

Omnia Christus est nobis
Christ is Everything to us



ST. AMBROSE ACADEMY

Head of School Career Opportunity

**A Classical Catholic school in
Madison, WI serving grades 6-12**

Catholic • Classical • Close-Knit

Time-Tested & Life-Changing
www.ambroseacademy.org

Mission & Vision

Mission

St. Ambrose Academy assists parents in forming their children to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ through an extraordinary Catholic classical education.

Vision

St. Ambrose Academy will be a model Catholic school forming students in virtue through a classical education rooted in Jesus Christ. The Academy will assist parents in the integral human development of their children, thus preparing graduates to pursue excellence, live with integrity, and joyfully serve Christ and His Church.



THREE PILLARS OF ST. AMBROSE ACADEMY

Catholic: Aware that all truth has its origin and end in the person of Jesus Christ, our students deepen their Catholic identity by studying Catholic theology and the teachings of the Magisterium. Offered regular access to the Sacraments and guided by teachers who foster a deep love of Jesus Christ, students see and are led to imitate the virtues which joyfully compel a life lived in knowledge, love, and service of Christ and His Church.

Classical: Through a rich, classical, college-preparatory curriculum that unites faith and reason, students are encouraged to pursue Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in their unity as they originate in God. By engaging the primary works of the greatest thinkers of Western civilization within the classical liberal arts tradition of the Trivium, students steadily expand their capacity for knowledge, reason, and expression as they become critical thinkers and independent learners.

Close-Knit: St. Ambrose Academy seeks to cultivate a close-knit community marked by respect for the inherent dignity of every person and an awareness of Christ present in one another. Faculty strive to build positive student-teacher relationships and to offer thoughtful, individualized support. Through shared prayer, learning, and daily life, students are invited into an authentic Catholic community where virtues are taught, practiced, and encouraged. In this environment, friendships can become a source of mutual support, service, and growth, helping students gradually orient their lives more fully toward Christ as they learn what it means to live as His disciples.

ST. AMBROSE ACADEMY AT A GLANCE

Total Enrollment (Grades 6-12)	249 Students
Student-to-Faculty Ratio	8:1
Average Class Size	20
Faculty with Advanced Degrees	68% (13% hold doctorates)
AP Exam Scores of 3 or Above	77%
AP Scholars (Last 6 Years)	30
National Merit Scholars & Commended	4 Scholars, 5 Commended
Wisconsin Parental School Choice Recipients	44%
Graduates Pursuing Higher Education	89-95%
Founded	2003
Accreditation	WRISA & NAPCIS Accredited
Campus	Holy Name Heights, Madison, WI (relocated 2024)
Campus Size	30,000 sq ft - oratory, classrooms, green space, fields
Annual Tuition (2026-2027)	\$11,850 (Grades 9-12) \$10,800 (Grades 6-8)

Representative College & University Acceptances

Princeton University · University of Notre Dame · University of Chicago ·
Georgetown University · U.S. Naval Academy · Boston College · Franciscan
University of Steubenville · University of Wisconsin–Madison
Benedictine College · University of Dallas · Christendom College
Wyoming Catholic College · and many more

OVERVIEW

St. Ambrose Academy is an independent WRISA & NAPCIS accredited classical Catholic school serving students in grades 6–12 in Madison, Wisconsin. Founded in 2003 by a group of faithful Madison-area families inspired by Pope St. John Paul II's vision for education rooted in the dignity and purpose of every human being, St. Ambrose Academy has grown from humble beginnings — graduating its first two students in 2006 — to a thriving community of nearly 250 students.

The Academy's distinctive three-pillar identity — Classical, Catholic, and Close-Knit — shapes every dimension of its program. The school employs a classical liberal arts curriculum grounded in grammar, logic, and rhetoric, integrating faith and reason in pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. Students engage with the primary works of Western civilization's greatest thinkers, develop independent learning skills through Socratic dialogue, and graduate prepared for the intellectual and moral demands of college and beyond.

In summer 2024, St. Ambrose Academy relocated to Holy Name Heights on Madison's west side — a beautifully renovated 30,000-square-foot campus featuring a sacred oratory, spacious classrooms, and outdoor green space and fields. This new home represents a milestone chapter in the Academy's growth and its commitment to providing an ever-rich educational environment for students and families.

St. Ambrose Academy offers a broad range of athletic, artistic, and extracurricular opportunities. Diocesan priests enrich the spiritual life of the community by celebrating the Sacraments and accompanying students and families in faith.

Graduates of St. Ambrose Academy go on to lead faithful, purposeful lives — as Catholic priests and religious, as military officers, and as engaged citizens contributing to the trades, law, business, education, the arts, and medicine. The Academy's commitment to generous tuition assistance ensures that its formation is accessible to families of all economic backgrounds, reflecting its founding conviction that every child deserves access to an excellent Catholic education.

"When my kids head out the door in the morning, they know they'll be received by teachers who care about them, surrounded by friends, and immersed in an environment where everyone is ready to learn. The St. Ambrose community is a strong, loving, and supportive one. What a blessing it's been for my whole family."

- Meg M., St. Ambrose Academy Parent

LIVING IN MADISON, WISCONSIN

Madison, Wisconsin is one of the most livable, vibrant, and welcoming cities in the United States — and an extraordinary place to raise a family rooted in Catholic faith. The Head of School of St. Ambrose Academy will find a community that matches the Academy's own values: intellectual depth, strong community, natural beauty, and a rich Catholic heritage.

A WORLD-CLASS CITY

Nationally Recognized

- Ranked #3 in the U.S. for Quality of Life (U.S. News & World Report, 2024–25)
- Named #1 Best Place to Live in America by Livability.com
- Top 5 City for Families — U.S. News (2024)
- Platinum-Level Bicycle Friendly Community — League of American Bicyclists

The Great Outdoors

- Built on an isthmus between Lakes Mendota and Monona — offering sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, and winter ice skating
- UW Arboretum: 1,300 acres of trails, restored prairies, and woodlands within city limits
- 260+ parks and beaches; 200+ miles of scenic bike and hiking trails
- One hour from Devil's Lake State Park — bluffs, trails, and a glacial lake
- Henry Vilas Zoo: free admission, 500,000+ visitors annually

Arts, Culture & Food

- Overture Center for the Arts: Madison's premier venue hosting Broadway, orchestral performances, and 200+ events annually
- Monona Terrace — Frank Lloyd Wright-designed convention center overlooking Lake Monona
- Dane County Farmers' Market: the largest producers-only farmers' market in the United States, held every Saturday at Capitol Square
- 30+ James Beard Award honors — extraordinary for a city of 275,000
- Chazen Museum of Art and Madison Museum of Contemporary Art — both free admission

A DEEPLY FAITHFUL COMMUNITY

Diocese of Madison

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison serves 11 counties of south-central Wisconsin, with ~167,000 Catholics across 102 parishes. Under the leadership of Bishop Donald J. Hying — appointed by Pope Francis in 2019 — the Diocese is experiencing a season of focused renewal through its "Into the Deep" strategic initiative, which restructured into 30 collaborative parishes to strengthen priestly fraternity and deepen parish life.

A New Cathedral

In 2023, Pope Francis elevated St. Bernard's Church as the new Cathedral of the Diocese of Madison. The stunning 1927 Gothic Revival sandstone church is currently undergoing renovation and is expected to be consecrated as the diocesan mother church in 2026 — a historic milestone for Madison's Catholic community.

Birthplace of the Newman Movement

Saint Paul's University Catholic Center at UW-Madison is the oldest Newman Center at a secular university in the United States. Catholic ministry to UW students began here on Thanksgiving Day 1883 — giving birth to the worldwide Newman movement. Today the Center serves 600+ students weekly with daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, small groups, FOCUS missionaries, and a vibrant young adult community.

Economy & Affordability

- Cost of living only ~4% above national average — 70% less than San Francisco, 38% less than Boston
- Major employers: Epic Systems (Verona), UW Health, American Family Insurance, Exact Sciences
- Unemployment rate of 2.2% — well below national average
- UW-Madison: #2 U.S. public university (TIME, 2026); \$1.93B+ in annual research expenditures
- Big Ten athletics: Badger football at historic Camp Randall Stadium, Kohl Center for basketball and hockey

Catholic Schools & Parishes

- St. Maria Goretti Catholic School (PreK–8) — active parish school on Madison's west side, partnering with St. Ambrose Academy for optimizing high school transitions
- Multiple Diocesan parishes throughout Madison and suburbs with active Knights of Columbus councils
- Madison Council 531 K of C — the oldest continually operating Knights of Columbus council in Wisconsin (chartered 1900)
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Madison serving individuals and families since 1946 across 11 counties

Community Character

Madison's Catholic community is defined by a spirit of intellectual seriousness, missionary zeal, and genuine hospitality. The presence of UW-Madison ensures ongoing access to theology lectures, campus Masses, and a large, active young adult Catholic population — making Madison a city where faith, scholarship, and community naturally intertwine.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

St. Ambrose Academy seeks a visionary, faithful, and experienced Head of School (HOS) who will build upon two decades of mission-driven excellence. The next HOS will serve as the primary guardian and champion of the Academy's classical Catholic identity, while leading the institution into a promising new chapter at its beautiful Holy Name Heights campus.

The next Head of School will have the opportunity to:

- Lead a dynamic, mission-driven school community in forming students in virtue, faith, and classical learning
- Deepen and strengthen the Academy's identity as the only accredited classical Catholic junior high and high school in the Diocese of Madison
- Steward the Academy's exciting new chapter at Holy Name Heights — a beautiful, purpose-built campus with expanded capacity for academic, spiritual, and extracurricular programs
- Build on strong academic outcomes (average ACT of 23.8, 89–95% college-going rate) by continuing to attract, develop, and retain outstanding faculty
- Grow enrollment and financial sustainability through mission-aligned strategic planning, including expanding the school's reach to new families across the Madison region
- Cultivate deep relationships with the Diocese of Madison, supporting parishes, benefactors, and partner schools to strengthen the Academy's community and resource base
- Champion the Academy's commitment to accessible Catholic education by growing its tuition assistance program and mission-partner giving
- Serve as the public face and storyteller of St. Ambrose Academy — inspiring families, alumni, and donors with the transformative power of a classical Catholic education

Key challenges to address include:

- Continuing to grow enrollment while maintaining the close-knit culture and small class sizes that define the St. Ambrose Academy experience
- Ensuring long-term financial strength and operating sustainability in an increasingly competitive independent and Catholic school landscape
- Recruiting and retaining highly qualified faculty who are deeply committed to the classical Catholic mission
- Sustaining momentum from the capital campaign and Christ Our Light initiative to realize the full vision for Holy Name Heights
- Maintaining and expanding partnerships with Diocesan parishes, families, and the broader Madison community

ST. AMBROSE ACADEMY

FAMILY PROFILE ENROLLMENT RECORDS

Prepared for prospective Head of School candidates · June 2026 · Source: enrollment records, school years 2003–2026

AT A GLANCE

154 Current Families	254 Students Enrolled	4 YEARS Median Family Tenure
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OVERVIEW

St. Ambrose Academy currently serves 154 families and 254 students. Two characteristics define the community and are worth highlighting for incoming leadership.

- **A sibling-centered community.** At any given moment a family has on average 1.65 children enrolled, but across the full arc of their time at the school, current families have enrolled 2.31 children on average — older siblings graduate as younger ones arrive. Roughly 64% of current families have brought, or will bring, more than one child through the school.
- **A deeply rooted core with steady new-family inflow.** Median family tenure is four years, but a long tail of families has been here 11 to 18 years, while 15 families (about 10%) are brand new in 2026.



QUALIFICATIONS & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Who we are looking for...

- **A Person of Profound Faith:** Our Head of School must embody the Catholic faith, not simply manage a Catholic institution.
- **A Leader of Genuine Virtue:** A virtuous leader whose character is beyond question — someone whose integrity, humility, and moral seriousness sets the tone for every student, faculty, and staff member; in every conversation, and decision.
- **Clarity & Conviction:** Clear and effective communication skills, sound judgment, and genuine ambition. A leader who makes decisions that people trust, even when those decisions are difficult.

This role calls for...

- **Inspirational Presence:** Energy, warmth, and a contagious sense of purpose that students and families feel from the first encounter.
- **The Heart of Servant Leader:** The Head of School is not above it — they are woven into it. Our next leader will be present, accessible, and genuinely invested in the flourishing of every person in the building.
- **A Builder of Faculty Culture:** Our teachers are deeply mission-aligned and talented. They are looking for a leader who invests in them — who coaches, challenges, and recognizes our mission advancement.



SAA TALKS

Student Testimonies



Parent Testimony



Parent and Child Testimony



Dr. Nielsen on Classical Education



Michael Kwas on Helping Students Find Jesus



LEARN MORE & HOW TO APPLY

Learn more about St. Ambrose Academy:

Website: ambroseacademy.org

Location: 702 S. High Point Road, Suite 209, Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608.827.5863

Email: hossearch@ambroseacademy.org

TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the Search Committee at hossearch@ambroseacademy.org. The Search Committee is committed to a thorough, fair, and confidential search process. Candidates are asked to submit the following materials:

- A cover letter expressing your interest in this particular position and your commitment to the classical Catholic mission of St. Ambrose Academy
- A current résumé or curriculum vitae
- A statement of leadership philosophy reflecting on your Catholic fidelity, virtuous leadership, and sound judgment (1–2 pages)
- A list of 3-5 professional references — including name, relationship, phone, and email — noting that references will not be contacted without prior notification to the candidate

Submit Application Materials To

St. Ambrose Academy Head of School Search Committee

hossearch@ambroseacademy.org · 608.827.5863