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BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

2024-2025 School Profile

Bishop O'Connell High School is a diocesan Catholic college-preparatory high school founded in 1957 and located in Arlington, Virginia. Drawn from the diverse population of Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland, the student body of **1,232** represents a range of socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious heritage. The school boasts a talented faculty, 82% of whom hold a master's degree or higher. The spiritual atmosphere is enriched by the presence of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The school offers a technology-infused, student-centered, learning environment, with an average class size of 17. Admission is selective and is determined by school record, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations to gauge a student's ability to successfully pursue the school's rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

MISSION

Bishop O'Connell is a college preparatory school that provides students an education rooted in the life of Christ and fosters the pursuit of excellence in the whole person.

ACCREDITATION, AFFILIATIONS, RECOGNITION

- **Accreditation:** Middle States
- **Standards:** National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of English, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- **Memberships:** National Catholic Educational Association, Virginia Catholic Education Association, National Association of College Admissions Counseling, American School Counseling Association, College Board, others

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Bishop O'Connell High School offers a curriculum that is designed to prepare students for success at highly selective colleges and universities. For graduation, O'Connell requires a minimum of 26 credits distributed as follows:

SUBJECT	REQUIRED CREDITS
Theology	4
English	4
Social Studies	4
Mathematics	3 (4 recommended)
Science	3 (4 recommended)
World Language	2 (3-4 recommended)
Health & Physical Education	1.5
Fine Arts	.5
Technology	.5
Electives	3.5
Total	26

CURRICULUM

The school offers **27** Advanced Placement level courses, **6** Dual Credit courses, **40** Honors courses, and a full catalog of College Preparatory courses. Due to the structured nature of the freshman and sophomore year curricula, students typically do not have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement courses until their junior year, with the exception of AP Modern European History offered to sophomores. Enrollment in Advanced Placement courses is subject to departmental approval and is based on demonstrated high academic proficiency.

Subject	Advanced Placement	Dual Credit (Marymount University ² or Catholic University [*])
English	AP English Language and Composition AP English Literature	
Social Studies	AP European History AP Comparative Government and Politics AP U.S. Government and Politics AP U.S. History AP Economics AP Psychology AP Human Geography AP Art History	
Math	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics AP Pre-Calculus	Dual Credit Statistics ² Dual Credit Multivariate Calculus ² Dual Credit Linear Algebra ²
Science	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1 AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism/Mechanics	
World Language	AP French 5 AP Latin AP Spanish 5 Language AP Spanish Literature	Dual Credit French 4 Honors ² Dual Credit Spanish 4 Honors ²
Fine Arts	AP Drawing AP Music Theory	
Technology/ Business	AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A	Entrepreneurship Honors [*]

SPECIAL CURRICULAR FEATURES

THEOLOGY All students are required to study religion each semester. The curriculum corresponds to the National Framework for High School Religion developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This study serves the dual purpose of education and character formation, providing students with a deep knowledge of and appreciation for the Catholic faith and nurturing a genuine and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

GLOBAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM This unique, optional program, which is centered on student-selected, beyond-the-classroom learning experiences, is the approximate equivalent of a ninth semester of academic work. To earn the Certificate, students complete a combination of non-GPA units -- in areas such as Faith and Humanitarian Issues, Global Business and Finance, Language and Culture, Global Health and Environmental Issues, Arts and Humanities, Global Politics, or International Cooperation in Space Exploration and Engineering -- and deliver a capstone presentation to a faculty panel.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) STEM This national curriculum introduces students to the basic principles of engineering. This is a four-year honors elective program which includes: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Civil Engineering & Architecture, and an Independent Research option. Students must meet specific prerequisites to enroll in these courses.

DUAL CREDIT/DUAL ENROLLMENT Catholic University offers dual enrollment for up to six classes through the Business Magnet Program. An additional course taught at Bishop O’Connell High School is offered for dual credit. Marymount University offers college credit for several classes taught at Bishop O’Connell High School. Students whose academic profiles meet Marymount University criteria may register to enroll in classes offered at Marymount’s campus. Dual enrollment opportunities at Marymount University and Catholic University allow students the option of continuing a program of study at a higher level than currently offered at O’Connell.

GRADING AND TRANSCRIPT POLICY

Bishop O’Connell High School reports all grades as letters. Grades are weighted for Honors and Advanced Placement courses and the transcript includes a cumulative GPA. GPAs are calculated for all students with a value of 4.0 assigned to a grade of A in a College Preparatory course. For comparison, a grade of A in an Honors course is valued at 4.5 and in an AP course at 5.0. GPA calculations are based on grades from classes taken at Bishop O’Connell. The scale caps at 5.0. The full grading system utilized is as follows:

	Grade Scale	College Prep	Honors	AP
A+	97 - 100	4.3	4.8	5.0
A	93 - 96	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90 - 92	4.0	4.5	5.0
B+	87 - 89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83 - 86	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80 - 82	3.0	3.5	4.0
C+	77 - 79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	73 - 76	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70 - 72	2.0	2.5	3.0
D+	67 - 69	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	65 - 66	1.0	1.5	2.0

Grades from classes taken at other schools are included on the transcript but not included in the GPA calculation. By policy, Bishop O’Connell students are not ranked.

COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST SCORES/RECOGNITION

Mean SAT Scores	Evidence Based Reading	Math
O’Connell Class of 2024 – Top 30%	711	687
O’Connell Class of 2024	627	601
Virginia (2023)	572	552
National	520	508

AP Results (May 2024) **515** students took **1,482** AP exams. **190** AP Scholars, including **50** AP Scholars with Distinction and **29** AP Scholars with Honors.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION (2023-2024): 3 National Merit Finalists & Scholars; 5 National Merit Commended Students; In 2022-2023, Bishop O’Connell had 10 National Hispanic Recognition Awardees; 1 National African American Recognition Awardee.

Graduates from the past four years are attending the following schools:

Allegheny College	Hampden-Sydney College	Rice University	University of Colorado
Allen University	Hampton University	Roanoke College	University of Connecticut
American University	High Point University	Robert Morris University	University of Dallas
Anglo-American University (Prague)	Hobart & William Smith Colleges	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Dayton
Arcadia University	Hofstra University	Rollins College	University of Delaware
Arizona State University	Hood College	Rowan University	University of Denver
Auburn University	Howard University	Rutgers University	University of Findlay
Ave Maria University	ICES (Institut Catholique de Vendée)	Saint Anselm College	University of Florida
Baylor University	Indiana State University	Saint Joseph's University	University of Georgia
Bellarmino University	Indiana University	Saint Mary's College Indiana	University of Kansas
Binghamton University	Jacksonville University	Saint Peter's University	University of Kentucky
Boston College	James Madison University	Saint Vincent College	University of Louisville
Boston University	John Carroll University	Salisbury University	University of Lynchburg
Bowie State	Johns Hopkins University	San Diego State University	University of Maine
Bridgewater College	La Salle University	Santa Clara University	University of Mary Washington
Brigham Young University	Lawrence University	Santa Monica College	University of Maryland
Bucknell University	Lebanon Valley College	Savannah College of Art & Design	University of Massachusetts
Cabrini University	Leeds Beckett Art Institute - UK	Savannah State University	University of Miami
Caldwell University	Lehigh University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Michigan
Campbell University	Liberty University	Seton Hall University	University of Mississippi
Case Western Reserve University	Lipscomb University	Seton Hill University	University of North Carolina
Catholic University of America	Lock Haven University	Sewanee: The Univ. of the South	University of Northern Colorado
Christendom College	Longwood University	Shelton State Community College	University of Northwestern Ohio
Christopher Newport University	Louisiana State University	Shenandoah University	University of Notre Dame
Clemson University	Loyola University (MD)	South Georgia Technical College	University of Oklahoma
Cleveland Institute of Arts	Loyola University Chicago	Southern Methodist University	University of Oregon
Coastal Carolina University	Marquette University	Spelman College	University of Pennsylvania
Colgate University	Marymount University	St. John's College (Maryland)	University of Pittsburgh
College of Charleston	McDaniel College	St. John's University	University of Rhode Island
College of Southern Maryland	McGill University	Stevenson University	University of Richmond
College of the Holy Cross	Miami University (Ohio)	Stony Brook University	University of Rochester
College of Wooster	Michigan State University	Swarthmore College	University of San Diego
Colorado School of Mines	Mississippi State University	Sweet Briar College	University of South Carolina
Colorado State University	Moravian University	Syracuse University	University of South Florida
Columbia University	Morehouse College	Temple University	University of Southern California
Cornell University	Morgan State University	Temple University (Japan)	University of St. Andrews
Culinary Institute of America	Mount Allison University	Texas A&M University	University of Tampa
Dartmouth College	Mount St. Mary's University	Texas Christian University	University of Tennessee
Denison University	New Mexico State University	The Citadel	University of Toronto
DeSales University	New York University	The New School	University of Vermont
Dickinson College	North Carolina A&T State University	Towson University	University of Virginia
Drexel University	North Carolina Central University	Trinity College Dublin	University of Washington
Duke University	North Carolina State University	Tufts University	University of Wisconsin- Madison
Duquesne University	Northeastern University	Tulane University	University of Wyoming
East Carolina University	Norwich University	U.S. Air Force Academy	Vanderbilt University
ECPI University	Nova Southeastern University	U.S. Coast Guard Academy	Villanova University
Elizabethtown College	Oberlin College	U.S. Military Academy	Virginia Commonwealth University
Elon University	Ohio State University	U.S. Naval Academy	Virginia Military Institute
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Ohio University	Universitat Abat Oliba (Spain)	Virginia Tech
Emory University	Ohio Wesleyan University	University College Dublin	Wake Forest University
Fairfield University	Oklahoma State University	University of Alabama	Washington & Jefferson College
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Old Dominion University	University of Arizona	Washington and Lee University
Fashion Institute of Technology	Pace University	University of Arkansas	Washington U. in St. Louis
Florida Atlantic University	Parsons - The New School	University of Baltimore	West Virginia University
Florida State University	Pennsylvania State University	University of British Columbia	Western New England University
Fordham University	Pepperdine University	University of California- Davis	Wheeling University
Franciscan University	Providence College	University of California, LA	William and Mary
Frostburg State University	Purdue University	University of California, Riverside	Xavier University
George Mason University	Queens University- Canada	University of California, SB	York College
George Washington University	Quinnipiac University	University of California, SD	Youngstown State University
Georgetown University	Radford University	University of California-Irvine	
Georgia Institute of Technology	Randolph College	University of Central Florida	
Gettysburg College	Randolph-Macon College	University of Chicago	
Gonzaga University	Regent University	University of Cincinnati	
Goucher College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute		