



IMPORTANT DATES and CAMPUS VISITS



Class of 2031 Important Dates

September 1, 2026 Online Application is Open

September 24, 2026 Virtual Admissions Information Night

October 4, 2026 Open House

November 1, 2026 Financial Aid Application is Open

November 14, 2026 HSPT at Bishop O'Connell
Non-Diocesan Students Only

December 5, 2026 HSPT at Bishop O'Connell
Non-Diocesan Students Only

December 14, 2026 Application Deadline
Including all required documents

January 11, 2027 Financial Aid Application Deadline

February 12, 2027 Admissions Decisions Issued
Via email and U.S. mail

March 4, 2027 Enrollment Deadline

Inquiry Form

Families are encouraged to submit an Inquiry Form on the Admissions page of our website to receive newsletters about campus visit opportunities, deadlines, and more.

School Tours

Visit Bishop O'Connell during the school day! Families will receive a tour from a Student Ambassador and speak with a member of our Admissions team.

Knight for a Day

Experience what it's like to be an O'Connell student! Our Knights for a Day will attend classes with their hosts, have lunch (our treat) in the cafeteria, and receive a personalized tour during Knight Time.



APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2027-2028 online application is found on the Admissions page of the Bishop O'Connell website.
Application files will not be reviewed until all documents have been received by the Admissions office.

Application Deadline December 14, 2026

The application and required documents must be submitted by the deadline.

The HSPT is Required

Students who do *not* attend a diocesan elementary school must take the test in November or December.

Students attending a diocesan school will take the HSPT at their school and should not register.

Register for the HSPT at bishopoconnell.org/hspt

Required Documents

- Application
- Birth Certificate
- Student Questionnaire
- 8th grade first quarter (or trimester) transcript
- 7th grade final transcript
- Teacher Recommendation
One required. Must be completed by a current academic teacher
- Discipline Report(s)
- HSPT Scores
- IEP/SAP/504 accommodation plan, if applicable
- Most recent psychoeducational testing, if applicable

Families must complete the following checklist items in the admissions portal.

- Submit the Student Questionnaire.
- Submit a Records Request to the registrar at your current school and, if applicable, previous school(s).
- Submit a Teacher Recommendation request.
- Upload a copy of the applicant's birth certificate.
- Upload a copy of the applicant's HSPT scores.
- Upload a copy of the applicant's accommodation plan and psychoeducational testing, if applicable.

Knight for a Day visits can be scheduled through the admissions portal checklist *after* the application is submitted.





SCHOLARSHIPS and FINANCIAL AID

Merit-Based Scholarships

Bishop O'Connell is proud to recognize students who demonstrate excellence in a variety of ways with our merit-based scholarships. **Scholarship recipients will be notified in their admissions decision packet.**

O'Connell Scholar

Students who receive an HSPT National Percentile Composite Score of 99% will qualify for a renewable scholarship of \$9,000.

Knights Recognition Scholarship

Students who receive an HSPT National Percentile Composite Score between 95% and 98% will qualify for a renewable scholarship between \$1,500 and \$4,500.

O'Donnell Family "Making a Difference" Award

This award was established to honor the O'Donnell family, specifically Maura O'Donnell and her siblings, who inspired the creation of Superdance, which raises money to find a cure for cystic fibrosis. Awarded to two students who have made a difference in their community by going above and beyond to help those in need. Scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000 applicable toward freshman year tuition. To qualify, students must submit a personal essay and a recommendation letter to the Admissions office.

De La Salle Award for Vocal Performance

Awarded to two students in recognition of exceptional talent, professionalism, and passion for the arts through vocal performance. Scholarship recipients will receive \$1,500 applicable toward freshman year tuition and must participate in at least one choral ensemble during their freshman year. Audition information can be found on our website under Admissions/Scholarships.

De La Salle Award for Instrumental Performance

Awarded to two students in recognition of exceptional talent, professionalism, and passion for the arts through instrumental performance. Scholarship recipients will receive \$1,500 applicable toward freshman year tuition and must participate in at least one instrumental ensemble during their freshman year. Audition information can be found on our website under Admissions/Scholarships.

Additional information can be found on our website under Admissions/Scholarships.

Financial Aid and Discounts

Bishop O'Connell works with FACTS Grants & Aid to administer need-based financial aid. Families who are in need of tuition assistance should submit their FACTS application early to maximize their chances for financial aid. Documents from the most recent tax year will be required.

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| November 1, 2026 | Financial Aid application for the 2027-2028 school year opens |
| January 11, 2027 | Deadline to submit the application and all documents. Applications submitted after the deadline are subject to funding availability. |
| February 12, 2027 | Financial aid decisions will be distributed directly by FACTS |

Discounts are available for employees within the Diocese of Arlington and active duty members of the military.

Questions about Financial Aid and Discounts? Contact financialaid@bishopoconnell.org.



HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST (HSPT)

The HSPT is required of every 8th grade student applying to a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Arlington.

What is the HSPT?

The HSPT is a comprehensive, timed placement test. The standardized test contains five sections that measure verbal ability, quantitative ability, reading comprehension, mathematics, and components of written language. The questions are designed to test the students at their curriculum level. This assessment tool is used by high schools for admissions review, academic scholarship awards and course level placement.

When is the HSPT?

Diocese of Arlington students will take the test on Thursday, December 3, 2026 at their school, during the regular school day. **Non-Diocesan students** should take the test on one of the following dates. Registration information can be found on our website under Admissions/Application Process.

- Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

How long is the HSPT?

The test will take approximately 2.5 hours. Extended time testing will take approximately 3 hours 45 minutes and is only available for students with documented accommodation plans. Please keep in mind that it is difficult to pinpoint exactly when the exam will end so families are asked to factor in extra time to account for potential delays.

Learning Plans and Accommodations

Students with an accommodation plan are entitled to specific testing accommodations. Please indicate that your student has an IEP/504/SAP when registering and send a copy of the plan to the Bishop O'Connell Admissions office at least two weeks prior to the testing date. Plans can be emailed to admissions@bishopoconnell.org.

Scores

Students may select three high schools for Scholastic Testing Service to send their scores. Test scores will be mailed to the student's home approximately three weeks after the testing date.

Can I take the HSPT more than once?

No. The HSPT can only be taken one time.

Snow Dates

Families are encouraged to mark the test date (and alternate snow date) on their calendars and plan accordingly. Additional testing dates will not be offered. Bishop O'Connell follows Fairfax County for all weather-related closures. Families will be notified via email if the test is canceled due to inclement weather.