



CHAMBER'S BEST SCHOOLS INITIATIVE CHAMINADE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The school brochure indicates that Chaminade, founded in 1910, is an independent, Catholic Day and Resident school for young men in grades six through twelve, which is conveniently located at 425 South Lindbergh. Yet, driving up the hill to Chaminade Hall, which houses the administrative offices and classrooms, one begins to sense that there just may be more to this place than meets the eye. And in very short order, our tour group came to recognize the surprising and extensive truth of that fact. The grounds, buildings, athletic fields, training facilities and courts of Chaminade, all quietly nestled on a beautiful 55 acre campus in the heart of West County more closely resembles a college or university campus than a private high school for young men. And that was merely the beginning....

The brochure tells us that “Chaminade bears the name of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, a priest who lived during the era of the French Revolution and who founded the religious order known as the Society of Mary or Marianists.” It goes on to say, “William Joseph Chaminade shared a vision for educators to offer a ‘Christian lesson in every word, in every gesture, in every look’. In this spirit the Chaminade Family strives to make a difference in the lives of its students by providing an education that goes beyond academics.”

Chaminade is indeed a place where all can feel at home. Chaminade’s House System, similar to the one popularized in the Harry Potter book series, was implemented during the 2003-2004 school year and has been instrumental in helping students feel welcome. It promotes family spirit and a sense of camaraderie between and among students and their mentors, deans, and counselors. Rather than meeting in a homeroom, students meet with their mentor group each day.

All students complete community service as a key component of their formation and education each year. Students are required to participate in service to their family, church, school and community. The number of hours and types of projects required varies with each grade level. For instance, seniors are required to complete 60 hours of community service for graduation while all other high school students complete at least 20 hours each year.

As one of the primary entry levels for Chaminade students, the sixth grade strives to prepare boys for the academic, athletic, spiritual, and emotional challenges that accompany the middle school years and beyond. Chaminade employs the “block schedule” system which allows students to take up to eight classes in one year. In this way, students are able to schedule their core classes and still incorporate additional subjects of their own choosing. Chaminade also offers 36 AP/Advanced College Credit courses and each student has a laptop computer to help them become leaders in the use of technology.

Over 10,000 students have graduated from Chaminade and more than 99% of these graduates have gone on to college or university. Chaminade boasts a seasoned staff with an average nineteen years of teaching experience, twelve of them spent on the Chaminade campus. In addition, advanced degrees are held by more than 70% of the faculty. The student-teacher ratio is 10:1 with an average class size of 19 students.

In addition to classrooms and administrative offices, the 55-acre campus in west St. Louis County includes two gymnasiums, an indoor pool, a weight training facility, football stadium, an outdoor all-weather track, soccer complex, baseball diamond, practice fields, and eight tennis courts. There are 64 teams playing in 17 varsity sports. The campus also includes residential facilities for 64 students who have hailed from Korea, Mexico, China, Rwanda, Thailand, Taiwan, Canada, Australia, and the United States in recent years.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact J.B. Gorgen, Associate Director of Admissions, at 314-692-6640 or jgorgen@chaminade-stl.com.