



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL
La Cañada, CA

PRINCIPAL
Start Date: July 1, 2023
sfhs.net



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

Mission

St. Francis High School, a Catholic college preparatory school, develops faithful men, loving brothers, virtuous leaders, and dedicated learners in the Capuchin Franciscan tradition of love, discipline, and prayer.

Philosophy

St. Francis High School strives to:

- Enrich the mind and heart through the teachings of Jesus Christ and Francis of Assisi;
- Strengthen the Franciscan values of respect for others and self through humility, prayer, and service, especially to the poor and marginalized;
- Create a brotherhood for young men of diverse backgrounds;
- Envision a Franciscan education not as an end in itself, but as a means of forging men of virtue.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1946 by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars, St. Francis High School is a Catholic, college preparatory school for young men in grades 9-12. Throughout its history, the school has encouraged students to strive for excellence without arrogance and live a life of goodness and virtue that is consistent with humility, service, and Catholic values.

The school is operated by a dedicated and knowledgeable Board of Directors under the sponsorship of the Capuchin Franciscan Order of the Western America Province. SFHS is accredited by WCEA (Western Catholic Education Association) and WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges). It is a member of NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) and the International Boys' Schools Coalition.

The President/Principal model was adopted in 1993, with the intention of a Capuchin Franciscan President serving as the spiritual mentor charged with the strategic vision and long-term needs of the school and the Principal focused on the day-to-day mission of educating young men and growing the school's program. This model has served the school well and the next Principal will be expected to embrace this model and work in a collaborative and complementary manner with the President.

At a Glance

Founded: 1946

Total students: 620

Percent of Students identifying as
students of color: 53%

Total faculty: 62

Percent of Faculty identifying as
Non-Caucasian: 22%

Faculty with advanced degrees: 3 PhD
and 41 MA degrees

Catholic students: 66%

Average class size: 25

Financial aid budget: \$2.1 million

Students receiving aid: 30%

Tuition (2022-2023): \$20,700

Endowments: \$11.3 million



St. Francis High School seeks an inspiring, experienced instructional leader as its next Principal to help maintain the school's mission and values, while providing leadership towards continued school development in an ever-evolving world. This is an outstanding opportunity for the candidate who will find joy and deep satisfaction working with a dedicated and loyal faculty, respectful and hardworking students, committed and generous parents and Board of Directors.

THE SCHOOL

St. Francis High School endeavors to develop in its students moral and spiritual maturity, intellectual growth, responsible citizenship, social awareness, physical and emotional well-being, and an understanding of the alternatives in their vocational and educational futures.

While the curriculum includes what the school wants every graduate to know, the Integral Student Outcomes describe what the school hopes its graduates will be:

SPIRITUAL MEN who practice the enrichment of the heart by:

living with integrity; recognizing that life is a gift from God; understanding and demonstrating Catholic values in the Franciscan tradition; serving the community, especially the poor and marginalized; developing healthy relationships with God, others, and self; achieving and maintaining spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental well-being.



INTELLECTUAL MEN who practice the enrichment of the mind by: using critical thinking and problem-solving skills; speaking and writing articulately; understanding and respecting diversity; exhibiting creativity and an appreciation for the arts; using technology ethically and responsibly; understanding cross-curricular relationships; cultivating global consciousness.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

St. Francis High School is dedicated to ensuring that the values taught by St. Francis to his Brothers, as well as the virtues taught by Jesus to his disciples, are incorporated throughout the school. The Office of Franciscan Spirit & Life offers liturgies, retreats, pilgrimages to Assisi, a Christian service program, and the Franciscan virtues program. In addition to the 4-year requirement of Religious Studies, each student has an obligation to complete a designated amount of service during each of his four years at SFHS.

The presence of Friars on campus as teachers in religious and academic subject areas is seen as a strength of the school and an opportunity for students to have men of faith in their lives.

ACADEMICS

Each St. Francis student receives a well-rounded education with courses in English, mathematics, physical education, religious studies, science, social studies, technology, visual and performing arts, and world languages. The school prides itself in providing a strong academic, college preparatory program to all students while offering academic rigor and AP and Honors classes to those students who want that challenge. Students and parents often cite as a strength of the school the help inside and outside of the classroom that is offered by faculty and staff.



The Counseling Department is committed to the social/emotional development and well-being of the boys in their care. As the students move through their time at St. Francis, college counselors help the boys and their families consider course selections at the school as well as post-secondary options that will be good matches for the boys. The quality of the academic program is reflected in the the variety of outstanding Catholic and secular colleges and universities in California and across the nation to which our graduates are accepted and attend. [See full list here.](#)

A signature program at the school is a Kinesiology and Rehabilitation course designed for 11th and 12th grade students oriented towards science and interested in the healthcare field. This course, the first UC approved lab science course in California, provides students an understanding of anatomy, physiology, rehabilitation, biomechanics, and the opportunity to assist the SFHS trainers at various athletic events.

ARTS

A lifelong appreciation of and participation in the arts is essential to the development of young men at SFHS. To achieve this, each student is required to take an Introduction to Visual & Performing Arts Course. Electives are offered in drama, mass media: television & film production, chorus, studio arts, theater arts, drum line/pit ensemble, and graphic design.

The Degheri Performing Arts Center built in 2002 houses art studios and classrooms and a theater which showcases dramatic and musical productions and choral concerts. Students learn television and broadcast production in the KNIT-TV studio where they produce a daily newscast program.

The Visual & Performing Arts Department sponsors a week-long celebration which includes a video and film festival, drama competitions, choral concert, drama presentations, musicians showcase, international food fair, and art exhibits.



ATHLETICS

The St. Francis Athletic Department fosters a community where players, coaches, and parents work for the personal development of student-athletes through a commitment to team goals and the school's philosophy. In the pursuit of athletic excellence, important life skills are taught, and personal character is emphasized.

The school's athletic program is steeped in tradition with impressive individual and team performances. The Golden Knights compete in 12 different sports within the highly competitive Mission League, part of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section. Baseball, basketball, football lacrosse, track, and volleyball are offered at the Freshman, JV, and Varsity levels; cross country, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, and water polo are offered at the JV and Varsity levels.

On campus facilities include a recently renovated gymnasium, Friedman Field at Jim Bonds Stadium, and a state-of-the-art Mozilo Family Field House. Off-campus, the Glendale Sports Field is the new home for the baseball team.



STUDENT LIFE

Students are encouraged to participate and become involved in clubs and organizations to enhance their high school experience beyond the classroom. Faculty members serve as moderators, and this provides another opportunity for close student-faculty relationships. Examples of student clubs include coding club, diversity leadership council, sports medicine club, mountain biking club, and Habitat for Humanity. [See the full list here.](#)

All-school assemblies and liturgies, attendance at athletic events and theater productions, the Link program, class retreats, and the Senior Kairos program are all ways that a sense of belonging, and brotherhood are created.

LA CAÑADA, CALIFORNIA

La Canada Flintridge, commonly known as La Canada, is a city in the foothills of the Verdugo Mountains in Los Angeles County adjacent to Pasadena, CA and the home to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

While the school's address places it in La Canada Flintridge, the school draws its students from several cities in Los Angeles County and San Gabriel Valley - anchored by the city of Pasadena. With a population of 142,000, Pasadena is a community that values education with a number of excellent private schools that serve as feeder schools for St. Francis. It is home to Caltech, the Rose Bowl, Huntington Gardens, the Pasadena Playhouse, and the Norton Simon Museum. The city of Los Angeles (only 15 miles away) is home to UCLA, USC, and 841 museums and galleries.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Given St. Francis's distinctive mission and its commitment to nurturing excellence and goodness in its students, the Principal must possess an appreciation for and a genuine passion for working with young men and supporting educational opportunities that treat each student as an individual gift from God.

Together with the President, the Principal is expected to be committed to the community at large by engaging with alumni and parents and by providing a sense of belonging and brotherhood for all students. Maintaining enrollment numbers and marketing the value proposition of a SFHS education in the larger community will also be an important part of the new Principal's role.

Specific opportunities and challenges facing the next Principal include:

- Overseeing and promoting high standards and expectations for all students;
- Articulating a clear academic vision that is communicated fully both internally and externally;
- Maintaining and respecting diversity;
- Connecting Franciscan values, mission, and philosophy to curricular and co-curricular programs;
- Attracting and retaining a high-quality faculty and staff who will model lifelong learning and engage in ongoing professional growth;
- Enriching and enhancing the curriculum and programs;
- Expanding outreach to Catholic, independent, and public middle school students with year-long or summer classes in order to enhance enrollment efforts;
- Providing opportunities for partnerships with alumni.



QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

SFHS seeks an energetic, compassionate, trustworthy, experienced leader who will inspire and promote a stimulating learning environment and a community which fosters a sense of belonging. The ideal principal will be a practicing Catholic with a strong spiritual and moral compass who will live out and support the Catholic faith and Franciscan values that are at the core of St. Francis High School.

Specific qualities and characteristics for the next Principal include:

- An ability to build, lead and work with a team;
- Experience hiring, working with, and evaluating faculty;
- Knowledge of and passion for an all-boys education;
- A demonstrated ability to protect traditions while leading and remaining open to change;
- Critical thinking skills that successfully focus on bridging disparate points of view;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Experience and/or interest in growing the admissions practices and process.



TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A statement of educational philosophy;
- A completed Candidate Questionnaire (to be supplied by the consultants) to:

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