, motivating, and preparing young men and women for the challenges and barriers of athletic competition. Through participation in athletics, Saint Ignatius athletes mature and learn to take responsibility for their growth by developing loyalty, pride, integrity, and commitment.





As a member of the Chicago Catholic League, the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference, and the Metro Catholic Aquatics Conference, the Wolfpack prides itself on competing with top-flight competition on the freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity levels. Nearly 65% of students participate in athletics. Teams include cross country, field hockey, football, golf, rowing, sailing, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, dance team, hockey, wrestling, baseball, lacrosse, rugby, softball, track and field, and water polo.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Saint Ignatius College Prep is an impressive institution with a storied brand, deeply held traditions, and prominent presence in its local community and on the national stage. The student experience is extraordinary in every respect and built on a rich foundation of Ignatian spirituality, a warm and welcoming ethos, and a culture of high achievement. The Prefect of Studies will need to be a prudent and artful academic leader who can balance respect for the school's history with the ongoing need to innovate, strive for continuous improvement and excellence, and set new and challenging goals for the faculty.

In particular, the Prefect of Studies should be mindful of the following opportunities and challenges:

- While enrollment is currently robust, the school faces increased competitive pressure from other Catholic, independent, and, more recently, elite public schools. In addition, as more Catholic elementary schools in the area close or consolidate, the school will need to build more bridges into new feeder schools and programs. Continued focus on mission-centered strategies will be key for future success.
- Be mindful of the growing diversity of the student body and its impact on programming at all levels.

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- Build a vision for curriculum around what it means to be a Jesuit college preparatory school in the 21st century.
 - Develop well thought-out strategies for long term financial and programmatic sustainability.
 - Initiate comprehensive planning for the recruitment, assessment, compensation, and professional growth of faculty.
 - Balance demands on space, student:teacher ratios, and budget realities to provide effective learning environments.
 - Unite the faculty around a shared vision of student-centered learning and formation in the Jesuit tradition in today's increasingly secular world.

QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

As the primary leader of the school's academic program, the Prefect of Studies needs to be an experienced educational leader with a deep understanding and appreciation for the challenges high school students—and their parents—are facing today. In addition, candidates will have outstanding communications skills, the prudence to delegate appropriately, and the will to hold faculty accountable to shared goals and desired outcomes.





In particular, the following qualities and qualifications will be expected:

- A practicing Catholic (preferably with Jesuit experience) who is faith-filled and exemplifies that faith with passion and authenticity.
- A dynamic, academic leader who can vigorously advance the intellectual mission of the school by continuing to nurture its academic excellence and distinctiveness
- An innovative thinker who, in concert with the President and Prefect of Mission, can help to shape a first-rate strategic plan while also prioritizing excellence and prudent management of the daily operations of the school
- A visible and accessible leader who will be present to students, parents, faculty, and colleagues
- A team-builder who can manage diverse viewpoints and unify stakeholders around a vision for the academic program of the school

ABOUT THE AREA

Chicago is the third most populous city in the United States. With more than 2.7 million residents, it is the largest city in both the state of Illinois and the Midwest region. The extended Chicago metropolitan area is home to nearly 10 million residents. Today, positioned along Lake Michigan, Chicago is known as an international hub for finance, commerce, industry, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. O'Hare International is the second busiest airport in the world. One of the city's strengths is that it has one of the world's largest and most diversified economies, with no single industry employing more than 14% of the workforce.

Chicago is also one of the most visited cities in the United States and home to several top universities, including the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University, and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The city hosts sporting teams in each of the major professional leagues and has a vibrant arts community, which includes The Art Institute of Chicago, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Goodman Theater, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Lyric Opera, and the Joffrey Ballet. Cultural activities and entertainment abound for Chicago visitors and residents alike. Chicago is known for its heritage as a center for live music, especially the blues, and for the long-running Second City comedy club. It is also home to the influential Poetry magazine, founded in 1912. Contributors include many of the 20th centuries more respected poets, including Langston Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Gwendolyn Brooks, William Carlos Williams, and the Chicago-area's own Carl Sandburg.

Chicago's lakeside continental climate ensures four distinct seasons: generally hot and humid summers, cold and snowy winters, and mild, dry springs and autumns. Upon its incorporation, Chicago chose the motto *Urbs in Horto* or "City in a Garden." Today, 552 parks make up the Chicago Park District. Lincoln Park alone covers 1,200 acres and welcomes over 20 million visitors each year.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee is on a fast-track to identify and secure the Prefect of Studies. All inquiries and applications will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality and with the greatest respect.

The successful candidate will be expected to assume the responsibilities of the position in July 2022. Do not delay. Connect with us today!

- To apply, please submit the following four documents, confidentially and as separate PDF attachments.
 - » Letter of Interest that aligns your experiences and skill sets with the current needs of the school as you understand them.
 - » Statement of Catholic educational leadership philosophy.
 - » Current resume with all appropriate dates included.
 - » List of five references with names, relationships, phone numbers, and email addresses. References will not be contacted without your knowledge and approval.
- Please include "St. Ignatius - Prefect of Studies" in the subject field.



Assemble all of the application materials in one email to:

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Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions is the retained search division of Partners in Mission, the nation's leading full-service consulting firm focused exclusively on developing excellence in Catholic school advancement and leadership. As partners among ourselves and with our clients' missions, we value, understand, and embrace the importance of Catholic education in our personal and professional lives — and remain committed to ensuring its strength and vitality for years to come. Engaged by religious and school communities, boards and dioceses, our team of dedicated search consultants have identified and secured mission-driven professionals to serve in a myriad of diverse Catholic school and diocesan leadership positions from Massachusetts to Hawaii.

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