



**Educational Leadership Opportunity**

**DEAN OF STUDENTS**

# **Canisius High School**

Buffalo, NY

Founded 155 years ago, Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory day school in Buffalo that educates young men of all faiths and diverse backgrounds in grades 9-12 from across Western New York and Canada.

The Dean of Students is the primary student affairs officer and reports to the principal. The dean is responsible for fostering a climate of respect on campus conducive to the proper moral growth and development of each student.

For a position to begin in August 2025, Canisius is seeking an experienced and talented educational leader who is inspired by the school's mission and its students, and who is eager to further enhance its legacy of excellence in the formation of young men.

# Canisius High School at a glance

## Mission

Founded in 1870, Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory school serving young men of diverse backgrounds from throughout Western New York and Canada. Canisius challenges its students to strive for excellence as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to justice.



Canisius promotes the development of students through a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum firmly rooted in the Jesuit tradition of faith, scholarship and service.

Faithful to St. Ignatius Loyola's desire to provide care and concern for the whole person, Canisius affords each member of the school community the opportunity to develop individual talents for the service of others and the greater glory of God.

## Facts and Figures

**Location:** 1180 Delaware Ave., Buffalo NY 14209

**Colors:** Navy blue, gold

**Student-teacher ratio:** 12-1

**Founded:** 1870

**Nickname:** Crusaders

**Namesake:** The school is named after St. Peter Canisius, S.J. (1521-1597).

**Average enrollment:** 600-700 students

**Tuition:** \$17,640

**Affiliation:** Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Canisius High School is part of a network of 62 Jesuit high schools and 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Students from all faiths are welcome.

**Tuition assistance awarded:** Awarded to 70% of the student body.

**Staff:** 91

**Accreditations & memberships:**

Regents of the University of the State of New York, New York State Department of Education, New York State Association of Independent Schools, Middle States Association of College and Secondary Schools, Jesuit Schools Network, and the National Catholic Education Association.



## Introduction

### Location and Facilities

Canisius, with its iconic “Blue Doors,” is located in the heart of Buffalo at 1180 Delaware Avenue. The campus lies just north of the Delaware Avenue Historic District, adjacent to the vibrant Elmwood Village and south of Frederick Law Olmsted’s Delaware Park.

The walk across the campus provides a combination of historic and modern architecture that is unmatched in the region.

The school’s main entrance, offices, chapel and some classrooms are housed in the Koessler Academic Center, a 100-year-old mansion which is flanked by the striking Bernard J. Kennedy Field House, which seats up to 1,000 and has been the home of several athletic teams for the last decade.

Between those two structures is Higgins Hall, a lobby featuring marble staircases and promenades, and the Scaccia Auditorium with its 10 columns that support a beautiful cornice 50 feet up.

The Madden Center for Global Learning, which opened in 2024, is next to the Koessler Academic Center and is a dynamic space which features a giant interactive videoconference screen.

The Montante Academic Hall is a state-of-the-art math and science center adjacent to the Beecher Academic Wing. The 13,000-square-foot Center for the Arts is located in a separate mansion next to the school and opened in 2018. The Stransky Athletic



Complex includes Koessler Field's modern athletic turf that is the home for football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and track and field, as well as the new Coppola Family Fields, a state-of-the-art, two-diamond home for our baseball program.

Canisius also has a makerspace lab, four computer centers, a digital media arts lab, a renovated weight room, a swimming pool, an additional gymnasium and an additional athletic field.

## **The Student Body**

Demand for the Canisius experience is high. The school's enrollment has been between 600 and 700 in recent years.

Students are drawn from throughout the Western New York area, from the city of Buffalo to surrounding Erie County suburbs as well as some rural areas and Canada. Canisius draws students from about 40 different school districts in the region. Canisius also currently has students from China, Korea and Germany. About 27% of the student body are people of color.



In support of its commitment to economic diversity, Canisius provides tuition assistance to more than 70% of the student body.

## College Matriculation

Canisius provides a rigorous college preparatory education to an academically diverse, motivated student body.

The average SAT score for the Class of 2024 was 1,164, significantly higher than both the New York State (1,034) and national (1,024) averages. CHS scores are 12.5% higher than NYS and 14% higher than the USA averages.

The Class of 2024 saw 98% of students go on to attend college, with 56% going to a private university and 22% attending a Jesuit institution. More than \$20 million in academic scholarship offers were earned by the Class of 2024.

Consistent with the Jesuit philosophy of using your talents in the service of others, Canisius' career planning model has school counselors help students to first identify their strengths, abilities and interests, and then find matching college programs to help develop these skills to prepare them for a career in service of others.



**The Classes of 2024 and 2025 attended colleges that include:**

American University  
 Arizona State University  
 Ave Maria University  
 Belmont University  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 Bowling Green State Univ.  
 Brandeis University  
 Canisius University  
 Case Western Reserve Univ.  
 Clarkson University  
 Clemson University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 Colgate University  
 College of Charleston  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 Dartmouth College  
 Drexel University  
 Duquesne University  
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U.  
 Fairfield University  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Fordham University  
 George Washington University  
 Georgetown University  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Hamilton College

Harvard University  
 High Point University  
 Howard University  
 Indiana University  
 Ithaca College  
 John Carroll University  
 Kent State University  
 Le Moyne College  
 Louisiana State University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Loyola University, Chicago  
 Loyola University, Maryland  
 Marist University  
 Marquette University  
 Mercyhurst University  
 Miami University, Ohio  
 Michigan State University  
 Niagara University  
 Ohio University  
 Ohio State University  
 Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Purdue University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.  
 Rochester Inst. of Technology  
 Sacred Heart University  
 Saint Bonaventure University  
 Saint Joseph's University

Saint Mary's College of Md.  
 San Diego State University  
 Santa Clara University  
 Springfield College  
 SUNY Binghamton  
 SUNY Buffalo (UB)  
 University of Alabama  
 Univ. of California, Berkeley  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
 University of Dayton  
 University of Denver  
 University of Florida  
 University of Illinois  
 University of Maryland  
 University of Miami  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Notre Dame  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Richmond  
 University of Rochester  
 Univ. of Southern California  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Virginia  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Villanova University  
 Virginia Tech University  
 Williams College  
 Xavier University

# Highlights of the Educational Program

As a Jesuit institution, Canisius believes in a long tradition rooted in the teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola: That everything God has created is worthy of our study and care. Canisius students and faculty are committed to academic excellence in the classroom as part of a well-rounded education that includes athletics and co-curricular activities (including more than 50 clubs) as well as Christian service through our campus ministry programs.

Canisius offers 22 Advanced Placement and Honors courses, with those students who have distinguished themselves placed in the Ignatian Scholars program. Three foreign languages are offered (Latin, French, Spanish). For over a decade, the school has had a one-to-one iPad program as modern technology has augmented Canisius' curriculum and coursework.

The Canisius Classes of 2024 and 2025 included:

- 1 National Merit Scholarship Finalist
- 3 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists
- 1 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar
- 1 National African American Recognition Program Scholar
- 9 National Merit Commended Students
- 45 AP Scholars
- 31 AP Scholars with Honor
- 19 AP Scholars with Distinction



## Spiritual Life

Another aspect of a Canisius education that sets it apart from other schools is the spiritual and personal formation offered to all students.

The campus ministry department at Canisius provides transformative opportunities for each student to be engaged socially, challenged intellectually, go deeper interiorly, and encounter the living God personally.

Canisius campus ministry programs fall under three main categories:

**Liturgies** – The school day at Canisius begins in prayer; daily Mass is offered in the school chapel; and Canisius celebrates Holy Days of Obligation and other occasions with school-wide liturgies in which students participate in several ways.



**Retreats** – Campus ministry invites students to go deeper in their personal encounter with God through a spiritual retreat program that is offered to students at no cost. Retreats are offered for every class year. Upperclassmen have opportunities to lead retreats as organizers, leaders, speakers and role models. Because of deep spiritual and communal conversations, personal introspection, and stories of faith and life experience shared by peers and upperclassmen, retreats are some of the most transformative and memorable experiences for CHS students. Students of all faiths and backgrounds enjoy the retreats.

**Service** – Canisius students are expected to volunteer at least 100 hours of service over the course of their four years. The capstone of the Canisius service experience happens during junior year when students are invited to participate in service immersion trips away from school, sometimes in other countries.



## House System

Canisius began its House System in 2019 guided by the Jesuit hallmark of *cura personalis* – care for the whole person. The program, based on similar models used around the world for centuries, was pioneered by Canisius in Western New York.

The Canisius student body is comprised of six houses, with students from all class years included within a house, and students remaining part of the same house for his entire Canisius experience.

Houses can gain points for academic achievement, participation in co-curricular activities, athletic teams and the quarterly “House Games,” which see friendly competition in anything from traditional sports to watermelon relay races and grilled-cheese cook-offs. Points are put toward a year-long competition for the House Cup. Along the way, the smaller communities within the larger school community help students build stronger bonds and connections between students and faculty and within all four grades.

There are also great leadership opportunities for students within all six houses, which are named for prominent Jesuits – Arrupe, Campion, Gonzaga, Jogues, Loyola and Xavier.



## **Fine Arts**

The historically strong Canisius arts program, which features 20 credit-bearing courses, is now housed in one of the region's finest such facilities, the 13,000-square-foot Center for the Arts, which opened in 2018.

The center features dedicated rehearsal spaces for music ensembles, individual practice spaces for student-musicians, and classrooms for architecture, ceramics, sculpture and art. The first floor also serves as gallery space for art exhibits.

Student instrumentalists, singers and actors participate in numerous performances throughout each school year, including plays, musicals, concerts as well as contributions to the music ministry at school Masses.

## **Athletics**

More than half of Canisius students (approximately 56%) participate in athletics, of which there are many options: 34 teams in 19 sports.

Those many teams have collected many championships in recent years. Canisius has won 19 of the last 21 Supremacy Cups, awarded to the top overall athletic program in Western New York's Monsignor Martin Athletic Association.



Eighteen members of the Class of 2024 made commitments to play sports at the college level – that's nearly 12% of the senior class (the national average is about 5%).

In the 2024-25 school year, CHS won league championships in football, soccer, golf, hockey, bowling, swimming (for the 23rd straight year), basketball and baseball. The rowing program earns national titles on an annual basis while Canisius graduates have regularly been on NFL rosters in recent decades (including three in the 2021 season).

# The Position: Dean of Students

The Dean of Students is the primary student affairs officer at Canisius High School.

The dean is responsible for fostering a climate of respect on campus conducive to the proper moral growth and development of each student.

The dean works with faculty and students to structure, develop and support non-classroom learning including cocurricular activities, athletic events, assemblies and the like.

The Dean of Students reports to the principal.

We offer a competitive salary (commensurate with experience in a range of \$70,000 to \$90,000) as well as a comprehensive benefits package.

Responsibilities include:

- Assist the principal in the promotion of student life and good order in the school.
- Supervise the faculty in the administration of all rules and regulations of Canisius High School and local laws and codes.
- Administer and enforce the rules and regulations promulgated in the student handbook.
- Preside at JUG (detention) sessions.
- Maintain student records for attendance, tardiness, health and discipline; follow up as appropriate with parents and guardians; advise faculty of special situations regarding health, attendance and discipline.
- Arrange for faculty and student IDs.
- Oversee student transportation and serve as a liaison to the bus companies.
- Serve as school liaison with the cafeteria catering company.
- Serve as liaison to Buffalo and the surrounding communities, as well as other area schools, about off-campus student behavior and other student life issues.
- Responsible for editing and posting the CHS Student Handbook.

- Responsible for attending and coordinating chaperones for off-campus events and activities where adult supervision of Canisius High School students is required and desirable.
- Responsible for the compliance of emergency drills.
- Responsible for Safety and Crisis Plans including communications with students and their families.
- Supervise the daily operation of the prospective student summer programs.
- Perform duties and fulfill responsibilities that are proper to the Dean of Students.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

## **Who Should Apply: Qualities and Qualifications**

The ideal candidate will offer most or all of the following:

### **Qualifications and experiences**

- A demonstrated understanding of the work of Jesuit education and spirituality.
- Solid academic credentials: bachelor's degree required; master's degree preferred.
- Experience in the education of boys, coupled with genuine enjoyment in working with young men.
- Experience in teaching, student supervision and educational administration.
- Superior communication skills, including the ability to listen well.

### **Leadership style and personal qualities**

- An evenhanded, trustworthy and confident administrator who sets high standards, inspires excellent performance and requires accountability from students.
- A talented administrator who is able to plan effectively, make sound decisions and implement processes that work.
- A resilient and flexible multitasker who is undaunted by complexity and able to prioritize.
- A culturally sensitive individual who is committed to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion.
- A person of faith.

## **Application requirements**

Candidates should submit – as soon as possible and no later than June 15, 2025 – an application package including the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are particularly interested in and qualified for the position
- A current résumé
- The names, email addresses and telephone numbers of three references (we will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references)

### **Anticipated Search Calendar**

**Application deadline:** June 15.

**Interviews:** June 16-30.

**Starting Date:** Aug. 1, 2025

Application materials should be emailed to Stefanie Adams, Assistant to the Principal, at [adams@canisiushigh.org](mailto:adams@canisiushigh.org)