

Newton Country Day School

Newton, United States



On Olmsted-landscaped grounds outside Boston, an all-girls Sacred Heart school tied to a 44-country global network since 1880.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Set on Olmsted-landscaped grounds in Newton, this is a Catholic girls’ day school with a clear identity and no appetite for dilution. Newton Country Day takes girls from ages 10 to 18, teaches the US high school diploma with AP, and sits inside the Sacred Heart network that spans 44 countries. That matters. Families are not buying a generic New England independent school with chapel on the side; they are buying a school shaped by Sacred Heart priorities of faith, intellectual depth, service, community and personal growth. The academic set-up is intimate by any standard, with an **8:1 student-teacher ratio** and an **average class size of 13**. For the right student, that means close adult attention and little room to hide.

What puts Newton Country Day on a shortlist is the combination of **serious pastoral belonging** and **clear academic intent** inside a girls-only environment that treats leadership as an expectation, not an enrichment add-on. The school talks in the language of “wise freedom”, purpose and service; that can drift into piety at weaker institutions, but here the structure is coherent. Girls in grades 5–12 arrive from over 50 communities across greater Boston, which gives the school more geographic breadth than many suburban independents. The average annual day fee is ****\$67,980****, placing it firmly in the **expensive, top-tier** bracket of the Boston market. Parents need to want the full package: single-sex education, Catholic formation, small classes, and a culture that prizes character formation alongside AP-level academic stretch.

This is not the school for families who want a broad-church, secular prep with a loose institutional centre. It suits girls who thrive when they are known well, expected to speak up, and comfortable in an environment where faith is not decorative. It will also appeal to students who want access to a global Sacred Heart network without leaving the Boston area. The school’s NAIS accreditation adds a standard external marker of institutional seriousness, but Newton’s real distinction lies elsewhere: **tight-knit culture**, **deliberate moral frame**, and a strong chance for ambitious girls to develop confidence without competing for oxygen in oversized classes. For a thoughtful, academically able girl who wants an all-girls school with conviction rather than compromise, Newton Country Day earns its place on the list.

STRENGTHS

- Small classes and a 6:1 student-teacher ratio allow close individual attention across grades 5–12.
- Curriculum spans over 120 courses, including more than 30 honors and Advanced Placement classes across ten academic departments.
- Membership in the worldwide Network of Sacred Heart Schools links the school to 21 US and dozens of international campuses, useful for relocating families seeking continuity.
- The school allocates more than \$5 million in tuition assistance to roughly 30% of the student body, indicating a meaningful need-based aid pool.
- Niche ranks the school #2 among Catholic high schools and #5 among all-girls high schools in Massachusetts.

TRADE - OFFS

- Single-sex, Roman Catholic Sacred Heart identity will not suit families seeking a coeducational or strictly secular environment.
- Admissions are competitive, with a reported 30% acceptance rate and required ISEE/SSAT/HSPT or PSAT/SAT/ACT scores plus a student interview and essay.
- Annual tuition figures reported across sources range roughly from \$58,950 to over \$62,000, a significant recurring cost before any additional fees.
- With an enrollment of under 400 students across grades 5–12, the overall school community and elective breadth are smaller in scale than at larger day schools.

ADMISSIONS

Newton Country Day admits girls into grades 5-12, with entry commonly concentrated at grades 5, 6 and 9. Applications go through the Ravenna platform with a \$50 fee and a January 15 deadline. Requirements include transcripts, recommendation letters, a student essay, a required interview, and standardized testing (ISEE or MAP Growth for Middle School; SSAT, HSPT, or PSAT/SAT/ACT for Upper School). Reported acceptance rate is around 30%, making the process moderately to highly selective by US independent-school standards. Financial aid applicants must file separately via the Clarity application by the same January deadline.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_6d3efc76b7.