

# The St. Austin School

## Catholic Education Honor Roll Application 2020-2025

1. **Enter the school's website.** [www.saintaustinschool.org](http://www.saintaustinschool.org)
2. **What is the school's mission statement?** The St. Austin School provides a rigorous academic program which prepares our students to excel in secondary schools of the highest caliber. In collaboration with our families, we help form students in Christian virtues and establish the practice of the Catholic faith.
3. **What is the school's educational philosophy?**
4. The St. Austin School firmly holds to the Catholic conviction that parents are the first and most enduring educators of their children and that the family is a privileged school in which children learn Christian virtues and establish the practice of the Catholic Faith (cf. CCC2223 ff.). The school works collaboratively with parents and families and values the close associations that naturally develop between those involved in the care of the children. The St. Austin School endeavors to extend this family environment so that children may "increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). We believe that education is primarily the work of helping form character in each child so that the student develops sound judgment and self-mastery. We seek to assist parents in passing on their religious and moral values by promoting a consistent message at school and in the social relationships of the extended school community. Central to the school's mission is the inculcation of Benedictine spirituality, a 1500 year-old tradition carried on by the monks at St. Louis Abbey, which provides the school's chaplaincy. Following in the footsteps of St. Benedict, the school teaches the students the value of listening, in order to hear what God is saying and to learn the faith so well that they can explain it to others. The students are taught to seek God in everything they do, and to grow closer to Him through their work and especially through prayer. Additionally, the school teaches the children to see Christ in everyone they meet, and to strive to become Christ for every person they meet. We wish to develop the natural love of God in the hearts of the children so that they may seek Him above all things and find joy in worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness. Therefore, Holy Mass and regular Confession are the central core to the school's chaplaincy. We strive to instill in each child a love of learning and the ability to speak well, write well, and think well. To that end, the school follows a demanding classical liberal arts curriculum which allows the students to succeed and excel in secondary schools of the highest caliber. The curriculum is integrated so that the students can see the relationships between art, history, literature, and mathematics. The students are presented with a curriculum that presents a coherent Catholic worldview. The motto of the school is taken from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians: To preach...the unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:8). There is a two-fold meaning to this text. First, the teachers of the school wish to bring St. Paul's inspired wisdom to their teaching. The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in Him (CCC 425 ff). Second, we hope that our children when they are fully formed will likewise ...burn with the desire to proclaim Christ: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20) (CCC 425 ff).
5. **Select the response that describes the "type" of school.** Independent
6. **In which diocese is the school located?** St. Louis
7. **What is the governing model?** Other, describe the governance structure: Board of Governors

### Additional details

7a. How many Board members do you have?

8

<b>7b. How many Board members are Catholic?</b>	<b>7</b>
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**Professional Staff**

<b>8a. What is the total number of full- time (&gt;30 hours) teaching faculty? (Note: The count should include administrators who currently teach.)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8b. Percentage of full-time faculty who are practicing Catholics?</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>8c. What is the total number of part- time faculty (&lt; 30 hours)?</b>	
<b>8d. Percentage of the part-time faculty who are practicing Catholics?</b>	<b>100</b>

**Number of faculty and staff who are:**

	<b>Not Available</b>	<b>Full-time (&gt; = 30 hours)</b>	<b>Part-time(&lt;30 hours)</b>
<b>9a. Religious sisters</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9b. Religious brothers</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9c. Members of the clergy</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**10. Which of the following are explicitly stated in the school’s mission statement, policies, or publications?**

- The school is a place of encountering God and his love and truth.
- The school has Christ as its foundation.
- The school is a community united with the Church.
- The school is faithful to the Magisterium.
- The school provides frequent opportunities for prayer, sacred scripture, and the Church's liturgical and sacramental life.
- The school engages in the integral formation of the human person - spiritual, intellectual, and physical.
- The school presents a Christian worldview of humanity emphasizing the dignity of the human person.
- The school transmits culture in the light of faith.
- The school prepares students to be instruments of evangelization.

**11. Personnel and other policies are consistent with Catholic teachings and the Church’s mission for Catholic education. Yes**

**12. Evaluation of personnel takes into account their commitment to the mission and Catholic identity of the school.**

Administrators	Yes
Faculty	Yes
Staff	Yes

**13. Additional Information**

13a. The Church's mission for Catholic education guides strategic planning and school improvement.	Strongly agree
13b. The school is effective in advancing the Church's mission of evangelization of students.	Strongly agree
13c. The school protects the mission of Catholic education in light of new educational paradigms, consumerist demands, government interference, and threats to religious freedom.	Strongly agree
13d. The school's Catholic identity is prominently featured in marketing materials and publications.	Strongly agree

**14. Describe how the school evaluates its institutional commitment to the Church's teaching on the divine mission of Catholic education.**

In our decision-making process, we evaluate everything we intend to do according to the stated objectives in our Prospectus, the guiding principles of our school. Once a decision is made and implemented, we continue to carefully examine its effectiveness through the prism of the Church's teaching on the divine mission of Catholic education.

**15. The school ensures that operations are faithful to the Code of Canon Law, Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other magisterial teachings of the Church.**

Yes

**16. The school community serves, supports, and participates in the activities of the local church.** Strongly agree

**17. Describe how the school is united in service to the broader community.**

St. Austin reaches out to the broader community in service to those in need through apostolic projects both at the class and all-school levels.

Our students annually take part in an on-air telethon for our local Catholic radio station. Our students recorded the holy rosary for the station's app, and we also evangelize on-air.

We are present whenever there is an opportunity to promote religious liberty in our community such as the National Day of Prayer, and See You at the Pole.

**18. School documents reflect Catholic teaching that parents are the primary educators of their children.** Yes

**19. How are parents invited to participate in a meaningful partnership with the school?**

Parents are designated as the primary educators of their children. Our faculty and administrators are in regular communication with the parents to help the children reach their highest potential academically, spiritually, and socially. We work closely with the parents and encourage their feedback. We have a parent organization which is actively involved in the school. They plan and execute approximately 20 events on an annual basis. Parents are actively involved in school committees. We are always considering our parent group as a population from which future board members are hoped to be obtained.

**20. The school has policies and procedures to make education accessible to families who share the mission, including large and economically disadvantaged families.** Yes

**21. The school’s program assists students to develop respect, kindness, mercy, and forgiveness when interacting with each other, parents, school employees, and volunteers.** Strongly agree.

**22. Does the school have a morality clause or statement that defines expectations for employee behavior to ensure a commitment to Catholic ideals, teachings and principles?** Yes

**23. The school ensures that employees and volunteers understand and respect the teachings of the Catholic Church and moral demands of the Gospel by demonstrating consistency between personal faith and public behavior.** Yes

**24. The school ensures all employees are committed to, and participate in, the religious formation of students.** Strongly agree

**25. How many hours per school year are directed to faculty development which specifically targets the Church’s mission?**

The faculty participates in 4-5 hours of in-house development specifically targeting the Church's mission. In addition, faculty members attend Catholic educational conferences across the nation. Many of the faculty members attend Mass on a daily basis.

**26. Specify the qualifications for faculty involved in the formal catechesis of students.**

**Additional Policies**

27a. The school protects Catholic moral norms in the selection of outside service providers and organizations.	Yes
27b. The school protects Catholic moral norms in the approval of student and faculty organizations, associations, and activities.	Yes

**28. The school ensures opportunities for students to encounter the Living God through: Select all that apply.**

- Recitation of the Rosary
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart
- Devotion to the Holy Spirit
- Saint of the Day
- The Feast day of St. Joseph
- The Feast day of Patron Saints

All Saints/All Souls
Lenten Activities
Stations of the Cross
Advent Prayers
May Crowning
Marian Processions
Adoration/Benediction
Litanies
Liturgy of the Hours
Daily Prayers for Others
Personal Prayer
Lectio Divina
The Angelus
St. Michael/Angel Prayers
Spiritual Bouquets
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Sacred Chant
Holy Medals and Cards
Other, specify: Ignatian Meditation

**29. Frequency of Mass for students:** Weekly – required.

**30. Availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for students:** Daily. Other, please specify: Monthly

**31. Based on the response above, estimate the percentage of the student body who participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** 90

**32. The school ensures that liturgies and the Sacrament of Reconciliation follow Church norms.** Yes

**33. Frequency of Eucharistic Adoration:** Monthly

**34. Based on the response above, estimate the percentage of the student body who participates in Eucharistic Adoration** 100

**35. The school has the Blessed Sacrament reserved and readily available for student visitation.** No.

Students participate in Eucharistic Adoration monthly at school. We encourage students to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament at their parishes, since we rent space and do not have a chapel. We hope to have our own school with a chapel where students can make frequent visits to Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**36. Frequency of prayer:**

Start of class	Always
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Start of day	Always
Special events	Always
End of day	Always
Performances	Always
Meetings	Always
Meals	Always
Athletic events	Always
School assemblies	Always

**37. Describe how the school assists students to ensure experiences in prayer, scripture and sacrament are personal, meaningful, and respectful.**

The school gathers daily to pray, recite scripture, and sing praise to God with Gregorian Chant. The students participate in Lectio Divina together once a month. The eighth-grade students lead it for the younger students to help them meet Christ in the Scriptures in a personal way. We promote a prayerful atmosphere during Eucharistic Adoration, playing sacred music, allowing the students to have a meaningful encounter with Christ in the Sacrament. During Lent, we have student-led Stations of the Cross which help all the students to experience Christ's passion in a very personal way. All of our liturgies are reverent. We promote reverence both before and after liturgies, keeping silence beforehand as we prepare to meet Christ, and kneeling in prayer afterwards in gratitude. We honor the Virgin Mary at May Crowning. We meditate on the lives of Jesus and Mary as we pray the rosary in class. Every Friday we gather to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy reminding the students of the power of Christ's redemption.

**38. The school community celebrates when students are initiated into a Sacrament (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation).** Strongly agree

**39. The school ensures that opportunities for prayer, liturgy, and sacraments are prioritized on the school calendar and daily schedule.** Yes

**40. The school ensures that Sacred Scripture is part of the student experience and life of the school.** Strongly Agree

**41. Frequency of student retreats during the school year: (Not applicable for K-8).** Annually – optional

**42. The school offers formational spiritual retreats for students that include the opportunity for:** Reconciliation, Mass, Other, specify: The Liturgy of the Hours is prayed communally at the Father-Son retreat.

**43. Spiritual direction is available at school from:**

Priest	Not available
Religious	Not available
Trained Laity	Not available

**44. Describe how the school supports students in a vocation to the religious life?**

We have religious sisters, monks, and priests speak with the students regularly about vocations. We follow up with classroom discussions, essays, or reflections to reinforce the message of the religious or priest.

Our religion program supports vocations to the religious life by articulating the beauty of the vocation. Students pray for vocations as well as for their own vocation.

**45. Theology coursework and participation in liturgies and devotions is expected of students, including non-Catholic.** Yes

**46. How does the school ensure that students (including non-Catholics) attend required liturgies and participate in the catechetical and spiritual life of the school?**

Attendance during prayer, service projects, and liturgies is required. Grades are given in religion class, and students are required to live out the catechesis they receive.

**47. The school provides opportunities for parents to participate in:**

Liturgies

Prayer groups

Eucharistic and Marian processions

Adoration/Benediction

School-wide devotions

Service projects

Other, specify: Advent by Candlelight, Parent Speaker Series, Father-Son and Mother-Daughter Retreats

**48. Faculty are required to attend religious services when student attendance is mandatory.** Yes

**49. The school provides opportunities to faculty for spiritual retreats, prayer, and reflection.** Agree

**50. The school provides opportunities to its governing board for spiritual retreats, prayer, and reflection.** Agree

**51. What sacred images, icons, artwork, furnishings, or spaces are present in the school? Select all that apply.**

Crucifix in each class

Crucifix in hallways

Images, icons or statues of Christ

Images, icons or statues of Our Lady

Images, icons or statues of Saints

Images, icons or statues of Guardian Angels

Images, icons or statues of Angels

Images of the Divine Mercy

Scripture quotes

Holy water fonts

Prayer corners

Other, specify: We rent space from a non-denominational church and have been asked to keep religious articles on weekends. We intend to have the remaining items on your list when we have our own school building.

**52. The school assists students to understand the relationship between mind, body, and soul and the importance of spiritual, physical, and mental well-being.** Strongly agree

**53. How does the school incorporate the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other materials to ensure students understand and appreciate the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church?**

We have a carefully written curriculum based on the Catechism. We use the Faith and Life series published by Ignatius Press as our main textbook. The series beautifully brings together Biblical quotes, saints' quotes, and quotes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church to help the students understand the teachings and traditions of the Church. The middle school students study the entire Bible over the course of four years as well as Biblical languages. We teach Latin to students in grades 1-8 where the students read quotes from the Church fathers and other Catholic documents. We familiarize the students with the miracles and relics of the Church through reading selections. We read religious fiction on the early Church to give the students a sense of their heritage. The students read various saint biographies and give reports, and we use liturgical aids for the various liturgies. In addition, holy days and how they are celebrated are discussed and explained in class. We show reverence for holy days by not having school.

**54. The school teaches students respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.** Yes

**55. How does the school ensure that athletic programs contribute to student growth in Christian virtue?**

We have a limited number of team sports. Christ is the center of all we do, so we begin all activities with prayer. The students are expected to treat each other with Christian virtue. We choose our athletic activities and monitor our athletic programs to ensure that the children build unity, work together, compromise, listen to and follow rules, and show good sportsmanship.

**56. The school ensures that the visual and performing arts foster integral formation and Christian virtue.** Strongly agree

**57. The school ensures that expectations for dress, language, music, and dances aid in the development of modesty and Christian virtue.** Strongly agree

**58. How do student disciplinary policies reflect a commitment to teach virtue?**

Discipline at St. Austin is firm and loving. It is virtue-based. When correcting a student's behavior, we discuss virtue. We hold with St. John Bosco that love and prevention are better motives to good behavior than fear and punishment. At all times we strive to provide an ordered, safe, and happy environment where children develop and accept responsibility for their own behavior. Discipline is based on respect, consideration, and care for each other.

**59. The school provides for the needs of students with educational, developmental, and physical exceptionalities.** Agree

**60. The school provides for interdisciplinary instruction that exposes underlying relationships among academic disciplines.** Strongly Agree

**61. How does the school teach students to confront materialism and relativism?**

Our identity as a classical school opposes everything about materialism and relativism by promoting all that is true, good, and beautiful. One example of how we do this is by combating religious relativism through lecture, discussion, Socratic dialogue, mimetic instruction as well as student projects and the witness of our Catholic culture. We use stories from history and literature to point out the errors of materialism and relativism. Prayer and spirituality infuse the school day. Our entire culture is centered around a spiritual God who is objectively real.

**62. The school provides clear and unambiguous instruction in Catholic moral and social teaching.** Yes



**63. The school teaches responsibility and the right use of freedom.** Strongly agree

**64. The school informs students of the impact of technology on the development of human virtue, how to use it in healthy, productive ways, and the risks associated with overuse/misuse of social media, cyber-bullying, and pornography.** Strongly agree

**65. What are the three most important ideals a Catholic school student should learn before graduation from the school?**

One moral issue is the right to life. We promote a culture of life through prayer, instruction, student organizations, service, and pilgrimage. We have a Life Runners organization which meets monthly. Our eighth-grade students travel to Washington, D.C. annually to participate in the March for Life and give a reflection on their experiences. We support pro-life agencies such as Our Lady's Inn which helps mothers in need. We pray frequently for the right to life from conception to natural death.

The second moral issue is courage in standing up for the truth. We teach the students to imitate the saints in their fidelity to the Faith, while helping them recognize that the manner in which they witness to the truth may differ from saints of the past. We train them not just to avoid the bad, but to choose the good. We teach our seventh and eighth grade students The Art of Argument so they can evangelize by word. We help them understand that their very behavior is a testimony to their Catholic Faith.

**66. Sex education, which is a basic right and duty of parents, must always be carried out under their attentive care.** Yes

**67. The school ensures that students are able to explain and defend the Catholic faith.**

Strongly agree

**68. How does the school ensure transmission of Catholic culture that allows for a Christian understanding of the world?**

All of our teachers are highly vetted for compatibility with Catholic culture. The students are presented with a curriculum that inculcates a coherent Catholic worldview. All of our school sponsored activities reflect this view. Mass is offered in both the Novus Ordo and Extraordinary Form conveying both the old and the new in Catholic culture. We sing Gregorian Chant as a school every morning. We pray the Angelus and other traditional Catholic prayers and devotions. Students participate in apostolic and service projects. Our religion instruction conveys the breadth of Catholic theological perspectives. As a result, the children learn to see the world through a Catholic Christian lens.

**69. The school ensures that curriculum standards, guides, texts, and pedagogy integrate the truths of the Catholic faith.** Strongly agree

### **Additional Information**

70a. The school emphasizes Catholic contributions to theology, philosophy, ethics, literature, science, mathematics, and the visual and performing arts.	Strongly agree
70b. The faculty challenge students to evaluate history in the context of Catholic moral and social teachings.	Strongly Agree
70c. The faculty challenge students to evaluate civic (and for high schools economic) concepts and events within the context of Catholic moral and social teachings.	Strongly Agree

70d. The school ensures that students gain cultural literacy and fluency in language, idioms, stories, civics, and knowledge that form the American experience.	Strongly agree
70e. The school ensures that students understand the impact of a Catholic worldview on language, idioms, intellectual tradition, and stories of western culture.	Strongly Agree

**71. Attach a PDF of major works and authors studied in grade 6-12 literature classes. (See below).**

**72. The science program presents significant contributions of Catholic scientists such as Mendel, Lavoisier, Pasteur, Galileo, Gregor, Volta, and Copernicus. Yes**

**73. The school presents the topics of creation, evolution, the environment, and genetics in the context of Church teachings and in opposition to secular materialism and scientism. Yes**

**74. The school emphasizes and integrates the unity of faith and reason throughout the curriculum. Agree**

**75. How does the school ensure that students are prepared to evangelize culture and their fellowman?**

The students receive a solid grounding in human virtue and in the practice of the Faith through works of service, liturgy, prayer, and devotion. This enables them to evangelize by the witness of their way of life. The study and memorization of Scripture at all levels fill their minds with the Word of God, empowering them to live out their Faith. By the time they graduate, they will know the truths of the Faith thoroughly and will be able to defend their Faith in word as well as deed.

**Comments and Additional Explanation. (Please cite individual question with comment):**

#63: We hold optional Father-Son and Mother-Daughter retreats annually for our middle school students.

#69: We refer parents to trusted RCIA Programs.

#72: We answered "agree" instead of "strongly agree", because the faculty as a group, has not had the opportunity to attend retreats regularly. We are working towards that goal. The majority of our faculty members do attend retreats annually as individuals.

#73: We answered "agree" instead of "strongly agree", as the Board of Governors as a group, has not had the opportunity to attend retreats on a regular basis. We are working towards that goal. The majority of our board members as individuals attend an annual retreat.

#86: We answered "agree" instead of "strongly agree" as our Prospectus states the following: Central to The St. Austin School's philosophy is to provide for each individual child according to the student's needs. However, as a small school we are not able to provide adequately for children with special needs. In situations where we might be able to help, the school will seek to accommodate needs on an individual basis at the discretion of the Head of School.

#95: We do not teach human sexuality, therefore our parents do not need to opt out.

**Reading List from #71 Above:**

Grade 4:

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis  
*Sarah Plain and Tall*, Patricia MacLachlin *Snow Treasure*,  
Marie McSwigan  
*Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawles  
*The Indian in the Cupboard*, Lynn Reid Banks  
*Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry  
*Sign of the Beaver*, Elizabeth George Speare *A Door in*  
*the Wall*, Marguerite de Angeli  
*The Little Flower*, Mary Fabyan Wyndeatt  
*The Great Black Robe*, Jean Maddern Pitrone

Grade 5:

*The Outlaws of Ravenhurst*, M. Imelda Wallace  
*The Iliad and the Odyssey for Boys and Girls*, Alfred Church  
*The Bronze Bow*, Elizabeth George Speare *Augustine Came to*  
*Kent*, Barbara Willard  
*The Good Master*, Kate Seredy  
Greek and Roman Myths, Poetry

Grade 6:

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain  
*A Light in the Forest*, Conrad Richter  
*Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison*, Lois Lensk  
*The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe*, Roland Smith  
*The Shakespeare Stealer*, Gary Blackwood  
*My Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George  
*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson  
*The Winged Watchman*, Hilda van Stockum

Grades 7 & 8:

*Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare  
*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare  
*Much Ado About Nothing*, William Shakespeare  
*Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain *Cyrano de Bergerac*,  
Edmund Rostand  
*White Fang*, Jack London  
*The Old Man and the Sea*, Earnest Hemingway  
*Favorite Father Brown Stories*, G.K. Chesterton  
*Behind the Blue and the Grey*, Delia Ray *The Boys' War*,  
Jim Murphy  
*The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis *Joan of Arc*, Mark  
Twain  
American Short Stories, Poetry