

Georgetown Preparatory School

North Bethesda, MD, United States



The nation's only Jesuit boarding school, shaping young men through Ignatian rigor since 1789 on a 93-acre Maryland campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	77/100
Prestige & heritage	81/100
Alumni network	11/100
Facilities	80/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Georgetown Prep trades on a distinction few American schools can match: it is the only Jesuit boarding school in the United States, and it has been doing this since 1789. That matters because the school’s offer is unusually specific. This is an all-boys Catholic school for ages 13 to 18, on a 93-acre campus in North Bethesda, with an American curriculum, a stated commitment to forming the whole person, and a boarding structure reinforced by staff presence on site; the school says more than 16 teachers live on campus. The ****8:1**** student-teacher ratio strengthens that case. For parents who want a school with a clear institutional identity rather than a vague blend of college preparation, sport and pastoral care, Georgetown Prep belongs on the shortlist.

The attraction is not breadth for its own sake but **institutional coherence**. Jesuit schools work best when intellectual pressure, spiritual formation and adult oversight pull in the same direction, and Georgetown Prep has that architecture in place. The school foregrounds rigorous academics, arts, athletics and college counselling, and the boarding-day mix gives it a wider catchment and a more layered community than a standard local boys' day school. It also has NAIS accreditation, which gives parents one external marker of organisational seriousness. What the school does not publish here is hard outcome data: no aggregate exam results, no university destination lists, no public academic profile by cohort. That opacity matters. A school asking families to pay an average of ***\$47,450*** a year for day pupils or ***\$78,015*** for boarders needs scrutiny on outcomes as well as ethos.

The right student for Georgetown Prep is a boy who will respond to **structured expectations**, a strong Catholic culture and a brotherhood model that is **deliberately traditional**. This is not the place for families who want a co-educational environment, a loose social atmosphere or a school without a religious centre. It is for boys who can use close faculty access, formal guidance and a campus community to grow up fast, and who will value a school where formation is treated as seriously as grades. In market terms, Georgetown Prep sits in the **premium** bracket of US independent education: expensive, distinctive and narrow in its appeal, but **compelling** for the family that wants exactly an all-boys Jesuit boarding school and nothing softer or broader.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Legally part of Georgetown University until their separation in 1927, Prep is the only Jesuit boarding school in the United States, and one of the oldest U.S. boarding schools still operating. • Average class size: 16, Student/teacher ratio: 8:1, allowing for close faculty contact across the 9-12 curriculum. • Alumni include U.S. Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch '85, Brett Kavanaugh '83, and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell '71. • This state-of-the-art Campus Center & Residence Hall opened in 2022, home to 120 students from across the U.S. and around the world, on a 93-acre campus in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. • About 30% of families receive financial aid... Prep does not offer academic, merit or athletic scholarships, reserving all aid for those who have a demonstrated financial need, a need-based model rather than a merit-buying one.	• The school is single-sex: Georgetown Preparatory School is All-boys only, closing off the coeducational option some relocating families prefer. • Fees are substantial: Tuition: \$73,535 for boarding students and roughly \$44,700-\$47,500 for day students depending on the year, placing it among the costlier options in the region. • Admission is competitive, with an Acceptance Rate: 23%, so places are not guaranteed even for well-prepared applicants. • Some family reviewers note that while Georgetown Prep excels in many academic areas, certain departments, like science and STEM, could be expanded or improved, suggesting the sciences are not the school's strongest suit relative to its humanities and Jesuit liberal-arts core.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is chiefly at grade 9, though openings occur in other years for both day and boarding places. The process is typical of selective US independent schools: transcripts, teacher recommendations, an application essay and an interview are required, alongside standardized testing. With an acceptance rate near 23% and mid-range SAT scores of roughly 1180-1440, competition is real but not at the level of the most selective national boarding schools. Financial aid is need-based only, covering about 28-30% of families; no merit or athletic scholarships are offered, and aid decisions are kept separate from admissions decisions.

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_b8a577cd7b.