



President

July 2024

Indianapolis, IN
An Independent Catholic Jesuit School
Grades 9-12

MISSION STATEMENT

Brebeuf Jesuit, a Catholic and Jesuit school, provides an excellent college preparatory education for a lifetime of service by forming leaders who are intellectually competent, open to growth, loving, religious and committed to promoting justice. Fostering a culture of understanding and dialogue, Brebeuf Jesuit seeks and welcomes students from diverse religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Students at Brebeuf Jesuit are called to discover and cultivate the fullness of their God-given talents as a responsibility and as an act of worship.

CORE VALUES

- Education of the whole person
- A caring and diverse community
- The greater glory of God



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Trustees of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis has enlisted the expertise of Educational Directions, a national consulting firm, as it embarks on the search for its next president. The president will be hired by the Board of Trustees and missioned by the Provincial as the Director of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School as an apostolic work of the Society of Jesus.

Grounded in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition, the Board and the school community are seeking a leader who wholeheartedly embraces this identity and actively participates in both the life of the School and the local community. The Brebeuf Jesuit community expects this leader to embody true collaboration, recognizing and valuing the importance of shared leadership and responsibility. With students and faculty as the heart and soul of the Brebeuf Jesuit experience, the next president will be dedicated to engaging all stakeholders and embracing the unique community, culture, and purpose of the School.

BREBEUF JESUIT'S HISTORY

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School was founded in 1962 as an all-male college prep school by Fr. William Schmidt, SJ. Ordained on June 16, 1943, at the Jesuit training center West Baden College, in West Baden Springs, IN, Fr. Schmidt returned to Indianapolis 16 years later to organize a Jesuit high school. Working from a tiny office in the Circle Tower in downtown Indianapolis, Fr. Schmidt enlisted the help of Archbishop Paul Schulte. The city of Indianapolis and the Society of Jesus both provided for Brebeuf Jesuit, spiritually and financially. For the School's campus, Fr. Schmidt chose farmland on, what was then, two-lane Road 100 northwest of Indianapolis. It seemed a nice, quiet setting for a school to prepare city boys for college. In 1976, they opened their doors to women; the same decade, they hired their first lay staff.

Today, the campus sits on over 58 acres which includes 240,000 square feet of building space, on-site athletic facilities, and the Jesuit residence which is currently home to six Jesuits, three of whom are priests. As the only Jesuit school in Indiana, the School has grown in strength and in the affection of the people of central Indiana.



LIVING THE MISSION

A Jesuit education is aimed at the development of the whole person, where students are led to understand their talents as gifts to be developed for the service of others and to God. Students continually are asked to reflect upon their experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom. It is expected that what they have learned will make a real difference in their lives. Topics of all kinds are approached from a global, current perspective, which challenges students to consider how they will commit themselves to the service of others.

The Jesuit educational philosophy is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition that affirms the goodness of creation, the importance of human intellect in the search for truth, the possibility of discovering God through rational reflection on the human experience, the compatibility of faith and reason, and the moral value of intellectual excellence.

Brebeuf Jesuit's strong academic program follows more than 450 years of academic tradition. Education in the Jesuit tradition has remained committed to expansive and critical thinking, competent and compassionate ethical concern, creative and artistic expression, and excellence. The Jesuits, renowned for intellectual accomplishment spanning many centuries, have long believed that academic achievement grounded in religious faith, the dignity of the human person, and the need to educate and care for the entire person is the key to forming well-rounded individuals.

Brebeuf Jesuit offers a premier Jesuit education through robust curricular offerings, including over 40 Honors, Advanced Placement, and dual credit courses. A mark of distinction is reflected in the 80% of students who graduate with an Indiana Academic Honors Diploma. Brebeuf Jesuit is among the top schools in the state with this high level of achievement.

Brebeuf Jesuit's Catholic Jesuit identity shines through its faith community, which strives to encourage spiritual growth in all students, regardless of their faith background. Through a culture of understanding and dialogue, students learn about religious traditions in religious studies courses, while being encouraged to grow in and reflect on their own traditions and beliefs. [Campus Ministry](#) is also an integral part of ensuring that spiritual life remains at the center of students' lives through retreat programs.





Emphasis on student engagement through visual and performing arts, athletics, and co-curricular offerings is a distinctive difference at Brebeuf Jesuit. Presently, over 50 clubs and co-curricular opportunities are available to students, as well as 38 athletic teams, and over 12 annual musical and theatrical performances. These activities are designed to foster growth in social, spiritual, physical, and intellectual development. ([Student Life](#))

GOVERNANCE

Brebeuf Jesuit is an independent Catholic school sponsored by the Jesuits of the Midwest Province and as such holds specific reserved powers that primarily involve the Catholic nature and mission. The School is governed by a [Board of Trustees](#) who have demonstrated tremendous dedication to the mission as well as the continued development of the School.

Board members include Jesuits, alumni, current and alumni parents, and friends of the School. Both the president and the rector of the Jesuit community are ex officio members on the Board with voting rights. The Board has eight committees, each with clearly stated objectives. The committees are:

- Advancement Committee
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Education Committee
- Finance Committee
- Jesuit Identity Committee
- Student Life Committee
- Governance Committee
- Executive Committee

The Board is dedicated to serving the School's needs and is firmly focused on long-term strategic objectives to ensure the growth and development of the School. The incoming president will have the opportunity to partner with a highly competent and experienced board. The Board's culture is collaborative, strategic, committed, intelligent, innovative and hardworking - creating an environment that is both engaging and motivating.



THE PLACE – INDIANAPOLIS

Brebeuf Jesuit is located on a beautiful 58-acre campus on the northwest side of Indianapolis. The main building of the campus was built in the 1960s. Since then, multiple expansions and renovations have occurred to transform the campus into a functional and attractive school for the twenty-first century while maintaining historical roots. The School recently completed several renovation and technology upgrades in classrooms, laboratories, art studios, and the Information Commons. A renovation and expansion of the cafeteria and student center is in process and scheduled to open Fall 2024. Along with recent upgrades to the noticeable parts of campus, the facilities team has made some significant improvements to the infrastructure, including campus security.

Indianapolis is a great place to live. Residents experience the best of both worlds in Indianapolis – a bustling city with a charming small-town vibe. With its friendly and welcoming community and the warmth of “Hoosier hospitality,” people instantly feel at home. Indianapolis has a walkable downtown area, and one can discover the cozy feel of the various neighborhoods. There is definitely a tight-knit community spirit, with exciting community events and festivals happening throughout the year.

Downtown Indianapolis boasts major sports and event venues such as Lucas Oil Stadium, Gainbridge Fieldhouse, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and Victory Field. For culture enthusiasts, there are must-see tourist attractions such as the Indianapolis Zoo, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, and the Indiana State Museum.

Indianapolis also boasts a wide range of quality institutions of higher learning, including Purdue University and Marian University. For more information about Indianapolis check out the following resources:

[Visit Indy](#)

[Indy Video](#)

[Indy Like a Local](#)

[Indy Visitor guide](#)

[Indy Neighborhoods](#)

[About Indianapolis](#)

[Things to Do](#)

[Visit Hamilton County](#)

THE FUTURE

Looking forward, the Board and the next president will focus on key areas, working with all of Brebeuf Jesuit's constituents to maintain a clear understanding of the mission of a Jesuit education and the School's value proposition. The new president must be committed to excellence in all facets of the School, promote the tremendous value of a Brebeuf Jesuit education, provide an effective operational platform, develop meaningful relationships (both internally and externally), and utilize the talents of the community to serve the mission of the School.

It will be important for the new president to work in close collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the school community (faculty, staff, administration) to establish a compelling vision. To ensure the realization of this vision, the president will focus on these key areas:

Jesuit Catholic Identity/Community

The new president's primary responsibility is to advance the mission of Brebeuf Jesuit and foster excellence in every aspect of the School. This requires close collaboration with the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff to ensure continuous growth. The next president must prioritize the following areas:

- Nurturing a strong sense of Jesuit identity and spiritual foundation
- Ensuring a strong sense of inclusion
- Cultivating a profound sense of service
- Supporting an exceptional college preparatory environment

Vision for the Future

Brebeuf Jesuit operates from a position of strength, guided by its Jesuit values. The Board of Trustees is committed to excellence and providing an exceptional Catholic Jesuit education that meets the needs of the students. The next president, in collaboration with the Board, will shape and communicate an ever-evolving strategic vision. This vision will build upon the strategic work that is currently in progress to address operational effectiveness and strengthen the value proposition of the School.

Expanding Resources

Brebeuf Jesuit understands the importance of a robust institutional advancement program to ensure that it has the resources to support the mission. Successful completion of a \$15 million capital campaign targeted for the Student Center and endowment was recently achieved. Moving forward, the new president will support a master fundraising plan that complements ongoing annual needs and identifies and prioritizes long-range capital initiatives and planned giving opportunities to maximize the support from Brebeuf Jesuit alumni, parents, and friends.

Brebeuf Jesuit has experienced a pattern of strong enrollment trends. Nevertheless, the Board and school leadership understand the changing educational landscape and acknowledge there is a need to continue to be strategic and ensure that enrollment remains viable. The president will play a crucial role in a strategic enrollment management program to support key objectives with recruitment and retention.





Equity and Inclusion

Brebeuf Jesuit's commitment to equity and inclusion is deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching. Brebeuf Jesuit seeks to produce graduates who are intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice. In pursuit of this goal, a diverse student body becomes part of the educational experience, better preparing students to work in an increasingly multicultural world and one in which local, national, and international tensions are often grounded in cultural, religious, or linguistic differences.

Both Brebeuf Jesuit's mission and its core values acknowledge the place of diversity within the life of the School. As such, the equity and inclusion initiatives and programs enhance the life of the School, contributing to an open and accepting environment.

Organization

Brebeuf Jesuit largely fulfills its mission and objectives. Given the strategic planning work, the various challenges that schools face in today's world and overall school operations, it would be beneficial for the new president to work with school leadership to ensure that there are suitable systems and structures in place for overall operational efficiency, as well as effective implementation of the mission and strategic objectives to ensure there continues to be a well-rounded program that truly serves the needs of the students. This would include ensuring that overall operations are efficient and effective and that there are well articulated policies and procedures in place as well as clear expectations for all.

Brebeuf Jesuit by the Numbers 2023-24

ENROLLMENT - 829 Total

- Freshmen: 211
- Sophomores: 202
- Juniors: 211
- Seniors: 205

STUDENTS

- Student to faculty ratio: 12:1
- Catholic students: 43%
- Students of color: 34%

FACULTY/STAFF/ADMIN

- Faculty with advanced degrees: 80%
- Leadership team members: 6
- Teaching faculty: 74
- Other faculty (Counselors, Campus Ministry, Principals, Deans, Student Support: 29
- Staff: 32

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

- Tuition: \$20,880
- Percentage of students receiving financial aid: 40%
- Financial aid and scholarships awarded: \$4.5 million for 2023-24



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The Board of Trustees and the Brebeuf Jesuit community are interested in all candidates, whether a Jesuit or a lay person, who are student-centered and will embrace, articulate, and promote the School's mission and tradition. As a faith-filled, committed Catholic, this individual will serve as Brebeuf Jesuit's community leader and is willing to be immersed in the life of the School.

The successful candidate will be a team-builder with a proven track record in leadership and management who is energizing, inspirational, and can delegate effectively while ensuring accountability.

Along with excellent administrative and organizational skills, successful candidates will be the following:

- A practicing Catholic with an understanding of Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit values.
- Knowledgeable, experienced, and comfortable in institutional advancement, which includes fundraising, enrollment management, and community relations.
- A superb communicator who inspires Brebeuf Jesuit's constituencies and represents the School in the Indianapolis community.
- Humble, and able to deal with uncertainty, ambiguity, and change.
- Understanding of the economics and finances of an independent Catholic Jesuit school and possess the financial acumen to make decisions and allocate resources that are aligned with the School's plans and priorities.

The new leader at Brebeuf Jesuit will possess an ability to identify and nurture strengths in others. The successful candidate will be someone with a warm, approachable presence, who invites and connects easily with the community. A collaborative and supportive approach will be paramount, drawing upon the wisdom and collective expertise of the administration and faculty. The new president will actively promote a culture of inclusion and celebrate a vibrant community.

The Search Process

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School has engaged the national executive search firm, Educational Directions, to assist with the search, which is projected to be complete by late winter 2024. A search committee has been established and is comprised of trustees, alumni, parents, and faculty to support the process. Should you like to learn more about this opportunity and the process, please contact:

Mathew Heersche, Ed.D. mathew.heersche@edudx.com
and
Risa Oganessoff Heersche risa.heersche@edudx.com

Candidates should submit all information as soon as possible, **but not before first speaking with one of the search professionals**. Electronic submission of materials is required. **Please send materials in a consolidated PDF format.** Candidates must submit:

- Cover letter explaining why they are interested in and qualified for the president position at Brebeuf Jesuit
- Brief personal statement that includes the candidate's thoughts on leading Brebeuf Jesuit
- Current résumé
- Names, email addresses and telephone numbers of five professional references

