

Notre Dame High School

Sherman Oaks, CA, United States



Holy Cross brothers built this San Fernando Valley campus in 1947, pairing Blue Ribbon academics with a storied multi-sport tradition.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	61/100
Academic outcomes	63/100
University placement	61/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	62/100
Facilities	64/100
Transparency	55/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Notre Dame High School occupies a distinctive niche in Los Angeles: a Catholic, college-preparatory day school in Sherman Oaks with deep Holy Cross roots and a campus history that runs back to ****1947****. That matters. In a market crowded with newer independents, faith schools and branded college-prep operators, Notre Dame offers institutional memory, a clear religious identity and a more settled sense of purpose. The school states its mission plainly: formation of the heart and mind, in a community attentive to faith, dignity and service. Parents who want a school with ***moral seriousness***, ***institutional backbone*** and a visible Catholic framework will find a cleaner proposition here than at schools that dilute ethos into vague values language.

Its appeal rests on balance. This is an American-curriculum secondary school for ages 13–18, taught in English, with a **1:15** student-teacher ratio and WCEA accreditation. Academics sit alongside a broad co-curricular structure: computer science and engineering, visual and performing arts, robotics, debate, television and film, student publications, campus ministry and a full athletics operation. That breadth is important. Notre Dame is not built for one narrow tribe of academic purists or arts specialists; it is built for students who want a complete school life and who thrive in a busy, organised environment. The editorial tagline’s reference to Blue Ribbon academics and a storied multi-sport tradition captures the market position well: this is a school for families who want standards, structure and school spirit in one place. The result is *serious co-curricular range*, *strong sporting culture* and a campus identity that extends beyond the classroom.

Why shortlist it? Because Notre Dame offers something many schools promise and fewer deliver: a recognisable community with real internal architecture. Departments are extensive, student life is populated, faith and service are not decorative add-ons, and the school has the scale to support varied interests without losing coherence. It will suit students who want to be known inside a structured Catholic setting, who can handle expectations across academics and conduct, and who want access to sport, arts, leadership and service without choosing one at the expense of the others. It will not suit families seeking a secular environment, a progressive anything-goes culture, or a tiny boutique school with highly individualised freedom. It will suit the student drawn to *purposeful discipline*, *lively school spirit*, *clear adult expectations* and a community that takes formation seriously from **13–18**.

STRENGTHS

- Co-educational Catholic day school for ages 13–18
- American curriculum taught in English
- Broad departments: engineering, theology, performing arts
- Notable football and basketball programmes

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option
- Catholic setting may not suit all families
- NAIS listed; no other accreditations provided

ADMISSIONS

Notre Dame High School is a Catholic, college-preparatory day school in Sherman Oaks for ages 13-18, so the main entry point is into the lower secondary/high school years, with transfers also clearly accommodated: the admissions pages list both “Incoming Freshmen” and “Transfer Information”. The school also advertises HSPT preparation, which suggests that standard US Catholic-school testing is part of the admissions landscape, but the school does not publicly set out, in the material provided here, a full assessment sequence or any interview requirement.

Likewise, the website confirms financial aid as an admissions topic, but does not publish the detail here on eligibility, scale of awards or deadlines. What is public is the shape of the process: prospective families can attend open house events, tours and information sessions, an 8th Grade Visit Day and an application workshop. That points to a fairly structured intake process rather than purely rolling admission, though the school does not publish cut-off dates in the source material provided.

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_9211035da0.