

# BEST PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS

These rankings are based on data *Cincinnati Magazine* gathered from the schools themselves and from school Web sites. If your school doesn't appear on the list, it did not respond to our phone and e-mail requests for data and interviews, or it sent data but did not respond to interview requests. In either case the school was removed from our list.

We sent the data to Dr. I. Elaine Allen, Associate Professor of Statistics and Entrepreneurship at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts ([www.babson.edu](http://www.babson.edu)), who used several statistical techniques to combine and rank the data into several factors. If a school failed to provide a value for one of the variables (indicated by an asterisk in the chart), the mean of the variable was used—not to bias the analyses, but to include the school in the rankings.

Factor analysis was used to combine the variables collected for each school. The three factors are Academic Achievement, School Environment, and Extras. Academic Achievement included ACT or SAT (verbal and math only) scores, percent attending post-secondary education, percent of teachers with graduate degrees, and number of students per AP courses offered (which was split between Academic Achievement and School Environment); School Environment included student/faculty ratio, average class size (not shown here), average years of teaching experience, and number of students per AP courses; Extras included the number of students per varsity sports, number of students per extracurricular activities, and offering of international trips. To combine these into an overall rank, Academic Achievement was weighted 50 percent, with School Environment and Extras weighted 25 percent each.

## KEY

**GEN:** Gender makeup; C = co-ed, M = all-boy, F = all-girl  
**Grades:** Grades served  
**EN:** Enrollment  
**\$\$:** Annual tuition (day/boarding; in-district/out; parish/non)  
**S:F:** Student-faculty ratio  
**SCORE:** Median test scores, either SAT verbal/math or ACT  
**Post-graduate plans:** Percentage of grads who choose the following (may not add up to 100%)  
**C:** College, type unspecified  
**4-YR:** Four-year school  
**2-YR:** Two-year school  
**W:** Work  
**MIL:** Military  
**O:** Other (for La Salle, includes work and military)  
**AP:** Number of Advanced Placement courses offered  
**EXP:** Average years of teaching experience  
**% DEG:** Percent of teachers with advanced degrees  
**EXT:** Number of extracurriculars  
**INT'L:** Are international trips offered?  
**V:** Number of varsity sports

### POST GRADUATE PLANS (%)

RANK	SCHOOL, NEIGHBORHOOD, PHONE	GEN	GRADES	EN	\$\$	S:F	SCORE	C	4-YR	2-YR	W	MIL	O	AP	EXP	% DEG	EXT	INT'L	V
1	THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL, MADISONVILLE, (513) 271-9027	C	PK-12	1,055	\$17,180	9 : 1	656/666		100					13	17	87%	40	Y	16
2	THE SCHILLING SCHOOL, MONTGOMERY (513) 489-8940	C	K-12	32	\$10,600	3 : 1	680/630	100						0	15	75%	N/A	Y	N/A
3	ACADEMY FOR GIFTED CHILDREN, KENWOOD, (513) 794-1404	C	K-12	45	\$10,500	3 : 1	680/720		100					2	16	98%	4		N/A
4	CINCINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, SYCAMORE TWP., (513) 247-0900	C	PK-12	1,440	\$10,390	13 : 1	586/586		98		2			14	12	80%	23	Y	7
5	MARS HILL ACADEMY, MASON, (513) 770-3223	C	K-12	194	\$7,710	8 : 1	680/650		100					N/A	9	47%	6		3
6	THE SUMMIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL, HYDE PARK, (513) 871-4700	C	PK-12	1,065	\$14,495	9 : 1	630/620		100					19	20	72%	38	Y	18
7	URSULINE ACADEMY, BLUE ASH, (513) 791-5791	F	9-12	650	\$9,450	12 : 1	635/626		99					16	16	78%	30	Y	12
8	ST. URSULA ACADEMY, E. WALNUT HILLS, (513) 961-3410	F	9-12	710	\$9,500	13 : 1	599/575		99.7					12	*	80%	39	Y	12
9	ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, FINNEYTOWN, (513) 761-7600	M	9-12	1,523	\$9,875	14 : 1	609/632		99					26	23	88%	60+	Y	14
10	R.I.T.S.S., GOLF MANOR, (513) 631-0083	F	9-12	20	\$5,000/ \$7,900	5 : 1	*	100						7	*	*	N/A	N	0
11	CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL, INDIAN HILL, (513) 979-0220	C	PK-12	850	\$18,330	8 : 1	610/613		100					11	12	72%	16+	Y	24
12	COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL, COVINGTON, (859) 291-7044	C	8-12	245	\$5,975 IN/ \$7,075 OUT	11 : 1	632/621		100					9	16	75%	12	N	11
13	ARCHBISHOP MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL, MONTGOMERY, (513) 791-1680	M	9-12	935	\$8,990	15 : 1	513/548		95	4				14	18	75%	15+	Y	14
14	VILLA MADONNA ACADEMY, VILLA HILLS, (859) 331-6333	C	K-12	181	\$7,730	11 : 1	N/A		100					14	17	67%	40	Y	13
15	NOTRE DAME ACADEMY, PARK HILLS, (859) 261-4300	F	9-12	600	\$4,800	14 : 1	24	100						11	13	80%	25	Y	10
16	ELDER HIGH SCHOOL, PRICE HILL, (513) 921-3744	M	9-12	1,010	\$7,200	16 : 1	617/603		78	17				11	20	49%	47	Y	15
17	ALDERSGATE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, MT. AUBURN, (513) 721-7944	C	K-12	180	\$2,835/ \$6,135	15 : 1	*		85	14				6	11	33%	2		N/A
18	ST. HENRY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, ERLANGER, (859) 525-0255	C	9-12	526	\$5,250	13 : 1	589/589		92	4	1	3	0	16	13	60%	49	Y	23
19	HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL, COVINGTON, (859) 431-1335	C	9-12	435	\$4,525 IN/ \$4,978 OUT	13 : 1	23		83	11.4		5.3		7	14	74%	14	N	14
20	ROGER BACON HIGH SCHOOL, ST. BERNARD, (513) 641-1300	C	9-12	611	\$6,950 PARISH/ \$7,150 NON	12 : 1	498/505		77	18	2	1		10	17	66%	26	Y	15
21	COVINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, PARK HILLS, (859) 491-CCHS	M	9-12	516	\$6,215 IN/ \$6,700 OUT	15 : 1	24		99	1				8	22	59%	19	Y	9
22	McAULEY HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE HILL, (513) 681-1800	F	9-12	763	\$7,450	16 : 1	565/546		84	12		1	1	11	17	75%	36	Y	11
23	MOTHER OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL, WESTWOOD, (513) 661-2740	F	9-12	608	\$7,250	15 : 1	530/521		86	8	1		5	8	19	73%	32	Y	11
24	LaSALLE HIGH SCHOOL, MONFORT HEIGHTS EAST, (513) 741-3000	M	9-12	770	\$7,300	16 : 1	525/540	96					4*	12	19	62%	60+	Y	13
25	COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, INDEPENDENCE, (859) 356-7990	C	PK-12	200	\$3,100	15 : 1	21		80	20				0	14	0%	1		2
26	VILLAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS, PLEASANT PLAIN, (513) 877-2143	C	PK-12	140	\$3,000	14 : 1	*							*	*	*	7		4
27	MT. NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, READING, (513) 821-3044	F	9-12	750	\$7,600	15 : 1	23	98						16	18	65%	32	Y	12
28	CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, COVINGTON, (859) 356-9201	C	PK-12	587	\$4,690	17 : 1	22		94	2	2		2	7	16	50%	5+	Y	8
29	SETON HIGH SCHOOL, PRICE HILL, (513) 471-2600	F	9-12	525	\$7,200	20 : 1	*		81	11	1	0	7	12	*	54%	30+	Y	12
30	CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS, HAMILTON, (513) 892-8500	C	PK-12	700	\$6,000	18 : 1	550/550	95						4	15	22%	19+	Y	20
31	BISHOP BROSSART HIGH SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA, (859) 635-2108	C	9-12	387	\$4,450	15 : 1	23.3	94						5	*	78%	8		11
32	PURCELL MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL, EAST WALNUT HILLS, (513) 751-1230	C	9-12	417	\$6,550 PARISH/ \$6,950 NON	13 : 1	458/461		75	15	2	8		6	18	63%	17	Y	14
33	ARCHBISHOP McNICOLAS HIGH SCHOOL, MT. WASHINGTON, (513) 231-3500	C	9-12	815	\$6,900	13 : 1	*		89	8	1	2		15	15	57%	29	Y	24
34	BADIN HIGH SCHOOL, HAMILTON, (513) 863-3993	C	9-12	600	\$6,300	13 : 1	529/527		84	8	1.8	3.6		6	20	50%	21	Y	12
35	HERITAGE ACADEMY, FLORENCE, (859) 525-0213	C	K-12	252	\$4,000	16 : 1	23	82						3	7	15%	3	Y	5
36	NEWPORT CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, NEWPORT, (859) 292-0001	C	9-12	476	\$4,600	13 : 1	21		85	13			2	10	18	85%	13	Y	12

### **Covington Latin School**

21 E. 11th St., Covington, (859) 291-7044, [www.covingtonlatin.org](http://www.covingtonlatin.org)

The first thing you notice about Covington Latin School—besides the fact that it looks like the unadorned little brother of its next-door neighbor, the historic St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption—is its tiny parking lot. How could a secondary school with so few parking spaces accommodate nearly 250 students, not to mention faculty?

Answering that question reveals an essential truth about CLS: It makes do with less. This small school is bursting at the seams. Classes are sometimes held in science labs or the auditorium due to lack of space. Still, parking isn't a problem. Why? The average age of a CovLatin graduate is just 16. In any given school year, only 10 to 15 students are licensed to drive.

Based on the European "gymnasium" model, in which gifted students accelerate through their secondary education, each CovLatin student must skip at least one level after passing an entrance exam in 5th, 6th, or 7th grade. Sixth-grade graduates who pass the exam may enter "prep year" (a.k.a. 8th grade) or skip directly into their freshman year. As a result, it's not uncommon to find 15-year-old seniors.

Covington Latin students consistently rank in the top 10 percent nationally on ACT and SAT tests. Like their peers from pricier private high schools, all Covington Latin graduates go to college, many attending Princeton, Columbia, Duke, Rice, and Cornell, among others. The good news: Covington Latin costs roughly half what you'd pay for other schools. The not-so-good news: It lacks many of the comforts found at those institutions. Sports teams rely on other schools for gyms and ballparks (though the school has purchased land to expand in the coming years). While a few rooms feature computer-friendly SMART boards, most still sport old-fashioned chalkboards. But the end result is the same: Covington Latin graduates are among the brightest in the country. "There's a misconception that students here are nerds," Rudolph says. "But that's not true. While we don't like to say [our students are] necessarily 'gifted,' they are above average."