

St. Mark's School of Texas

Dallas, United States



An all-boys Dallas day school where ninth graders trade classrooms for a 12-day trek through the Pecos wilderness

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	80/100
Academic outcomes	81/100
University placement	79/100
Prestige & heritage	80/100
Alumni network	80/100
Facilities	81/100
Transparency	78/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The detail that sticks is the 12-day Pecos wilderness trek for ninth graders. That tells you a lot about St. Mark’s School of Texas before you even reach the academic pages: this is a boys’ school in Dallas that wants stamina, self-command and a taste for challenge, not just polished classroom performance. The structure is orthodox on paper — an American curriculum, day-only, boys aged 6 to 18, founded in 1906 — but the culture reads as **demanding**, **old-school** and intentionally formative. The website gives real weight to outdoor education, student publications, chapel talks, community service and a long-running arts programme alongside the core academic offer. Parents who want a co-ed environment, a softer institutional tone or a more casual approach to adolescence should look elsewhere.

In market terms, St. Mark’s sits in the expensive end of the US day-school sector at an average annual fee of **\$37,731**. That price buys entry to a school with established institutional heft rather than lifestyle gloss. The accreditations listed here — NEASC and NAIS — are solid markers of standing, and the alumni base is not thin: Wikidata alone catalogues **62** notable alumni, including figures across business, science, journalism, film and music, with verified top-tier award winners in drama and music. Outcomes also hold up in plain numbers. The Class of 2026 had **98** leavers, with the largest named destinations The University of Texas at Austin at **17**, Texas A&M at **8** and Boston College at **6**. That pattern matters. This is not a school built around a narrow Ivy-or-failure script; it feeds strong universities with a visible Texas centre of gravity.

What is special here is not novelty for its own sake. It is the combination of intellectual seriousness, male-only peer culture and a programme that presses boys into public speaking, writing, performance, service and physical endurance. The presence of The ReMarker student newspaper, literary and scientific publications, a planetarium, distinguished guest speakers and long-established drama seasons points to breadth with substance. St. Mark’s belongs on a shortlist for families who want a *fiercely structured* boys’ education with real extension beyond exams, and who do not need hand-holding from the institution. The pupil who will want St. Mark’s is bright, energetic and *not frightened by pressure*; a boy who likes being busy, competes well, and will use the school’s scale and traditions rather than resist them. For a reflective or scholarly boy who also wants robust mentoring and challenge, it is *a serious proposition*. For a child who needs a looser, warmer or more experimental setting, it is the wrong fit.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Very low student-teacher ratio of about 9 to 1, with roughly 15 students per class period in the Middle and Upper Schools. • Strong college-preparatory record, with Niche reporting that 100% of graduates go on to a four-year college. • Substantial financial aid resources: the school awards more than \$3 million annually and, per its own figures, financial aid can cover approximately 90% of tuition for families earning under \$140,000. • Long, stable institutional history dating to 1906, with a sizeable endowment (reported at \$181-\$200 million in recent filings) supporting facilities and faculty. • Established alumni network in business, law, medicine, sport and the arts, including entertainment figures such as Luke Wilson and Tommy Lee Jones and multiple alumni who have played in the NFL.	• All-boys institution with no coeducational option, which will not suit families seeking a mixed-gender environment. • Day school only, with no boarding or homestay program; students must live with a parent or guardian in the Dallas metropolitan area, ruling it out for families relocating without a local base. • Selective admissions, with an acceptance rate reported around 15-20%, meaning entry is competitive even at the earliest grades. • Among the more expensive private schools in Dallas; local reporting has placed its tuition as the third-highest in the city, after Greenhill School and the Episcopal School of Dallas.

ADMISSIONS

St. Mark's admits boys from grade 1 through grade 12, with the largest intake points at grades 1, 4, 5 and 9 and smaller numbers admitted elsewhere based on attrition. The process requires academic records, standardized or admissions testing, and a family interview. The school reports an acceptance rate of around 15-20%, indicating meaningful competition for places, particularly at the main entry grades. Families must reside in the Dallas metropolitan area, as St. Mark's does not offer boarding or homestay arrangements. Need-based financial aid is available and applied for separately from admission.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (6 2)

SPORT: Brian Auld, Mike Estep

MUSIC: Alan Lomax, Rhett Miller, Boz Scaggs, Steve Miller, David M. Lutken, Jeffrey Swann, Boomer Castleman

DRAMA: Luke Wilson, Tommy Lee Jones, Alan Lomax, William Hootkins, Andrew Wilson, Randy Zisk, Craig Zisk, Q5081366

VISUAL_ARTS: Alan Lomax, Q18675095, John Astin Perkins, Roscoe DeWitt

LETTERS: Alan Lomax, Q16217637, Q18675095, Q5081366, Graeme Wood, Ivan Stang, Lewis MacAdams, Q7343473

SCIENCE: Alan Lomax, Mark D. Jordan, Q18675095, Q24332655, Q28921559, Alan Stern, Graeme Wood, Robert M. Edsel

BUSINESS: Frank Rolfe, Q29617018, Lamar Hunt Jr., Clark Hunt, Ken Oshman, Ali Rowghani, David Laney, Q5536813

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_f9fd50d94e.