

St. Christopher's School

Richmond, United States



Virginia's largest all-boys campus, a National Register landmark pairing Episcopal tradition with a research-based Center for the Study of Boys.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Christopher’s School occupies a distinctive niche in Richmond: an Episcopal boys’ day school founded in 1911, serving ages 4 to 18 on what the school bills as Virginia’s largest all-boys campus. That matters. Single-sex schools are common enough; campuses built at this scale for boys are not. The National Register landmark status adds another layer of identity, giving the place a sense of permanence that newer American independents cannot manufacture. This is not a generic college-prep operation with a chapel attached. It is a school with a defined tradition, a public religious character and a campus story that carries weight.

What lifts St. Christopher’s above the level of mere heritage is the Center for the Study of Boys. That is the school’s most useful point of difference and the strongest reason for parents to keep it on a shortlist. Plenty of boys’ schools claim expertise in how boys learn; St. Christopher’s has built a research-based centre into the proposition. That signals a school that has spent time interrogating its own practice rather than relying on old assumptions about discipline, sport and masculine confidence. For families who want an all-boys education with an *intellectually serious* rationale, this is the hook. The academic frame is American, the language of instruction is English, and the school holds VAIS accreditation, which gives parents at least one external marker of institutional seriousness.

The average annual day fee is **\$30,974**, which places St. Christopher’s in the expensive end of the Richmond day-school market without pushing into the *rarefied* fee levels seen at elite boarding schools or top-tier coastal independents. That positioning makes it a focused choice rather than a vanity purchase: parents are paying for a boys-only environment, a long-established Episcopal culture and a campus with scale. Boys who thrive here will want structure, tradition and a school that treats male development as a subject worth studying, not a slogan. Boys who want a co-educational social environment, a looser culture or a less *institutionally defined* identity will find the model restrictive. For the right family, though, St. Christopher’s offers something *unusually coherent*: a clear educational philosophy, a long-established Richmond base and a school identity that knows exactly what it is.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1911 and one of the oldest and largest all-boys schools in the Mid-Atlantic, with a historic campus listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Small classes with a student-teacher ratio of about 9 to 1, according to Niche's published enrollment data.
- Strong standardized-testing record, with the school citing 31 National Merit or National Achievement semifinalists over a decade and roughly 20% of each graduating class recognized annually.
- 100% of graduates go on to attend a four-year college, per Niche outcome data.
- Financial aid is need-based only (over \$4.1 million awarded for 2025-2026) and admissions decisions are made independently of a family's ability to pay.

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex, all-boys school (JK-12), which rules it out for families wanting a coeducational environment.
- Upper-school tuition runs into the low-to-mid \$30,000s depending on grade and source, a significant recurring cost for relocating families.
- The student body remains predominantly White (63%), which may matter to internationally diverse families weighing cultural fit.
- No merit, academic, artistic or athletic scholarships are offered; all aid is strictly need-based, so high-achieving but non-need families pay full tuition.

ADMISSIONS

St. Christopher's admits boys from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12, with entry points throughout but most competition at JK, K, 6th and 9th grades. The school accepts the SSAT but does not require it. First-round application deadlines fall around January 1, with decision and enrollment-contract dates following in February-March. Admissions are need-blind: financial situation is not considered until after an offer is made, and all aid is need-based rather than merit-based. As a well-established Richmond feeder school, expect a structured, document-heavy application process typical of long-standing East Coast independent schools.

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_6e406e2058.