



**Thank you for your interest in the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. We hope that you will find the following pages informative and that they will contain the answers to many of your questions about our school.**

**I. International Network of Sacred Heart Schools**

- a. The Academy of the Sacred Heart is part of an International Network of Sacred Heart Schools.
- b. Sacred Heart schools are run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a French order of nuns that was founded in 1800 by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat.
- c. Two hundred years later, there are over 200 Sacred Heart schools in 44 countries around the world!
- d. The Network gives our students a global awareness and provides excellent opportunities for international exchange.

**II. USA Network of Sacred Heart Schools**

- a. There are 21 Sacred Heart schools in the United States.
- b. Established in 1821, our school is the oldest continuously operating Sacred Heart school in the world!
- c. It is located in the historical town of Grand Coteau, Louisiana.

**III. Location**

- a. Our school is approximately 20 minutes north of Lafayette, Louisiana. It is located between the cities of Lafayette and Opelousas.
- b. Grand Coteau is a four hour drive from Houston, Texas, a two and a half hour drive from New Orleans, Louisiana and a three hour drive from Shreveport, Louisiana.
- c. **Airports to consider if you are flying to Louisiana:**  
Lafayette (LFT) – 30 minute drive to Sacred Heart  
New Orleans (MSY) – 2 ½ drive to Sacred Heart  
Houston (IAH) – 4 hour drive to Sacred Heart

**IV. Founding of the Academy**

- a. The Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau, was founded in 1821.
- b. It is a Catholic, independent, college preparatory school for girls.
- c. We offer boarding facilities for girls in grades 7-12.
- d. Our school begins with Pre-Kindergarten 3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This year, we have 420 students. Of those, 25 of them are boarders from the United States and four other countries.

## **V. ASH Divisions**

- a. The Academy is a college preparatory school. The school's curriculum is designed to help young women learn the content of important subject areas and develop critical thinking skills.
- b. The Academy has three divisions:
  - The Primary School - Pre-K3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - The Preparatory School - 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - The Academic School - 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **VI. English as a Second Language (ESL) Program**

- a. Our international students are generally classified as English as a Second Language (ESL) students.
- b. Classes at the Academy are taught in English. This is an immersion experience for ESL students.
- c. Before classes resume in August, ESL students are given an assessment to measure their verbal and written English proficiency. Based on these results, international students will have the opportunity to test out of ESL classes. This decision will be made by the principal in each division. Should your daughter test out of the ESL program, you will be notified.
- d. Students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 take seven classes. One of these classes will be an ESL class, and the others will be regular classes with American students.
- e. Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades with greater English proficiency will take two classes designed specifically for ESL students—History and ESL—and the rest of their classes will be regular classes with American students. For students with less English proficiency, more than two of their classes will be courses designed specifically for ESL students.
- f. All of the teachers at the Academy know that our international students are working hard to improve their English skills. Teachers are always available to give ESL students extra help.
- g. This program will give your daughter the opportunity to improve her English skills and to grow as a young woman in independence, faith, and confidence.

## **VII. Boarding School**

- a. The boarders live on the second floor of the high school building.
- b. The school provides each girl with a bed and a chest of drawers.
- c. Each room has a closet and a sink in it. Every two bedrooms have a shower between them. There is a communal bathroom down the hall from the rooms.
- d. The boarding school has a television lounge, a recreational room, a snack room, and a computer lab.
- e. Washing machines and dryers are available for the boarders to do their laundry. There is no additional cost to use these machines. If your daughter does not know how to do laundry, that's OK; the boarding school staff will teach her! 😊

- f. There is a swimming pool on campus that is open for use by the boarders, weather permitting.
- g. The boarding school accepts new and returning students in grades 7-12.

#### **VIII. Weekday Schedule**

- a. The school day begins at 7:55 AM and dismisses at 3:00 PM.
- b. The schedule for school days is usually the same and is as follows:
  - 6:45 - Students wake up.
  - 7:00 - Breakfast
  - 7:55 - School begins.
  - 3:00 - School dismisses.
  - 3:00-5:15 - Students can participate in extra-curricular activities, exercise, or spend free time in the boarding school.
  - 5:30 - Dinner
  - 6:30-8:30 - Study time for prep school students.
  - 6:30-9:00 - Study time for high school students.
  - 10:00 - Lights out for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
  - 11:00 - Lights out for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

#### **IX. Weekend Schedule**

- a. Weekend activities include: Ice-skating, shopping at the mall, movies, Sacred Heart dances, theater performances, art museums, visiting national forests and zoos, university athletic events and festivals that celebrate the Louisiana culture.
- b. The boarding school occasionally takes trips out of town for the weekend. For example, they make an annual visit to a marine research center, near the Gulf of Mexico for a weekend of marine activities and fun!
- c. Transportation for the boarding school on the weekends is either by van or by bus.

#### **X. Ms. Meg Beugg – Head of the Boarding School**

Ms. Meg Beugg is a 1987 graduate of Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School and has a B.S.G. in psychology with a minor in human development/family life from the University of Kansas. Ms. Beugg has worked as a Campus Minister at Washington University in St. Louis and at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the University of Kansas. She has extensive experience in planning and organizing activities for students through her work at both of these universities. Ms. Beugg has served in the admissions office at Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School. As a Sacred Heart alumna and a Lay Associate of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Ms. Beugg embraces the values and traditions of a Sacred Heart education. Ms. Beugg's commitment to the *Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools* as well as her background in psychology serve her well in her role as Head of the Boarding School. She is dedicated to giving the boarders the best experience possible while they are at Sacred Heart.

## **XI. Faith**

- a. The Academy takes very seriously its commitment to providing an education that is based on Catholic morals and values.
- b. Boarders attend mass every weekend at a Roman Catholic Church.
- c. The grounds of our school are often referred to as “Holy Ground.” One of the reasons Sacred Heart is special is because a miracle occurred in 1866 on the second floor of the elementary school building. Blessed John Berchmans appeared to a young novice by the name of Mary Wilson and cured her of a mortal illness. The account of her cure, signed by Mary Wilson, the Religious of the Sacred Heart and her doctor, was accepted in Rome as the final miracle for the canonization of Blessed John Berchmans in 1888. The room where she was cured, which had been the infirmary, was converted to a chapel, with paintings depicting the appearance of John Berchmans to Mary Wilson. Mary Wilson is buried in the cemetery in the back of the school. Students are welcome to go into the shrine to pray in this very holy place. Some classes pray the rosary and have services in the shrine.

## **XII. Sharing Cultures and Traditions at Sacred Heart**

- a. The Academy believes that international students are cultural ambassadors for their countries. We encourage these students to share their cultural heritage with the American students at the school. For example, every year, our students from Mexico plan a mass in celebration of Mexican Independence Day. After the mass, the American students host a party for the Mexican students.
- b. The girls from Mexico give a presentation on The Day of the Dead. On Cinco de Mayo, they teach the younger students about the history of Mexico.

**The experience of studying at Sacred Heart is one that your daughter will never forget. Sacred Heart education emphasizes serious study, educates to social responsibility, and lays the foundations of a strong faith. In relating this purpose to its own programs, ASH strives to educate the whole person, providing a value-based environment that supports rigorous intellectual training and opportunities for emotional, religious, and social growth.**

**If you are interested in having your daughter study at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, please contact Mrs. D’Lane Wimberley Thomas at [admission@sshcoteau.org](mailto:admission@sshcoteau.org) or by phone at (337) 662-5275.**