



**Notre Dame Prep**  
A Catholic and Marist Community

When families looking at schools are interested in **Why Notre Dame Prep Is a Great Choice,** we ask them, “Where do you want us to start, and just how much time do you have?”



## ACADEMICS



### #1 The Choice Is Yours

Notre Dame Prep offers the choice of 18 AP courses—plus something more: the option of completing the globally respected International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. In fact, Notre Dame was the first Catholic Pre-K to 12 school in the country to offer the IB. What does all this mean? More opportunities to complete high-level coursework and earn college credit and more ways to make your education exactly what you want it to be.

### #2 World Class

At Notre Dame, robotics is more than a club, a team or an activity. It's closer to a way of life. Our Killer Bees teams have competed in VEX Robotics, FIRST Robotics and the OCCRA League in Oakland County. To date, they have won 12 state championship titles as well as top honors at Nationals and Worlds.



### #3 Small Classes

Small classes make a big difference. They mean that teachers really know their students, that you can get extra help if you need it, and that classes can be interactive and full of great discussions.

# 19

students per class  
on average





#4

### "Above and Beyond"

"Our teachers go above and beyond. We really want to help our students succeed, and we will always be available for someone who has a question or needs extra help."

KATRINA PALUSHAJ,  
COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER

## #5 Achieving Perfection

# 36

In nine of the last 13 years, at least one Notre Dame student has scored a perfect 36 on the ACT, and the overall school average is an impressive 27.

#6

## 100+ Classes to Choose From

As an upper school student, you will find all the classes you might expect, from Geometry to U.S. History. You also will find some fascinating options you might not expect—like Forensic Psychology, Entrepreneurship, Computer-Aided Design, AP Music Theory and Investigative History. In all, Notre Dame Prep offers more than 100 upper school choices, allowing you to explore more widely and dive more deeply.

#7

## "New Directions"

For students who really want to develop their writing skills, Notre Dame has added a new English Capstone elective. The focus of the course will shift from year to year, starting with creative writing. "In our current courses, we see a lot of passion when students have the chance to express themselves creatively," explains teacher Kyle Lilek. "The Capstone will let them try forms ranging from fictional memoir to short stories to blogs and take their ideas in new directions with a great deal of freedom."



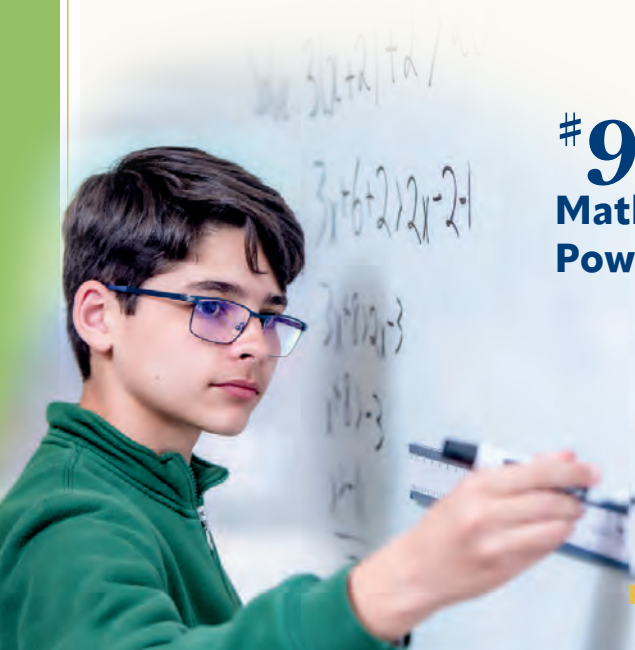


## ACADEMICS



### #8 Hands-On

The greenhouse is just one place you will find Notre Dame Prep students focused on hands-on learning. Through labs, simulations and project-based experiences, our students put ideas into action every day. It's a more interesting way to learn—and more effective in building real understanding.



### #9 Math Power

Many strong school math programs offer the chance to take AP Calculus, but at Notre Dame Prep, that's just the start. Other advanced options range from Algebra in middle school to Honors Discrete Mathematics and IB math HL 1 and 2 Analysis and Approaches. If you have the interest, we have the options.





Distinguished  
School

## #10 High Tech

Notre Dame Prep is part of an elite group of schools worldwide recognized as Microsoft Showcase Schools. The designation signifies our success in finding powerful new ways to support learning through technology. In addition, our lower school has been honored for innovation as an Apple Distinguished School. Both honors reflect our commitment to make the most of educational technology and to prepare our students to lead the way in a digital world.

A photograph of a priest in a red cape standing at an altar, facing a large group of children in a school hall. The children are seated in rows, and the background features green and yellow patterned walls. The priest is seen from behind, and the altar has a white cloth and some items on it.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

# Faith





## #11 Gathered Together

A variety of opportunities for worship and spiritual growth are woven into school life, from all-school Masses to reconciliation, morning and afternoon prayer and annual retreats. For many, the four-day Kairos retreat in the senior year is a transformational and unforgettable high point of their spiritual journey.





#12

**"God's Love in the World"**

"We want you to know that your worth is not what you do but who you are. Your responsibility is not just to be a good student but a good person—to be God's love in the world."

ELIZABETH SPENCER, RELIGION  
TEACHER AND NOTRE DAME  
ALUMNA



#13 **The Marist Way**

Nearly 100 years ago, Father Jean-Claude Colin founded the Society of Mary, The Marists, and in 1994, it was the Marist Fathers and Brothers who founded Notre Dame Prep. Today, they are still active at the school, teaching and living the core values of The Marist Way: Union with God, humility, ardent love of neighbor and doing the work of Mary.

#14

**"A Family of Faith"**

"We have always been an academic family and a family of faith, so for us Notre Dame is the perfect fit"

DUANE ROOSE, NOTRE DAME PARENT



## #15

### **"We Welcome Everybody"**

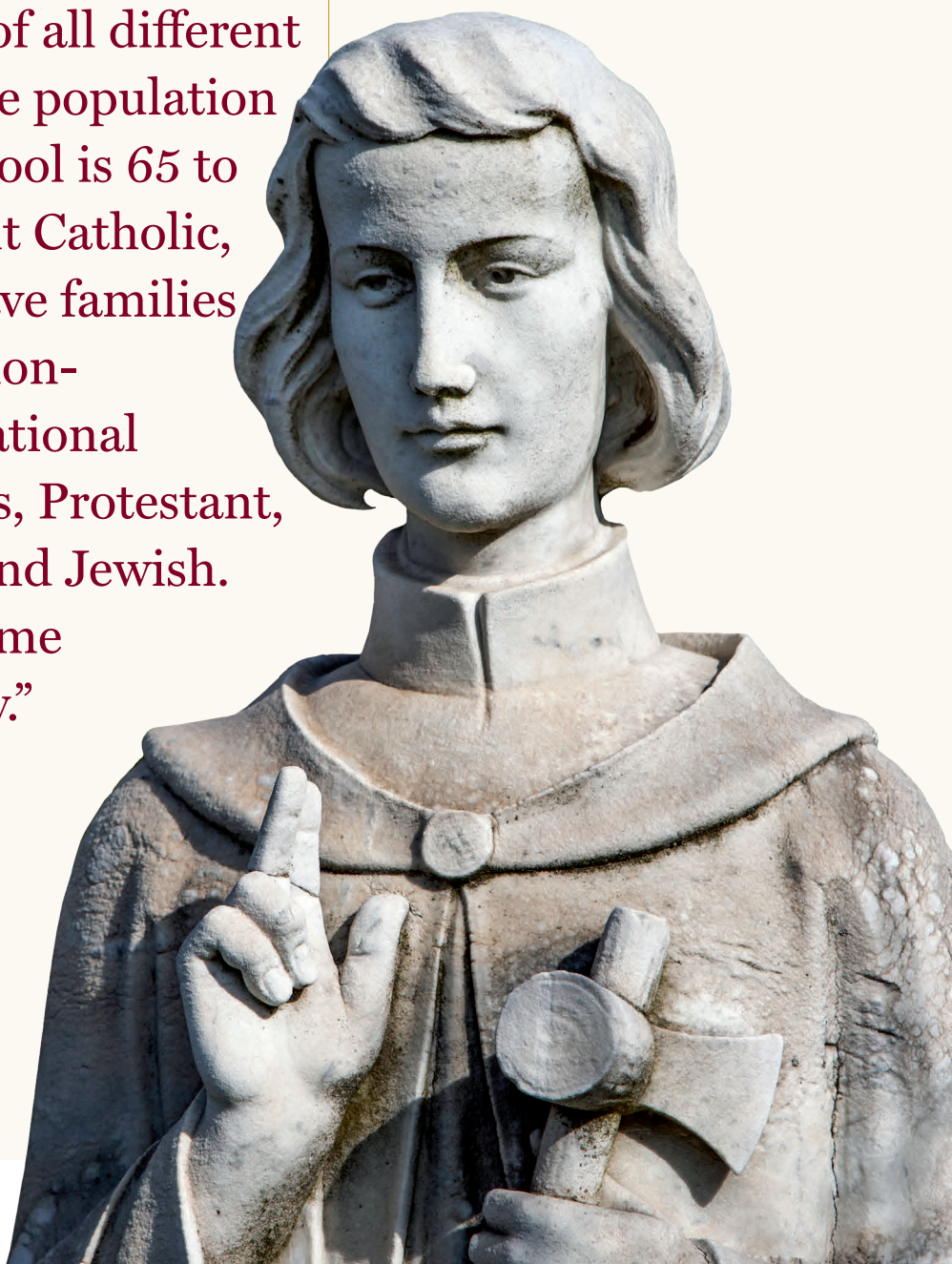
"Notre Dame Prep is a school that is open to students of all different faiths. The population of the school is 65 to 70 percent Catholic, but we have families who are non-denominational Christians, Protestant, Muslim and Jewish. We welcome everybody."

ANDREW GUEST,  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## #16

### **Learning by Serving**

Serving others is one of the most important ways we live our values, and at Notre Dame Prep, you will find an abundance of service opportunities—through clubs and teams, on special school-wide days of service and during weekly "Marist Monday" periods. Members of our community dedicate more than 2,600 hours per year to volunteering, helping causes including fighting poverty and hunger.



## THE ARTS



### #17 Award- Winning

In the last decade, Notre Dame Prep visual arts students have won 320 Scholastic Regional Art Awards and more than 30 Scholastic National Art Awards. Their portfolios have gained graduating students admission to some of the most respected college studio art programs in the country.

# 20+

Arts Courses

### #18 Options and Opportunities

Sixty-seven percent of upper school students choose to take classes in the visual, performing, vocal and instrumental arts—and they have plenty to choose from: more than 20 courses ranging from Advanced Ceramics, Painting, Drawing and Digital Photography to both AP and IB Music Theory and Theatre Appreciation.

### #19 Now Starring



If you have a talent you would like to pursue, there's no limit to how far you can go with the right drive and strong support. Just ask John Milback, a recent Notre Dame graduate making his mark as a jazz saxophonist. John's achievements include soloing at the Detroit Jazz Festival and performing in a group with fellow Notre Dame students that was honored as "The Most Outstanding Combo" in the state by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association. At Notre Dame, John also found time to star in several musicals and compete in cross-country. You really can do it all!





## #20 A Little Bit of Broadway

From “The Little Mermaid” to “The Music Man,” the upper school musical wows audiences every year with a combination of vocal talent, expressive acting and professional-level staging. And there are plenty of ways to get involved, whatever your talent may be. In fact, if you count the cast, the stage crew and the orchestra, between 75 and 100 students are part of the show’s success each year.



# Excellence







## #21 The Sound of Music

If you are interested in music, you will love the range of performance options Notre Dame offers. We have seven instrumental ensembles, including Jazz Band and Pit Orchestra. We also have multiple choral groups, from honors Chamber Choir to the Irishman and Ninth Hour. It's worth noting that both bands and choirs consistently earn the highest ratings at state competitions.



## ATHLETICS



### #22 A Championship Tradition

In the last five years, Irish teams have won 22 district, 26 regional and six state titles, and 57 graduating seniors have signed with Division I collegiate programs. "People know Notre Dame as an academic school, but I would put our athletics program up against any in the state," says Aaron Crouse, associate athletic director.

### #23 Scholar-Athletes

Irish athletes have a habit of collecting both championship trophies and good grades. At Notre Dame Prep, we believe in the ideal of the scholar-athlete—with "scholar" always coming first. As evidence, consider that in the last five years, 85 Notre Dame teams have earned Academic All-State honors, balancing achievement on the field and in the classroom.

### #24 Lessons Worth Learning

At Notre Dame Prep, we know that sports provide a one-of-a-kind opportunity for you to grow in character, build resilience and learn both hard work and teamwork—and we make the most of this opportunity. Our coaches understand that their job is not just earning wins, but helping to educate outstanding young people, strong in Christian values and ready for the future.





#25

## "Real Playing Time"

"I chose Notre Dame because of the opportunity it provided. Academically, that opportunity was to go to one of the very best schools in the state. Athletically, it was the chance for real playing time—to be an athlete, not a spectator."

MATT URBANSKI,  
1998 NOTRE DAME  
PREP ALUMNUS

## #26 Coaches Who Care



"When we hire coaches, our primary concern is 'Are they mission-centric?'" says Betty Wroubel, the school's longtime athletic director

and varsity volleyball and softball coach. "We challenge our coaches to move beyond the X's and O's." That means integrating faith into sports. It also means caring for players not just as athletes but as individuals and putting their well-being and growth first.





ATHLETICS

# Teamwork





## #27 Irish Nation

When it comes to sports at Notre Dame Prep, we like to say we have 31 programs but just one team. That's because athletics is a force that unifies the whole school community and energizes us with Irish pride. This is not a school where a few stars get all the attention and the rest of the student body cheers. At Notre Dame, the members of our student body are the athletes. 77 percent of upper schoolers play at least one sport, and many do more. In fact, each year at graduation, a number of seniors receive "Dirty Dozen" honors for playing a sport in all three seasons of all four years.





#28

**"Very Fortunate"**

"My time at Notre Dame Prep, which has been wonderful so far, has prepared me very well academically, in my faith and through the many extracurriculars available. It has given me the opportunity not only to become a better student but also to grow my relationship with God. I feel very fortunate."

VALENTINA SEDANO,  
NOTRE DAME STUDENT



#29

**Learning Leadership**

Student clubs are one of Michael Kenny's favorite things. The senior is president of the Creative Writing Club, founder and president of the Irish Investing Club, active in Speech and Debate and was just elected youth governor of Michigan through the Michigan Youth in Government program. (Student delegates meet in the actual House and Senate chambers in Lansing to debate legislation.) For Michael, these experiences are both fascinating and valuable. "They've taught me about leadership, expanded my worldview and helped me see how we can really make an impact in the world."

#30 **Doing It All**

At Notre Dame Prep, we know you have many different talents and interests, and we believe you should have the chance to explore them all. Here, a star athlete can also be a star of the play, and no one will find that surprising. Of course, that doesn't mean everyone has to be a star. What's important is to try new things and see what you find just on the other side of your comfort zone.







## #31 Bee Club

If you are concerned about the health of our environment and want to do something to help, one great place to start is the Notre Dame Bee Club. Members look after the school's own apiary, harvest and sell the honey and use the proceeds to fund their work. Given the importance of bees as pollinators, keeping a healthy colony helps keep local ecosystems healthy too. It's all part of being good stewards of God's creation.

## #32 On the Road Again

Life as a Notre Dame Prep student can include some amazing chances to combine learning and travel. Take the example of our award-winning band, which has performed everywhere from the Memorial Day Parade in Mackinaw City to the deck of the battleship Missouri, anchored in Pearl Harbor on the Fourth of July—not to mention in London, Rome and Disney World. Each trip features a major performance but also plenty of time to explore and enjoy.



## #33 Pick a Club, Any Club

Getting involved in a student organization is a great way to make friends who share your interests—and often to make a difference. Choices range from Anime Club and Be Nice to Yearbook and Model U.N. At any time, more than 20 clubs are active in the upper school alone, with the exact lineup changing to match students' interests.

A vibrant photograph of a group of students at a school event. They are wearing pink shirts and have black face paint (mustaches and crosses) and colorful leis. One student in the foreground has a mustache and is cheering. Another student in the background has a cross on their face. The overall atmosphere is energetic and festive.

STUDENT LIFE

# Spirit





## #34 Irish Week

It's a time for face paint, music in the hallways, competition between different grades, school spirit, some silliness and, most of all, fun. Yes, this is Irish Week, a March tradition that ranks among just about everybody's favorites around here. And remember, when you are part of the Notre Dame community, you don't have to be from Ireland to be Irish!

## RESULTS

### #35 Scholarship Success

# \$6.7 million

in college scholarships awarded  
to last year's graduating class

### #36 "Phenomenally Prepared"

"Each of my kids and my niece and nephew came to Notre Dame with different needs and strengths. The school did an amazing job of educating each of them, and every single one left here phenomenally prepared for college."

MICHAEL GENORD,  
NOTRE DAME PARENT



### #37 "Head Start"

"Notre Dame Prep never failed to challenge me, and because of that, I came into college with a substantial head start. The rigorous academics along with its faith, sports and clubs taught me a lot. Teachers were always supportive and willing to help. On top of that, the art program was second to none."

MATT LAMOTHE, 2018 NOTRE DAME  
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL  
PRODUCT DESIGNER





#38

## Fully Supported

As you advance through your years at Notre Dame and the college admission process, you will be exceptionally well supported. Two counselors work with each upper school student, one focused on college and the other on social, emotional and academic well-being and growth. Both provide extensive personal attention.



# 83

## AP Scholars

per year in the last three senior classes

#39

## Outstanding Outcomes

Whether you measure the number of students who gain admission to the top universities in our state and nation or the scores they achieve on the most challenging national exams, the proof of the excellence of the Notre Dame experience is in the results you see at graduation.

#40

## "Forever Friendships"

"Without a doubt, I received an excellent education at Notre Dame Prep. But the things of lasting value still with me today are the friendships I made and the connection to teachers who are still there."

MIKE JUSZCZAKIEWICZ,  
1998 NOTRE DAME GRADUATE



**Notre Dame Prep**  
A Catholic and Marist Community

1300 Giddings Road, Pontiac, MI 48340

**ndprep.org**

