

MICDS

St. Louis, United States



Where an 1859 girls' academy and a 1917 country-day school merged into one Ladue campus of three schools within a school

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	59/100
Academic outcomes	66/100
University placement	64/100
Prestige & heritage	67/100
Alumni network	19/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

MICDS carries an unusual inheritance: an 1859 girls’ academy and a 1917 country-day school, now fused into one co-educational campus in Ladue with three schools under one roof. That matters because the place reads as both old and deliberately modern: independent, secular, American in curriculum, and day-only from ages 4 to 18. The scale sits in a useful middle ground. Wikipedia puts enrolment at about ****1,250**** students on a ****110-acre**** campus, which is large enough to support serious academics, arts and athletics without tipping into factory-school sprawl. For St Louis families, that combination places MICDS firmly in the city’s **top private-school bracket**.

What puts it on a shortlist is breadth with institutional memory. The school talks plainly about “changing the lives of students so that they can change the world”, but the more telling line is the mission excerpt calling for “responsible men and women” with confidence and compassion. That is conventional independent-school language, yet MICDS backs it with a structure that covers the full age range in one setting and with visible weight given to academics, arts and athletics alike. The campus footprint supports that ambition; **110 acres** is not cosmetic. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is **\$33,188**, expensive by St Louis standards but not outlandish for a long-established US independent school with this age range and campus scale.

The best fit is a student who wants a *full-spectrum* American private-school life rather than a narrow academic hothouse or a small progressive enclave. Children who thrive on routine, community identity and sustained participation beyond lessons will find more to work with here than those who want anonymity or a stripped-back academic experience. The school’s own language is heavy on character, excellence and contribution; families allergic to that ethos will find the culture *earnest* and demanding. Families who want a secular, co-educational day school with real history, a substantial campus and a strong all-round brief will find MICDS an *obvious contender*.

STRENGTHS

- Founded 1859; unusually established by US school standards
- Co-educational, secular independent school
- Day-only model suits families avoiding boarding
- 110-acre Ladue campus offers substantial space

TRADE - OFFS

- Day-only; no boarding for overseas families
- American curriculum only; no IB or British options
- Ladue location may complicate central St. Louis commutes

ADMISSIONS

MICDS is a non-religious, co-educational American day school serving ages 4 to 18, with entry spanning the full school range from junior kindergarten to Grade 12. The school's own site invites families to "Apply for the 2026-27 school year", but the public material provided does not set out the main intake years, formal application deadlines, or whether places are easier to secure at particular stages. Given the age range, families should expect admissions points in the early years, lower school, middle school and upper school, but MICDS does not publish enough here to be more precise.

The same caution applies to selection. In the extracts provided, MICDS does not publicly specify its assessment format, interview process, or any distinctive admissions hurdle beyond a standard independent-school application. Nor does the material here state whether financial aid or bursary support is available, so parents will need to ask the admissions office directly rather than assume. What is clear is the school's scale — about 1,250 students — and its positioning as an academically focused independent school with substantial co-curricular weight.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_3414876493.