St. Augustine High School

THE SAINTS EXPERIENCE

2026-2036



www.sahs.org

The Mission of St. Augustine High School

Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart, and body in the Augustinian tradition.

By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth, and love.



The Saints Education Experience (2026-2036)

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Forming Young Men for the World Ahead

Choosing a high school is about far more than choosing where a young man will spend the next for years. It is choosing the people who will teach him, challenge him, encourage him, and walk alongside him during some of the most formative years of his life. It is choosing a community that will help shape not only what he knows, but the man he is becoming.



For more than a century, St. Augustine High School has understood that educating boys requires more than an excellent academic program. A Saints education develops the whole young man: **mind, heart, and body.** It combines academic challenge with faith formation, brotherhood, athletics, leadership, service, relationships and experiences that call boys beyond themselves.

The world our students will enter is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies will transform how young people learn, work and communicate. Careers will change. New opportunities will emerge. The information available to our students will be nearly limitless. But the qualities that allow a young man to live a meaningful life will remain profoundly human.

The future of Saints is not about preparing boys to compete with machines. It is about forming young men capable of doing what machines cannot: think deeply, discern wisely, relate authentically, create courageously, lead morally, serve generously and live faithfully.

For Saints, innovation and tradition are not competing ideas. We will embrace new technologies and new approaches to teaching when they improve learning and prepare our students for their future. At the same time, we will remain steadfast in the timeless qualities that have always definied an exceptional education: excellent teachers, demanding academics, meaningful relationships, personal responsibility, physical activity, competition, communication, leadershipm service, faith and community.

The measure of a Saints education, therefore, will never be found solely in grades, test scores, college acceptances, championships or accomplishments. These things matter, but our greater measure of success is: what a Saintsman knows, what he believes, how he treats others, how he responds to adversity, how he cares for himself, what he is prepared to contribute, and the kid of man he has become.

That is the promise and purpose of the Saints Experience.

I. Catholic and Augustinian Identity as the Integrating Principle

Catholic Augustinian value will forever be the basis of our educational philosophy.

The greatest mistake would be to construct "future-ready school" and then add Catholic identity as one component of it. It should work the other way around.



The Church's emerging teaching on artificialintelligence is especially helpful here. *Antiqua et Nova* (Pope Francis) and *Magnifica Humanitas* (Pope Leo XIV) distinguish computational capability for the far richer reality of human intelligence. Human intelligence is not simply shaped by conscience, moral discernment, creativity, compassion, the pursuit of truth and increastingly powerful technology, Catholic education must therefore remain committed not simply to developing capable students, but to forming full human persons.

Unity, Truth and Love are not simply expressions of our Augustinian heritage. They provide a distinctly Catholic understanding of what education is for and a framework for discerning how Saints should respond to a rapidly changing world.

The world our students will enter in 2036 cannot be predicted with certainty. What Saints can determine is the kind of young men we intend to send into that world. Love, Truth and Unity provide the enduring foundation upon which we can build and educational experience that is innovative without losing its identity, technologically capable without becoming less human, and academically ambitious while remain committed to the formation of the whole person.



II. Formation of Judgment, Character and Conscience

Information drives much of traditional education … but Widsom is what the Saints Experience is committed to cultivating. Consequently, Saints is shifting some education emphasis from acquiring information toward learning what to do with information.



Students should regularly wrestle with questions such as:

- Is it true?
- Is it good?
- Who benefits?
- Who might be harmed?
- What responsibility do I have?
- What does Catholic teaching say?
- What would courage require?
- What would justice require?
- What would love require?

Ethics, therefore, will not reside exclusively in Religious Studies. Ethical reasoning should appear in science, history, literature, mathematics, economics, civics, technology, athletics, business and AI.

III. A Distinctive Pedagogy for Boys

Saints, as it has for over 100 years, will unapologetically become one of the country's leading practitioners of boys' education.



That means an educational program emphasizing movement, competition, collaboration, appropriate risk-taking, tangible accomplishment, mentorship, leadership, experiential learning and meaningful responsibility.

Boys should not spend seven hours sitting at desks followed by several more hours looking at screens. Increasingly research is linking problems of learning performance, decreased engagement, mental health challenges and lack of motivation to screen time.

Athletics, retreats, Intersession electives and intersnships, Priory/House activities, Christian service, the arts, clubs, leadership opportunities, travel and outdoor experiences should not be viewed as "extras." They are essential parts of the Saints Experience, providing boys with opportunities to discover their interests, build relationships, accept challenges, develop confidence and grow into young men of character and purpose.

IV. Human Formation Before Technological Formation

Saints will deliberately become more human as the world becomes more technological.



Technology, including AI, should enhance education without becoming the education itself. Boys need conversation, friendship, competition, disagreement, prayer, physical activity, service, mentorship, failure, responsibility and face-to-face relationships.

This is the essence of an Augustinian school. Relationships matter and drive our mission. Augustine's education is ultimately about the formation of the person in relationship with God and others and the search for Truth.

The Vatican's recent guidance provides an excellent foundation: AI can support individualized learning and feedback, but it cannot replace the relational presence of a teacher or the intellectual and moral formation at the heart of genuine education.

V. Renaissance of Reading, Writing and Speaking

Paradoxically, the AI age makes the traditional liberal arts more important, not less important. And so, excellence in academics at all levels (advanced, traditional, or remedial) should be the foundation of an education at St. Augustine High School.

All Saints graduates should be able to read a challenging book, write a compelling argument, speak without notes, defend an idea, identify weak evidence, listen respectfully, change his mind when evidence warrants it and distinguish truth from persuasion.



Communication is one of the signature competencies of a Saints graduate and will be expected and experienced in all areas of study; from humanities to the sciences.

Every student will repeatedly experience public speaking, Socratic dialogue, formal presentations, persuasive writing, research writing and or defense of his work.

The question should increasingly become: “Can you explain and defend what you know?” rather than simply: “Can you produce the assignment?”

The distinction becomes critical because AI can produce competent written work in seconds.

VI. Learning Through Real Problems and Real Responsibility

The Saints education of 2036 should increasingly move beyond the classroom.

Every student should graduate having solved problems that actually mattered to someone.

That might involve internships, entrepreneurship, community partnerships, service learning, engineering challenges, research, civic projects, artistic productions, arts collaborations, business ventures or nonprofit work.

Opportunities outside the classroom, particularly Intersession (30+ electives), internships (195 community partners) and student leadership (180 student leadership positions) provide an unusually strong foundation for helping boys experience real problems and offer real solutions.



VII. AI Fluency without AI Dependency

Every Saints graduate will become AI literate, but Saints will be deliberate in distinguishing between using AI and depending upon AI. We will train boys on the approrpaite use of AI and resist the temptation to ban it altogether.

By graduation, students will understand how AI works; write effective prompts; evaluate AI generated information; recognize halucinations, bias and manipulation; understand privacy and intellectual-property concerns; use AI for research, analysis, coding, brainstorming and productivity; disclose the use of AI approriately ; and understand when not to use it.

The current guidance of the Church and St. Augustine High School will similarly emphasize human-centered AI, AI literacy, equitable access, academic integrty and data privacy. Saints is moving toward clearer policies and stronger faculty training rather than simply attempting to prohibit generative AI.

At Saints our studies will be driven by one mantra:
AI may assist thinking but can never replace thinking.

A Saints education will consequently create intentional AI-free intellectual spaces: Socratic seminars, handwritten reflections, oral examinations, in-class essays, mathematical reasoning, laboratory work, artistic performance and sustained reading.

VIII. Brotherhood as an Educational Method

This may ultimately distinguish Saints more than technology ever could. In an increasingly individualized and digitally mediated culture, Saints is intentionally teaching boys:

You do not become a man alone.



Brotherhood therefore becomes more than a theme. It becomes part of the educational architecture. Older students mentor younger students. Priories/Houses create smaller communities within the school. Teachers know students personally. Coaches understand themselves as formators. Alumni mentor seniors. Students learn responsibility for one another.

Augustine's *"one mind and one heart on the way toward God"* becomes not simply something displayed on a wall but something boys live and experience.

IX. The Importance of Well-Being

The technological revolution makes physical formation even more important.

As AI and digital technology make intellectual work increasingly efficient, they also create the possibility of a more sedentary life. Young people can study, communicate, entertain themselves, shop and socialize without ever leaving their chair.

Saints will deliberately resist that trajectory.

A future-ready Saints education should therefore contain periods when students put away devices, move their bodies, interact face-to-face, go outdoors and engage the physical world.

Technology should enhance human flourishing rather than gradually eliminate movement, sleep, conversation and embodied experience from a young man's life.



Boys should also learn that physical, emotional, and mental well-being are interconnected.

Sleep, exercise, nutrition, stress management, relationships, recreation, prayer and time outdoors all contribute to a young man's overall capacity to flourish.

This provides another opportunity for collaboration among teachers, counselors, coaches, campus ministry, parents and students. Wellness should not become another isolated school program. It should become part of the culture.

Students should understand that caring for themselves physically allows them ot better fulfill their responsibilities to their families, communites and God. Health gives young men greater capacity to work, serve, lead, protect, create and participate fully in life.



X. Athletics and Extracurriculars as Essential Experiences

At Saints, education has never been confined to the classroom. Athletics, clubs, the arts, student leadership, Priory activities and other extracurricular experiences provide important settings in which young men discover their interests, develop relationships, test themselves and learn lessons that cannot always be taught from a textbook.



Every Saintsman should find a place to belong, participate, compete, contribute and lead.

Athletics hold a particularly important place in the formation of young men. Competition teaches boys to prepare, sacrifice, persevere, work toward a common goal and discover what they can accomplish. It also provides opportunities to develop character and teamwork. Saints will teach young men to compete fiercely while respecting their opponents, to pursue excellence without arrogance and to win with humility and lose with grace.

The same commitment to participation and formation extends well beyond athletics. Saints provides a broad range of extracurricular opportunities in the arts, music, service, academic competition, student government, clubs, Priories, campus ministry, leadership and other areas reflecting the diverse interests and talents of our students.

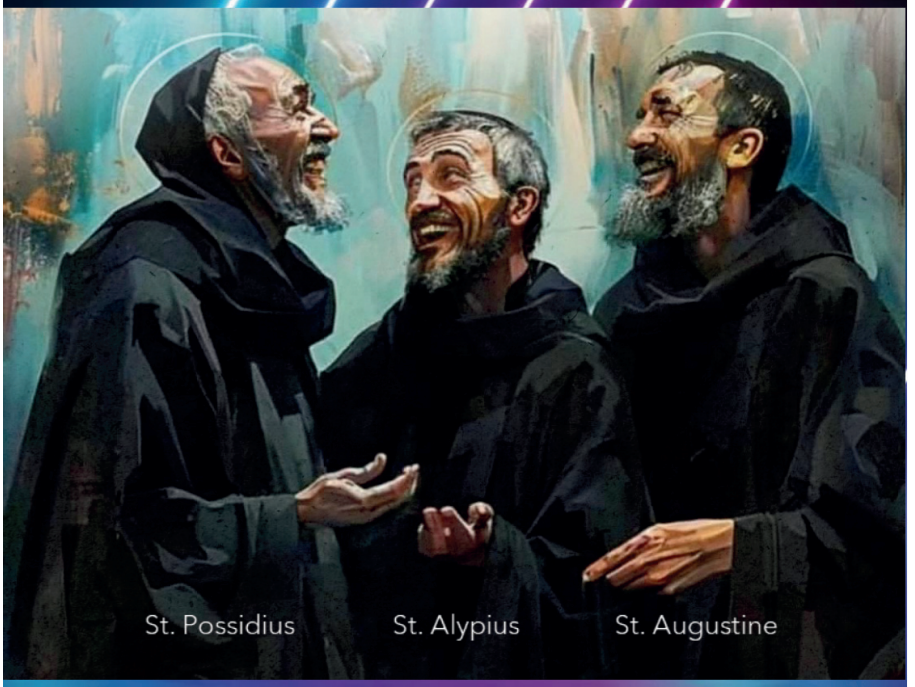
These experiences allow boys to discover abilities and passions that may not emerge in the classroom. They also broaden friendships and social networks by connecting students across grade levels, academic interests and established peer groups. Involvement creates belonging, and belonging strengthens the experience of brotherhood that is central to a Saints education.

By graduation, every Saintsman should have experienced the satisfaction of contributing to something larger than himself, the challenge of competition, the responsibility of leadership, the value of belonging and the lessons that come from both succes and failure.



Brotherhood

SAINTS



Unitas UNITAS | *Veritas* VERITAS | *Caritas* CARITAS

THE SAINTS EXPERIENCE

Saints will provide a deeply human, distinctly Catholic and Augustinian education for boys, forming young men of faith, intellect, character and brotherhood who are prepared to serve others and navigate a rapidly changing world with wisdom, courage and love.

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