

St. John Bosco High School

Bellflower, CA, United States



A Salesian all-boys brotherhood in Bellflower pairs three national football titles with dual-enrollment STEM pathways.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	55/100
Academic outcomes	55/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	58/100
Alumni network	1/100
Facilities	83/100
Transparency	58/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. John Bosco High School occupies a clear niche in the Los Angeles market: a Catholic, all-boys day school that trades on structure, identity and scale of participation. The core offer is not subtle. This is a Salesian school built around “reason, religion and loving kindness”, with the “oratory” model framing school as home, church and playground at once. Parents who want co-ed liberalism will look elsewhere. Parents who want **clear moral architecture**, an **unmistakable brotherhood** and a school culture that binds faith, sport and belonging into daily life will pay attention. The ***36-acre*** campus, boys-only setting and wide geographic draw from ***110*** zip codes give it reach beyond a neighbourhood Catholic school.

The academic proposition is stronger than the public image of a football factory implies. Bosco offers the US High School Diploma with Advanced Placement, plus six academic pathways designed to run across four years with advanced coursework and project-based learning. The recent expansion of dual-enrolment through Cerritos College in sports medicine points to a school that understands the value of applied, career-facing study, not just conventional college prep. The school cites **98%** of graduates accepted into institutions of higher learning and **96%** continuing their education after graduation; those are strong progression figures, though the school does not publish aggregate AP outcomes. The teaching model is not intimate in the boutique sense, but a **1:17** student-teacher ratio remains serviceable for a school of this type and size.

What makes Bosco special is the combination of *high-volume school spirit*, *disciplined Catholic formation* and genuine breadth beyond the headline sport. Athletics are a central pillar: **80%** of students take part in CIF sports, club sports or esports, and the editorial tagline's reference to three national football titles captures the scale of that ambition. Yet the school also pushes pathways, internships, clubs, theatre and newer additions such as fencing. This matters. Bosco's attraction lies in giving boys multiple sanctioned arenas in which to compete, belong and mature, rather than reducing school life to one team or one narrow academic track. It has *serious athletic prestige*, but it is not only for elite athletes.

The right student for St. John Bosco is a boy who wants structure, camaraderie and a visible place in the life of the school. He will value *demanding routine*, shared ritual and a culture that expects participation. He may be a strong athlete, but he does not need to be; he does need to be comfortable in an environment with conviction, noise and identity. Boys who flourish in highly individualistic settings, resist religious formation or want a quieter, more ambiguous culture will find the fit poor. For families seeking an all-boys Catholic education with *institutional confidence*, broad co-curricular buy-in and credible academic pathways, Bosco belongs on the shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- All-boys Catholic day school run by the Salesians of Don Bosco, with a long-established college-preparatory curriculum including AP courses across core subjects.
- Nationally recognized football program that has repeated as MaxPreps/national high school champion, drawing families specifically for elite athletics.
- Located in Bellflower, close to Los Angeles and Orange County, giving access to a wide catchment area of Catholic and public feeder families.
- Long institutional history (founded 1940) with an established alumni network in Southern California business and sports circles.
- Offers a religious, values-based formation program alongside academics, appealing to families wanting a faith-centered environment.

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex (boys only), which removes it from consideration for families wanting co-education.
- Tuition runs in the high five figures annually (published rates near USD 19,000-21,000 before fees), a material cost for relocating expat families.
- Heavy public identity around football and athletics can overshadow academic identity in outside perception, even though AP curriculum exists.
- Day school only, so families without local housing in the Bellflower/LA-Orange County corridor must arrange transport or relocation themselves.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is via a standard Catholic-school application cycle: entrance exam (commonly the HSPT or school-administered test), submission of transcripts, and an interview. Bosco accepts boys of any faith, though Catholic identity and religious coursework are part of school life. Places are competitive, particularly for students seeking a football or athletics pathway, and early application (typically the preceding fall/winter for the following academic year) is advised given demand from the wider LA-Orange County Catholic school market.

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_f3158d40a6.