



# Head of School

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



## SAINT PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

[www.saintpiusx.com](http://www.saintpiusx.com)

START DATE – JULY 2022

Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC



## Mission Statement

St. Pius X High School is a Catholic college preparatory School of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. We serve God and the community through faith, love and respect and inspire learning, leadership and service.



## MISSION AND OVERVIEW

Founded in 1956, Saint Pius X High School is the only Catholic high school in Albuquerque. The school is located on the city's west side, on the campus that was formerly the location of the University of Albuquerque. Saint Pius X is a co-educational institution that serves approximately 500 students in grades nine through twelve. The school is a vibrant, faith-filled, Catholic community with rich traditions. Directed by dedicated faculty and staff, Saint Pius X challenges students in all academic and extracurricular programs. As a college preparatory school, Saint Pius X develops intellectual skills that prepare its students for success in college and life.

Saint Pius X High School has a student body that mirrors the ethnic makeup of Albuquerque: 68% Hispanic, 20% Caucasian, 6% Native American, 4% Asian, and 1% African American. Though the vast majority of students at St. Pius X are Catholic, the school is open to students of all faiths, offering a college prep education, along with total, supportive Christian spiritual formation. For the 2021-22 school year, tuition is set at \$12,700 with approximately 30% of students receiving financial assistance. 69% of the faculty hold advanced degrees.

In the school's young collaborative leadership model, the President and the Head of School are on the same level working together to provide leadership and administration to the entire school. Both the President and Head of School report to the governing board, St Pius X High School, Inc. The Head of School's key responsibilities are in the areas of academics, athletics, counseling, human resources, fiscal management, maintenance, security, facilities, and student services.

## FAST FACTS



**499**

Students



**69%**

of faculty hold  
advanced degrees



**1956**

Founding year

The candidates we seek will be experienced in leading academically rigorous curricula, while being comfortable with and capable of addressing the challenges facing most Catholic schools today. The next Head of School must have demonstrated proficiency in building and maintaining community relationships that will ensure Saint Pius X High School's continued accessibility, success, and sustainability through the effective stewardship of its faculty, staff, parent, and alumni constituencies.

## HISTORY

In September 1956, a new era for the Catholic high school students in Albuquerque began with the opening of the new high school: St. Pius X High School. The name honored the Pope who was known for his respect of young people and who extended Holy Communion to children who had reached the age of discretion. In temporary quarters in the basement of St. Charles Borromeo, classes started with 116 young freshmen, the first Pius Tenters, as they called themselves at the time.

The 1957-58 school year saw the start of the campaign for the construction of the new high school buildings at the site on Louisiana Boulevard in the Northeast Heights. On March 2, 1958, The Most Reverend Archbishop Edwin Vincent Byrne personally blessed the nearly 700 volunteer campaign workers. Students participated in this campaign with an essay contest and poster slogan contest and helped spiritually with their "bricks of prayer."

Ground breaking ceremonies took place in August of 1958 when the Archbishop turned the first spade of earth. Work progressed on the new building while students attended class at St. Charles Borromeo. St. Pius X held its first classes at the northeast location in 1959. The school was run by diocesan priests and the Sisters of Charity until 1968, when the administration was assumed by the Basilian priests.

From its opening in its temporary quarters in 1956 to its move to its second permanent location on Albuquerque's West Side, St. Pius X has had twelve principals, the last two of whom have been lay. In May of 1986, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe announced that St. Pius X High School would be moving to Albuquerque's west side to occupy the site of the University of Albuquerque, scheduled to close that year. To accommodate St. Pius X's needs, a 2,100-seat gymnasium was added, a new science building was built, and St. Francis and Assumption Halls were remodeled to house 35 classrooms, the library, administrative offices, counseling suite, and a faculty lounge.

St. Pius X High School merged with the smaller St. Joseph's on the Rio Grande High School, which was already at the new site and holding classes in former University of Albuquerque renovated dorm buildings. The name St. Pius X High School was retained, and the Boards and Student Council

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members of both schools met to ensure a smooth transition. The new St. Pius X opened its doors to students in the fall of 1988, at the 57-acre campus with stunning vista views of the city and the Rio Grande.

In 1999, the St. Pius X community gathered together for the groundbreaking of a new 10-classroom building. On Sunday, August 27, 2000, it was christened St. Basil Hall in honor of the Basilian Fathers, along with the newly-renovated Assumption Hall. St. Pius X had shared the Center for Visual and Performing Arts with St. Joseph's on the Rio Grande Church, and in 2000, gained full use of the facility when the church moved to its current location west of Coors Boulevard. Renamed St. Cecilia Hall in 2005, this center now houses the Fine Arts Department and two performance stages. Other campus improvements include the St. Basil Memorial Gardens, located between Assumption Hall and St. Basil Hall, and a renovated St. Jude Hall which now houses an athletics practice area.



## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

St. Pius X is a community of faith offering students the opportunity to develop a strong, individual faith life grounded in the intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church. There are many opportunities for students to develop spiritually as individuals and to involve themselves in the spiritual life of the school. St. Pius X believes that these elements go hand-in-hand, for as students develop a loving relationship with Christ, they will want to share that loving relationship with others.

The school is fortunate to have a priest as President and a deacon who serves as Business Manager. The school offers daily Mass or a Communion Service in the chapel before school. The entire student body attends Mass weekly. During Advent and Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered for the entire school. Students assist with the planning of all liturgies, serving as lectors, acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and musicians. Students are also involved in spiritual service by helping to plan and lead class retreats, which are offered every year by grade level.



## FAST FACTS



**80%**

Students of color



**10:1**

Student-to-teacher ratio



**99%**

Matriculation rate to 2- and 4-year colleges and universities



A commitment to prayer infuses the school culture through such devotions as school-wide morning prayer, First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, class-led rosaries, and Holy Thursday services.

Students round out their spiritual formation at St. Pius through a robust community service program. Throughout their high school career, students devote an increasing amount of time to service in the community and culminates with a focus during the senior year on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy outside the St. Pius school community. A varsity letter in community service is available to students who complete 120 hours or more of service in one school year and is worn as a sign of their commitment to serving the Body of Christ throughout the Albuquerque area.

### ACADEMICS

With a strong foundation in history, math, science, English, modern and classical languages, fine arts, and STEM courses, a student at St. Pius explores diverse course offerings and comes to read more closely, think more carefully, and write more clearly. This leads students in finding support for faith in their lives.

Education is enhanced at St. Pius with small classrooms, a wide range of honors and advanced placement course offerings, teachers with advanced subject area degrees, and special facilities dedicated to learning from the STEM lab, to computer rooms and art studios. In addition, students can participate in the AP Capstone Diploma program.

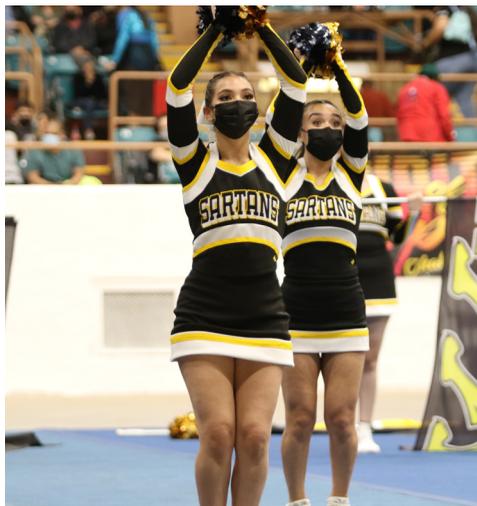
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A challenging curriculum, high standards and a student/teacher ratio of about 10:1 make St. Pius students top performers in national exams and extremely successful college candidates:

- Traditionally, about 99 percent of St. Pius students continue their studies at two or four-year colleges and universities.
- The school's average ACT score is above both the state and national averages.
- In recent years, St. Pius graduates have gone on to excel at prestigious institutions such as Notre Dame, Harvard, Boston University, DePaul, Georgetown, Purdue, Rice, Stanford, and the U.S. Air Force Academy.
- In a recent year, of the 230 St. Pius juniors who took the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, nine were semi-finalists, one was a commended student, and twelve were National Hispanic Merit Scholars.
- College preparation and counseling are provided by certified counselors dedicated to helping our students with individual concerns, personal growth issues, career planning and college admission.

## ATHLETICS

St. Pius athletics affords student-athletes the opportunity to express their individuality by cultivating their talents and leadership in areas besides academics. Through participation in athletics at the school, students mature physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Student-athletes learn the value of hard work, commitment, discipline, loyalty, and integrity. A philosophy of accepting both success and failure graciously imbues the sports program. At St. Pius, student-athletes become keenly aware of the need to cooperate with others, using the best qualities of each individual to contribute to the greater advantage of the whole group. Coaches focus on sportsmanship, commitment, dedication, and hard work. Many of the coaches are also faculty members, and students enjoy the relationships that are developed away from the classrooms.



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St. Pius X fields 21 varsity teams, all class 4A, district 5 under the rules of the New Mexico Activities Association. Most sports also field junior varsity and freshman "C" teams.

## THE ARTS

The Arts programs at St. Pius foster creativity and self-expression. Though the content and teaching methodologies are diverse, each course offers opportunities to develop aesthetic and critical sensibilities. Students create and interpret works of art, developing respect and understanding of the creative process. St. Pius X recognizes students as both creators and potential patrons of the arts. In addition, through the study of and participation in the arts, students gain insights into various peoples and cultures. Through students' self-expression, they gain insights into themselves.



MOTTO

***Teach me  
goodness,  
discipline,  
and  
knowledge.***

St. Pius students are offered an exceptionally complete range of visual arts, choral, band and orchestra, and theater classes. Vocal and instrumental instruction is available from two full-time instructors that are available to teach piano, guitar, strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass instruments. A theatrical production is staged each semester, training students in all aspects of production. Students are encouraged to tap into their creative and expressive capabilities to produce finished pieces of art, from photography to paintings. The department also sponsors multiple clubs that encourage collaborative exchange.

## STUDENT LIFE

St. Pius has an educational mission that goes beyond the academic. The school's goal is the integrated spiritual, intellectual, social, and affective growth of its students. Many elements in that goal are best developed outside the classroom. For that reason, St. Pius's extracurricular programs are as strong as its academic program and help to develop a sense of community within the school. St. Pius has over 30 clubs tailored to the



## FAST FACTS



# 1:1

Chromebook initiative



# Google

Suite School



# 20

State championships for the St. Pius X Academic Decathlon



interests of its student body. The clubs provide opportunities to discover passions, develop strengths, apply academic knowledge in a practical way, develop self-knowledge, and learn to make the choices necessary to manage a busy schedule independently. All activities have faculty advisors, but in most, students take the lead.

St. Pius X students are encouraged to get and stay involved in the life of the school. On any given day, students can be found completing a sculpture, practicing for a competition, and rehearsing their lines for the upcoming dramatic performance.

Activities throughout the year add to the Pius experience. Social activities include the Luau Dance, Homecoming, Winter Ball and Prom.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The next leader will need to come equipped to unify a faculty and staff around a compelling vision for the school. This includes the curricular emphasis, a strategic enrollment plan, and working with the President and the Foundation Board on an advancement and fundraising focus. In addition, as the competition for teacher talent increases in the market, the next leader will need to develop an innovative plan to recruit and retain mission-aligned faculty.

The school is poised to operate effectively with a dual leadership model and with a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. The next Head of School will need to assist in developing trustee prospects and cultivating other prospects who will support the school's mission in the years ahead.

As Albuquerque's only Catholic high school, St. Pius X is poised to be a place where families go for excellent academic and extracurricular offerings as well as a spiritual community rooted in the traditions of the Catholic faith. The

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next Head of School will have an opportunity to work closely with the President on articulating and evangelizing this mission to both internal and external constituencies.

## QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS

The next Head of School must provide strong, inspirational leadership, supporting the Catholic character and values of the school and advancing its educational mission and community connections. The Head of School will manage all operations of the school, support the Assistant Principals in the day-to-day operational leadership of the school, and, along with the President, report to the newly established Board of Trustees. The Head of School will lead the school's strategic direction and curricular development, student enrollment and faculty hiring, and engage the broader community in the mission and vision of St. Pius X. In particular, the Board of Trustees prioritizes the following areas for the next Head of School:

- Provide leadership in bringing innovative educational programs into the school to continually raise expectations for academic excellence
- Ability to operationalize the National Standards and Benchmarks for Catholic Schools and lead the school's Reaccreditation Process
- Lead the school in the vision and fulfillment of the strategic plan goals
- Represent the school in the wider civic, business, educational, and professional community
- Serve as the primary spokesperson for the school in all external relations such as those related to student recruitment and alumni relations
- Work closely with the President and the Trustees and provide strong fiscal management skills





- Liaise with the SPX Foundation Board on effective fundraising initiatives that cultivate relationships with new donors and foster closer ties to those with a history of supporting the school

In addition, these attributes and qualities will be sought in candidates:

- Practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church
- Evangelizing, faith-filled leader
- Minimum of three years of school administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school
- Minimum of a Master's degree, preferably in Education and/or Educational Leadership
- Budgeting and financial management
- Strong management experience with inclusive, collegial style
- Comfort and confidence in relationships with colleagues, parents, students and alumni, including an approachable demeanor and sense of humor
- Visible presence and positive impact as a servant-leader and colleague
- Excellent communication skills

## ABOUT THE AREA

Recognized as one of the most culturally diverse cities in the country, Albuquerque's ethnic tapestry is reflected in its architecture, artwork, cultural centers and cuisine. Countless customs and traditions are a vibrant part of daily life in the city, making Albuquerque the cultural capital of the Southwest.

New Mexico's largest city, the Albuquerque Metro area has over 908,200 residents and is growing at a steady pace of 1 to 2 percent a year. The area's five-year growth rate is projected at 7.2 percent compared with the national rate of 4.0 percent. Even as a larger city, Albuquerque still retains a neighborhood feel.

The weather conditions and stunning natural landscape are a beautiful backdrop for hot air ballooning and other outdoor sporting events and festivals. Albuquerque enjoys blue skies and sunshine 310 days out of the year. The Sandia Mountains on the city's east side rise to more than 10,600 feet in elevation and turn a watermelon pink color at sunset. Five dormant volcanoes, formed over 190,000 years ago, mark Albuquerque's west side. Albuquerque is home to more than a dozen museums, an Old Town area featuring more than 150 shops, restaurants and galleries, and a nostalgic stretch of Route 66 that combines old and new for an exciting visitor experience.



Forbes and Popular Science magazines have recognized Albuquerque as one of the greenest cities in the country. The city also has one of the highest percentages of open space in the country.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee is on a fast-track to identify and secure the next Head of School. 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. Pius X High School - Head of School” 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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