SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP

CHICAGO, IL
PRESIDENT
START DATE: JULY 2020
WWW.IGNATIUS.ORG
Mission Statement
Saint Ignatius College Prep, a Jesuit Catholic school in the heart of Chicago, is a diverse community dedicated to educating young men and women for lives of faith, love, service and leadership. Through outstanding teaching and personal formation, the school challenges its talented student body to intellectual excellence, integrity, and life-long learning and growth. Inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ, this community strives to use God's gifts to promote social justice for the greater glory of God.

Fast Facts
- Founded: 1869
- Total students: 1,430
- Non-Catholic students: 17.3%
- Religious on staff: 8
- Total faculty: 105
- Faculty with advanced degrees: 83%
- Students receiving financial aid: 30%
- Financial aid awarded: $5.1M
- Accredited by: AdvancEd, Illinois State Board of Education

Overview
Founded in 1869, Saint Ignatius College Prep is Chicago’s premiere Catholic high school and undoubtedly one of the very best Catholic schools in the United States. Some 1,430 students are currently enrolled, 30% receive financial aid, and approximately one-third of all students are students of color. The academic program, faculty, and student body are stellar. Enrollment is at an all-time high, demand for admission is intense, and generations of alumni are profoundly grateful for their Ignatius experience. As one faculty member notes, “The way people live the mission here seeps into your soul—it is a living thing, a constant and inspiring force for good.”

Under the tenure of the current President, Father Michael Caruso, S.J., who has served the school with great distinction and dedication for the past nine years, Saint Ignatius has flourished in every dimension of its mission. Its programming in intellectual and spiritual growth is robust, while its historic role as a beacon of opportunity and transformation in Chicago’s urban core continues to be an essential element of its mission and reputation. The school will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019-2020, Father Caruso’s 10th and concluding year as President, but his legacy will help propel the school for years to come.

As with all Jesuit secondary institutions, the school operates in the President/Principal Model, an elegant bifurcation of duties in which the president functions as the chief executive, visionary, and primary institution builder. The next President will be expected to continue the positive momentum while executing the long-range plan and taking the school to the next level. This is a rare and exciting opportunity for an entrepreneurial executive with passion for mission to lead one of the finest Catholic secondary schools in the country.
THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1869, the school is celebrating its sesquicentennial year and is recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Saint Ignatius College Prep’s original school building is one of only five existing Chicago structures to predate the Great Fire of 1871. The school resides on a 26-acre campus, which includes the original building and modern facilities adjacent to the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is located 1.5 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop.

The student body at Saint Ignatius is diverse. Students come from every neighborhood of Chicago, the surrounding suburbs, and even Northwest Indiana. The gender makeup is approximately 50% female and 50% male. Approximately 85% of students are Catholic, and over 31% are of Asian, African American, and Latino background. The school takes care to maintain open discussion around diversity issues by creating opportunities for the school community to show and develop greater respect and appreciation for differences. These include collaboration among diversity themed student groups and faculty committees, programming for diversity education, and participation in outside events and speaking forums.

Through four years of strong academic programming, exceptional fine arts and athletics offerings, and faith development, Saint Ignatius graduates possess five mutually related and intertwined qualities:

Religious
The graduate will have examined his or her religious feelings and beliefs with a view to choosing a fundamental orientation toward God and establishing a relationship with a religious tradition and community. S/he is beginning to take more responsibility for exploring, confirming, and living out of his or her own faith.
Loving
The graduate is on the threshold of being able to move beyond self-interest or self-centeredness in relationships with others. He or she is beginning to be able to risk some deeper levels of relationship in which one can disclose self and accept the mystery of another person and cherish that person. He or she has personally experienced moments of God’s love. The graduate is coming to know, accept, and love self as a person worthy of love.

Open to growth
The Ignatius student at the time of graduation has matured as a person emotionally, intellectually, physically, socially, and religiously to a level that reflects some intentional responsibility for one’s growth.

Committed to doing justice
The Ignatius student at graduation has achieved considerable knowledge of some of the many needs of local and wider communities and is preparing for the day when he or she will take a place in these communities as a competent, concerned, and responsible member.

Intellectually competent
The graduate will exhibit a mastery of those academic requirements for advanced forms of education. The graduate moreover is beginning to see the need for intellectual integrity in his or her personal quest for religious truth and in his or her response to issues of social justice.
Academics

Saint Ignatius College Prep offers a rigorous academic curriculum in the Jesuit tradition. Students enroll in a strict liberal arts program in order to develop critical thinking, communication, and learning skills. The school is committed to using the most recently available technology to enhance its educational programs and has fully implemented a one-to-one iPad program to the student body and faculty.

Students are encouraged to be curious, thus discovering and exploring new ideas and issues. All students at Saint Ignatius are expected to carry a minimum of five courses in every semester of attendance. Generally, this means six courses per semester in freshman/sophomore year and five courses per semester in junior/senior year. Courses include English, language (Spanish, Latin/Greek, French, Chinese), mathematics, religious studies, science, social studies, fine arts, wellness, and electives. Many courses are available at the Honors and Advanced Placement levels. Saint Ignatius has also partnered with Saint Louis University to establish a dual enrollment program. Students enrolled in approved courses can register for college credit through Saint Louis University. College credit earned through the program has been accepted at over 100 colleges and universities.

Saint Ignatius provides a comprehensive, ongoing college placement service that includes testing, individual counseling, family interviews, and application processing for college admissions, scholarships, and financial aid. Four full-time College Counselors are dedicated to developing relationships with many colleges through college tours, admissions representative visits, and national conferences in order to best advocate for students and assist them in sorting through their options to find the right fit school. Students have access during their lunch periods to visit with over 250 college representatives that visit Saint Ignatius each fall.
The Athletic Department at Saint Ignatius endeavors to match the academic excellence of the school by offering eight club sports and 26 interscholastic sports for girls and boys. Coaches educate and condition the minds and bodies of student-athletes, effectively teaching, motivating, and preparing young men and women for the challenges and barriers of athletic competition. Through participation in athletics, Saint Ignatius athletes mature and learn to take responsibility for their growth by developing loyalty, pride, integrity, and commitment.

As a member of the Chicago Catholic League, the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference, and the Metro Catholic Aquatics Conference, the Wolfpack prides itself on competing with top-flight competition on the freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity levels. Nearly 65% of students participate in athletics. Teams include cross country, field hockey, football, golf, rowing, sailing, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, volleyball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, dance team, hockey, wrestling, baseball, lacrosse, rugby, softball, track and field, and water polo.

College Placement

The following is a selection of the colleges and universities to which members of the Class of 2018 enrolled, among others:

American University
Arizona State University
Bates College
Boston College
Boston University
Colgate University
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
DePaul University
Duke University
Elon University
Fordham University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Howard University
Loyola University Chicago
Marquette University
Miami University, Oxford
New York University
Northwestern University
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary’s College
Santa Clara University
Syracuse University
The University of Iowa
Tulane University
Univ. of California, Berkeley
University of Chicago
Univ. of Colorado at Boulder
Univ. of IL at Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Xavier University
Yale University

ATHLETICS
FAITH LIFE

The expression of Catholic faith, further animated by Ignatian spirituality and the school’s Jesuit heritage, is at the heart of everything at Saint Ignatius College Prep. The Formation and Ministry Department coordinates the worship and faith formation of the internal community of students, faculty, and staff. This includes all liturgies, retreats, community service opportunities, justice advocacy programs, and other programming that celebrates the active presence of God and gives students opportunities for spiritual growth.

As a Christian, Catholic community, Saint Ignatius invites the entire student and adult community to full participation in the celebration of Mass and the Eucharist. Students and faculty gather in Holy Family, the landmark church directly west of Saint Ignatius, to pray as a school community. The school year begins with the Mass of the Holy Spirit and concludes with a year-end liturgy. The year is punctuated by all-school liturgies, class Masses, and Catholic Feast days such as the Solemnity of All Saints, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and Ash Wednesday. The Eucharist is offered every day before school for faculty and students. On the first Friday of each month, the school gathers in Spirit Wear for a spirited, student-directed Mass. Student activities clubs and organizations often fill ministerial roles for this Mass.

Retreats are an integral part of the way each student is challenged to grow in Christian self-understanding, to develop a life of prayer and worship, and to respond to Christ’s call to serve others. Every student is required to attend a retreat in his or her first, second, and third years at Saint Ignatius. Building on successive themes, the first three retreats incorporate elements of service, prayer, small group process, and large group activities to introduce students to faith sharing, prayerful reflection, and various forms of prayer. Senior retreats are optional, and students can
currently choose between Kairos and Oramus, which reinforce themes developed in the first three experiences and provide a much deeper, personal experience of God’s grace.

Ignatian Values Days (IVDs) are days of prayer, mission-reflection, and worship. As a community, Saint Ignatius engages in creative, faculty and student-generated reflection activities that feature speakers, prayer experiences, and alternative cross-curricular programming. IVDs are planned and facilitated by a committee comprised of student leaders, faculty, and staff.

Service and immersion opportunities are offered throughout the year under the guidance of class year chaplains. Additionally, all members of the Saint Ignatius community are encouraged to undertake service work at appropriate department-approved locations. Service is an opportunity to build relationships directly with people in need. Excellent opportunities are available through tutoring programs, nursing homes, soup kitchens, hospitals, parish outreach, advocacy organizations, and other not-for-profit organizations. Freshmen commit themselves to complete 10 hours of service. Sophomores commit themselves to complete 25 hours of service and more fully reflect on this experience through their Religious Studies class. Ideally, Juniors and Seniors are then moved to a lifelong commitment of service, justice work, and faith. This can be highlighted by participation in the summer immersion program leading up to the student’s senior year, as well as enrolling in the senior Religious Studies honors class, which includes a service learning opportunity.
Chicago, Illinois

Chicago is the third most populous city in the United States. With more than 2.7 million residents, it is the largest city in both the state of Illinois and the Midwest region. The extended Chicago metropolitan area is home to nearly 10 million residents. Today, positioned along Lake Michigan, Chicago is known as an international hub for finance, commerce, industry, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. O’Hare International is the second busiest airport in the world. One of the city’s strengths is that it has one of the world’s largest and most diversified economies, with no single industry employing more than 14% of the workforce.

Chicago is also one of the most visited cities in the United States and home to several top universities, including the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The city hosts sporting teams in each of the major professional leagues and has a vibrant arts community, which includes The Art Institute of Chicago, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Goodman Theater, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Lyric Opera, and the Joffrey Ballet. Cultural activities and entertainment abound for Chicago visitors and residents alike. Chicago is known for its heritage as a center for live music, especially the blues, and for the long-running Second City comedy club. It is also home to the influential Poetry magazine, founded in 1912. Contributors include many of the 20th centuries more respected poets, including Langston Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Gwendolyn Brooks, William Carlos Williams, and the Chicago-area’s own Carl Sandburg.

Chicago’s lakeside continental climate ensures four distinct seasons: generally hot and humid summers, cold and snowy winters, and mild, dry springs and autumns. Upon its incorporation, Chicago chose the motto Urbs in Horto or “City in a Garden.” Today, 552 parks make up the Chicago Park District. Lincoln Park alone covers 1,200 acres and welcomes over 20 million visitors each year.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

As stated earlier in this document, Saint Ignatius College Prep is a rock-solid institution with an exceptional brand, deeply held traditions, and prominent presence in its community. The student experience is extraordinary in every respect and built on a rich foundation of Ignatian spirituality, a warm and welcoming ethos, and a culture of high achievement. The next President will need to be a prudent and artful leader who can balance respect for the school's current strong market position and financial condition with the ongoing need to innovate, strive for continuous improvement and excellence, and set new and challenging goals for the community.

In particular, the next President should be mindful of the following opportunities and challenges:

• While enrollment is currently robust, the school faces increased competitive pressure from other Catholic, independent, and, more recently, elite public schools. Continued focus on enrollment management strategies will be key for future success.
• Finding ways to manage and reduce the escalation of costs and to strengthen financial aid resources is crucial in order to attract qualified students, keep the school affordable for families, including those of the middle class.
• Leverage the excitement generated by the school’s 150th Anniversary celebration to fulfill the financial aid, academic excellence, and campus enhancement goals of the Capital Campaign.
• Develop well thought-out strategies for long term financial and programmatic sustainability.
• Initiate comprehensive planning for the recruitment, assessment, compensation, and professional growth of faculty and administration, including succession planning for key roles.
DESIRED Qualities AND qualifications

As the primary institution builder, the President needs to be a dynamic and visionary leader with outstanding communications skills and an appropriate and disciplined sense of urgency. The board welcomes high performing candidates from varied mission-critical career platforms including other Catholic and independent schools as well as higher education, non-profit foundations, associations, charities and the like, as well as governmental, civic, and professional services arenas.

In particular, the following qualities and qualifications will be expected:

• A practicing Catholic (preferably with Jesuit experience) who is faith-filled and exemplifies that faith with passion and authenticity.
• A dynamic, visionary leader who can vigorously advance the mission of the school, ensure its Catholic identity, nurture its academic excellence and distinctiveness, and sustain its commitment to diversity and social justice.
• A strategic thinker who, in concert with the senior administrative team, can help shape a first-rate strategic plan while also prioritizing excellence and prudent management of daily operations.
• A visible and accessible leader, who, while being decisive and energizing, also knows how to engage, connect, and communicate with key stakeholders and mobilize their support.
• A highly skilled, passionate, and effective fundraiser who is willing to invest the required time and effort in this vital function.
• A confident seasoned leader who not only excels in directing the school but also embraces the statesmanlike role of representing the school and its Jesuit ideals in the broader Chicago community and nationally as well.
**To Apply**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A thoughtful cover letter expressing interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A one-page statement of educational or leadership philosophy and practice;
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted until a serious mutual interest is established and not without the candidate’s permission), to:

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