

Navigating the Path to High School

A Guide for St. Bartholomew School
7th & 8th Grade Families
 **East Brunswick, NJ – Fall 2025**

Presented by: Stephanie James - mom to STA sophomore and SBS 4th grader



Navigating the Path to High School

Purpose of Tonight's Session

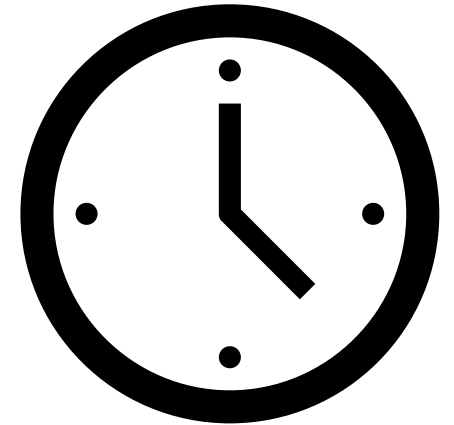
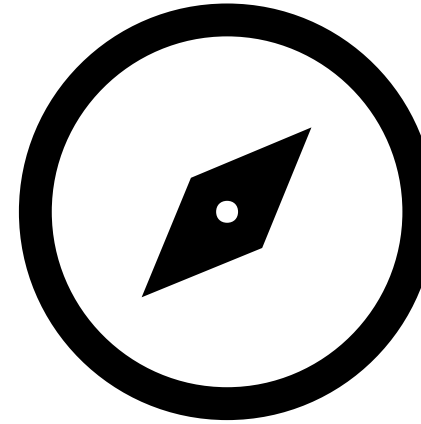
Equip parents & students with clear guidance on the various high school options available –
Catholic diocesan, private, magnet, and public

Why This Matters Now

Seventh and eight grade years are critical for exploring schools, attending open houses, preparing for placement tests and understanding admissions criteria

Our Journey Together

We'll begin with Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Metuchen, then move to other private schools, magnet programs in county and public-school options



Why Start in 7th Grade?

Early Action

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Informed
Decisions



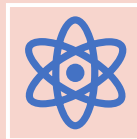
More Time to Explore

Visit schools, attend open houses, and get a head start on applications.



Academic Positioning

7th grade marks the beginning of the transcript schools will review.



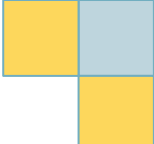
Test Preparation

Gives families time to practice for HSPT or magnet school entrance exams.



Shadow & Activity Planning

Early awareness helps plan extracurriculars and shadow visits



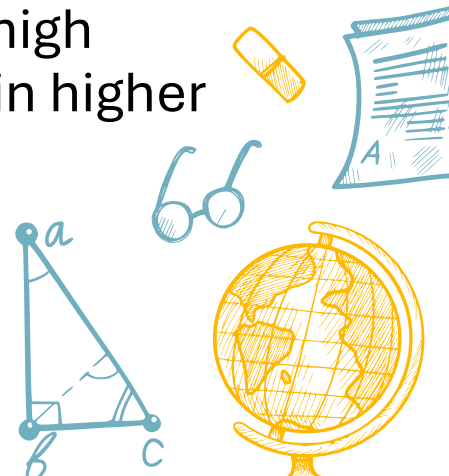
Catholic High Schools – Diocese of Metuchen

Faith-Based Education & Community

Four Distinguished Schools — The Diocese of Metuchen is home to St. Thomas Aquinas (Edison), Immaculata (Somerville), Mount Saint Mary Academy (Watchung), and St. Joseph High School (Metuchen).

Shared Mission, Unique Identities — Each school emphasizes Catholic values and strong academics while offering unique programs, extracurricular activities, and communities.

Pathway to College & Beyond — Diocesan schools consistently achieve high graduation and college acceptance rates, preparing students for success in higher education and beyond.



St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Edison)



School Profile — A co-educational Catholic high school serving students from across Middlesex County, offering rigorous academics, athletics, and vibrant arts programs.



Admissions & Testing — Entrance exam typically in November, with make-up dates available. Requires transcripts, teacher recommendations, and service hours.



Tuition & Financial Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$20,000, with need-based financial aid and scholarships available.



Upcoming Open House — Fall Open House invites families to tour the campus, meet faculty, and learn about programs. Shadow days available.

Immaculata High School (Somerville)



School Profile — Co-educational Catholic high school located in Somerville, NJ. Offers strong academic programs, athletics, and faith-centered student life.



Admissions & Testing — Entrance exam dates typically in late October and early November. Requires application, transcripts, and teacher recommendations.



Tuition & Financial Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$19,000, with financial aid and merit scholarships available.



Open House & Shadow Days — Fall Open House events give families a chance to explore programs. Shadow days allow students to experience campus life firsthand.

Saint Joseph High School (Metuchen)

*Independent, non-diocesan educational institutions under the auspices and direction of a religious order



School Profile — An all-boys Catholic high school in Metuchen, NJ, founded by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Strong in academics, athletics, and service.



Admissions & Testing — Requires the HSPT entrance exam, with testing dates offered in fall. Applications also require transcripts and recommendations.



Tuition & Financial Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$18,893. Financial aid and scholarships are offered to qualifying families.



Unique Opportunities — Offers advanced STEM, business, and arts programs, extensive athletic teams, and leadership development rooted in Catholic values.

Mount Saint Mary Academy (Watchung)

*Independent, non-diocesan educational institutions under the auspices and direction of a religious order



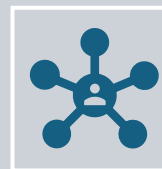
School Profile — An all-girls Catholic high school in Watchung, NJ, operated by the Sisters of Mercy. Known for rigorous academics, leadership development, and a strong sisterhood.



Admissions & Testing — Entrance exam held in early November. Applications require transcripts, recommendations, and often an interview to evaluate student fit.



Tuition & Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$31,000, with merit scholarships and need-based financial aid available.



Campus & Opportunities — Students benefit from advanced STEM and humanities programs, vibrant arts and athletics, and global service-learning opportunities.

Private & Independent High Schools

Expanding Choices Beyond the Diocese



Diverse Options — Families may also consider strong independent schools in New Jersey such as Rutgers Prep, Ranney School, Union Catholic, St. John Vianney, Notre Dame, and Trinity Hall.



Admissions Processes — Most require applications with transcripts, recommendations, and in some cases entrance exams or interviews.



Tuition & Aid — Annual tuition often ranges from \$17,000–\$30,000 depending on the school. Many offer scholarships, merit awards, or need-based aid.



Unique Strengths — Independent schools may emphasize global learning, STEM innovation, performing arts, or single-gender education, giving families distinct choices.

Rutgers Preparatory School (Somerset)



School Profile — A coeducational, college-preparatory day school (Pre-K through Grade 12). Emphasizes academic rigor, innovation, and global citizenship.



Admissions Process — Rolling admissions with priority deadlines in winter. Requires application, transcripts, recommendations, and standardized test scores



Tuition & Aid — Upper School tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$51,040. Financial aid and scholarships available for qualifying families.



Campus & Programs — Located in Somerset, NJ, Rutgers Prep offers state-of-the-art STEM facilities, arts programs, athletics, and international student opportunities.

Ranney School (Tinton Falls)



School Profile — A coeducational, independent day school (Age 3–Grade 12). Known for personalized learning, advanced STEM, and arts integration.



Admissions & Testing — Applications due in January with decisions in March. Requires application, transcripts, recommendations, and standardized test scores (ISEE/SSAT).



Tuition & Financial Aid — Upper School tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$41,910. Financial aid and merit-based scholarships available.



Campus & Programs — Modern 60-acre campus featuring advanced science labs, performing arts center, athletic facilities, and leadership opportunities.

Union Catholic High School (Scotch Plains)



School Profile — A coeducational Catholic high school in Scotch Plains, NJ. Offers strong academics, athletics, arts, and emphasis on service and faith formation.



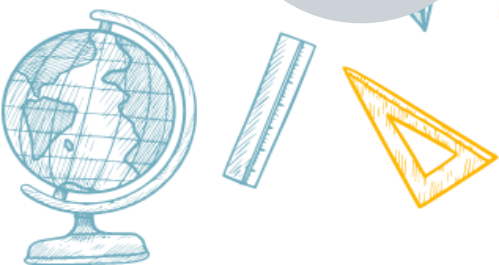
Admissions Process — Requires application, transcripts, recommendations, and entrance exam (HSPT). Open Houses and personal tours offered throughout the fall.



Tuition & Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$22,740, with scholarships and financial aid available to families in need.



Unique Strengths — Known for its strong athletics, fine arts, and leadership programs. Emphasizes global citizenship and character development.



Saint John Vianney High School (Holmdel)



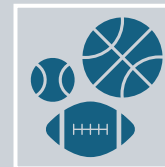
School Profile — A coeducational Catholic high school in Holmdel, NJ. Offers strong academics, competitive athletics, and a commitment to faith and service.



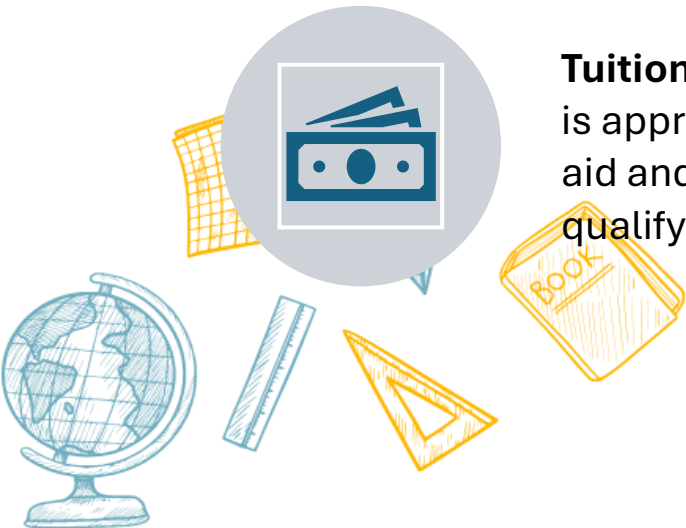
Admissions Process — Applications require transcripts, recommendations, and entrance exam (HSPT). Open House events are held each fall.



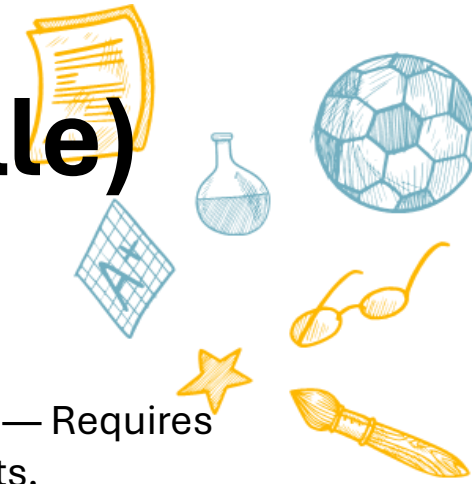
Tuition & Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$19,000. Financial aid and scholarships available for qualifying families.



Programs & Opportunities — Offers advanced STEM programs, and extensive athletic opportunities



Notre Dame High School (Lawrenceville)



School Profile — A coeducational Catholic high school in Lawrenceville, NJ. Strong reputation for academics, athletics, arts, and service programs.



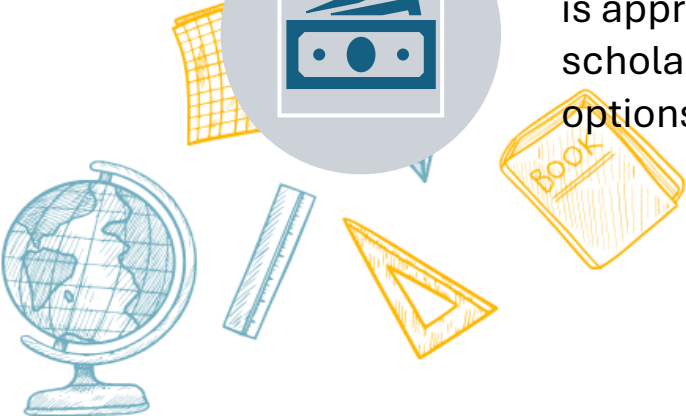
Admissions Process — Requires application, transcripts, recommendations, and entrance exam (HSPT). Open Houses held in fall, with shadow days for prospective students.



Tuition & Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$20,000, with scholarships and financial aid options available.



Unique Programs — Offers STEM pathways, strong performing arts, and championship-level athletics.



Trinity Hall (Tinton Falls)



School Profile — An all-girls Catholic college-preparatory high school in Tinton Falls, NJ. Focuses on academics, leadership, faith, and sisterhood.



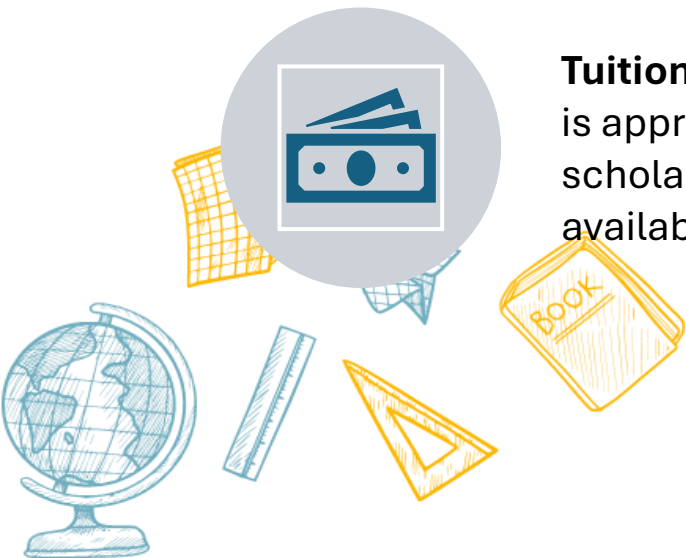
Admissions Process — Applications include transcripts, recommendations, and HSPT results. Open Houses and information sessions held in the fall.



Tuition & Aid — Tuition for 2025–26 is approximately \$30,000, with scholarships and financial aid available.



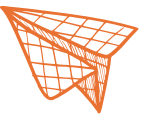
Unique Strengths — Strong STEM and arts programs, leadership development, global learning opportunities, and small class sizes for personalized education.



Upcoming Open Houses & Info Sessions

High School	Open House Dates
St. Thomas Aquinas High School	Sunday, October 19 th – 1-4 PM
Immaculata High School	Wednesday, October 15 th – 6 PM Sunday, October 26 th , 1 PM
Saint Joseph High School	Sunday, October 19 th – 11:30 AM – 2 PM
Mount Saint Mary Academy	Sunday, October 19 th – 12:30 – 3:30 PM
St. John Vianney	Saturday, October 11 th Thursday, October 16 th
Rutgers Prep	Saturday, October 18 th 1:00-4:00 PM Friday, November 7 th 1:00-4:00 PM Sunday, November 9 th 1:00-4:00 PM
Ranney School	Saturday, October 11 th 9:00 -1:00 PM
Notre Dame High School	Thursday, October 23 rd 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Trinity Hall High School	Saturday, October 4 th 9:00 – 11:00 AM Wednesday, November 5 th 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Admissions Testing & Requirements



High School	Placement Dates	Registration
St. Thomas Aquinas High School	11/8/2025 & 11/15/2025	https://www.stahs.net/admissions
Immaculata High School	11/7/2025, 11/8/2025, & 11/15/2025	www.immaculatahighschool.org/admissions
St. Joseph's High School	11/1/2025, 11/7/2025, 11/11/2025, & 11/14/2025	https://www.stjoes.org/admissions
Mount Saint Mary	11/1/2025 & 11/9/2025	www.mountsaintmary.org/admissions
St. John Vianney	10/25/2025	https://www.sjvhs.com/admissions

Note: HSPT taken at STA or Immaculata can be interchangeably used. However, Mount Saint Mary, St. Joe's and St. John Vianney require the student to take their school specific tests.



Introduction to Middlesex County Magnet Schools

Career-Driven Education for Motivated Students

What Are Magnet Schools?

- Public high schools offering specialized programs in STEM, arts, health sciences, and technical careers. Open to students across the county via application.

Countywide Access

- Middlesex County Magnet Schools accept students from multiple districts based on entrance exams and interest—not limited by home address.

Career & College Focused

- Combine rigorous academics with career training, internships, and certifications. Ideal for students with specific passions and goals.

Why Consider a Magnet School?

- Students benefit from small class sizes, hands-on learning, and early exposure to real-world skills.

Edison Academy Magnet School



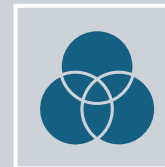
School Profile — A highly selective public magnet school in Edison, NJ, part of the Middlesex County Magnet Schools system. Specializes in engineering, computer science, and advanced technology.



Admissions Process — Students apply during 8th grade. Requires entrance exam, transcripts, teacher recommendations, and demonstrated interest in STEM.



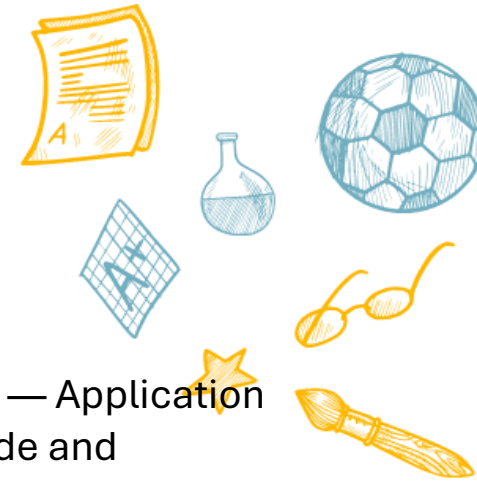
Curriculum — Rigorous college-preparatory curriculum with AP courses, project-based learning, and opportunities for research and internships.



Unique Strengths — Consistently ranked among the top public high schools in NJ. Offers small class sizes, state-of-the-art labs, and strong college placement outcomes.



Piscataway Magnet School



School Profile — A specialized public magnet high school in Piscataway, NJ, part of the Middlesex County Magnet Schools system. Focuses on college and career readiness with a range of technical and academic programs.



Admissions Process — Application takes place in 8th grade and includes entrance exam, transcripts, and teacher recommendations. Emphasis on student interest in technical and academic programs.



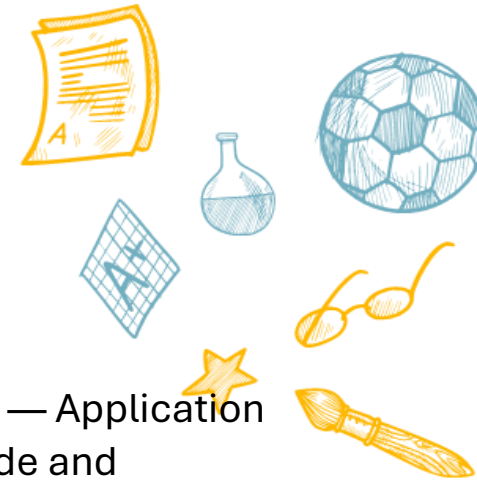
Curriculum — Offers college-preparatory academics alongside career-focused pathways such as health sciences, business, and information technology.



Unique Strengths — Blends academics with hands-on technical training. Students graduate with industry certifications, internships, and strong college placement.



Perth Amboy Magnet School



School Profile — A specialized public magnet high school in Perth Amboy, NJ. Offers programs in the arts, technology, and career-focused education within the Middlesex County Magnet Schools system.



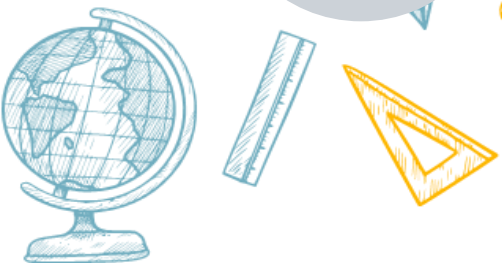
Admissions Process — Application takes place in 8th grade and includes entrance exam, transcripts, recommendations, and student interest in chosen pathways.



Curriculum — Blends rigorous academics with technical training in fields such as digital media, performing arts, health sciences, and technology.



Unique Strengths — Provides students with industry certifications, internships, and opportunities to showcase talents in the arts and technical fields, while preparing them for college.





East Brunswick Magnet School

Career and Technical Education



Diverse Program Offerings

Features vocational training in areas such as graphic design, cosmetology, culinary arts, automotive technology, dance, music, health sciences, and more.



College and Career Preparation

Blends academic rigor with hands-on experiences, internships, and dual enrollment for college credit.



Open House Events

Open houses held on Oct 18, Nov 20, and Dec 13, 2025. Great opportunity to meet staff and explore facilities.



Inclusive Student Support

Provides comprehensive support including counseling, special education, and college/career readiness services.





Woodbridge Academy Magnet School

Health Science Academy in Middlesex County



Biomedical Sciences Focus

Offers a specialized curriculum for students interested in health, medicine, and biosciences.



Highly Competitive Entry

Requires top academic performance, testing, recommendations, and a strong interest in the health field.



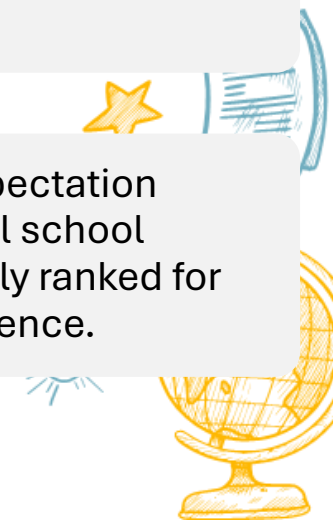
College Preparation

Students participate in dual-enrollment courses, research, and internships with medical partners.



Small, Rigorous Environment

Offers a high-expectation culture in a small school setting. Nationally ranked for academic excellence.





Public High School Options



East Brunswick High School — The primary public high school for local residents. Offers comprehensive academics, AP/Honors courses, athletics, arts, and extracurriculars.



Surrounding District Schools — Nearby districts such as South River, North Brunswick, and Old Bridge also provide strong public high school options.



Admissions — Admission is based on residency within district boundaries. No entrance exam required, but placement tests may determine class levels.



Unique Strengths — Public schools offer robust extracurriculars, sports, and advanced coursework, often at no additional tuition cost for in-district families.





Transportation Considerations

Getting There Matters

Busing for Private Schools

- May be offered by district or coordinated by school. Busing typically comes with an annual cost

Magnet School Busing

- Provided for Middlesex Magnet students by county

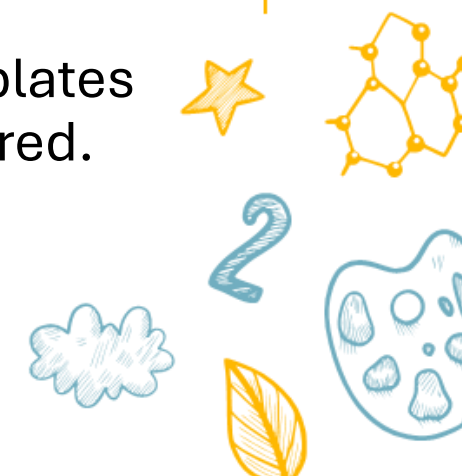
Busing Stipend

- If busing is unavailable for a private school, your town may offer an annual stipend





Resources for Parents & Students

- **School Websites** — Bookmark school sites to get the most accurate information on deadlines, applications, testing, tuition, and financial aid.
 - **Open House & Event Calendars** — Downloadable event calendars help families plan school visits and stay on top of registration deadlines.
 - **Admissions Offices** — Reach out directly for help with requirements, shadow days, or to ask school-specific questions.
 - **Test Prep & Application Tools** — Use HSPT practice guides, portfolio templates (for magnet schools), and essay planning tools to help students feel prepared.
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Closing Reflections & Encouragement

Every Path is Unique — Find the right fit for your child's growth.

Trust the Process — Step by step, clarity and confidence will build.

Encourage Exploration — Let students visit and reflect.

Celebrate the Journey — Recognize effort, persistence, and discovery.

$2 \times 2 = 4$



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Questions?

