

Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf

Montreal, Canada



Once a Jesuit seminary, now a secular Francophone college spanning secondary school and CEGEP, IB-authorized since 1982.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	75/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	12/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	70/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Once a Jesuit seminary, Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf now occupies a distinct niche in Montreal: a secular French-language day school that combines secondary education with a collégial track and has held IB authorisation since ****1982****. That combination matters. Few schools offer a continuous Brébeuf pathway across the school years and into pre-university study while keeping French as the language of instruction and maintaining a Catholic institutional inheritance. The result is a school with a strong local identity rather than an international-school gloss. Parents looking for an anglophone environment, a soft academic culture, or broad promotional claims about global citizenship should look elsewhere.

What puts Brébeuf on a shortlist is the seriousness of the offer. The school's own programme structure is expansive: Latin et monde, Espagnol et monde, Sport et monde, an in-house music school, community engagement, cultural activities, and a long sports list that runs from fencing and rugby to elite boys' and girls' volleyball, hockey, lacrosse and basketball. At collégial level, the menu extends to IB programmes in sciences and humanities, alongside DEC routes in arts, humanities, science and a double DEC with music. This is not a narrow exam factory. It is a **high-expectation**, **high-participation** institution with multiple ways for able students to stretch themselves inside a firmly structured French-speaking culture. The average annual day fee across the school is **CAD 7,776**, which places Brébeuf in an **unusually accessible** bracket for a private school with this level of institutional depth.

The type of student who thrives here is clear. Brébeuf suits academically ambitious Francophone or fully French-fluent students who want intellectual structure, strong co-curricular buy-in and a campus culture with real ballast. It suits families who value continuity from school into collégial study, and who want substance over branding. It does not suit children who need a loose atmosphere, heavy pastoral hand-holding, or an English-medium route. The alumni record adds weight: Wikidata alone captures **79** notable alumni, including **20** politicians and statespersons, plus writers, scholars, business figures and artists. That points to a school with **serious cultural reach** and a habit of producing graduates who enter public life. Brébeuf is for students who are ready to work, compete and commit; it is **not for the faint-hearted**.

STRENGTHS

- Founded by the Jesuits in 1928 and now secular since 1986, giving the school nearly a century of continuous academic tradition in Montreal.
- Authorised as an IB World School since 1982, offering the IB Diploma alongside Quebec's own Sciences, Lettres et Arts, and Sciences Humaines pre-university tracks.
- Alumni include two Canadian prime ministers, Pierre Trudeau and Justin Trudeau, along with Quebec premiers Robert Bourassa and Pierre-Marc Johnson.
- Ranked highly in Quebec's Fraser Institute school rankings, placing seventh as of 2020 among the province's secondary schools.
- Offers optional boarding for CEGEP-level (college) students from Monday to Friday and on weekends, a rare option among Quebec day schools.

TRADE - OFFS

- Instruction is entirely in French, which is a significant barrier for expat families without strong existing French-language proficiency.
- The school only became fully coeducational in 2014, having operated as a boys-only institution for most of its history since 1928.
- The secondary-plus-CEGEP structure is specific to Quebec's education system, requiring relocating families to learn an unfamiliar two-stage model rather than a standard K-12 pathway.
- Public information in English on current admissions criteria, fee schedules and day-to-day school life is limited, making remote research harder for international parents.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from the start of secondary school through to the two-year, pre-university CEGEP stage. For CEGEP-level admission, the college assesses grades in French, English, mathematics, and either ethics/religious culture or financial education; applicants to science-based programs are also assessed on physics and chemistry results. Separate fee grids apply to Canadian/resident students versus international students, and boarding is available for CEGEP students. Given the school's strong reputation and Fraser Institute standing, places are competitive, particularly for the IB stream.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (79)

MUSIC: Cœur de pirate, Gregory Charles, Régine Chassagne, Pascal Charbonneau, Charlotte Cardin, Denise Ho

DRAMA: Cœur de pirate, Gregory Charles, Veronique Cloutier, Justin Trudeau, Jacques Ferron, Jacques Godbout, Philippe Lesage, Pierre Bourgault

VISUAL_ARTS: Christiane Duchesne, Michaël La Chance, Jean-Frédéric Messier, Denise Ho, Marie-Ève Lacasse

LETTERS: Hector de Saint-Denys Garneau, Robert Bourassa, Pierre-Marc Johnson, Hubert Reeves, André Pratte, Christiane Duchesne, Jacques Ferron, Jacques Godbout

POLITICS: André Boisclair, Robert Bourassa, Claude Jodoin, Pierre-Marc Johnson, Georges Laraque, André Pratte, Denis Lazure, Francine Ruest-Jutras

SCIENCE: Robert Bourassa, Pierre-Marc Johnson, Hubert Reeves, Claude Corbo, Michaël La Chance, Michel Biron, Michel Trudeau, Jacques Hurtubise

BUSINESS: Veronique Cloutier, Gérard Plourde, Michel Vennat, Pierre Boivin, Pierre Karl Péladeau, Pierre Péladeau, Jean Coutu, Robert J. Vezina

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_b379220a8c.