

ST. LAWRENCE  
SEMINARY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
COLLEGE PREP-SPIRITUAL DEPTH



# *The Parent's Guide*

*to St. Lawrence Seminary  
High School*

*A resource for parents interested in sending their  
son to 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 Seminary 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 Seminary. 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.





# What is this eBook about?

*St. Lawrence Seminary High School (SLS) understands that parents have many questions — and maybe some concerns — that go along with considering sending their child to boarding school. That's why we've put together this resource to help guide parents through what it means to choose SLS as an alternative to the traditional high school experience.*





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# The Difference Between Boarding School and College Prep Schools

*It's important for parents to understand the various benefits of attending a full boarding school instead of a traditional high school or a non-boarding college prep school.*

*So what sets St. Lawrence Seminary apart from other non-boarding college prep schools?*

## ***Preparing Students for the Entire College Experience***

St. Lawrence Seminary is dedicated to high academic standards, and the education offered at St. Lawrence Seminary is specifically designed to graduate college-ready students. But extending beyond a dedication to academics, SLS serves as a semi-permanent home for the students enrolled there. This means that while they are exposed to high academic standards, they are also expected to develop practical, real-life skills while living in a comprehensive college-like environment. Our graduates from St. Lawrence Seminary enter top institutions having been taught both the academic and practical life skills needed to succeed in a college setting.





## *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.



# The Difference Between Boarding Schools and College Prep Schools

MYTH 1 ***You must be wealthy to go to boarding school.***

MYTH  
DEBUNKED Financial aid is available to all U.S. families who demonstrate a financial need. And specifically at St. Lawrence Seminary, once a prospective student is accepted, each domestic family will receive a financial aid packet, which will be reviewed by an outside firm. The application results are then reviewed by the SLS Business Office, which then presents the family a tuition contract with the amount of financial aid the family will receive. There are also payment plans available for the families.

MYTH 2 ***Students don't have any fun at boarding school.***

MYTH  
DEBUNKED While St. Lawrence Seminary is determined to provide an educational, structured, and morally-upright environment for its students, St. Lawrence Seminary also makes many extracurricular activities available to the students. Students are encouraged to join various clubs or sports as a way of enjoying their recreational time.

MYTH 3 ***Diversity is rare at boarding schools.***

MYTH  
DEBUNKED St. Lawrence Seminary admits students of any race, color, and national origin. Generally, about one-third of the students are Caucasian, one-third Hispanic, and one-third Asian. Helping students to appreciate other cultures, as well as assisting them in gaining the necessary skills to live in a diverse community, is a strong part of the residential living program.



# Role of Faith at SLS

*St. Lawrence Seminary is an institution inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi and by the Gospel. St. Lawrence Seminary High School is dedicated to providing a residential college preparatory education in a living Catholic community that nurtures mature, well-rounded men of faith, who prepare for a life of ministry as a priest, religious and lay leaders in the Church and world.*



St. Lawrence Seminary focuses on perpetuating these specific values:

- Spirituality
- Social Skills
- Knowledge
- Diversity
- Humble Commitment
- Safe Community

Spiritual direction at St. Lawrence Seminary is an attempt to listen and discern the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of an individual or student. It is an inspiration for growth in prayer and service of others. An important element of spiritual direction is to offer the student hospitality by creating a safe, welcoming place where he can feel secure, a place where he can speak honestly and openly about anything in his life, and a place where he can be accepted by an adult without rejection or judgment. Questions can be asked or answered, and problems of whatever kind can be discussed.





Students also have the opportunity to be involved in service ministry. Through ministry of others, St. Lawrence students build relationships, improve the quality of life for those served, learn new skills, share gifts, and above all, live out the gospel invitation to serve others.

## TYPES OF MINISTRY

- Angel Tree Project
- Broken Bread
- Operation Back to School
- Mt. Morris Conservation Ministry
- Housing Rehab
- Leaf Raking
- Make a Difference Day
- Senior Milwaukee Experience
- Mission Trip
- Special Olympics Bowling
- St. Peter Claver Parish Fish Fry
- Villa Loretto
- Vocational Discernment





## Academics

*St. Lawrence Seminary High School follows a seven period class day, with two additional study hall periods. The periods are forty-five minutes in length. The overall academic curriculum of St. Lawrence Seminary reflects a strong bias toward college preparation. At the middle and end of every quarter, the faculty, along with the student supervisory staff, meets to discuss every student's progress. These discussions attempt to measure the student's success in fulfilling the school's objectives and the student profile, both academically and behaviorally. Parents will be notified about any area of concern brought forward at these meetings.*

*Outside the classroom, students have some required reading assignments over the summer and Christmas breaks. And students are also given the opportunity to take a Drivers' Education course.*



# Classes Available to Students

## Freshmen

Freshmen Theology  
Physical Education 9  
Freshman English  
World History  
Freshmen Guidance  
Health  
Algebra or Geometry  
General Science or Biology  
Foreign Language or Design and Process

## Sophomores

Jesus of History, Christ of Faith  
Prayer and Sacraments  
Physical Education 10  
English 10  
American Government  
US History  
Geometry or Advanced Algebra  
Biology or Chemistry  
Computer Applications  
Music Theory or Music Appreciation  
Foreign Language

## Juniors

Christian Morality  
World Religions  
Physical Education 11  
American Literature  
US History  
Advanced Algebra or Precalculus  
Chemistry or Physics  
Foreign Language (if needed)  
Health (if needed)  
Other Elective

## Seniors

Senior Theology  
Physical Education 12  
World Literature  
Precalculus, Algebra 3, or Calculus  
Physics, Advanced Chemistry, or Biology II  
Classical Humanities  
Post Classical Humanities  
Other Electives

## Electives

Woodshop  
Advanced Woodshop  
Art  
Advanced Art  
Mechanical Drawing  
Advances Mechanical Drawing  
Accounting  
Business Law  
Advanced Computer Applications  
Creative Writing  
Social Problems I & II  
Psychology I & II  
Economics  
Trigonometry  
Probability and Statistics  
Literary Genres  
World Literature  
Modern World Literature  
Introduction to Christian Theology

## Foreign Languages

Spanish  
German  
Latin

St. Lawrence Seminary partners with Marian University in Wisconsin and offers students the opportunity to earn college credit while taking courses at SLS. The courses are taught by SLS instructors on campus. To be eligible for this program, students must have a GPA of 3.2 or higher (as a junior or senior). SLS doesn't charge any extra fees to participate in the dual credit program, but students pay a fee directly to Marian University at a discount.





# Extracurriculars

*Students at St. Lawrence Seminary are encouraged to participate in extracurriculars, and there are several activities, athletics, and clubs available to consider. The clubs at SLS revolve around academic, artistic, recreational, and social justice themes.*



## Clubs & Activities

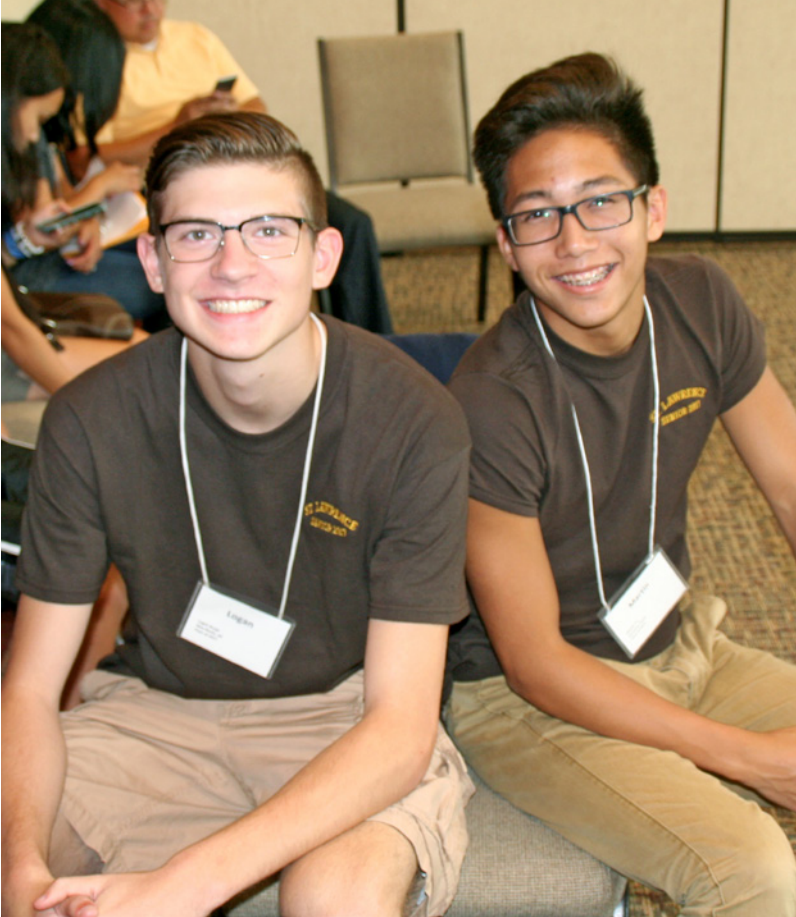
Art Club  
Band  
Bike Club  
Choir  
International Club  
Intramural Sports  
National Honor Society  
Reading Club  
Student Government  
Student Publications  
Forensics  
Math Team  
Venture Scouts  
Field Trips  
Movie Club  
Cooking Club

## Athletics

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Soccer  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Wrestling

In addition to the athletic teams, St. Lawrence Seminary has math and forensic teams that compete throughout the state.





## 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.





## A Parent's Perspective

### **? *How frequently do parents visit their sons at St. Lawrence Seminary High School?***

We are fortunate enough to only be about an hour away from St. Lawrence Seminary. We are able to come visit for various sporting events to cheer on our sons and all their teammates. I love to bring up snacks for the whole team to enjoy. And we take photos to share on social media for the parents who can't travel to the games. It's been a great way for me to connect with other families, too. We also love coming to Mass on the Hill. It's such a treasure to share Mass with the students.

### **? *What is the first year experience like for the new students at St. Lawrence Seminary?***

The first year can vary for each student. I think that from a parent's perspective, your son learns independence to manage his time for class work and work crews (and personal responsibilities like laundry!). And we tried to make efforts to be creative to pass the time between breaks — care packages and cards — with good old snail mail! Extended family would jump in around birthdays and fill our sons' mailbox with cards.

## A Parent's Perspective, continued...

### **? *What is the first-year experience like for the parents?***

As a parent, you realize that your relationship will shift a bit. I've always found peace in knowing that my sons were in a safe place and in very good hands. The communication between the school and parents is amazing — I love Fr. John's monthly letter. Communicating with my sons is usually found in a Facebook message at 9 p.m. at night, but I love the check in's. And when I want to talk to them, I can just have them paged!

### **? *How did your relationship with your sons change after they went away for school? What about their relationship with siblings?***

I get the best hugs when we visit! We are still their parents with rules and expectations, but we often joke with friends to say we don't have to deal with the day-to-day frustrations of homework, chores, and them asking to borrow our car. Our sons have taken ownership of their school work, sports, and time management. They also take pride in their work and accomplishments. It seems more meaningful to them, because it's all on them. We have a daughter at home, and it's of course different to have two older brothers living away, but I've seen hugs between them when we visit, helping her with homework, and a little more appreciation for each other.

### **? *And would you be able to share your story with me on how and why you and your family decided that St. Lawrence Seminary was the place for your sons?***

Most people think it's entirely because my husband is an alumni. And while that is certainly why I knew about the school, for many years before we had kids, we got to see students and families on the Hill. But once we had boys, I was set on this being where they came to school. My husband didn't have to ask me to consider it. I was all for the idea that my sons could have a strong Catholic education and college prep classes. They are immersed in their faith.



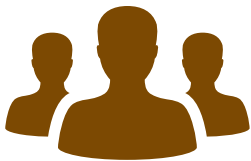
# Admission Process



St. Lawrence Seminary'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 Seminary 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 Seminary first hand and to get a sense of daily life there. It's also an opportunity for St. Lawrence Seminary to see how the young man interacts with others and fits into his surroundings. St. Lawrence Seminary expects that all candidates who wish to receive an application attend a Weekend Visit.

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

[Visit St.Lawrence](#)

*View a list of upcoming Weekend Visit dates and request more info.*

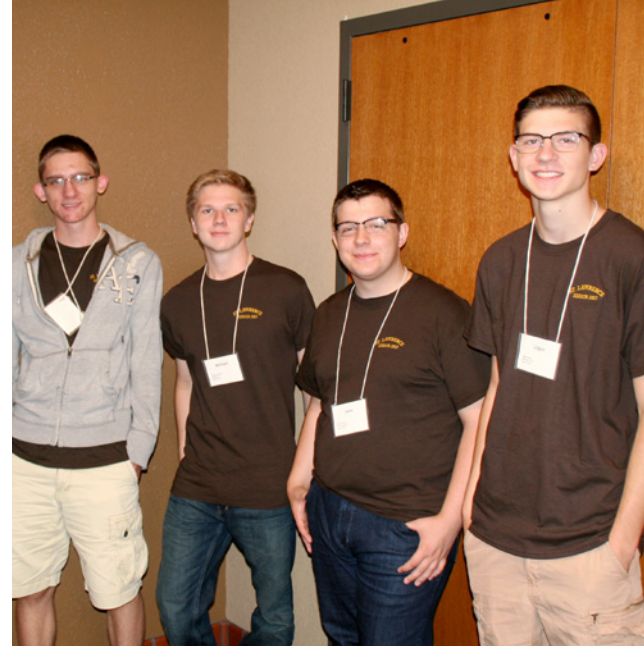
# The Weekend Visit Experience

St. Lawrence Seminary administers an entrance exam to the candidates during the weekend visit. Prospective students who score well on the test, are generally cooperative and respectful, and appear to have a positive experience will be offered an application at the conclusion of the weekend. In some instances an application may be extended at a later date, once additional criteria are met. Interested candidates who are unable to participate in the Weekend Visit Experience may be awarded an application only after a careful review of school records, test scores, and other sources of information confirms that he would be a good fit for the school.

We encourage families to submit the completed application to us as soon as possible. The application is considered complete when all of these pieces have been received by St. Lawrence Seminary High School.

The application consists of several components:

- The application
- A copy of the baptismal certificate
- A recent photograph
- Current report card
- \$50 Application Fee
- \$250 Tuition Deposit
- Two teacher recommendations (forms provided)
- A pastoral recommendation (form provided)
- Student Essay





The Admissions Board meets during the school year to review and make decisions on completed applications. Acceptance is competitively based and focuses on the whole person.

- Is the student academically capable of succeeding and graduating?
- Is he open to discerning God's plan for his life?
- Can the student benefit socially and spiritually from the experience?
- Will he contribute positively to the community?
- Will his parent(s) make good partners with the school?

The Rector mails notification of acceptance or denial immediately following the decision. Applicants who are denied acceptance may be encouraged to re-apply the following year, depending on the reason for denial.





# St. Lawrence Seminary is Here to Help You Make a Decision

St. Lawrence Seminary High School is dedicated to providing an academically and spiritually sound education for the young men who choose to attend this private, Catholic boarding school. St. Lawrence Seminary 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.

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 or at [fsaucedo@stlawrence.edu](mailto:fsaucedo@stlawrence.edu).

