

Paul VI Catholic High School

Chantilly, VA, United States



In Chantilly's WCAC gridiron rivalries, this Diocese of Arlington day school pairs AP Honor Roll rigor with panther pride.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	50/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	40/100
Alumni network	48/100
Facilities	59/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Paul VI Catholic High School sits in a crowded Northern Virginia market and wins attention on three fronts: Catholic identity, serious athletics and a broader-than-average approach to learning support. This is a diocesan day school for ages ****14-18****, founded in ****1983****, with a US high school diploma and Advanced Placement pathway. The athletic profile matters. Competing in the WCAC gives Paul VI immediate name recognition among families who follow East Coast school sport, and the school leans into that **competitive edge** without reducing itself to a training ground. At the same time, it runs more than ****60**** student-led clubs and organisations, adds practical electives such as robotics, entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence, and keeps faith formation at the centre. The result is a school with **real*

institutional confidence* and a clear sense of purpose.

What sets Paul VI apart is the combination of mainstream college-prep rigour with structured inclusion. The school states that it teaches subjects at four levels and has served diverse learners for over 25 years through its Options programme and wider Exceptional Learning provision. That is not common in Catholic college-prep schools with this level of athletic visibility. Parents looking for a school that can handle both high performers and students who need cognitive strategies, co-teaching or small-group instruction should take note. The public message on affordability is less useful than hard pricing; the school calls itself affordable, but affordability is relative, and families need the fee schedule to judge that claim. On academics, Paul VI offers AP and has made the AP School Honour Roll, which gives it *credible academic ballast*, but the school does not publish the kind of aggregate outcome data that would allow a sharper verdict on academic strength.

Why shortlist it? Because few schools in this segment combine *Panther pride*, established Catholic formation, visible inclusion and high-level sport as cleanly as Paul VI. This is a strong fit for students who want a busy, communal, high-energy secondary experience rather than a quiet academic enclave. The right child for Paul VI wants school spirit, accepts structure, and is comfortable in a values-driven environment where religion is not ornamental. Athletes will find a *big-stage sporting culture*; socially engaged students will find service, retreats and mission activity; learners who need support will find a school that has built named programmes rather than vague promises. Students who want anonymity, ultra-progressive culture-war neutrality or a stripped-back academic-only experience should look elsewhere. Paul VI suits families who want *discipline with warmth* and *visible community life* in a school that knows exactly what it is.

STRENGTHS

- Operates from a purpose-built campus in Chantilly opened in 2020, replacing the older Fairfax site with modern academic and athletic facilities.
- Offers a full Advanced Placement curriculum alongside the standard US diploma track, giving college-bound students recognized coursework options.
- Operates under the Diocese of Arlington, embedding a structured Catholic identity and values-based community into daily school life.
- Athletics program, particularly basketball, has a strong regional and national reputation, having developed players who went on to Division I programs such as Duke.
- Co-educational day school structure allows students to remain embedded in family and local community life rather than boarding.

TRADE-OFFS

- As a Catholic diocesan school, religious instruction and Mass attendance are part of school life, which may not suit non-Catholic or secular families.
- Being a day school only, it offers no boarding option, requiring families to manage daily transport or live within a practical commuting distance of Chantilly, VA.
- Tuition and fee levels for private Catholic secondary schools in the Arlington diocese are a recurring cost families must budget for annually, though exact current figures require direct confirmation from the school.
- Editorial rank is unranked and the school sits in a broad 'best_300' tier rather than being distinguished among top-tier US private schools nationally.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is through a standard application process for incoming freshmen and transfer students, typically requiring prior academic records, a placement or entrance test, and often a parish or Catholic school affiliation preference for Diocese of Arlington families. Non-Catholic applicants are generally accepted where space allows. Competitiveness varies by grade level and program, with athletics and AP-track demand a factor. Prospective families should contact the admissions office directly via paulvi.net for current deadlines, testing requirements, and tuition/fee schedules, as these are updated annually.

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_b4daa3890b.