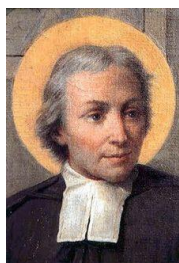


Saint Mary's College High School

A Lasallian Catholic School



We invite you to learn more about the heart and soul of Saint Mary's College High School as we enter our 161st year of educating the students "entrusted to our care."

Saint Mary's College High School is a Lasallian Catholic School that provides a human and Christian college preparatory education to students inspired by the pedagogy and vision of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the founder of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

Each year, Saint Mary's educates 630 students from over 50 Catholic, independent, and public schools throughout the Bay Area. We are proud to have been officially recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse high schools in the United States - 62% students of color. Our applicant pool for incoming freshmen for the past twenty years has been approximately 450 for an average class size of 160 students. In addition, there have been many students who want to transfer into Saint Mary's as sophomores and juniors. Our student attrition rate has been between 3% and 4% for the past five years.

SAINT MARY'S HISTORY AND MISSION

Saint Mary's was founded in 1863 in San Francisco. Five years after the school's founding, the De La Salle Christian Brothers, a religious order of educators, were requested by Archbishop Alemany of San Francisco to travel from New York to transform the struggling school. In 1868, a small group of De La Salle Christian Brothers took a leap of faith and traveled to California and began their ministry at Saint Mary's. The pedagogy, spirit, and culture of the De La Salle Christian Brothers and the writings and vision of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the Founders of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, continues to inspire Lasallian Educators today.



The Brothers' mission for their schools around the world reads as follows:

"The purpose of this Institute is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it."

Saint Mary's moved to Berkeley in 1927, where the Christian Brothers and their lay partners have served students to this day. They educated the whole person, providing a rich educational experience that teaches to the minds, souls, and touches the hearts of their students.



The tradition and heritage of the De La Salle Christian Brothers and the Lasallian Virtues and Core Principles continue to define us today. The Lasallian Core Principles are: *Faith in the Presence of God, Respect for All Persons, Quality Education, Inclusive Community, and Concern for the Poor and Social Justice*. Lasallian Virtues and Values will be central throughout all students' four years at Saint Mary's.

Saint Mary's programs are inspired by the pedagogy and vision of Saint La Salle, the De La Salle Christian Brothers Mission, Lasallian Core Principles, and the Ends Policies of the Board of Trustees, a governing board representing the Brothers. The Ends Policies have been approved by the Lasallian Educational Corporation (LEC), defining Saint Mary's College High School's Lasallian Catholic identity and direction:



Saint Mary's College High School shall fulfill the mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle in our contemporary society: to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor; to help them recognize their personal dignity and claim their rightful place in society; and to enable them to know God's saving presence in their daily lives.

In this community, the students:

- *are cared for and learn to care for themselves and others*
- *are challenged to engage in meaningful experiences which break down barriers that divide people*
- *are provided a college preparatory academic program, athletic program, and fine and performing arts program*
- *think critically about healthy lifestyle choices including responsible and ethical use of technology*
- *learn to become critical and independent thinkers with a life-long love of learning*
- *are provided opportunities for developing leadership skills and fostering a sense of community service*
- *learn to discern right from wrong*
- *learn to love one another as Christ loves us*

Our Lasallian Core Principles also shapes and guides our programs and our community:

- *Respect for All Persons;*
- *Living in an inclusive Community;*
- *Receiving a Quality Education;*
- *Concern for the Poor and understanding Social Justice;*
- *Faith in God's Presence.*

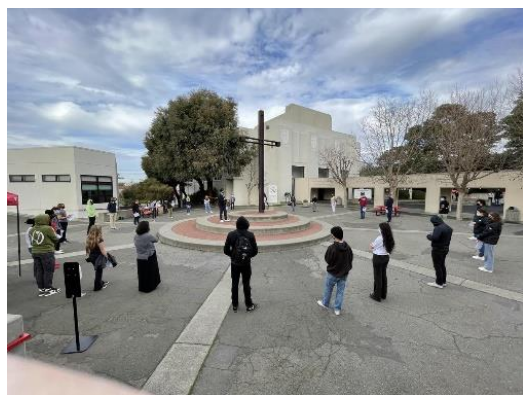
Inspired by Saint John Baptist de La Salle's vision and the Trustees policies, Saint Mary's College High School Mission statement was created:



As a Christ-centered community striving to live the mission of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Saint Mary's College High School is a Lasallian Catholic school where diversity and inclusion are essential, and quality education of the whole person is our active ministry. With community support and faith grounded in love, we teach one another to pursue a life of virtue, scholarship, and service.

Saint Mary's College High School has provided a "human and Christian Education" to thousands of students since 1863. We are very proud of our legacy, the success of the Lasallian Mission, our graduates, and feel blessed to teach adolescents at such a transformative time in their lives. Saint Mary's College High School relies upon successful partnerships with its parents and families, as we provide the best holistic quality education for those "entrusted to our care."

FAITH AND LASALLIAN SPIRITUALITY



Saint Mary's College High School is inspired by and adheres to our Lasallian Catholic Identity. We encourage all our students to continue to live their lives guided by the Gospel-based virtues of *Respect, Service, Courage, Justice, Hope, Love, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Compassion, Generosity, Redemption, Community, and Faith*. These virtues are universal, defining how we as humans should treat each other. We expect our students to adopt these values when interacting with their peers and their teachers as we

work to build a united, inclusive, and respectful school community.

As a Lasallian Catholic School, Saint Mary's believes that all of our students are children of God. Our students' faith perspectives, identities, ethnicities, and families contribute to our vibrant community. Our goal as an inclusive community is emphasizing what we share in common as we learn from one another. We believe in Jesus' message, "Love one another." This is the ultimate goal for the Saint Mary's Community.

Faith can be complex; a person's spiritual journey requires contemplation, introspection, and discussion, celebrated in a safe environment. During a student's four years at Saint Mary's, we will provide thoughtful, prayerful moments for quiet reflection, and space to ponder their spiritual journey through their adolescence.

The majority of our students embrace their family's faith tradition. Our hope is that as a member of this faith-based community, students will be inspired to continue to grow in their faith. Our goal is to support your child's faith journey.

For students who do not have a faith tradition, it is important that they are open to the spiritual experiences offered by the school. Time for quiet self-reflection from the day-to-day pressures is important for all members of the community. Saint Mary's expects that all students respect and support their peers as they nurture their faith. Saint Mary's expects that all students participate in our faith-based activities as we celebrate our unity with messages of hope, love, and peace.



THE PARTNERSHIP OF FAMILY AND SCHOOL

We invite you to the Saint Mary's Community. The administration, faculty, and staff look forward to working with you in partnership for your child's education and formation.

Volunteering at Saint Mary's

Even though there are no required volunteer hours for families at Saint Mary's, we count on support from parents and family members with their gifts of time to volunteer in the many events and activities we offer.

Not only does volunteering provide support for school programs, it gives parents and families the opportunity to meet and socialize with other families and with members of the school's administration and your child's teachers.

Student & Parent Handbook

Our Student & Parent Handbook covers our policies, goals, and expectations for you and for your child. The handbook is posted on our website.

The Student & Parent Handbook is a living document that the administration reviews each year. Our policies and procedures are guided and inspired by our Lasallian Catholic Identity, Gospel Values, and Lasallian Core Principles. Our Code of Conduct is aligned with Lasallian Catholic values and is informed by school law and our expertise and experience as educators.

While societal challenges continue to confront both schools and families, Saint Mary's is always guided by its Lasallian Catholic Values, policies from the Student and Parent Handbook, and, if needed, law-enforcement or legal professionals.

In the years your child is educated at Saint Mary's, there may be times when differences and disagreements between school and family occur. For the great majority of these disagreements, healthy conversation, a review of the school's policies, and a few deep breaths puts everyone back on track. However, there may be times when a family or the school must re-evaluate whether Saint Mary's is the best school for the student, especially when our Lasallian Values and the family's values do not align. It is essential that Saint Mary's maintains a safe and respectful campus. We hope that separation from the school does not have to take place, but

there are certain behaviors that are so inappropriate that they warrant a student's removal from the community.

Social Media

While the internet, online programs, and technical devices are important educational and communicative tools for our students, we are aware that some social-media platforms can be used to undermine the school's and family's values. The school endorses the appropriate use of social media, but hate speech, bullying, name-calling, cruelty, racism, bigotry, and social exclusion are counter to our values. This behavior has no place in our Lasallian Community.

Illegal Substances On-Campus

Saint Mary's takes a definitive stand on illegal substances for adolescents. While some of these substances are legal for adults, they are unhealthy and illegal for adolescents.

The use and possession of illegal substances by adolescents on-campus or at school sponsored events is both illegal and are a serious violation of school rules. Saint Mary's will not tolerate any sharing or selling of illegal substances. It is illegal and conflicts with our Lasallian values.

Adolescent Identity

Saint Mary's recognizes that an important developmental task of adolescents is to discover who they are and where they fit in. As a Lasallian Catholic school, Saint Mary's believes in the Gospel message of loving all people, and in our case especially, students. We support student self-expression that aligns with our handbook policies and Lasallian Core Principle of Respect for All Persons. We also have parameters outlined in the Student & Parent Handbook pertaining to student self-expression, dress, and appearance. Saint Mary's does not alter policies and procedures due to opinion, ideology, fashion, or preferences that do not align with our Lasallian Core Principles and values. In partnership with our families, Saint Mary's has had much success as some students discover their identity. However, even with the support the school provides, there have been times where a family or student's individual needs and requests cannot be accommodated. We acknowledge that our position of support is limited by our facilities and resources and that Saint Mary's values may not align with the values of others.

Adolescent Sexual Activity

Saint Mary's actively educates our students regarding what is appropriate sexual behavior for adolescents. We believe that most teenagers are not ready to manage the emotional consequences of sexual activity. At the same time, we do understand the world young people live in and the contradictory values proffered by much of popular culture. For that reason, Saint Mary's actively educates our students regarding sexual consent, self-respect, and respect for others. Saint Mary's will consistently encourage students to practice abstinence. Saint Mary's is often faced with the emotional and--at times--legal consequences associated when students become sexually active. As the primary educators of your child, parents are expected to actively teach and discuss with their children about appropriate sexual behavior as they align with your family values.

If students ask us about specifics regarding sex, we encourage them to have open and honest conversations with their families and their medical professional. Conversations regarding sexual responsibility, care, and respect for all people are core topics in our Health, Biology, and Religious Studies courses, and are regularly addressed in our Lasallian Days and Social Emotional Learning programs.

ACADEMICS: EXCELLENCE & EQUITY



Saint Mary's academic program has been carefully crafted and refined to provide the best possible secondary education for all learners. Excellence, opportunity, and equity are integral to our educational approach. Our curricular offerings, our school-wide assessment and grading policies, and the way we optimize learning time, provide all students of varied backgrounds with support and ample opportunity to achieve academically in a rigorous, standards-based learning environment.

Our curriculum's emphasis on the Humanities provides our students with a broad understanding of the human experience, but it goes beyond that of most high schools. One key way is in our approach to the study of history, at once expansive and inclusive. In addition to World History and United States History, all students take at least one course from our **"History Through Another's Eyes"** set of offerings—Islamic, African, Latin American, East Asian, or American Social History—so that they may more fully understand the contributions of underappreciated and overlooked civilizations, cultures, and peoples. Numerous other courses—Epistemology, Perspectives on Diversity, World Religions, to name just a few—deepen those lessons as they teach students to be better, critical thinkers.

Mathematics and Science are integral in deepening students' evidence-based analytical skills. Our ninth-grade introductory course for mathematics, Thinking Mathematically, applies mathematics to real-world problems in various disciplines.

Our school-wide program for assessment and grading, *Rigor with Redemption*, is substantially different from those of other schools. It is based on long-established research in educational measurement and assessment, resulting in a grading program that is fair, accurate, consistent, and equitable. *Rigor with Redemption* has these five goals:

- Accuracy in reporting levels of student academic achievement
- Consistency in grading among teachers
- Elimination of teachers' implicit biases by eliminating factors unrelated to achievement when determining grades
- Multiple opportunities for students to achieve mastery of course material
- Encouragement of strong habits of scholarship

Saint Mary's knows that academic excellence is most readily attained in an environment that prioritizes student well-being. We challenge our students with an excellent standards-based education in a socially and emotionally supportive environment. We believe the four years of high school are much more than stepping stones to college and career -- they are crucial to healthy adolescent development. At the same time, Saint Mary's has a proven record of our graduates' success at the college level.

The classes of 2013 and 2014 offer recent examples:

80% of Saint Mary's graduates from the classes of 2013 and 2014 pursued a post-secondary education and have earned college degrees, the vast majority, 96%, earned a bachelor's degree. By comparison, 62% of all U.S. high school students who start college have earned a degree, with 41% completing a bachelor's degree and 21% an associate's degree. (Source: National Student Clearinghouse)



Our graduates' post-secondary academic success is more evident in our college graduation data, particularly when it is disaggregated by our graduates' ethnicities.

SAINT MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL'S COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES, CLASSES OF 2013 & 2014, BY ETHNICITY*

	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>Two-Year Average</i>	<i>U.S.</i>
<i>Average**</i>				
Asian	78%	75%	77%	74%
Black/African-American	84%	72%	78%	40%
Hispanic/Latin	85%	72%	79%	54%
Two or More Races	75%	72%	74%	60%
White	76%	83%	80%	64%

*Source: National Student Clearinghouse

**Source: National Center for Education Statistics



THE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Saint Mary's works to create a society that offers equity, opportunity, and inclusion, one that embraces the American ideal embodied in *E Pluribus Unum*. Saint Mary's does not sponsor any on-campus clubs or organizations that separate or divide students by gender, politics, cultural, or racial groups.

Our Inclusive Community Initiative weaves the work of our co-curricular programs so that our students learn about and from each other, beyond classroom experiences. Rather than segregate our community, our program serves to unite, support, and strengthen the various social communities that make up our school. Saint Mary's understands there are differences and inequities in our society. We celebrate the differences as we work to eliminate the inequities.

A major segment of the Inclusive Community Initiative is our Brown Bag Series of focused discussions. This project was born out of a need for students and faculty to create a brave space for frank conversations to take place. In these structured discussions, students of a particular group or affinity, having gathered in the days prior to the Brown Bag session to plan what they want the community to hear and learn about, discuss their experiences as a member of that group, while other students and staff listen, learn, and appreciate those experiences—both for their distinctiveness and for their commonality. The result is twofold: a celebration of our distinctiveness and a recognition of our common humanity.

Brown Bag topics have included:

- *Growing Up Black in America*
- *Growing Up Asian in America*
- *Growing Up Multi-Racial in America*
- *Growing Up with Climate Change*
- *Growing Up Female in America*
- *Growing Up Jewish in America*
- *Growing Up Latinx in America*
- *Growing Up LGBTQ+ in America*
- *Growing Up with Loss in America*
- *Growing Up Male in America*
- *Growing Up Republican in the Bay Area*



COUNSELING AND STUDENT ADVOCACY

Counseling, Student Advocacy, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and Community Block are aligned with Saint Mary's Mission and Lasallian Core Principles. These programs address the social, emotional, and relational needs of our students, framed by Lasallian Catholic Values and the mission of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Our counselors provide academic and personal support to students. Our purpose is to walk alongside students during their high school journey. In situations when additional support is needed, counselors will provide referrals to appropriate professionals.

These areas are addressed by our Counseling services:

- Personal & Social Goals -- students acquire the interpersonal and communication skills to increase their understanding and respect of self and others.
- Academic Goals -- students develop the knowledge, the academic skills, and the Habits of Scholarship to become effective agents of their own learning.
- Post-Secondary/College Planning Goals -- through information sessions and by making resources available to research and apply to college, students plan their future.

STUDENT LIFE

The Student Life Program provides opportunities for students to develop relationships with peers and teachers outside of the classroom through participation in clubs and social events. While many activities are casual social gatherings, club participation also builds skills of leadership and collaboration. Involvement in student government teaches lessons in leadership, communication, and organization for the benefit of the entire class, and school community.



INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS: THE COACH AS AN EDUCATOR

Athletics are an integral part of Saint Mary's. The development of character and honor are paramount; teamwork and camaraderie are essential elements of a successful athletic team. A Saint Mary's coach, therefore, is an educator of young people. The field, track, and court are also places where young people acquire virtues and values our society needs.

Saint Mary's sports programs operate in a manner that embrace the social, spiritual, and physical development of student-athletes. All members of the community-- administrators, coaches, parents, and student-athletes—are expected to model sportsmanship and foster good character.

Saint Mary's is guided by our Lasallian Core Principles and values, as well as, TCAL & NOCAL rules, policies, and procedures.

PARENT ASSOCIATION

The school-parent relationship is a critical, often overlooked, element of secondary education. Parents are the primary educators of their children. We want our parents to be regular visitors to campus to support the arts and athletics. Our Parent Association sponsors regular gatherings for parents to meet and befriend each other. The school offers regular Parent Information evening meetings, and our Office of Campus Ministry sponsors days of reflection for adults. As partners in your child's education, we want to join you in the celebration of your child's growth.

TUITION AND FINANCES

Saint Mary's partners with our families to address the financial realities of funding a Saint Mary's education. Tuition and fundraising allow us to meet our expenses each year. Saint Mary's appreciates that families pay their tuition obligation in a timely manner, allowing us to

pay our employees and vendors. If there are difficulties with fulfilling timely tuition payments, it is essential to contact the Business Office immediately to make other arrangements.

Saint Mary's, like all Catholic schools, is non-profit. Our tuition covers only 85% of the costs associated with the school's programs. The school must continue to provide fair and just compensation for our remarkable teachers, administrators, coaches, and staff. Saint Mary's Advancement Team, with support from the Parent Association, many alumni and friends of Saint Mary's, fundraise to meet the remaining 15% of our budgeted needs.

Donating to Saint Mary's



While Saint Mary's *does not require a mandatory family donation*, we do ask that each family give to the school's Annual Fund, as together we work to close the 15% tuition gap.

What is covered in this 15% tuition gap? Programs such as athletics, performing arts, Lasallian Days, student transportation for teams and school excursions, and teacher/staff professional growth are funded by annual donations.

Additional fundraising also provides resources that directly serve our tuition assistance program. In keeping with the Christian Brothers' mission of providing support to families in great financial need, Saint Mary's distributes approximately 40% of tuition assistance. Additional fundraising projects include help with major campus renovations and various Lasallian educational programs. For example, our summer programs aimed at educationally marginalized middle school students helps prepare them for a college-preparatory education.

"Have much care and affection for the young people entrusted to you."

- John Baptist de La Salle



The Saint Mary's Community prays that our students will learn to "love one another" and continue to respect themselves and others. We look forward to "walking with them" for four-years as they enter adulthood with hope, love, charity, and faith as their guide.

As Saint Mary's celebrates its 160th year of educating the students "entrusted to our care", we remain firmly rooted in our Lasallian Catholic Identity and Core Principles. Students who are embracing of a Lasallian Education will find it a transformative four-year experience. We pray for both families and educators, for there is no more important obligation than that of raising and educating young people.