



St. Patrick Catholic School
9635 Ferndale Road
Dallas, TX 75238

Principal Search

START DATE: JULY 2024



OUR VISION

St. Patrick Catholic School graduates have a mission rooted in their Catholic faith to use their God-given gifts to serve others and participate wholeheartedly in communities in which they live; they are well equipped with skills and knowledge to transform their world.



OUR MISSION

We are called to embrace the Gospel and transform the hearts and minds of the St. Patrick community.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that each child is uniquely created and loved by God; therefore, we are called to provide a safe and supportive community committed to academic excellence, faith formation and service. Through teaching, motivating and inspiring as Jesus did, we strive to transform our students and school community spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically and emotionally.



The History

The history of St. Patrick School coincides with the history of St. Patrick Parish. On March 17, 1963, the Bishop of Dallas, Thomas K. Gorman, issued the decree that established St. Patrick Parish north of White Rock Lake in Dallas, Tx. The area is located northeast of downtown Dallas and is home to hiking and biking trails, along with the acclaimed [Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden](#).

The school opened in September 1964. The Sisters of Notre Dame of the Dallas province and lay teachers staffed the school with an enrollment of 326 students. The Sisters led the school until 1971, when the first lay principal assumed leadership of St. Patrick Catholic School. St. Patrick is one of thirty-six schools located in the Diocese of Dallas. <https://csodallas.org/>



In 1987 a vast building expansion program was completed adding eight classrooms, a science lab, a computer lab, an enlarged library, conference and tutor rooms, faculty room, a gym, an enlarged cafeteria and preschool classrooms. A second major building project was completed in 2002. This expansion included the addition of a new computerized library with a large computer/media area and two music rooms. An Extended Day program was opened in the fall of 1987 to provide after-school care for students. A preschool program opened in the fall of 1988.

St. Patrick School has an Advisory Council, appointed by the principal, which serves as the policy-making body. An active parent/teacher organization, the PATS Club, provides educational programs for parents, services in the school, and does fundraising for special projects or needs for the school.

St. Patrick School recently celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. St. Patrick graduates attend a variety of high schools, most notably the three Catholic high schools located within a ten-mile radius of SPS: Bishop Lynch, Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas and Ursuline Academy. What sets St. Patrick Catholic School apart is its culture. The student body is diverse; it admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin. The children are prepared not just to pass exams and join high school, but for the final exam of life, and for admittance, God-willing, into the college of saints.

Programs

St. Patrick Catholic School is committed to transforming the hearts and minds of students through academic excellence, faith formation and service. The Diocesan [curriculum](#) serves as a model for content and pacing at each grade level. The school prepares students to be empathetic leaders by developing their critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills. At all grade levels, the school is guided by the principles and values instilled by the Virtue Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD) program. Graduates are well-equipped for the challenges and opportunities that await them in high school and beyond.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

At St. Patrick, Pre-K families can choose between half-day and full-day school. The Pre-K programs are centered around faith, community, and academics. Catholic faith-based learning plants seeds of compassion, self-control, moral integrity, right judgment and family values using VBRD. The full-day kindergarten program provides a developmentally appropriate balance of learning through whole group, small groups, individual, and play-centered activities. The Early Childhood program instills a foundation for learning, facilitates intellectual, physical, and social emotional growth, as well as encourages students to grow in their faith and practice living with virtue.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1-4)

In the elementary grades at St. Patrick, with faith integrated into all subjects, teachers encourage students to collaborate, use strategies for discovery, and grow in all areas. The school promotes virtues by teaching about the saints and new virtues each month through the VBRD program. The St. Patrick's elementary classrooms are student-centered, where students become independent learners. Each elementary classroom is equipped with technology to support learning and help students grow in digital literacy. Students in grades K-2 have access to a Makerspace where they can invent, build, explore, and discover through hands-on learning. Starting in grade 3, all students utilize the St. Patrick's SmartLab Innovation Center where they can explore STEM and media arts through applied technology and project-based learning. St. Patrick's offers a *Take Flight* program for students with dyslexia.



We were drawn to Catholic schools due to their long-standing tradition of prioritizing not only academic excellence, but also moral and spiritual development by instilling values that shape children into well-rounded, faithful individuals. St. Patrick's school size has delivered an intimate yet academically challenging environment, within a nurturing community that beautifully integrates our Catholic faith into all parts of the school day.

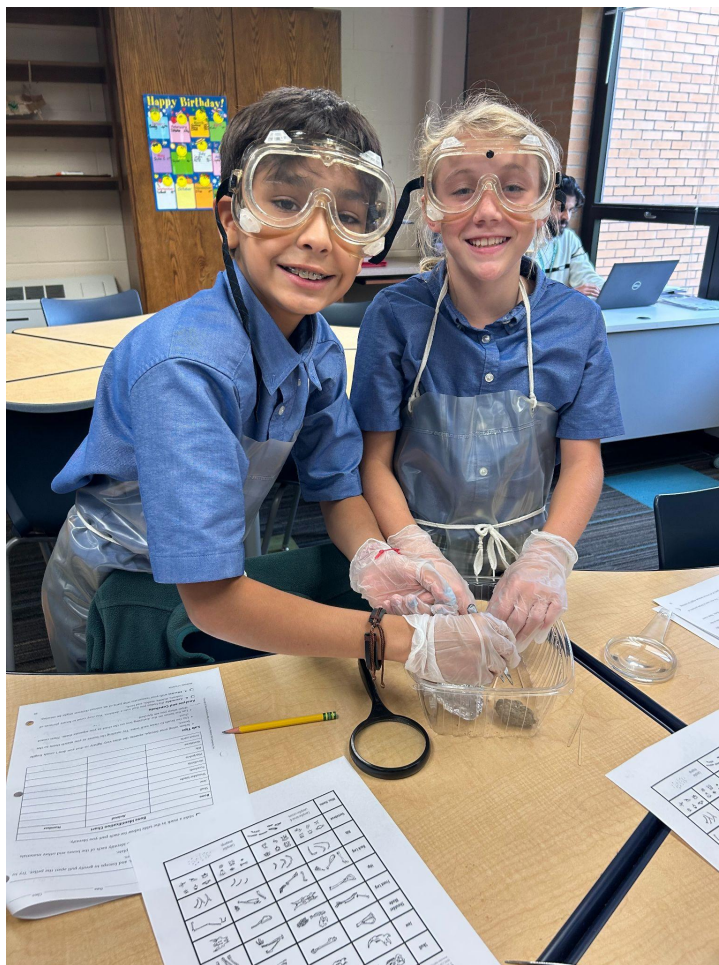
—Current Parent

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 5-8)

Classroom learning is based on student collaboration, technology-centered activities, and classroom discussion, as well as direct teaching from dedicated teachers. It incorporates a growth mindset, various learning styles, differentiation, and rigor. The Content Mastery Program provides support to students with learning differences. Middle school students have access to 1:1 technology and a SmartLab, where they complete STEM projects. The VBRD program extends to middle school, helping students learn to act with virtue. All middle school students attend mass twice a week, have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as prepare for spiritual milestones like Confirmation which takes place in 8th grade. In addition, middle school students participate in a year-long service project.

Seventh and Eighth graders can choose from a variety of electives including choir, band, art, speech and drama, robotics, yearbook, and newsletter.

SPS offers many extra-curricular activities. SPS is part of the Dallas Parochial League which offers a variety of team and individual sports. The speech, drama and choir programs offer opportunities for competition and participation in productions on campus. Student Council and National Junior Honor Society are available to students in the middle school.



LEARN MORE

Click on the links below to learn more about St. Patrick Catholic School:

[Wonder Enrichment](#)

[Take Flight](#)

[Guidance](#)

[Child Life Specialist](#)

[Content Mastery Program](#)

[National Junior Honor Society](#)

[Smart Lab](#)

[Dallas Parochial League](#)



Fast Facts



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

FOUNDED: 1964

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 421

Male: 48%

Female: 52%

STUDENT TEACHER RATIO: 11:1

ETHNICITY:

Non-Hispanic: 73%

Hispanic: 27%

RACE:

Asian: 10%

Black/African American: 6%

White: 75%

Other: 9%

RELIGION:

Catholic: 87%

Non-Catholic: 13%



FINANCIAL

SY 2024 TUITION:

PARISHIONERS:

Pre-K: \$6,285 (1/2 Day)

\$8,125 (Full Day)

K-8: \$9,500

NON-PARISHIONERS:

Pre-K: \$8,125 (1/2 Day)

\$11,000 (Full Day)

K-8: \$12,500

TUITION ASSISTANCE: \$310,000 to 28% of Students



FACULTY

TOTAL FACULTY: 60 (52 Fulltime)

Female: 90%

Male: 10%

RELIGION:

Catholic: 97%

FACULTY WITH ADVANCED DEGREES: 72%

ETHNICITY:

Non-Hispanic: 67%

Hispanic: 33%

AVERAGE YEARS TEACHING: 12 Years



ASSOCIATIONS & AFFILIATIONS



The Position

St. Patrick Catholic School (SPS), a Pre-K-8 elementary school located in the White Rock Lake area of Dallas, Texas, announces its search for an experienced, energetic and innovative leader to serve as its next principal. The position is effective as of July 1, 2024.

St. Patrick Catholic School opened in 1964. SPS is a fully accredited diocesan school with 421 current students and a faculty and staff of 60. St. Patrick's mission is to "embrace the Gospel and transform the hearts and minds of the St. Patrick community." The school believes that each child is uniquely created and loved by God. The school and its expansive campus provide a safe and supportive community committed to academic excellence, faith formation and service. Beginning with Early Childhood education, the school strives to instill a love of learning in developmentally appropriate school experiences. St. Patrick's academic curriculum is aligned with the Diocese of Dallas Standards-based curriculum. Along with robust offerings in core subjects, including religion, the school offers a gifted and talented enrichment program, a Take Flight Program for students with dyslexia, and middle school electives in areas such as band, choir, art, robotics, and drama. An Extended Day program serves over one hundred students each day.

The ideal candidate to lead St. Patrick will possess the following:

- Five or more years of collaborative leadership experience as a principal and/or assistant principal (Catholic school leadership and experience preferred).
- An advanced degree in Educational Administration/Leadership or Principal Certification (may be in-progress)
- A commitment to promoting and supporting the spiritual growth of the school community
- Demonstrated experience working with school communities on curriculum and staff development, and student formation.
- This candidate will be a faith-filled practicing Catholic.

"St. Patrick Catholic School is a special community. We support one another and are guided by cultivating our Catholic culture among faculty and students. We are excited to join as a team of clergy, administrators, teachers, and parents to create a positive, loving, learning environment for St. Patrick students"

- Current Teacher

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for the next Principal abound at St. Patrick Catholic School.

- They will be able to build on the excellent reputation enjoyed by the school, while enhancing the programs and services provided to students and families.
- The school operates with a balanced budget and has an endowment to support the operating budget.
- The school has enjoyed a stable enrollment and has the capacity to grow. It is located in an area where the average household income and median price of a house are above the national and Dallas averages.
- The school was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2005 and continues to benefit from a strong reputation for academic excellence and Catholic identity.



PRIORITIES

As such, the next Principal will be asked to focus on the following priorities for the next three to five years:

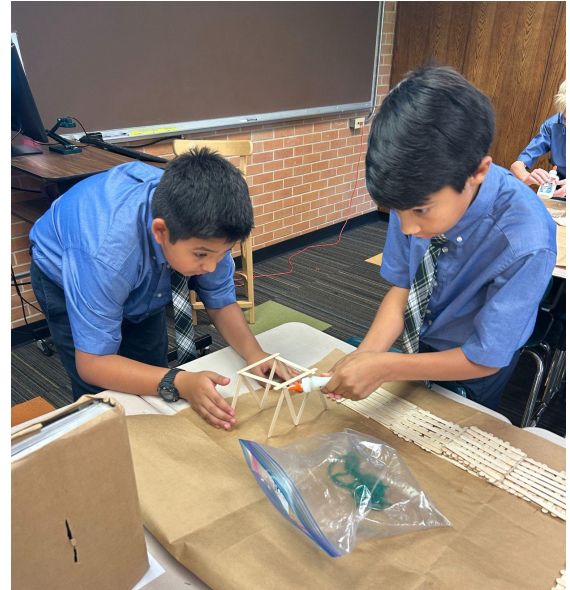
- Improve communication across all sectors through consistent and effective means.
- Develop strong relationships with the Parish leadership and a partnership with the Pastor.
- Develop outstanding programs at all grade levels and in all areas of the School.
- Recruit and retain exceptionally talented and qualified teachers and staff.
- Develop best-practice professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.
- Develop a sequential and developmentally appropriate student formation program.



The successful candidate is required to be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and possess at least a master's degree or certification in educational leadership (preferably Catholic leadership) or its equivalent. The next Principal will be expected to embrace the mission and values of St. Patrick Parish and see the school as a ministry of the Parish, and bring the following experience and abilities to the position:

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ABILITIES:

- Strong leadership ability that inspires others and engenders confidence.
- Exceptional communication, management, and organizational skills.
- Experience developing effective student formation programs.
- Ability to attract, develop, and retain faculty and staff.
- Ability to attract and retain students across all grade levels.
- Knowledge and experience with best practices in teaching and learning.
- Ability to promote the School as he/she serves as the face of St. Patrick's.



PERSONAL QUALITIES

The successful candidate will possess:

- A strong personal Catholic faith life.
- A passion for education and children.
- High moral and ethical values.
- An ability to build trust and community.
- Ease in making fair, consistent and firm decisions.
- A flexible, collaborative and confident approach to working with others.
- A growth and innovative mindset.
- A warm and approachable personality.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted until the successful candidate is found. Prospective candidates are required to be a practicing Catholic and possess a master's degree in educational leadership or its equivalent. Please send the following materials in PDF documents to the search consultants:

- Letter of interest specifically addressing this position and school.
- Résumé.
- Statement of leadership philosophy.
- List of five references (four professional and one personal) with email and phone contact information, as well as a statement regarding the relationship to the applicant.
- Additional letters of reference are accepted but not required.



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The School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, or school-administered programs.