



# **ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART**

New Orleans, Louisiana

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**HEAD OF SCHOOL**  
Start Date: July 1, 2022  
[ashrosary.org](http://ashrosary.org)



**Carney  
Sandoe**  
& ASSOCIATES



# ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

## Mission

*The Academy of the Sacred Heart's mission, to "discover and make known the love of God through the heart of Jesus," is articulated through the school's five Goals and Criteria:*

- *To educate to a personal and active faith in God;*
- *To educate to a deep respect for intellectual values;*
- *To educate to a social awareness which impels to action;*
- *To educate to the building of community as a Christian value; and*
- *To educate to personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.*

## OVERVIEW

Founded in 1867, the Academy of the Sacred Heart is an independent, all-girls, age 1 through grade 12 Catholic school in New Orleans, Louisiana, serving approximately 750 students. As a member of the International Network of Sacred Heart Schools, the school is faithful to the goals of a Sacred Heart education: to produce self-confident women, provide a challenging intellectual education, develop a love of God, and create a desire to help others.

Sacred Heart has a long, impressive history of encouraging girls and young women to become transformational leaders in their respective fields of passion, interest, and expertise. Teachers here are highly experienced and dedicated to providing engaging, meaningful, and varied classroom instruction that best meets the needs of every learner and prepares them well for college and life beyond.

The Academy of the Sacred Heart seeks a dynamic leader as its next Head of School starting July 1, 2022. The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader devoted to the school's vibrant mission and programs. The Head of School is responsible for the overall vision, leadership and management of the school and reports to the Board of Trustees. The Head has primary responsibility for being the academic leader and for fostering a climate of spiritual growth and community engagement among students, faculty, and staff. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead a forward-thinking school with an unwavering commitment to its all-girls and global Catholic mission.

## Fast Facts

- Founded: 1867
- Total students: 748
- Students of color: 15%
- Total faculty: 136
- Faculty of color: 14%
- Faculty with advanced degrees: 44%
- Student/faculty ratio: 6 to 1
- Annual operating budget: \$15 million
- Financial aid budget: \$1.08 million
- Students receiving financial aid: 14%



## SCHOOL HISTORY

In 1867, the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) opened Mater Admirabilis, a Sacred Heart Academy, in New Orleans' French Quarter. Rev. Mother DuTreil, RSCJ later purchased the John Calhoun/Rivers estate on St. Charles Avenue to start a second Sacred Heart campus, which developed into today's Rosary Campus, serving the Middle and Upper school divisions. Through the years, Sacred Heart has undergone three major expansions. In 2002, the school purchased the First Baptist Church property on St. Charles and Napoleon avenues to create the Mater Campus, home to the Little Hearts, Preschool and Primary School.

All Sacred Heart Schools have a shared history dating back to 1800, when, in Amiens, France, a young woman named Madeleine Sophie Barat set about establishing the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus — a community of faith-filled women who wanted to focus on the education of girls. Today, there are 25 Sacred Heart schools in the U.S. and Canada, and more than 150 in over 40 countries around the globe.





## THE SCHOOL

Serving girls age 1 through 12, the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans believes in the transformative power of education. For over 150 years, the Sacred Heart community has been distinguished by the quality of its care for each child, recognizing her unique dignity, integrity, and giftedness. This ethic of care fosters in each student a strong, vibrant, core confidence and competence.

The overall mission of Sacred Heart's education is to form students who are intellectually well prepared and aware of their moral and ethical responsibilities in a globalized world. The school's academic program is rooted in the liberal arts taught in contemporary ways. While holding an excellent reputation for preparing girls for top colleges and universities, Sacred Heart guides students well on their journeys to becoming global citizens with diverse perspectives and critical consciousness. Sacred Heart's recent strategic plan, "[Inspiring Faith-filled Women of Courage and Confidence](#)," designed to strengthen the school's alignment with its five Goals and Criteria, focuses on three core outcomes: enhancing academic rigor and innovation; leveraging, expanding, and creating global and local connections; and ensuring sustainable institutional growth. The school's strong financial position will allow for sustained growth and development and to maintain its standing as one of New Orleans premier schools.

The school, while independent, is part of a network of Sacred Heart Schools linked by mission and history. Sacred Heart is a part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and is a member of the Independent School Association of the Southwest, the National Coalition of Girls Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the National Catholic Education Association. Sacred Heart participates in programming run by the Online School for Girls and Cognia.



## ACADEMICS

Sacred Heart has carefully developed its academic program to provide students with a challenging education in an aesthetically and intellectually stimulating environment. With a focus on developing the whole child, instruction is strong in the humanities as well as math, science, and technology. The comprehensive college preparatory curriculum addresses the appropriate skills at each grade level, with special emphasis on the ability to think, act, and communicate effectively.

The Little Hearts program (ages one to three) works with each child to help her grow in all areas — social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and spiritual. Recognizing that the early years set the tone for a child's entire educational experience, the Little Hearts faculty is comprised of teachers and administrators who love children and share in a Christian belief that each child is a gift from God. The goal is to promote a sense of love, well-being, and security in every young student who walks through the doors.

The Preschool program nurtures the innate sense of wonder each girl has about herself and her world. Throughout the Preschool years, the curriculum emphasizes the joy of discovery and enables her to develop a positive self-concept, a love of learning, and essential readiness skills. In both prekindergarten (ages four and five) and kindergarten (ages five and six), the full-day program integrates the study of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students are also introduced to special Sacred Heart traditions with events unique to Preschool like the Blessing of the (plushie) Animals.





The student-centered Lower School curriculum (grades 1-4) is both academically rigorous and innovative. Emphasis is placed on the developmental stages and learning styles of each student. Teachers and parents work closely to help students with age-appropriate study and organizational skills, and focus is placed on effective communication skills as they lay the foundation of lasting friendships. With increasing maturity, students are encouraged to be more independent and take responsibility for their learning. Instruction in literacy, STEAM, global education and world languages, and religion is highlighted by library, computers, and a guest author and speaker series.

Through an engaging, interdisciplinary, inquiry-based program, girls in the Middle School (grades 5-8) engage in the study of English and language arts, mathematics, science, religion, and social studies, with additional classes in world languages, technology, library skills, performing arts, studio art, and physical education. STEAM activities are integral to the Middle School curriculum, and field trips and immersion days are interspersed throughout the year. All classes are taught with an eye toward helping girls hone key learning skills, including creativity, collaboration, and problem solving. While the course of studies in Middle School is rigorous, an academic advisor ensures each girl receives the support she needs to help her achieve her academic and personal goals.



The Upper School program (grades 9-12) delivers a demanding college preparatory curriculum that integrates multi-disciplinary studies and emphasizes a global perspective. In addition to core studies in English, mathematics, science, social studies, theology, world languages, and art, students take electives and classes in physical education. The program includes numerous Advanced Placement courses. Upper School students can also enroll in courses offered online by Sacred Heart Network instructors or participate in a global exchange with other Sacred Heart Schools in the U.S. and abroad. The Upper School utilizes flexible scheduling that provides for small group instruction and independent study.

## College Matriculation

Graduates of the Class of 2021 have been admitted to top four-year colleges and universities, collectively earning more than \$17 million in scholarships. They are attending the following colleges and universities:

Auburn University  
Baylor University  
Birmingham-Southern College  
College of Charleston  
Drexel University  
Fordham University  
Furman University  
Lauder Business School, Vienna  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University, Chicago  
Loyola University, New Orleans  
McGill University  
Northwestern University  
Ole Miss: University of Mississippi  
Saint Louis University  
Santa Clara University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Sewanee: University of the South  
Southern Methodist University  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Texas Christian University  
The New School: Parsons School of Design  
Tulane University  
University of Miami  
University of Alabama  
University of Arkansas  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Delaware  
University of Georgia  
University of North Carolina, Asheville  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Southern Alabama  
University of Virginia  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington and Lee University





## THE ARTS

The overall goal of the visual arts program is to inspire and develop students' talents and abilities at every age and level and cultivate an artistic awareness of the world around them through creativity, abstract and analytical thinking, and self-expression. Opportunities include studio work in sculpture, mixed media, painting, ceramics, and more. The program also includes in-class visits from professional artists, collaborative art shows, and a working art gallery on campus.

The music program is particularly robust across the three divisions. In Lower School, students are introduced to music, listen critically, and learn the recorder and handbells. Third and fourth grade students perform with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra on recorder every spring. A third and fourth grade choir sings for every all-school liturgy, community events, and performs two concerts a year. The Middle School music programs help students further develop their vocal and instrumental skills and are exposed to a variety of styles, instruments, composers, and forms. Students are also invited to join the Middle School Choir and perform at several events in New Orleans annually. In the Upper School, students hone their skills and knowledge — both instrumental and vocal. Students can participate in choir performances on and off campus in the community.

The theater program provides students the opportunity to find their unique, creative, individual voice through drama classes and musical productions. Acting classes and film studies are offered in the Upper School as well.





## ATHLETICS

The athletic program is an integral component of the student athlete's overall experience at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. The school strives to offer the girls a wide variety of athletic experiences to all athletes while offering opportunities for each young woman and each team to make positive progress and reach a high level of success. Being an Academy of the Sacred Heart athlete also carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to the student body, to the community, and to the student athlete. Team sports include cross-country, track and field, basketball, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, and volleyball. Since entering the Louisiana High School Athletic Association in 1984, Sacred Heart teams have won 98 state and runner-up titles.

## SCHOOL LIFE

Outside the classroom, Sacred Heart students engage in a range of activities that support their intellectual growth, enable them to pursue personal interests, engage them in community building and service, and develop their spiritual lives. Students take part in Innovation Lab programs; participate in the choir and theater; join athletic teams; engage in social action and leadership through Student Council, Honor Council, Campus Ministry, and community outreach; and participate in the school's active global exchange program.





Under the guidance of the Upper School Campus Minister, Campus Ministry creates a community of faith that promotes positivity and inclusivity. Through service, school-wide chapels, prayer services, class retreats, and other ways, Campus Ministry aims to live out the Five Goals of the Sacred Heart.

At the beginning of each school year, each student affirms her acceptance of the Honor Code that promotes ethical and moral behavior in all their endeavors. The Honor Council, which in addition to faculty and staff members, includes Upper School student representatives from each grade, works to help students live out the Honor Code while modeling exemplary behavior and creating an atmosphere of honor and integrity among the school community.

Rooted in the spirituality of the Society of the Sacred Heart, the mission of global education is to form students who are aware of their moral and ethical responsibilities in a globalized world and who respond with judicious social action. To this end, global education serves as a pathway on which students discover and understand the world. The network of 150 national and international Sacred Heart schools enables such global connections.

At Sacred Heart, social awareness inspires action. The school partners with several businesses in the community to blend action and service directly into the curriculum. Another signature practice at Sacred Heart is for older girls to mentor the younger ones and assist in guiding them through the milestones and traditions of the school. Each year, the entire Sacred Heart GNOLA community honors its foundress, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, with a day of service in her name.





## CAMPUS

The Academy of the Sacred Heart is based on two nearby campuses in the heart of a New Orleans' residential section along St. Charles Avenue. The 112,760-square-foot Mater campus occupies a full block on St. Charles Avenue between Napoleon Avenue and General Pershing Street and features educational spaces tailored to the needs of students ranging from age one to grade four. The 113,726-square-foot Rosary Campus, located two blocks away, is home to the Middle and Upper School divisions.

The facilities include state-of-the-art classrooms, a new Arts and Athletics Complex, the Favrot Arts Center, an Innovation Lab and Makerspace, a stunning chapel and courtyard — and easy access to all of New Orleans. During the 2019-20 school year the school renovated the Mater campus. The library and STEAM wings have also undergone design and learning space renovations. Due to the success of an ongoing capital campaign, in July 2021, the school started a multi-phase \$20,000,000 renovation of the Rosary Campus that will create updated innovative learning and community spaces that will transform the educational experience of students for generations to come.





## NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Nicknamed “Crescent City” and “The Big Easy,” New Orleans is known for its round-the-clock entertainment, vibrant live-music scene, and singular cuisine — reflecting its history as a melting pot of French, African, and American cultures.

With around 400,000 residents, the New Orleans is a thriving community and the most populous city in Louisiana. The city serves as a major port on the Gulf of Mexico, a world-favorite tourist destination, and a center for higher learning with more than 50,000 students enrolled in the region’s 11 two- and four-year institutions. Tulane University, a top-50 research university, is located in the Uptown district.

As a place to live, New Orleans is attractive for its lively culture, eclectic architecture, restaurants, and institutions of higher education. Residents will also tell you that New Orleans is rich in Southern hospitality — a place of closely connected neighborhoods where people embrace the best of the city’s history and unique culture and take care of each other.





## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Academy of the Sacred Heart fully embraces its commitment to family and community and provides a joyful environment for its students, faculty, staff, and parents.

Some of the opportunities and challenges facing the school include:

- Increasing substantive diversity in the school.
- Financial sustainability and growth of the endowment to support operations.
- Capitalizing on the school's "International" component and encouraging connections throughout the Network of Sacred Heart Schools.
- Building relationships with area independent, Catholic, and public schools.
- Modernizing the technological systems and instilling growth in technology integration.
- Enrollment management and marketing the value proposition of the school.





## DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The next Head of School will be a practicing Catholic with a vibrant faith who will fully accept the important role of being the spiritual leader of the school. Sacred Heart's Board of Trustees seeks an entrepreneurial and collaborative servant leader who can build relationships within the school and with the broader New Orleans community. Additionally, the Board welcomes candidates from other educational institutions as well as other mission-driven venues such as higher education; non-profit foundations and charities; or the corporate, civic, and professional services arenas.

Some specific qualities and characteristics include:

- A thoughtful and strategic thinker who can inspire excellence.
- A team-builder who can build relationships and continue to foster a strong sense of community.
- A fundraiser and friend-raiser, especially with alumnae.
- A dynamic, energetic, and enthusiastic leader who is knowledgeable about education and has a passion for all-girls' education.
- A faith-filled administrator who can embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education.





## 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 one-page statement of educational philosophy and practice;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

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