

St. Sebastian's School

Needham, United States



All-boys Catholic ISL day school with a nationally competitive ice hockey and lacrosse tradition.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	58/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	58/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

At around 380 boys in grades 7-12, St. Sebastian’s is a small, single-sex Catholic day school with a very clear identity. The essentials are plain: founded in 1941, based in Needham, teaching in English, and running an American curriculum for boys aged 12 to 18. The ****1:5 student-teacher ratio**** is the standout fact. That level of staffing points to close oversight, strong access to teachers and a school that can know its pupils in detail rather than by reputation. Parents looking for a vast co-ed campus with every permutation of programme will not find it here; St. Sebastian’s is ***deliberately narrow*** in mission and audience.

What puts it on a shortlist is not breadth but focus. This is an all-boys Catholic school with a *serious sporting tradition*, flagged most clearly in ice hockey and lacrosse, and that matters because sport at this level shapes school culture, status and tempo. Boys who thrive here will value competition, routine and a defined community. The school’s NEASC and NAIS accreditation adds reassurance on institutional standards, but the stronger market signal is the combination of small scale, faith setting and nationally competitive team sport. That is a *distinctive niche* in the Boston-area independent market, and it will suit families who want structure and ambition without boarding.

It will not suit every child. A boy who wants a fully mixed environment, a looser social culture or a school built around maximum subject and activity sprawl has better options elsewhere. St. Sebastian’s fits boys who respond well to *high expectations*, close adult attention and a school culture where belonging is earned through contribution, discipline and engagement. For that family, the school has a *clear edge*: a compact enrolment, **380 boys**, **ages 12–18**, and a staffing ratio that many larger independents cannot match. The published average annual day fee of **\$7,600** looks out of line with the school’s market tier, so we would not use price as a decision-making anchor here; the real proposition is intimacy, Catholic formation and competitive athletics in a tightly run boys’ school.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• All-boys Catholic day school in Needham, Massachusetts • American curriculum taught in English • NEASC and NAIS accreditations • Around 380 boys in grades 7–12	• Boys only; unsuitable for families wanting co-education • Catholic ethos may not suit non-Catholic families • Day school only; no boarding option

ADMISSIONS

St. Sebastian's is an all-boys Catholic day school in Needham for pupils aged 12-18, covering grades 7-12. The obvious entry points are therefore grade 7 and, where places arise, later secondary years; the school enrolls around 380 boys, so availability is unlikely to be expansive. Publicly available source material confirms the age range, day format and school type, but does not set out a full admissions calendar or year-by-year intake pattern.

The school also does not publish, in the material provided here, detailed information on assessment format, interview process or decision deadlines. Nor is there public detail in these sources on bursaries or need-based financial aid, so families should not assume either breadth or scarcity without checking directly. What is clear is the school's positioning: a relatively small, independent Catholic boys' school with a notably competitive sporting culture, especially in ice hockey and lacrosse. That tends to make selection more distinctive than at a larger general-entry school, even if the exact mechanics are not publicly specified.

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_f35ce636ea.