

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Bethesda, United States



A 1923 Sacred Heart foundation on a 35-acre Bethesda campus, where the Social Action Program ties faith and academics to real-world service.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	59/100
Academic outcomes	69/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	63/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Stone Ridge trades on a combination that still carries weight in the Washington area: a **1923** foundation, a **35-acre** Bethesda campus, and a clear religious identity that has not been diluted into generic “values” language. This is a Catholic, independent, American-curriculum day school for girls in Grades 1-12, with co-educational Pre-K and Kindergarten, and it enrolls **780 students**. The distinctive point is not just single-sex provision. It is the Sacred Heart framework, which gives the school a more explicit moral and spiritual architecture than many US independents will tolerate. The language around faith, intellect, community, social action and personal growth is not decorative. Parents who want a school where service is tied directly to academic and religious formation, rather than bolted on as résumé polish,

will find that **serious-minded** and coherent.

The market position is clear: premium independent day education, with an average annual fee of ****\$43,525**** across the full age range. That places Stone Ridge in expensive company, so parents should expect clarity of mission and a strong sense of institutional culture in return. The all-girls model from Grade 1 onwards will appeal to families who want an academically focused environment without the social theatre that co-ed senior schools can bring. Its place in the Network of Sacred Heart Schools — 24 in North America and more than 150 worldwide, according to the school — adds depth and continuity, but the real question for parents is fit. This is not the right school for families who want a religious label with minimal religious content, or for girls who want a big co-ed high-school experience.

The pupil who will thrive here is bright, disciplined and comfortable in a school that asks for inward seriousness as well as outward achievement. Stone Ridge talks openly about discernment, compassion, critical-consciousness and service; that makes it a **purpose-driven** school, not a neutral platform for collecting grades and extracurriculars. A girl who wants strong female peers, structured expectations and a **clear moral frame** will have reasons to put it high on a shortlist. A student who resists institutional culture, dislikes faith-based education, or wants a looser, more socially mixed model will find it **constraining**. Stone Ridge's strength lies in precisely that clarity: it knows what it is, whom it serves, and what kind of graduate it intends to form.

STRENGTHS

- All-girls education from Grades 1-12
- Co-educational Pre-K and Kindergarten entry
- Catholic Sacred Heart network across 41 countries
- American curriculum taught in English

TRADE-OFFS

- Girls-only from Grade 1 may not suit all
- Day school only; no boarding option
- Catholic framework may not suit non-Catholic families

ADMISSIONS

Stone Ridge is a Catholic, independent day school in Bethesda serving girls in Grades 1–12, with co-educational entry in Pre-K and Kindergarten. In practical terms, the main admissions points appear to be early childhood, Kindergarten, Grade 1 and then later grade-level entry where places arise, though the school does not publish a fuller admissions breakdown in the material provided. It enrolls pupils from age 3 to 18 and describes itself as college preparatory, so applicants should expect selection to be academic as well as mission-aware.

The school does not publish, in the sources supplied here, the detail an admissions-minded family would usually want: no public deadlines, no stated assessment format, and no clear account of financial aid or bursary provision. Nor is there any published outline here of interviews, testing or portfolio requirements. What is distinctive, and likely relevant in selection, is the school's Sacred Heart identity: all-girls from Grade 1 onward, explicitly Catholic, and guided by the Sacred Heart Goals and Criteria, with notable weight given to faith, intellect, community, social action and personal growth.

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_afcf0b2855.