

Colégio Santo Antônio

Belo Horizonte, Brazil



A century-old Franciscan foundation in Savassi whose students now top Belo Horizonte's Enem rankings nationwide

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	54/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	55/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	45/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	40/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Colégio Santo Antônio occupies a clear position in the Belo Horizonte market: a long-established Catholic day school with serious academic weight and a strong local reputation for Enem performance. Founded in **1912** and rooted in the Franciscan tradition, it combines age, religious identity and exam ambition in a way few schools manage cleanly. The headline claim matters: the school states that it took **1st** place overall in Minas Gerais in Enem **2025**, and that it has sat at the top for **4** consecutive years, from 2022 to 2025. That record puts it in the front rank for families who want measurable academic outcomes rather than lifestyle branding. *That is the central fact.* *The academic signal is hard to ignore.*

What distinguishes Santo Antônio is not novelty but concentration. This is a Portuguese-medium Brazilian curriculum school with English also in the mix, serving ages 6–18 on one continuum. The structure on the site points to a tightly organised operation: separate sections for younger and older students, formal monitoring and answer keys for older pupils, arts, sport, psychology, two libraries, a theatre, pastoral work and volunteer programmes. The Franciscan identity is not decorative. It runs through the school’s language, pastoral provision and social outreach. Parents looking for a secular, loose, progressive model should look elsewhere. Parents who want *clear moral architecture*, *institutional memory* and a school that treats study as serious business will find Santo Antônio compelling.

The school belongs on a shortlist for a specific child. The best fit is an academically driven student who thrives in structure, can handle competition and benefits from a school culture where exam results sit in plain view. It also suits families who value a Catholic formation that extends beyond chapel symbolism into volunteering, catechesis and a broader pastoral frame. Savassi adds practical appeal for Belo Horizonte families who want a central location and a school with deep roots in the city. *This is a school with momentum.* *It knows what it is for.*

The caveat is straightforward. Public claims about top rankings and university approvals are strong, but the school does not publish the fuller data international parents often want: aggregate subject-level outcomes, destination breakdowns, or the kind of comparative disclosure that makes external scrutiny easy. For local families who already understand the Enem hierarchy, that opacity carries less weight because the market signal is already powerful. For international families, the proposition still reads clearly: a century-old Franciscan school in Savassi, academically exacting, culturally rooted and built for students who want *discipline, belonging and results*.

STRENGTHS

- Consistently ranks among Brazil's top-performing schools on the ENEM national exam, placing 12th nationally in 2025 with an average score of 751.45 points.
- Long-established institution founded in 1909 by the Order of Friars Minor in Sao Joao del Rei, relocating to Belo Horizonte in 1950, giving it over a century of continuous operation.
- Reports strong student retention, with more than 80 percent of pupils who start in Grade 1 remaining enrolled through the final year of high school.
- Offers three foreign languages as part of the core curriculum: English from Grade 1 of primary school, plus German or Spanish beginning in Grade 6.
- Central Savassi/Funcionarios location in Belo Horizonte's Centro-Sul region gives relatively easy access from across the wider metropolitan area.

TRADE - OFFS

- The school states it does not offer Ensino Infantil (early years/kindergarten), so families need a separate nursery or pre-school solution before Grade 1.
- Entry is via a competitive annual selection process rather than open enrollment; the school itself notes that candidate numbers are far higher than available places and an interview may be required.
- Parent reviews describe an intensely academic, results-driven culture, with one parent citing a 'grave obsessao por resultados' (serious results obsession) as a downside.
- Follows a purely Brazilian national curriculum with no international qualification such as the IB or A-Levels, which may limit portability for expat families planning to relocate again.

ADMISSIONS

The school runs an annual competitive Processo de Ingresso, with applications typically opening in August and closing in mid-September for entry the following year; occasional 'vagas remanescentes' (remaining places) may open at other times. Selection is based on a placement test and, where required, a family interview conducted by the pedagogical coordination team. The school explicitly states demand exceeds available places, so admission is not guaranteed even for younger year groups. There is no early-years (pre-K) offer, and places for Grade 1 require the child to have turned six by 31 March of the entry year.

WTS RATING 

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