

Mayfield Senior School

Pasadena, CA, United States



In Pasadena, an all-girls Holy Child campus builds ninth-grade pathways into STEM, finance and data long before college applications begin.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	60/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	69/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	65/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Mayfield’s case is straightforward: this is a Catholic all-girls day school in Pasadena that starts building serious academic direction in Year 9, not in the last stretch before university applications. The school covers grades 9–12, runs an American curriculum, and does it on a notably intimate scale, with a ****6:1**** student-teacher ratio and an average class size of ****15****. That matters because the school is explicit about sustained academic advising and four years of academic and college counselling. For families who want a school to do more than deliver classes and a transcript, that is a **clear structural advantage**.

What lifts Mayfield above the crowded field of US private college-prep schools is the shape of its sixth-

form equivalent years: girls are not pushed into a generic “well-rounded” mould, but into defined avenues of ambition. The school advertises more than 34 AP and honours courses, says ****80%**** of students are AP Scholars, and points to four academic teams in math modelling, investment, speech and debate, and robotics. That combination gives the school a **distinctive pre-professional edge**. The presence of both investment and robotics is telling: Mayfield is not just serving future humanities majors with polish; it is also giving mathematically inclined girls and aspiring engineers a serious platform in a single-sex environment built to push them forward.

The Catholic and Holy Child identity is not incidental decoration. Founded in 1931 and sponsored by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Mayfield has a religious framework that will suit families who want moral formation and a coherent school ethos alongside academic ambition. At the same time, nothing in the public case for the school rests on piety alone; the emphasis sits squarely on leadership, advanced coursework, global studies opportunities and visible student participation. The average annual day fee is ****\$37,435****, which places Mayfield in the expensive bracket, but not at the outer edge of the Pasadena-Los Angeles independent-school market. Parents are paying for **high-contact teaching**, counselling over the full four years, and a campus culture designed around girls’ confidence rather than co-ed compromise.

The student who will want Mayfield is bright, purposeful and ready to use a small school hard. It suits girls who want to speak up, lead, compete and test themselves in areas that still skew male in many schools, especially STEM, finance and technical clubs. It also suits families who want a **contained, intentional** grades 9-12 environment rather than a sprawling K-12 campus. It will not be the right fit for a student who wants a large, anonymous high school, broad adolescent social sprawl, or a secular setting. On a shortlist, Mayfield earns its place because it offers a **focused proposition**: an all-girls Catholic education with unusually direct pathways into advanced study, leadership and high-trust adult guidance.

STRENGTHS

- 15 average class size allows close teacher attention
- 6:1 student-teacher ratio supports individual guidance
- 34+ AP and Honours courses offer academic range
- Four years of academic and college counselling

TRADE-OFFS

- Girls-only Catholic school limits coeducational experience
- Grades 9-12 only; no middle school entry
- Day school only; no boarding for overseas families

ADMISSIONS

Mayfield Senior School is a day school for girls in grades 9–12, so the principal entry point is ninth grade at about age 13 or 14, with possible applications to other year levels where places arise. The school presents itself as a Catholic, college-preparatory school with small classes, sustained academic advising and four years of academic and college counselling, which suggests a fairly structured admissions process rather than a purely informal one. That said, the school does not publish admissions assessment details in the material provided here, so it is not possible to state confidently whether selection rests on testing, interviews, school reports, or a combination.

Likewise, the school does not publish deadlines in the source material supplied here, so families should expect a standard annual admissions cycle and verify dates directly with the school. No bursary or financial-aid information appears in the extracts provided, so this should also be checked with admissions. What is distinctive is less the mechanics than the fit: this is a Catholic all-girls environment, sponsored by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, with a clear emphasis on leadership, advanced courses and a purposeful academic culture.

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_77de5035d3.