



West Catholic High School



WELCOME

The Students of West Catholic High School

An education at West Catholic High School endures for a lifetime. It is a journey where you will develop lasting friendships, a strong work ethic, and a spiritual depth enabling you to be a person of faith, courage and integrity. During these formative high school years you will be greatly influenced by the daily environment you experience as you interact with your peers, with dedicated teachers, staff, administration and coaches. Your success in a rigorous academic program, your involvement in extracurricular activities, and the friendships you form will occur in a welcoming, Christ-centered atmosphere. We are committed to getting you into the very best colleges and universities in the country, and more importantly, our focus is on preparing you to be disciples of your faith and successful men and women in a changing world.

West Catholic High School began its rich tradition founded on Christ-centered quality education in collaboration with Catholic Central High School in 1962. The creation of the Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools (CSS) and the addition of West Catholic High School expanded the tradition of Catholic education that has existed for more than 100 years in the Greater Grand Rapids community. This continues to have a tremendous impact on not only our graduates, but the community at large.

West Catholic High School empowers you to define your vision and pursue your goals with confidence, competence and Christian generosity. In dynamic partnerships with families, alumni, and the community, West Catholic has established a firm foundation for life-long learning.

This viewbook provides personalized perspectives of West Catholic High School. We welcome you to explore the possibility of becoming a part of this remarkable school community. After you have read this viewbook and watched the enclosed CD, please call our admissions office to schedule a visit and shadow a student so you can discover the West Catholic difference and experience it for a lifetime.



Our Mission

Grounded in Christ's teachings, the Catholic Secondary Schools (CSS) of Greater Grand Rapids will advance the formation and education of each student in spirit, mind and body.

West Catholic High School

West Catholic High School is a Catholic, college-preparatory, secondary school for young men and women of varied backgrounds and abilities located amidst a quiet, suburban community in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The administrators, faculty and staff are dedicated to preparing men and women of faith with integrity and courage to meet the future with moral values and standards of excellence while exercising Christian leadership and service in family, Church and society. West Catholic maintains its cultural and socioeconomic diversity by drawing students from Greater Grand Rapids to its 41-acre campus.

Fast Facts

- Total enrollment is 632 students with a student-teacher ratio of 18:1
- On average, 98% of CSS students enroll in colleges and universities after graduation
- West Catholic students consistently score well above both the State and National averages for SAT and ACT scores
- CSS students have consistently earned millions of dollars in scholarship awards over the years
- Our students log more than 20,000 community service hours per year
- Many seniors are honored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- More than 80% of students participate in extracurricular activities including varsity sports
- Named one of the top 25 Catholic high schools in the country in the area of Civic Education by the Acton Institute
- *Westword* student newspaper awarded the 2005-2006 Spartan Award, the highest award attainable



For an inside look at West Catholic High School, simply place this CD in the CD-ROM drive of your computer.

Atmosphere

When students first enter West Catholic High School, they may not know in what area they will be most successful, in which class they will shine like no other, or on which athletic field they will prove their talents. They can be sure, however, that like those who have come before them, great achievements are the rewards of meeting the challenges presented here. The young men and women of West Catholic have demonstrated that they have the dedication and gifts necessary to succeed everywhere. They are not afraid of challenges, and indeed, seek them out to improve themselves spiritually, academically, artistically, and athletically.

The community at West Catholic reflects the diverse population of Grand Rapids. Our school teaches students to view others of different ethnicity and backgrounds with respect. Students discover that differences can strengthen, not divide.





Students choosing West Catholic are welcomed into a warm and caring educational community. It is a place where students are engaged in the learning process, encouraged by teachers to succeed and fueled by the energy of the students who surround them. It is an atmosphere that enables all students to excel.

The spirit of our rich tradition and close-knit community permeates the school. Classes begin with prayer and the Catholic faith is integrated into every subject area. Regular liturgical celebrations and yearly retreats affirm the spirit within our school community. This spirit manifests itself in tutoring and mentoring programs for young people, the Peer Ministry Program, participation in mission trips and in collecting money, food and supplies to help the needy here in the Grand Rapids area and beyond. As Catholic educators, we believe that Christian service is an inherent part of being a student at West Catholic.

Our Catholic school identity is visible throughout the hallways and classrooms by an equal and modest dress standard that embodies the Catholic values system. The school uniform symbolizes the rich tradition and school spirit that creates an environment for focused learning.



Academics

Educational excellence founded in our faith is the heart of West Catholic. A stimulating environment for learning enables students to think independently and analytically, to problem-solve and to communicate effectively. A full program is offered in religion, English, math, social studies, science, foreign languages, technology, art, drama, as well as vocal and instrumental music. Courses are primarily college-preparatory, and some subjects offer honors and advanced placement level classes. The Catholic faith is integrated into every class, promoting the school's mission to educate students in spirit, mind, and body.

West Catholic offers Advanced Placement Courses in the following 8 subjects:

- Biology
- Calculus
- Chemistry
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- Government & Politics
- Macroeconomics
- U.S. History

West Catholic offers Honors Courses in the following 13 subjects:

- Algebra I
- Algebra II/Trigonometry
- American Literature & Composition
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geometry
- Integrated Science
- Latin III
- Literature & Composition II
- Physics
- Pre-Calculus
- Spanish III & IV
- World History

West Catholic offers 90 courses in 10 departments including vocational classes available through the Kent Career/Technical Center in 32 subject areas. Our honors and advanced placement courses receive a 1.25 quality point factor in computing the GPA and class rank. Our professional staff are certified in their respective areas with fifty percent holding master's degrees and more than fifty percent having taught at least ten years. Our school day is made up of seven class periods of 47 minutes each spanning over two 18-week semesters. Twenty-four units of credit are required to earn a diploma from West Catholic High School.

Infinite Campus connects parents, students and teachers to West Catholic in a new way. Parents and students now have access to grades, assignments, progress comments from teachers and activities on-line. Both parents and students are given a separate code to enter *Infinite Campus* from the West Catholic High School website.



The Arts

The Fine Arts thrive at West Catholic where students are offered complete programs in Art, Design, Drama, Vocal and Instrumental Music.

All students will experience the understanding, appreciation, and creation of the Arts in a Catholic Christian setting for life-long appreciation. Students will develop skills through

- Expressing oneself creatively in various media in the visual arts
- Critically evaluating the artistic works of self and others
- Comprehending the arts in an historical and cultural context
- Learning to be a discerning artist while manifesting an open mind to the arts in everyday life

The West Catholic Choir is growing in numbers, talent, and moving in a new direction. The choir performs at multiple events during the school year on campus and throughout the Greater Grand Rapids area.

Each year, the Drama Department performs well-known productions in the fall and a musical in the spring that are open to the entire student body. Previous plays have included *Blythe Spirit*, *Dracula*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *See How They Run Oklahoma*. In collaboration with students from Catholic Central High School, a major Shakespearean production is performed each year. Past plays have included *Twelfth Night*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

The Falcon Marching Band performs throughout the fall season at home football games, local parades and MSBOA marching competitions. They have performed in Disneyland and on New York's streets of Broadway, and in Ireland during the Summer of 2007. During the second semester the students break into two different concert bands. The Concert band is comprised mostly of ninth and tenth graders, while the Wind Ensemble remains West Catholic's top performing band. Both bands participate in MSBOA Concert festivals and for eight straight years West Catholic has earned medals. All band students have the opportunity to participate in MSBOA's Solo and Ensemble. They also participate in a Christmas and Spring Concert, Fine Arts Week and other Festival Competitions.

Interested students are selected through auditions for the WC Jazz Band that performs throughout the Greater Grand Rapids area. They also participate as the pep band for home basketball games.









Extracurricular Activities

Each student contributes to the life of the school through active participation in extracurricular activities. Students develop poise, confidence and leadership skills by pursuing interests while seeking support from mentors.

- Color Guard (Flag Line)
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Debate Club
- Drama/Plays
- French Club
- Help the Needy (HTN)
- Math Challenge
- Mock Trial
- National Art Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- National Relief Network Mission Trips
- Peer Ministry
- Principal's Advisory Board
- Quiz Bowl
- Rotary
- S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
- Science Olympiad
- Spanish Club
- S.T.A.N.D. (Students Taking a New Direction)
- Student Ambassadors
- Student Government
- Students for Life
- Varsity Club
- Westword
- Yearbook
- Out West Trip (*see below*)

Out West Trip: A long-standing tradition at West Catholic is the Out West trip guided each summer by science teacher, Mike Mulder. Between their sophomore and junior years, students are offered the opportunity to accompany classmates on a two-week camping trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, Devil's Tower National Monument, the Badlands and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

2005-2006 Successes

Baseball: District Champions and City League Runner-Up
Girls Basketball: District Runner-Up
Boys Cross Country: MHSAA State Runner-Up 2 years, 2003 State Champions, City League Champions and Academic All-State Team
Football: State Playoff Qualifier last three years
Boys Track: MITCA State Runner-Up, MHSAA Regional Champions and City League Champions
Girls Track: MITCA State Runner-Up, MHSAA District Champions and City League Runner-Up

Athletics

Athletics play an integral role in the formation of well-rounded students at West Catholic. Competition is an essential ingredient of our athletic program and helps students learn how to deal with both winning and losing. Our athletes understand that hard work teaches rules, skills, self-discipline, cooperation, sportsmanship, respect and commitment to shared goals. Our campus has expanded to include Falcon Stadium along with improvements to our baseball and softball fields that were made possible by the generosity of the local business community along with physical labor from our parents, students and alumni. The Falcons have captured a number of impressive titles affirming that self-discipline, team spirit and intense practice pays off!

Through the years the Falcons have won State Championships in Football, Boys Cross-Country, Girls Basketball, Boys Track and Gymnastics. Additionally, numerous City League, District and Regional Championships are reflected in the school's trophy cases.

Sports teams offered at West Catholic High School:

GIRLS

FALL

- Cheer
- Golf
- Swim & Dive
- Volleyball

WINTER

- Basketball
- Bowling
- Competitive Cheer
- Gymnastics
- Skiing

SPRING

- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Track & Field

BOYS

FALL

- Cross Country
- Football
- Soccer
- Tennis

WINTER

- Basketball
- Bowling
- Hockey
- Ski
- Swim & Dive
- Wrestling

SPRING

- Baseball
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Track & Field

Club sports offered at West Catholic include Crew, Disc Golf, Equestrian, Rugby with Catholic Central and Snow Boarding.







WEST CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

Admissions

SPEND A DAY AT WEST! West Catholic's Shadow Program gives prospective students the opportunity to shadow a Student Ambassador so he or she can catch a glimpse of academic life on our campus and experience the Falcon spirit! Students may visit on most school days from September through April. Please contact Nancy Beadling, Admissions Coordinator by phone: 616-233-5814 or by email: nancybeadling@grcss.org, to reserve a day for your visit.

What to do!	When to do it!	How to do it!
Spend a day at West Catholic!	September - April	Call 616-233-5814 to schedule the visit
Join us for Parent Information Nights	November, January and February *	Come and join us at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation & tour
Join us for Tuition/Financial Mgt. Class	November and February*	Call 616-233-5814 to reserve your spot
Register for High School Placement Test (HSPT)	December*	Please contact the West Catholic Guidance Department at 616-233-5914 to register
Take the HSPT	January*	Check in begins at 8:00 a.m. Arrive no later than 8:15 a.m.
Register for Admission	Freshman Parent Registration Night March*	Come & sign up for a personal registration appointment with a Guidance Counselor

WELCOME TO THE FALCON FAMILY!

***Please see insert for dates and times**

Tuition

The Tuition rate is determined in February of each school year. Please contact the Admissions Office at 616-233-5814 or nancybeadling@grcss.org for the current tuition rate. A family may receive parish support from their participating parish reducing their total tuition due. Tuition is set up through direct debit on a 10-month billing cycle from July through April. Payments are deducted on the fifth of each month or the following business day if the fifth falls on a weekend or holiday. Tuition may also be paid in full to receive a \$100 per family discount if the payment is received by June 30th.

Tuition Assistance

West Catholic High School welcomes an economically diverse student population and offers a variety of tuition assistance options. One out of five students receives financial aid and grants are awarded on the basis of need as determined by the PSAS Tuition Aid program. All families interested in being considered for financial aid must complete a PSAS Tuition Application Form (available at the school office after the second week of February). The form must be mailed to the PSAS Tuition assistance agency. Notification of each applicant's financial aid decision will be mailed in mid-May.

Additional tuition aid is available through the West Catholic LaPres/Gerke Education Fund. Families who apply for PSAS will receive a notification from West Catholic in September regarding the application details and deadline. Awards from this fund range from \$200 to \$1,000 in additional assistance.

The Minority Scholars Program has been established to recognize achievement in scholastics, leadership and service among minority students from the West Michigan area. The Catholic Secondary Schools offer ten (10) scholarships per year to students entering West Catholic High School. For program requirements and deadlines, please contact the Admissions office by phone 616-233-5814, by email nancybeadling@grcss.org, or visit the Catholic Secondary Schools' website at www.grcss.org.

SCRIP credits from partner schools and parishes may be applied to West Catholic tuition. Families must notify their Parish SCRIP coordinator and request credits to be applied to their West Catholic tuition account.

West Catholic participates with the Meijer Community Rewards Program. Our school's participating Meijer account number is 801593. Meijer Community Rewards applications are available through the Business Office or the school's main office. Please call 616-233-5981 if you have questions relating to the Meijer Community Rewards Program.

Mercantile Bank offers West Catholic families fee-free loan processing for those interested in mortgage refinance and school loan options. Families may contact Mercantile Bank at 616-785-5456 for further details.

Please contact the Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools Business Office for additional tuition information at 616-233-5981.



West Catholic High School Administration

Stan Spetoskey	Principal
Allison Camp	Vice Principal, Academic Achievement & Advancement
Jack Young	Vice Principal, Athletics & Student Activities
Bruce Lee	Director of Guidance
Dawn Majchrzak	Guidance, Freshman Team
Cathy Pearce	Campus Ministry

Catholic Secondary Schools Administration

Reverend R. Louis Stasker	Pastor/President
John Young	Business Manager
Nancy Beadling	Admissions Coordinator
Chad Wieber	Director of Development
Dauvan Mulally	Director of Communications
Arnette Kraus	Director of Special Events



COLLEGE Acceptance

Adrian College
Albion College
Alma College
Aquinas College
Art Institute of Chicago
Baker College
Ball State University
Berklee College of Music
Bradley University
Butler University
Calvin College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University
Central Michigan University
Chic University of Cosmetology
Colgate University
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Columbia College
Concordia University
Cornerstone University
Creighton University
Davenport University

DePaul University
DePauw University
Douglas J. Aveda Institute of Cosmetology
Drexel University
Duke University
Eastern Michigan University
Excel College of Cosmetology
Ferris State University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Georgetown University
Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Valley State University
Harvard University
Hillsdale College
Holy Cross College
Hope College
Illinois Institute of Art
International Academy of Design & Technology
Ithaca College
John Carroll University
John & Wales University
Kalamazoo College
Kansas State University
Kettering University

Lake Superior State University
Lawrence Technological University
Lehigh University
Loyola University of Chicago
Marquette University
Miami of Ohio University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Northern Michigan University
Northwestern Michigan Community College
Northwestern University
Northwood University
Oakland University
Olivet College
Olympia Training Institute
Pikeville College
Regis University
St. Joseph College-Indiana
St. Louis University
St. Mary's College-Indiana
St. Norbert College
Siena Heights College
University of Akron
University of Chicago

University of Chicago-Boulder
University of Dayton
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Evansville
University of Miami (Florida)
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of Seattle
University of South Florida
University of Tampa
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Valparaiso University
Wabash College
Western Michigan University
Xavier University
Yale

Higher Expectations

Philosophy:

West Catholic recognizes the students and their concern for growth as a primary concern. It seeks to provide for all students, a supportive, safe environment conducive to academic endeavor, social interaction and individual self-discipline.

Code of Conduct:

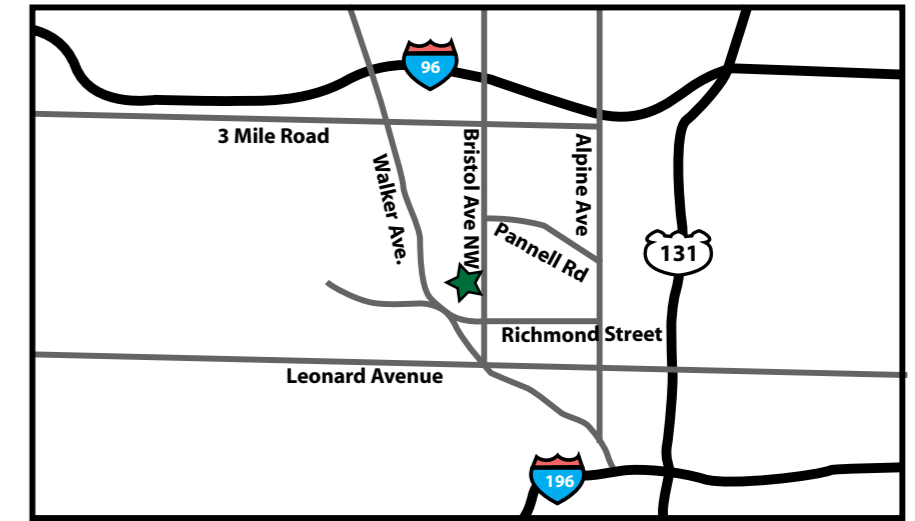
West Catholic fosters every student's desire for excellence in all areas of life. The underlying rationale is one of respect for all persons, property, authority, faith, academics and the culture and environment within which every member of the West Catholic community must function. Whether on or off campus, students are required to maintain the level of conduct and courtesy expected of a West Catholic student.

Uniform:

In an effort to reinforce our Catholic school identity and promote a modest, yet casual dress standard that is in keeping with our values, West Catholic High School requires a school uniform. The uniform is outlined in the student handbook.

Student Dignity:

The Catholic Secondary Schools expect all students to conduct themselves with dignity and with respect for fellow students, faculty, staff and others. Harassment of any nature includes any conduct that may reasonably be offensive to others in an educational organization. Harassing anyone will not be tolerated.



Our campus is located at 1801 Bristol, NW in Grand Rapids, Michigan just minutes from US 131 and I-96. Please visit our website www.grwestcatholic.org for a map and driving directions.



Place
Stamp
Here



www.grwestcatholic.org

Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools
Attn: Admissions Dept.
P.O. Box 327
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0327



Come visit West Catholic High School campus!

See for yourself how West Catholic High School is the right choice for you. You may tour the campus, athletic facilities, and talk to faculty and current students. Experience "Falcon Pride" first hand by calling our Admissions Department today. We will arrange an appointment for your personal tour.

For more information:

Please visit our website at www.grwestcatholic.org or contact:

Nancy Beadling, Admissions Coordinator
Catholic Secondary Schools
P.O. Box 327
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0327
616-233-5814
nancybeadling@gross.org

Please send more information on West Catholic High School

- Please contact me regarding West Catholic High School.
- I would like information on tuition rates.
- I would like information on financial aid, and scholarship opportunities.
- I would like a tour of West Catholic High School.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Student Name: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Current School/Grade: _____
Athletic/Arts/Activities: _____



West Catholic High School



West Catholic High School
1801 Bristol N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

www.grwestcatholic.org