

ST. LAWRENCE
S E M I N A R Y
HIGH SCHOOL
COLLEGE PREP-SPIRITUAL DEPTH

The Weekend Visit Experience

**A Guide to the Weekend Visit at
St. Lawrence Seminary High School**



About St. Lawrence Seminary High School

St. Lawrence Seminary was founded over 150 years ago by two Swiss diocesan priests, Fr. Francis Haas and Fr. Bonaventure Frey. Today, St. Lawrence High School has grown from a tiny institution with only a few students to a thriving school with over 200 students. Boys from across the country and world come to be a part of the strong, proud tradition of St. Lawrence. Together, they form a group of individuals who have chosen to discern God's calling in their lives, whether as priests, religious, or lay persons in the Catholic Church.

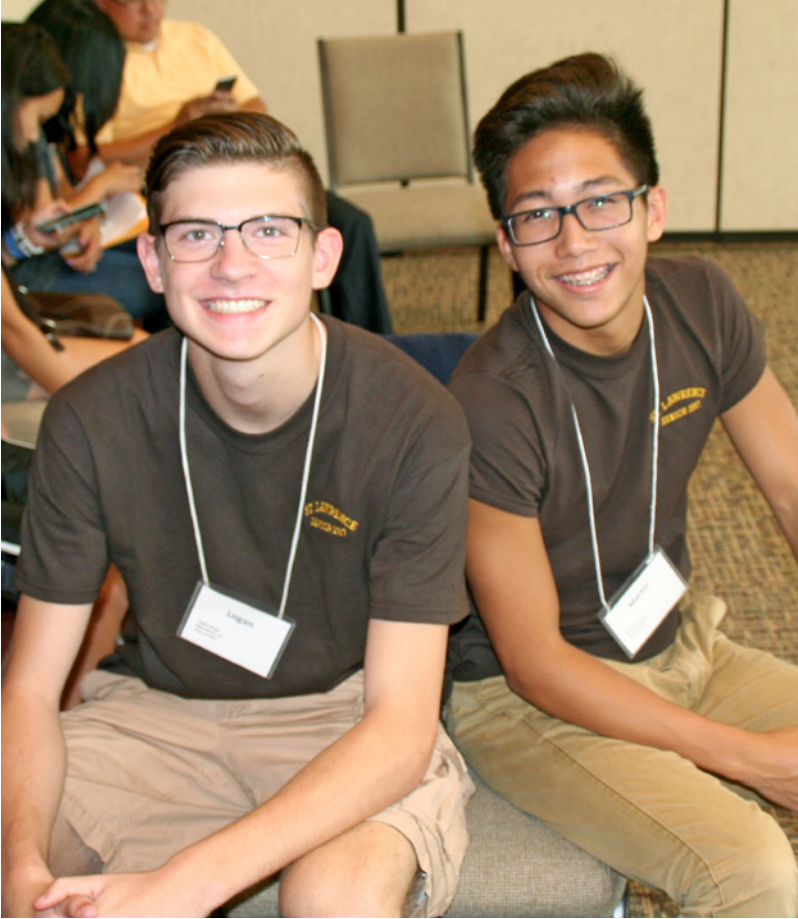
An Understanding of Real Diversity and Brotherhood

St. Lawrence Seminary is proud to dispel the myth that traditional prep schools have a lack of diversity. But rather the students at St. Lawrence Seminary experience much diversity and live in close proximity for an extended amount of time with students of varying ethnicities and backgrounds from all over the world. This allows students to build a community of peers with diverse personalities and worldviews, which serves as an education all on its own.

Attracting Young Men of Great Character

St. Lawrence Seminary goes beyond being an exclusive school and has implemented a lengthy, interactive admissions process, which is designed to cultivate a personal and unique relationship with each family interested in sending their son to St. Lawrence Seminary. The unique admissions process allows for St. Lawrence Seminary to really get to know the parents and prospective students, in turn ensuring that young men of integrity and high character are chosen as a good fit for the school.





Developing Young Men of Character

St. Lawrence Seminary is dedicated to bringing up young men of high character. Integrity, compassion, humility, and genuine qualities are instilled in the students by safeguarding and respecting the dignity of all individuals so that they will grow in an environment conducive to Gospel values.

Students are presented with the Honor Code forms, and each student at St. Lawrence Seminary, upon signing the Honor Code, promises not to steal, not to possess banned materials, to demonstrate academic integrity, to use the internet resource for only appropriate purposes, and to demonstrate Christian character of respect and responsibility for persons and property.



What is the Weekend Visit?

The Weekend Visit is an opportunity for young Catholic boys to explore St. Lawrence as a prospective high school. This experience is open to current eighth, ninth, and tenth grade students. The weekend, which runs Thursday through Sunday, allows students to experience a residential high school life during the course of the school year.

Visitors during the Weekend Visit are involved in all the normal, day-to-day activities at St. Lawrence. They join the students in prayer, classes, meals, and

recreation. During the school day on the Friday of the weekend, the prospective students take an admissions exam. The results are shared with both the student and his parents Saturday evening, after the tour and presentation.

Parents are asked to join their sons on Saturday and Sunday. Sharing the personal experience makes for a common ground from which prospective students and their parents can discuss attending St. Lawrence Seminary High School.



Student Testimonial

Sometimes the best way to get an authentic perspective of something like the Weekend Visit is to get insight from someone who actually took the time to experience it in person. That's why we talked to Logan Burge (pictured above on the left), a graduate of St. Lawrence Seminary, who had some thoughts on his personal experience at the Weekend Visit Experience at SLS.

.....

SLS: *How did you hear about St. Lawrence Seminary High School?*

LB: I heard about St. Lawrence Seminary High School from my dad who is an alumnus and a previous employee of the school. I would come up on the weekends for mass, and it really interested me to see all of the students who were so friendly and involved.

SLS: *What grade/age were you when you attended the Weekend Visit?*

LB: I was in the 8th grade when I attended the weekend visit. My mom signed me up for the earliest date available as well. I was really excited to go!

.....

SLS: *What was your initial impression of the Weekend Visit experience?*

LB: At first I was really nervous. I didn't know what it would be like, and I didn't know anyone there. But the students were all really nice and helped me with any questions I had.

.....

SLS: *How did the students and faculty affect your experience during the weekend?*

LB: The teachers were very kind and welcoming when I went to classes. Students were always asking me if I knew where I was going as well. I was really surprised how welcoming they all were to me.

.....

SLS: *What was your impression of SLS at the end of the weekend?*

LB: I was 100% ready to give SLS a try. I knew that I would enjoy my time there and would meet lots of new people.

.....

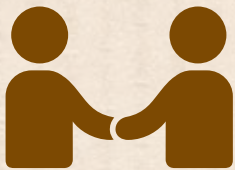
SLS: *What do you love most about St. Lawrence Seminary High School?*

LB: I think the friendships I have made here will last a lifetime. I have met so many people from all over the world and learned so many things about their cultures.

Invitation Process



St. Lawrence's **initial inquiry and assessment** of each family begins with a conversation via phone or email meant to answer questions regarding the school, listen to the family's goals in choosing a high school, and learn about the prospective student. The initial contact is also meant to explain the basic criteria a candidate must meet before further consideration.



After the initial assessment of the family (and assuming they live within a few hundred miles of the school), St. Lawrence would like to do a **home visit** and meet the family in person prior to the Weekend Visit. An Admissions Coordinator goes to the home at a time that is convenient for the family in hopes of developing a rapport with both the parents and the prospective student.



The **Weekend Visit** is the pivotal event in the discernment process regarding St. Lawrence Seminary High School. The Weekend Visit allows an interested student and his parent(s) to experience St. Lawrence first hand and to get a sense of daily life there. It's also an opportunity for St. Lawrence to see how the young man interacts with others and fits into his surroundings. St. Lawrence expects that all candidates who wish to receive an application attend a Weekend Visit.

Exceptions are sometimes made for families that live a significant distance away from the school.

Goals of the Weekend Visit

By the end of the Weekend Visit, St. Lawrence hopes that:

- Visiting students and their parents will gain a real feel for the values that are important to St. Lawrence Seminary
- Students have an idea of what day-to-day life is like at St. Lawrence
- Parents will have an understanding of the various programs at St. Lawrence
- Parents have an appreciation for the kind of academic and spiritual training that St. Lawrence offers to its students



The Weekend Visit Schedule

Thursday

- 3:30 Student visitors arrive
- 4:00 Tour of the campus
- 5:00 Introduction to St. Lawrence meeting
- 6:00 Dinner
- 6:30 Evening prayer and getting to know each other
- 7:30 Free time
- 8:45 Pizza party
- 9:45 Showers and bed
- 10:15 Lights out

Friday

- 6:20 Rise and Shine
- 6:40 Breakfast
- 7:25 Mass
- 8:15 Morning classes
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:25 Afternoon classes
- 3:30 Free time
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:10 Seminar and parent letters
- 7:00 Free time
- 10:45 Showers and bed
- 11:15 Lights out

Saturday

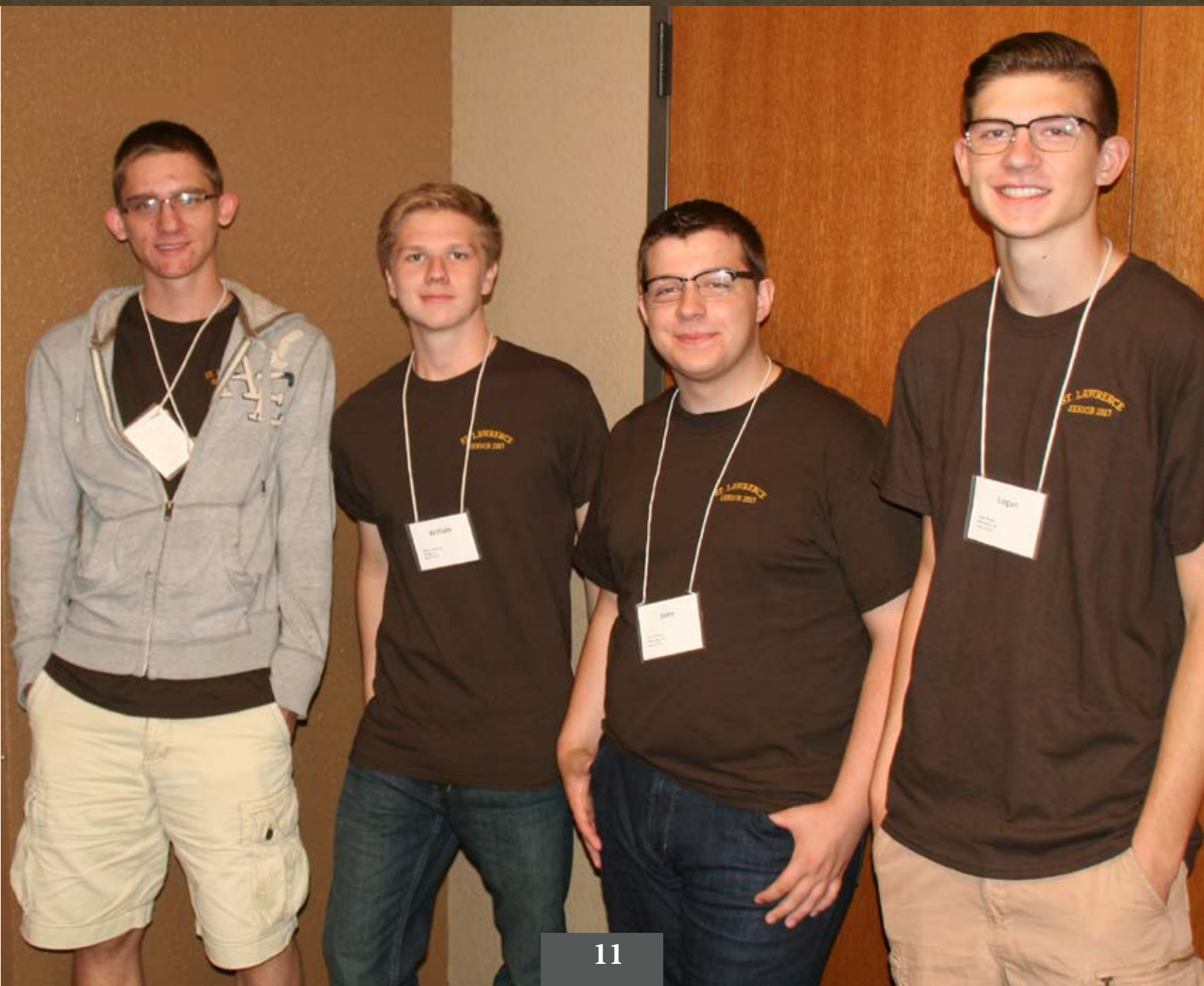
- 9:00 Rise and shine
- 9:45 Prayer
- 10:00 Response letters
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:00 Free time
- 2:00 Bowling
- 3:30 Q&A and campus tour
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:10 St. Lawrence Program
- 7:30 Evening prayer
- 7:45 Free time
- 10:45 Showers and bed
- 11:15 Lights out

Sunday

- 8:00 Rise and shine
- 9:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Prepare for liturgy
- 10:15 Mass
- 11:15 Brunch
- 12:00 Tours

What should you bring to the Weekend Visit?

The young men visiting St. Lawrence will be involved in all of the normal activities of the school. The following checklist of items is provided in order to be prepared to participate in actual classes, recreation, meals, etc.



Checklist

What to bring

- Complete and sign the Parental Permission Form
- Sealed letter from your parent(s)
- A small suitcase or gym bag for your belongings
- Clothes for each day
 - School clothes for Friday: a solid color polo shirt, khaki or dress pants, belt, shoes, socks
 - Casual clothes for Saturday: athletic clothes for sports/play
 - Gym clothes: shorts and/or sweat pants, T-shirts, sweatshirts, gym shoes
 - Dress clothes for Sunday: dress shirt, tie, dress pants, dress shoes, socks
 - Jacket, gloves, boots as necessary
- Toiletries
 - Soap
 - Shampoo
 - Toothbrush/toothpaste
 - Deodorant
- Plastic garbage bag for dirty laundry
- A book or playing cards for the ride
- \$10 for spending money (optional)
- Donation to help defray expenses (optional)



What Not to Bring

~~Anything of great cost or value~~

~~Cell phones~~

~~iPad/tablets~~

~~iPod/MP3 players~~

~~Skateboards/roller blades~~

~~Expensive jewelry~~

~~Not permitted: dyed hair or body piercing~~





Taking the Next Step

To view a list of upcoming Weekend Visit dates or to request an initial assessment, go to:

StLawrence.edu

Stay connected by subscribing to *Light on The Hill*, the St. Lawrence Seminary blog:

Visit **blog.StLawrence.edu** for more info.

For any additional inquiries, please contact Francisco Saucedo, the Director of Admissions and Recruitment, at 920-753-7518.

St. Lawrence Seminary is dedicated to providing an academically and spiritually sound education for the young men who choose to attend this private, Catholic boarding school. The school prides itself on its ability to graduate its students with a residential college preparatory education while nurturing mature, well-rounded men of faith, who prepare for a life of ministry in a variety of ways.