



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

President Search

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

DALLAS, TX

START DATE: JULY 1, 2026



The
Education
Group

MISSION STATEMENT

To lead each student in the formation of a strong Catholic faith through the balanced pursuit of knowledge, prayer, responsibility, and service.

VISION

To seek the light and hope of Christ in everything we think, say, and do.

“Anyone in need is just lifted up and surrounded by more angel wings than they could ever ask for.”

- Staff Member

PHILOSOPHY

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School strives to educate children of parishioners who desire a Catholic education and develop the highest possible level of potential in each child, both as a person and a Christian.

MOTTO

Know it. Show it. Live It.





THE SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL

Established: 1947

Two Campuses (on 12 acres):

Lower School: PreK4-Grade 2

Upper School: Grades 3-8

Average Class Size K-8: 22-24

Upper School House System

Two-time National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award



FINANCIAL

FINANCIALS

Tuition 2025-2026:

Parishioner : \$10,220 - \$10,460

(multi-child discount available)

Non-Parishioner: \$14,060 - \$14,330

Parent Association Fundraising: \$1M+ per year

Fathers Association Fundraising: \$200K per year

Endowment: \$4.6M

Annual Budget: \$11M



FACULTY

FACULTY

Total number of teachers and staff: 117

Catholic: 94%

Avg years teaching experience: 12



STUDENTS

STUDENTS

Total Enrollment: 882

Boys: 48% **Girls:** 52%

Parishioners: 87%

Lower School Enrollment: 330

Upper School Enrollment: 552

Graduates who attend Catholic High School: 91%

Accreditation & Affiliations



Accredited School
Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops
Education Department



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF DALLAS



The School

Established in September 1947, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is now the largest Catholic PreK-8 school not only in the Catholic Diocese of Dallas but also in the state of Texas. The School is located in the [Wilshire Heights](#) neighborhood of [East Dallas](#) and serves primarily a large parish population spanning generations of Lakewood and Old East Dallas residents. The School had humble beginnings serving as an extension to the families of the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Known initially as Sacred Heart School #2, STA opened its doors with 250 students in four classrooms with the Sisters of Divine Providence as the first teaching Order at the School. Today, the School serves approximately 550 families and maintains an enrollment of nearly 900 students.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School has seen impressive development over its 75 years as seen by its two National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Awards, the expansion to two campuses, and its exceptional grounds and facilities. STA provides a rigorous academic program rooted in the liberal arts, developing strong communications skills, problem-solving, and critical thinking. The School provides robust student-life experiences with a host of opportunities for fellowship, leadership, and pursuing individual interests. With educational, artistic, and environmental resources in close proximity, STA's instruction extends beyond its classrooms and into the backyard of White Rock Lake, the [Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden](#), and the greater community.

Central to the mission of STA is the spiritual growth of its students. Catholic ideals are an integral part of all instruction, whether through the classroom or through opportunities to grow in faith and servant leadership. With a motto of *Know It, Show It, Live It*, the School firmly believes that formation of students in the Catholic faith would not be complete without teaching them to live that faith in their everyday lives.





Campus and Facilities

STA's Upper School and Lower School campuses are located seven blocks from each other, and together they share ten-plus acres. The Lower School campus is home to students in Pre-K through 2nd grade. It includes age-appropriate facilities, including a chapel where students gather for worship and spiritual formation. In 3rd grade, students transition to the Upper School campus, located less than a mile away and adjacent to the parish church. Upon arrival, they are warmly welcomed into a [House System](#) that fosters connection, community, and a sense of belonging. Eighth grade students serve as their mentors and prayer partners throughout the year.

The School has excellent athletic facilities. Each campus includes a gymnasium—used for PE classes during the day and athletic practices in the evening. The second gym provides additional space to accommodate the many teams that compete in the Dallas Parochial League. The Upper School campus also features expansive fields suitable for both practices and competitions.

The libraries at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School are thoughtfully designed to support the unique needs of students at each campus. At the Lower School, the library fosters a love of reading and encourages students to become lifelong readers. At the Upper School, students build essential research skills and grow as independent learners. Both libraries host engaging events throughout the year, such as guest readers, author visits, the annual book fair, and read-a-thons. Each campus is supported by a dedicated librarian and a team of committed parent volunteers who help create a vibrant and welcoming library environment.

Health Clinics are available on both the Lower School and Upper School campuses during school hours. Each clinic is staffed by a nurse who provides basic first aid, manages medical emergencies, administers prescribed medications, and monitors students who are ill until a parent or guardian arrives.

Security is a top priority at STA. Both campuses have redesigned entrances featuring a two-stage entry system to enhance safety. A full-time security director has been recently hired, and off-duty Dallas police officers provide a visible presence on both campuses. Visitor access is carefully monitored using the Raptor system, ensuring controlled and secure entry.

[Learn more on our Virtual Tour](#)



Academic Programs

The overall priority for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is to foster the holistic development of each child in a safe and nurturing environment. As students progress academically, they refine their abilities in critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. The [core curriculum](#) for all grades is provided by the Diocese of Dallas and serves as a basic guideline for proper sequence and scope of learning.

PK-Grade 2 builds a strong foundation on which children can grow as confident and capable students. The program focuses on developmentally appropriate best practices that include differentiated guided reading, the use of math manipulatives, hands-on science lab experiments, an emphasis on student-produced activities, and a loving and logical approach toward discipline.

Grades 3-5 bridge the Lower School and the increased academic demands of Middle School. Teachers incorporate cooperative learning activities in group projects that encourage students to work together to solve problems and apply new concepts. The curriculum is enriched with outside educational resources and supported by technology.

During the Middle School years of Grades 6-8, the focus is on fostering readiness for high school. A growth mindset is cultivated based on a student-centered approach to teaching and learning. Students are empowered to take ownership of their learning through goal-setting and self-assessment.



[Fine Arts](#)
[Athletics](#)
[Clubs and Activities](#)
[PK-Grade 2](#)
[Grades 3-5](#)
[Grades 6-8](#)
[Extended Day](#)



Technology

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School provides a technology-rich learning environment that supports students at every grade level. Both campuses feature dedicated computer labs, and students in Grades 6-8 benefit from a 1:1 laptop program. Students in Pre-K through 2nd Grade visit the Computer Lab weekly—a specialized space designed to introduce foundational skills in building, coding, and digital production. These early experiences help spark curiosity and lay the groundwork for future learning.

In Grades 3-5, students continue to build on these foundational skills with a stronger focus on creativity, collaboration, and responsible digital citizenship. Each homeroom is equipped with a set of Chromebooks, and the computer teacher delivers technology instruction directly in the classroom. Smart board technology enhances daily instruction by allowing for interactive lessons, student presentations, and collaborative problem-solving activities.

In Grades 6-8, technology is fully integrated into the curriculum across all subjects—from word processing and research to data analysis and digital presentations. The 1:1 laptop environment empowers students to take ownership of their learning, encouraging deeper engagement, increased independence, and a more personalized educational experience.



Catholic Identity

Spiritual formation is formally addressed at every grade level through daily religion classes in PK-8 where students learn about the Church's teachings, scripture, traditions, and moral life. Spiritual retreats augment classroom instruction for the older students. In preparation for Confirmation, eighth graders attend an annual retreat at the [Pines Catholic Camp](#) in Big Sandy, Texas.

Students and teachers begin and end their school day with prayer. Each week, students attend Mass (Grades 1-8) or a Prayer Service (Grades PK-K) by grade level. Students in Grades 3-8 attend Mass together. Mass is also celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation at both campuses. In addition, students participate in the recitation of the Rosary, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and reenact the Living Stations of the Cross and the Living Rosary. Various Church feast days are celebrated in special ways throughout the year.

Students at STA are reminded daily of their call to live their faith through service to others. The STA community participates in giving back to its community on a regular basis. The Director of Community Service works campus-wide to include hands-on opportunities for not only students but teachers and parents as well. They raise funds for emergency projects across the country and provide food and other necessities to charitable organizations in the area. In addition, eighth grade students complete hundreds of volunteer hours at local non-profits and raise money for the St. Albert the Great Scholarship Fund.

The Position

After 21 years of exceptional leadership, the current President, Dr. Patrick Magee, has announced his retirement in June 2026. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School now seeks a visionary, energetic and passionate new President who will lead the School into its next chapter of excellence. Above all else, the new President will find a joyful, engaged, and generous community of parents, teachers, and staff who nurture and support the development of students under their care. Having invested in its faculty, campus, and programs, the School is now poised for the future. The next President will inherit a vibrant and highly successful school ready to embrace a new leader who will have a pivotal role in shaping the School's trajectory and capitalizing on its significant achievements and momentum.

The Office of President has as its primary purpose to provide leadership of the School to achieve the fullest attainment of the School's mission. The President has the following key responsibilities and accountabilities:

- The President is the Chief Executive Officer of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School with general oversight of its personnel and budget, its educational and development programs, its operations, and its facilities.
- The President is the overall leader and facilitator of the community of faith and bears ultimate responsibility for the integrity of the doctrine and practice of the spiritual life of the School.
- The President is given responsibility and authority by the Pastor and is accountable to the Pastor for the fulfillment of goals and policies.
- The President is subject to guidance by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Dallas on those matters that affect the operation.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School has a highly effective President/Principal model. The President collaborates closely with the Pastor, Principals, the School Advisory Council, and in varying degrees, with other groups within the school community. The President's direct reports comprise a nine-member Administrative Team who assists the President in accomplishing his/her responsibilities for operations: Upper School Principal, Lower School Principal, Assistant Principal for Academics/Curriculum, IT Director, Director of Advancement/Admissions, Security Director, Athletics Director, Facilities Director, and Human Resource Director. The Chief Financial Officer is shared with the parish.

For the complete job description, click [HERE](#)



Opportunities & Challenges

As the largest Catholic PK-8 school in the Diocese of Dallas and in the state of Texas, the School's size presents many benefits. With nearly 900 students on two separate campuses, enrollment is consistently at capacity. Moreover, the parish is growing exponentially with new young families who want their children to receive a Catholic education. By far, community is viewed as the School's greatest strength. Faculty, staff and parents all come together for one common purpose, to form saints and scholars at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. Parents are noted for their generosity and involvement, especially through organizations such as [FOSTA](#), [STAPA](#) and the [Booster Club](#). Parents are known to volunteer a cumulative 15,000+ hours annually in support of academics, the arts, and athletics. Through the President's good stewardship and the generous support of parents in raising funds, financial resources are substantial.

The size of the School also presents opportunities and challenges for the new President:

- With an STA Catholic education highly sought after, the strategic plan will likely include a future campaign to sustain the operational vitality and existing excellence for future generations.
- To continue to attract and retain exceptional faculty and staff, the School must secure additional sources of revenue to support competitive salaries beyond current fundraising efforts.
- With 900 students, 550 plus families, and 117 faculty and staff spread across two campuses, maintaining a unified sense of community will be essential to fulfilling the STA mission.
- The upcoming 2026 Self Study for TCCB ED accreditation and the existing [Strategic Plan](#) provide a framework for institutional growth. The next President will be responsible for identifying priorities among identified needs and developing a clear blueprint to guide the STA community forward.



Through an inclusive community survey and thoughtful analysis, the following initial and long-term priorities for the next President in leading St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School have been identified:

Priorities

- Understanding the culture and climate of the School by being present and involved in the life of the school and parish
- Maintaining STA a parish school
- Recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and staff
- Upholding standards of excellence
- Implementing the Strategic Plan
- Fundraising for future capital projects



The Ideal Candidate

The successful candidate is required to be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and possess an advanced degree. The next President will bring the following experience, qualities, and abilities to the position:

Professional Experience and Abilities

- Demonstrated leadership experience in Catholic schools.
- A visionary leader with strategic planning experience and execution capabilities
- Highly effective management experience and organizational skills
- Demonstrated success in building and maintaining strong teams
- An understanding of the President/Principal working relationship
- Business/Financial acumen
- Fundraising and/or revenue generating success

Personal Qualities

- Strong Catholic faith and a passion for Catholic education
- Integrity and high ethical values
- Charismatic personality that inspires and motivates those around him/her
- A pastoral approach to his/her leadership style
- Innovative thinker with strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Ability to build trust and community
- Exceptional communication, listening, and interpersonal skills



Living in Dallas

Dallas is a thriving, global city with a diverse economy and vibrant culture. The city is ninth largest in the continental United States and is the main cultural and economic center of the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area—at 7 million people, it is the fourth largest metropolitan area in the United States. Dallas enjoys an economy based on banking, commerce, telecommunications, computer technology, energy, healthcare, and transportation.

A vibrant educational and intellectual city, the DFW area is home to more than 12 institutions of learning, including Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, University of Dallas, University of Texas at Dallas, as well as the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and the Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. It is a city with a large and collegial independent school network as well as an active non-profit and philanthropic community.

Downtown Dallas has undergone an impressive expansion and energized appearance with the [Dallas Arts District](#) providing leadership. The Dallas Arts District, the largest contiguous urban arts district in the nation, spanning 68 acres and 19 contiguous blocks, is home to the City's leading visual and performing arts institutions. Professional sports draw large crowds and offer year-round opportunities for spectators. High school and college sports are not far behind when it comes to fan participation and interest. The cityscape is punctuated by multiple skyscrapers and handsome architecture. Iconic buildings include the Reunion Tower, JFK Memorial, and Dallas City Hall, designed by famed architect I. M. Pei. The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, with its signature steel arch, expands the Dallas skyline and is a notable landmark to the city's western corridor. As for weather, winters are mild, spring and fall are short, and summers are hot and sometimes humid. Air-conditioning reigns.



Application Process

Applications are now being accepted. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, résumé, statement of educational leadership philosophy, and a list of five (5) references to the consultants listed below. Include a brief description of your relationship to each reference and all contact information. Documents are asked to be in PDF format.

For further information about the position and application procedures, please contact the School's search consultants.

Search Consultants



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