

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

WHO WE ARE

St. Monica Catholic High School is a co-educational parish high school founded in 1938. Our school is located in Santa Monica on the Westside of Los Angeles, just minutes from the Pacific Ocean. St. Monica is our patron saint. Our school colors are green and gold, and we are proud to be the home of the Mariners!

SMCHS provides a college preparatory curriculum for students of diverse abilities, cultures and faiths. As a Catholic high school guided by gospel values, we affirm and respect the dignity of each member of our school community. We are a faith-filled community that values Christian service as well as academic achievement. Our mission is to graduate students who demonstrate love of God and others, academic excellence, and strength of character. Recognizing parents as the primary educators, we provide a faith-based education in collaboration with parents, faculty and the parish community. We achieve this through the synthesis of the spiritual, intellectual, moral, emotional, social and physical development of our students.

St. Monica Catholic High School, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. SMCHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school administered programs. Likewise, this Catholic Secondary School does not discriminate against any applicant for employment on the basis of sex, age, handicap, race, color, national and/or ethnic origin.

“AT A GLANCE”

With a student body of approximately 600, SMCHS is able to form a close knit community of students who know and respect each other. At the same time, our community is large enough to dedicate significant resources, thereby enabling an outstanding course curriculum and extensive co-curricular programs. Our daily class schedule is a rotating block schedule of four 75-minute periods. In addition to preparing students for a collegiate class length, this schedule facilitates student focus and allows a pace that fosters one-on-one instruction time. A typical school day begins at 8:15am and ends at 2:45pm. Students complete six classes per semester for a total of 30 semester units.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The Admissions Committee bases its decisions on the applicant’s previous academic and citizenship record, entrance exam scores, teacher and administrator recommendations, and a personal interview with the student and at least one parent. A non-refundable application fee is required at the time of application. This fee includes the cost of the entrance exam. Please refer to www.stmonicahs.org/admissions for more information and to download an application.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

While St. Monica students graduate from our school, they remain a part of our community for life! The pride of our alumni can be seen through their involvement in activities such as the freshman Welcome Dinner, the Mariner Appeal, the Hall of Fame, and the Mariner Golf Tournament, as well as many athletic and social gatherings. Once a Mariner, always a Mariner!

ATHLETICS

As part of our commitment to the development of the whole person, SMCHS fields a number of athletic teams representing many levels of play. Our teams are competitive, typically competing in post-season league playoffs and regularly receiving league honors.

In the Fall Season, we offer Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country, Girls' JV and Varsity Volleyball, JV and Varsity Football, Girls' Varsity Golf, Girls' Varsity Tennis, and JV and Varsity levels of the Cheer and Pep Squad. In the Winter Season, we offer Boys' Freshman, JV, and Varsity Basketball, Girls' JV and Varsity Basketball, Boys' and Girls' JV and Varsity Soccer, and JV and Varsity levels of the Cheer and Pep Squad. In the Spring Season, we offer JV and Varsity Baseball, JV and Varsity Softball, Boys' and Girls' Track, boys JV and Varsity Volleyball, Boys' Varsity Golf, Boys' Varsity Tennis, and JV and Varsity levels of the Cheer and Pep Squad.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SMCHS takes great pride in our Campus Ministry program, which provides school liturgies, retreats, and service projects. In keeping with our commitment to the fostering of student leadership, each of these formative experiences is planned and executed by our students.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

Each year, 98-100% of St. Monica graduates matriculate to institutions of higher education after graduation. SMCHS graduates are accepted at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and all other UC and CSU schools, as well as public and private schools including Amherst, Arizona, Arizona State, Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, Florida State, Georgetown, Gonzaga, Howard, Loyola Marymount, Loyola of Chicago, Marymount, Miami, Michigan State, Mount St. Mary's, NYU, Oberlin, Ohio State, Pepperdine, Providence, Redlands, Santa Clara, Seton Hall, Smith, Stanford, Syracuse, Tulane, USC, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of San Diego, the University of San Francisco, Whittier, Washington, Washington State, and Xavier University. A complete listing of college and university acceptances is available at www.stmonicahs.org/guidance.

COUNSELING INFORMATION

The relationship between a student and their counselor is an important one at SMCHS. Unlike high schools who assign counselors by grade level, our 4 academic counselors are assigned to students based on the student's last name. This allows the student to become familiar with their counselor, and allows the counselor to become familiar with the student's academic and personal history over the course of their years at St. Monica. In addition to our 4 academic counselors, we also have a personal counselor on staff whom the students and their families may meet with, either formally or informally, for assistance through challenging adolescent years.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial aid grants are awarded on the basis of parental financial need and the amount of available funding. Only students who take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) at SMCHS are eligible to apply for this tuition assistance.

In addition, St. Monica is pleased to offer limited scholarships in the areas of academic ability and leadership. Any student taking the entrance exam on the first administration at SMCHS is automatically considered for the academic scholarship. To be considered for the leadership scholarship, students taking the exam at SMCHS must submit an application detailing their activities. More information can be found at www.stmonicahs.org/admissions.

Financial assistance is also available through the Archdiocesan-sponsored Catholic Education Foundation Financial Assistance Program. This program is open to students who are continuing their Catholic education from a Catholic elementary school.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SMCHS offers all students a challenging college preparatory curriculum. Our graduation requirements are tailored to meet the criteria for admissions to the University of California and CSU systems. In concert with our belief in the importance of faith formation, 100 hours of Christian

Service and an annual retreat are required for graduation in addition to a student's academic curriculum.

HONORS/ AP LEVEL COURSES

At SMCHS, students have the opportunity to challenge themselves in honors and advanced placement level classes in the disciplines in which the student excels. Students may qualify for Honors English 9, Honors British Literature, Honors American Literature, AP Literature, AP US History, AP European History, AP US Government, Honors Economics, Honors Algebra 1, Honors Algebra 2, Honors Geometry, Honors Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Honors Physics, Honors Spanish 1, 2, and 3, AP Spanish, Honors Japanese 4, and Honors and AP French 4.

PERFORMING ARTS

Students thrive in the performing arts at SMCHS! The Rainbow Riders are one of the preeminent high school choirs in the region. They perform regularly throughout Los Angeles, and are the featured choir at the annual "Youth Day" religious education congress in Anaheim, where they perform before thousands! The Rainbow Riders also lead our voices in song for each of our school masses, entertain our community at our Christmas and Spring Concerts, and are featured annually at St. Monica Parish Community's Octoberfair. Additionally, our Performing Arts Department mounts two productions each year. Shows in recent years have included *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Our Town*, *My Fair Lady*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Many opportunities for student participation exist both on stage and behind the scenes!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Our student organizations provide many opportunities for participation and leadership. Our organizations include the Animal Rights Club, the Asian Pacific Club, the Associated Student Body, the Black Cultural Society, the California Scholarship Federation, Campus Ministry, Class Council, the Drama Club, the Italian Club, the Kenya Club, the Martial Arts Club, the Nosotros Club, the National Honor Society, the Rainbow Riders, the Red Cross Club, the Speech and Debate Team, and Yearbook Staff.

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Inspired by faith, a St. Monica graduate will. . .

- possess the foundation to continue to mature in his/her personal relationship with God.
- know and appreciate the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith and respect other religions.
- experience a community of faith by participating in the life of the Church through prayer, worship, and action.
- use gospel teachings to make life decisions, demonstrate social responsibility, formulate healthy relationships, and serve others compassionately.

Intellectually enriched, a St. Monica graduate will:

- possess a solid college preparatory foundation in core academic areas.
- demonstrate the ability to identify and solve problems utilizing effective information, critical thinking, and thorough analysis.
- communicate effectively by listening actively, speaking articulately, and writing clearly.
- become a lifelong learner who is motivated by intellectual curiosity and guided by academic integrity.

- be proficient in the skills of research, organization, goal setting, planning, and the use of technology.

An integrated individual, a St. Monica graduate will:

- possess a deeper sense of self and a true appreciation of his/her unique gifts.
- lead a healthy lifestyle that results in lifelong physical and emotional well-being.
- assume responsibility for his/her actions and decisions.
- utilize skills for good interpersonal relationships and treat all others with dignity, respect, fairness, and understanding.

SMCHS is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Catholic Education Association

To schedule a private tour, for more information, or to learn how you can support St. Monica Catholic High School, please contact our Office of Admissions at 310-394-3701 x405 or email us at admissions@stmonicahs.net