

SMA Katolik St. Louis 1 Surabaya

Surabaya, Indonesia



Founded in 1862 in a heritage building beside Surabaya's Catholic cathedral, ranked Indonesia's top private school by national UTBK scores

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	59/100
Academic outcomes	67/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	64/100
Alumni network	48/100
Facilities	57/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

SMA Katolik St. Louis 1 Surabaya occupies a rare position in Indonesian schooling: a Catholic day school founded in **1862**, housed in a heritage setting beside Surabaya’s cathedral, with a public academic reputation that carries real weight. The headline claim is concrete, not decorative: it was ranked Indonesia’s top private school by national UTBK scores. That places it in the small group of schools that matter to families who judge value by hard academic outcomes rather than campus theatre. The combination of age, institutional discipline and sustained examination strength gives the school a *serious intellectual centre of gravity* and a *sense of earned prestige* that newer premium schools cannot manufacture.

What sets it apart is not curricular novelty. It follows the Indonesian curriculum, with instruction in Indonesian and English, and that matters. This is not an international-school imitation aimed at expatriate mobility; it is a high-performing national school for families who want elite local academic preparation inside a Catholic framework. For the right child, that is a strength, not a limitation. Parents considering St. Louis 1 are buying into **high expectations**, **clear structure** and a school culture shaped by competition, routine and institutional memory. The heritage building and long history add character, but the real draw is academic seriousness and the status that flows from it.

It belongs on a shortlist for families who want a day school with proven national standing, strong cultural rootedness and no confusion about purpose. This is a school for students aged ***15-18*** who are comfortable in a demanding environment and who gain energy from being surrounded by able peers. It will suit the disciplined, ambitious student who wants measurable achievement, values order, and does not need progressive educational fashion to stay engaged. It will not suit families looking for a loose, personalised, pastoral-first model. St. Louis 1 offers **pressure with purpose**, **institutional confidence** and a **hard-edged academic reputation** — exactly the mix that many high-achieving Indonesian families want.

STRENGTHS

- Ranked 2nd nationally among all Indonesian high schools on the 2022 LTMPT UTBK university-entrance results, and 1st in East Java province.
- One of the oldest schools in Indonesia, tracing its roots to a Catholic elementary school founded in 1862.
- Holds an 'A' accreditation rating and reports a 22:1 student-to-teacher ratio across roughly 1,336-1,351 students.
- Established alumni network that includes nationally recognised figures such as former Transportation and Energy Minister Ignasius Jonan.
- Long-standing Catholic Lazarist (Congregatio Missionis) administration provides institutional continuity and a defined pastoral/academic mission.

TRADE-OFFS

- Follows the Indonesian national curriculum only, with no IB, Cambridge, or other international pathway on offer.
- Instruction is conducted in Indonesian, which may be a barrier for expat children without prior Bahasa Indonesia proficiency.
- Its strong reputation for UTBK results implies a competitive, examination-driven admissions and academic culture that may not suit all learners.
- As a Catholic institution with embedded faith formation in its mission, families seeking a secular or multi-faith environment should weigh this carefully.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions run through the school's own PPDB portal (pcpdb.smakstlouis1sby.sch.id) in staged intakes described as Gelombang 1 and Gelombang 2, with a downloadable brochure outlining the application flow and requirements. Given the school's high UTBK ranking and strong local reputation, places are sought after, particularly for the earlier intake wave. Entry is at Grade 10 (age 15) for the standard three-year senior high programme; exact document and test requirements should be confirmed directly via the portal each admissions cycle.

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_fd8e84a258.