



SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL

Contact:*Cathy Arroyo**Director of Communications
and Public Relations**Office: 314.434.3690 ext. 216**Cell: 314.749.3622**carroyo@priory.org*

500 South Mason Road | St. Louis, MO 63141 | www.priory.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 05, 2024

Saint Louis Priory School to Begin Admitting Sixth Grade Students for 2025-2026 School Year

St. Louis – Saint Louis Priory School (“Priory”) will introduce a program for **sixth-grade students** for the **2025-2026 academic year**. The new offering will supplement the school’s longstanding and highly regarded formative academic program for boys in grades 7-12.

The school shared the news this week with current families as well as with the leaders of other Catholic and independent schools in the St. Louis region.

Priory is operated by priests and brothers who are members of the Benedictine monastic community of Saint Louis Abbey. The school is staffed by committed monks and lay faculty members. Priory – located on a picturesque 150-acre campus in Creve Coeur, Missouri, that the school shares with the monastery, the distinctive Abbey Church, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis’ St. Anselm Parish – has offered a college preparatory program for boys in grades 7-12 for more than 60 years.

Known for its academic rigor and emphasis on classical education, Priory is recognized for its mission “to provide a Catholic, Benedictine, college preparatory education of the highest excellence so as to help talented and motivated young men develop their full potential as children of God.”

In a letter to current Priory families, Headmaster and Priory alumnus Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., ‘02, noted that school leaders had discerned starting a sixth grade “since [the school’s] foundation in 1956.” He indicated that “recent developments in the academic landscape have prompted our school’s lay and monastic governance to consider the question with renewed focus,” and that current and legacy school families in particular “have urged us to extend our unique approach to formation to the sixth grade.”

Priory currently has approximately 300 students whose families reside in 39 different ZIP codes across the St. Louis metropolitan area. A new sixth-grade class is expected to add as many as 20 to 40 additional students to the school. This relatively small number of new students is not expected to have a significant impact on other Catholic schools in the region.

The Benedictine approach to education – centered on hospitality, prayer, humility, stability, and other important hallmarks – is designed to develop young men in mind, body and spirit through a rigorous balance of disciplines that challenge the whole person while cultivating a lifelong sense of community.

“We want to provide an opportunity for these young men, and for all of our students, to root themselves in our unique Benedictine charism,” says Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., ‘76, the leader of Saint Louis Abbey as well as a Priory teacher, former Headmaster, and alumnus. “We look forward to welcoming these new sixth-grade students to what we hope will become their lifelong spiritual home.”

While details of the new program are still being finalized – including the anticipated tuition for sixth-grade students – Priory does not intend to make any substantial changes to its established, robust curriculum for students in grades 7-12, Elliott said.

In 2023, the school completed an extensive campus renovation that enlarged the designated learning space for students in grades 7 and 8, and created a freestanding, modern Art and Science Center for students in all grade levels.

“This is an exciting time to be at Priory,” Elliott wrote in his letter to school families. “On behalf of our Board of Advisors, the Abbot, and the Monastic Community, I want to thank you for making this journey with us.”

Families interested in Priory’s new sixth-grade program may contact Priory’s Assistant Head of School for Mission Advancement, Lise Riet-Lague, at 314.434.0783 or lrietlague@priory.org.

About Saint Louis Priory School

Saint Louis Priory School, operated by the Benedictine monks of Saint Louis Abbey, is a Catholic, independent day school for boys offering one of the strongest college preparatory programs in the St. Louis region. The consumer website Niche.com recently ranked Priory #1 in the categories of “Best All-Boys High Schools in Missouri” and “Best Catholic High Schools in St. Louis.”

Priory – Preparation for an Exceptional Life. For more information about all that Priory has to offer, visit www.priory.org.

#