Educational Leadership Opportunity

**DEAN OF STUDENTS**

**Canisius High School**

Buffalo, NY

Founded 151 years ago, Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory day school in Buffalo that educates young men of all faiths and diverse backgrounds in grades 9-12 from across Western New York and Canada.

The Dean of Students is the primary student affairs officer and reports to the principal. The dean is responsible for fostering a climate of respect on campus conducive to the proper moral growth and development of each student.

For a position to begin in July 2022, Canisius is seeking an experienced and talented educational leader who is inspired by the school's mission and its students, and who is eager to further enhance its legacy of excellence in the formation of young men.
Canisius High School at a glance

Mission

Founded in 1870, Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory school serving young men of diverse backgrounds from throughout Western New York and Canada. Canisius challenges its students to strive for excellence as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to justice.

Canisius promotes the development of students through a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum firmly rooted in the Jesuit tradition of faith, scholarship and service.

Faithful to St. Ignatius Loyola’s desire to provide care and concern for the whole person, Canisius affords each member of the school community the opportunity to develop individual talents for the service of others and the greater glory of God.

Facts and Figures

**Location:** 1180 Delaware Ave., Buffalo NY 14209

**Founded:** 1870

**Namesake:** The school is named after St. Peter Canisius, S.J. (1521-1597).

**Affiliation:** Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Canisius High School is part of a network of 60 Jesuit high schools and 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Students from all faiths are welcome.

**Colors:** Navy blue, gold

**Nickname:** Crusaders

**Average enrollment:** 600-700 students

**Tuition:** $15,660

**Tuition assistance awarded:** Approximately $3 million, awarded to 66% of the student body.

**Teachers:** 52

**Staff:** 39

**Student-teacher ratio:** 11-1

**Accreditations & memberships:** Regents of the University of the State of New York, New York State Department of Education, New York State Association of Independent Schools, Middle States Association of College and Secondary Schools, Jesuit Schools Network, and the National Catholic Education Association.
Introduction

Location and Facilities

Canisius, with its iconic “Blue Doors,” is located in the heart of Buffalo at 1180 Delaware Avenue. The campus lies just north of the Delaware Avenue Historic District, adjacent to the vibrant Elmwood Village and south of Frederick Law Olmsted’s Delaware Park.

The walk across the campus provides a combination of historic and modern architecture that is unmatched in the region.

The school’s main entrance, offices, chapel and some classrooms are housed in a 100-year-old mansion, which is flanked by the striking Bernard J. Kennedy Field House, which seats up to 1,000 and has been the home of several athletic teams for the last decade.
Between those two structures is Higgins Hall, a lobby featuring marble staircases and promenades, and the Scaccia Auditorium with its 10 columns that support a cornice 50 feet up.

The Montante Academic Hall is a state-of-the-art math and science center adjacent to the Beecher Academic Wing. The 13,000-square-foot Center for the Arts is located in a separate mansion next to the school and opened in 2018. The Stransky Athletic Complex and its modern athletic turf is the home field for football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and track and field.

Canisius also has a makerspace lab, four computer centers, a digital media arts lab, a renovated weight room, a swimming pool, an additional gymnasium and an additional athletic field.

Upcoming capital projects include the $2.5 million Madden Center for Global Learning, which will provide a programmatic experience connecting students with Jesuit institutions and other learning opportunities worldwide; and a $3 million project to add two synthetic turf baseball fields to the Stransky Athletic Complex.

The Student Body

Demand for the Canisius experience is high. The school’s enrollment has been between 600 and 700 in recent years.

Students are drawn from throughout the Western New York area, from the city of Buffalo to surrounding Erie County suburbs as well as some rural areas and Canada. Canisius draws students from about 40 different school districts in the region. Canisius also currently has students from China, Korea and Germany. About 22% of the student body are people of color.
In support of its commitment to economic diversity, Canisius provides tuition assistance to more than two-thirds of the student body.

**College Matriculation**

Canisius provides a rigorous college preparatory education to an academically diverse, motivated student body.

The average SAT score for the Class of 2021 was 1,208, which is 14% higher than both the New York State (1,057) and national (1,061) averages.

The Class of 2021 saw 94% of students go on to attend college, with 64% going to a private university and 21% attending a Jesuit institution.

More than $30.2 million in academic scholarship offers were earned by the Class of 2021.

Consistent with the Jesuit philosophy of using your talents in the service of others, Canisius’ career planning model has school counselors help students to first identify their strengths, abilities and interests, and then find matching college programs to help develop these skills to prepare them for a career in service of others.
The Class of 2021 attended colleges that include:

- Alvernia University
- Arizona State University
- Ball State University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bowling Green State University
- Canisius College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Clarkson University
- Colgate University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Cornell University
- Duquesne University
- Eastern University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Fairfield University
- Fordham University
- Georgetown University
- Gettysburg College
- Grand Valley State University
- High Point University
- John Carroll University
- Le Moyne College
- Liberty University
- Loyola University
- Loyola University, Chicago
- Loyola University, New Orleans
- Marquette University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Mercyhurst University
- Miami University, Ohio
- Michigan State University
- Niagara University
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pratt Institute
- Purdue University
- Rhodes College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Bonaventure University
- Saint John Fisher College
- Saint Joseph's University
- Southern Methodist University
- Springfield College
- Stonehill College
- SUNY Binghamton
- SUNY Buffalo State College
- SUNY University at Buffalo (UB)
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Dayton
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Richmond
- University of Rochester
- University of Tampa
- Vanderbilt University
- Vassar College
- Virginia Polytechnic & State University
- Washington & Jefferson College
- Xavier University
Highlights of the Educational Program

As a Jesuit institution, Canisius believes in a long tradition rooted in the teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola: That everything God has created is worthy of our study and care. Canisius students and faculty are committed to academic excellence in the classroom as part of a well-rounded education that includes athletics and co-curricular activities (including more than 50 clubs) as well as Christian service through our campus ministry programs.

Canisius offers 22 Advanced Placement and Honors courses, with those students who have distinguished themselves placed in the Ignatian Scholars program. Four foreign languages are offered (Latin, French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese). For over a decade, the school has had a one-to-one iPad program as modern technology has augmented Canisius’ curriculum and coursework.

The Canisius Classes of 2021 and 2022 include:

1 National Merit Scholarship Finalist
1 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist
2 National Hispanic Recognition Program Winners
1 National African American Recognition Program Winner
10 National Merit Commended
30 AP Scholars
22 AP Scholars with Honor
26 AP Scholars with Distinction

Spiritual Life

Another aspect of a Canisius education that sets it apart from other schools is the spiritual and personal formation offered to all students.

The campus ministry department at Canisius provides transformative opportunities for each student to be engaged socially, challenged intellectually, go deeper interiorly, and encounter the living God personally.
Canisius campus ministry programs fall under three main categories:

**Liturgies** – The school day at Canisius begins in prayer; daily Mass is offered in the school chapel; and Canisius celebrates Holy Days of Obligation and other occasions with school-wide liturgies in which students participate in several ways.

**Retreats** – Campus ministry invites students to go deeper in their personal encounter with God through a spiritual retreat program that is offered to students at no cost. Retreats are offered for every class year. Upperclassmen have opportunities to lead retreats as organizers, leaders, speakers and role models. Because of deep spiritual and communal conversations, personal introspection, and stories of faith and life experience shared by peers and upperclassmen, retreats are some of the most transformative and memorable experiences for CHS students. Students of all faiths and backgrounds enjoy the retreats.

**Service** – Canisius students are expected to volunteer at least 100 hours of service over the course of their four years. The capstone of the Canisius service experience happens during junior year when students are invited to participate in service immersion trips away from school, sometimes in other countries.
House System

Canisius began its House System in 2019 guided by the Jesuit hallmark of *cura personalis* – care for the whole person. The program, based on similar models used around the world for centuries, is exclusive to Canisius in Western New York.

The Canisius student body is comprised of six houses, with students from all class years included within a house, and students remaining part of the same house for his entire Canisius experience.

Houses can gain points for academic achievement, participation in co-curricular activities, athletic teams and the quarterly “House Games,” which see friendly competition in anything from traditional sports to watermelon relay races and grilled-cheese cook-offs. Points are put toward a year-long competition for the House Cup. Along the way, the smaller communities within the larger school community help students build stronger bonds and connections between students and faculty and within all four grades.

There are also great leadership opportunities for students within all six houses, which are named for prominent Jesuits – Arrupe, Campion, Gonzaga, Jogues, Loyola and Xavier.
Fine Arts

The historically strong Canisius arts program, which features 20 credit-bearing courses, is now housed in one of the region’s finest such facilities, the 13,000-square-foot Center for the Arts, which opened in 2018.

The center features dedicated rehearsal spaces for music ensembles, individual practice spaces for student-musicians, and classrooms for architecture, ceramics, sculpture and art. The first floor also serves as gallery space for art exhibits.

Student instrumentalists, singers and actors participate in numerous performances throughout each school year, including plays, musicals, concerts as well as contributions to the music ministry at school Masses.

Athletics

More than half of Canisius students (approximately 56%) participate in athletics, of which there are many options: 34 teams in 19 sports.
Those many teams have collected many championships in recent years. Canisius has won 14 of the last 15 Supremacy Cups, awarded to the top overall athletic program in Western New York’s Monsignor Martin Athletic Association.

Seventeen members of the Class of 2021 made commitments to play sports at the college level – that’s nearly 10% of the senior class (the national average is 2%).

At the start of the 2021 NFL season, Canisius boasted three players on NFL rosters. The Crusaders’ volleyball team has won the league championship for 21 straight years, the swimming team has garnered titles for over 20 years, while its rowing program earns national titles on an annual basis.
The Position: Dean of Students

The Dean of Students is the primary student affairs officer at Canisius High School.

The dean is responsible for fostering a climate of respect on campus conducive to the proper moral growth and development of each student.

The dean works with faculty and students to structure, develop and support non-classroom learning including cocurricular activities, athletic events, assemblies and the like.

The Dean of Students reports to the principal.

Responsibilities include:

- Assist the principal in the promotion of student life and good order in the school.
- Supervise the faculty in the administration of all rules and regulations of Canisius High School and local laws and codes.
- Administer and enforce the rules and regulations promulgated in the student handbook.
- Preside at JUG (detention) sessions.
- Maintain student records for attendance, tardiness, health and discipline; follow up as appropriate with parents and guardians; advise faculty of special situations regarding health, attendance and discipline.
- Arrange for faculty and student IDs.
- Oversee student transportation and serve as a liaison to the bus companies.
- Serve as school liaison with the cafeteria catering company.
- Serve as liaison to Buffalo and the surrounding communities, as well as other area schools, about off-campus student behavior and other student life issues.
- Responsible for editing and posting the CHS Student Handbook.
- Responsible for attending and coordinating chaperones for off-campus events and activities where adult supervision of Canisius High School students is required and desirable.

- Responsible for the compliance of emergency drills.

- Responsible for Safety and Crisis Plans including communications with students and their families.

- Supervise the daily operation of the prospective student summer programs.

- Perform duties and fulfill responsibilities that are proper to the Dean of Students.

- Perform other duties as assigned.
Who Should Apply: Qualities and Qualifications

The ideal candidate will offer most or all of the following:

Qualifications and experiences

- A demonstrated understanding of the work of Jesuit education and spirituality.
- Solid academic credentials: bachelor’s degree required; master’s degree preferred.
- Experience in the education of boys, coupled with genuine enjoyment in working with young men.
- Experience in teaching, student supervision and educational administration.
- Superior communication skills, including the ability to listen well.

Leadership style and personal qualities

- An evenhanded, trustworthy and confident administrator who sets high standards, inspires excellent performance and requires accountability from students.
- A talented administrator who is able to plan effectively, make sound decisions and implement processes that work.
- A resilient and flexible multitasker who is undaunted by complexity and able to prioritize.
- A culturally sensitive individual who is committed to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion.
- A person of faith.
Application requirements

Candidates should submit – as soon as possible and no later than March 25, 2022 – an application package including the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are particularly interested in and qualified for the position
- A current résumé
- The names, email addresses and telephone numbers of three references (we will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references)

Application materials should be emailed to Laura Gaglione, Executive Assistant to the President, at gaglione@canisiushigh.org

Anticipated Search Calendar

Application deadline: March 25.
Interviews: March 28-April 7.
Starting Date: July 1, 2022