

Academic Excellence in a Community of Faith.

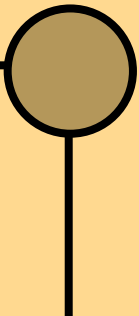


momentum





excellence



tradition

Strong traditions of excellence in education and moral development provide the foundation for the Sacred Heart-Griffin (SHG) mission statement, “Academic Excellence in a Community of Faith.” At SHG, we focus on the whole student. When our students graduate, we’re confident that not only have we helped to shape their minds, but also their spirits.

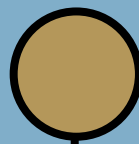
SHG is built on the histories and traditions of Sacred Heart Academy, Cathedral Boys’ High School, and Griffin High School. Our school is sponsored by the Dominican Sisters who provide the educational and spiritual momentum to explore and discover God’s word through the four pillars of study, prayer, community and service.

Tradition also touches the lives of our students as graduates return to our halls as guest speakers or join our faculty to teach the next generation of alumni. Many of our students are following in the tradition of SHG set by their parents and grandparents; other students are beginning a new tradition of their own.

We are committed to helping all those who are interested in attending. For this reason, thanks to many generous people, SHG offers scholarships and financial aid to those who qualify. Over 30% of our students receive financial aid.

The SHG Internship Program is a tuition assistance program offered to juniors and seniors that assists qualified students with tuition costs while providing them with professional work experience at businesses in the community. Students also earn business elective credits as they complete course work that develops work place skills.





faith

Campus Ministry promotes “Community of Faith” through programs and services that benefit our students and community.

The freshman retreat is an opportunity for students to do service together within the community and to take time for theological reflection on the importance for providing service to family, school and the Springfield community.

Sophomore retreat gives students time for “R & R” where they reflect together on their Relationships and the importance of Respect for themselves and others.

Meaning “God’s Time,” Kairos is a four-day, off-campus retreat where seniors open their hearts, growing closer to God, themselves and each other. Most students say that Kairos was their most memorable high school experience.

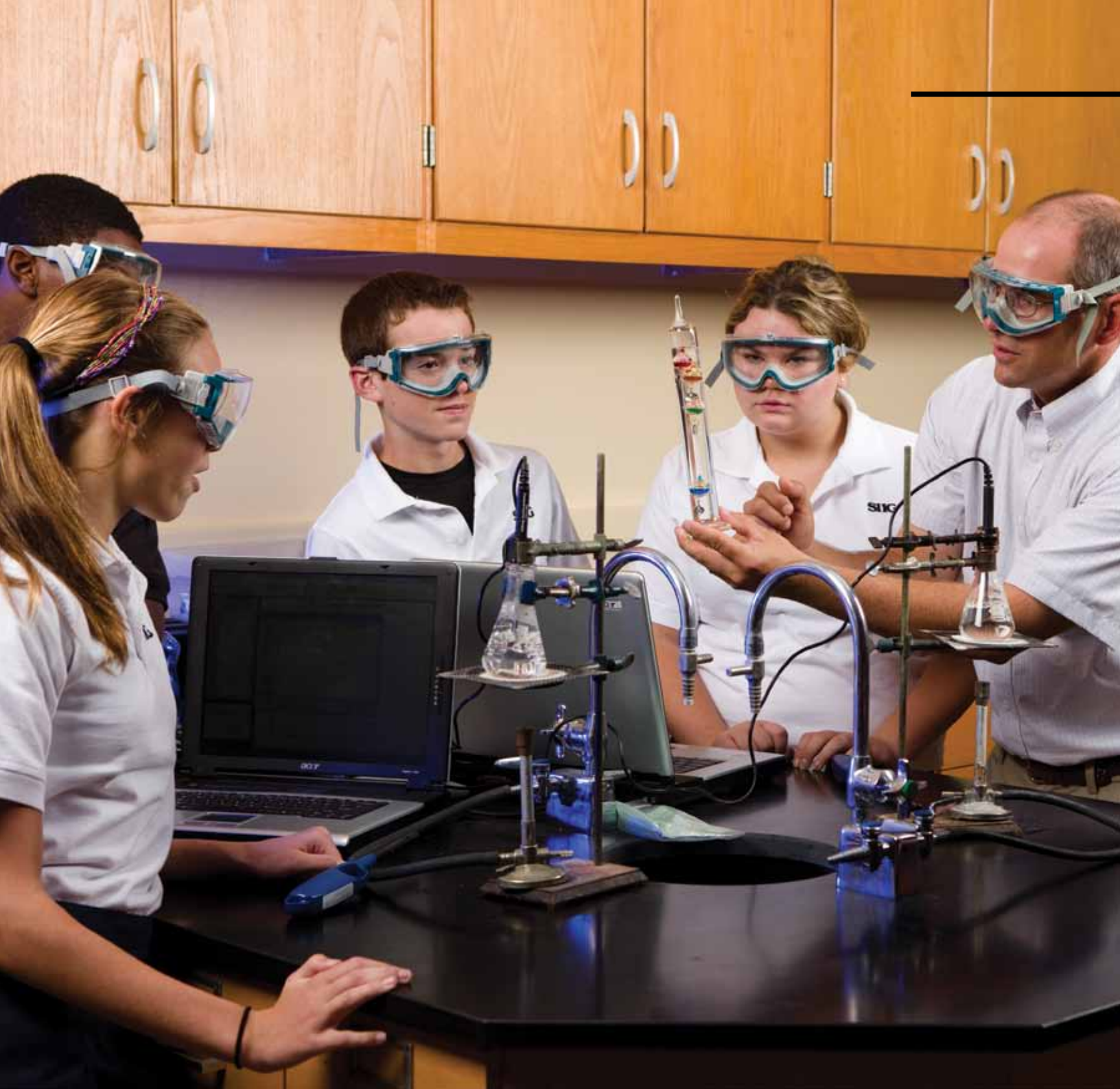
The service club JOSHUA travels to other parts of the United States during the summer to help revitalize homes and shelters through Urban Missions.

During the summer of junior or senior year, the Dominican Preaching Conference offers SHG students the opportunity to meet students from across the country as they explore the Dominican charism of preaching and the four pillars that support it.

OP Teen invites students to learn about the Dominican Order so they can lead SHG students in integrating Dominican values into their lives.

Service in our community is faith in action. We hope to foster within our students an understanding of their call to share of themselves for the common good. As a graduation requirement, students volunteer 20 hours per year at service agencies, school functions and within their own neighborhoods performing Christian service as an integral part of their lived faith.





academics



Before I came to SHG, I was homeschooled so I was concerned that I wouldn't make friends. That feeling quickly diminished because I felt welcomed from the first day I walked through the doors.

I am involved in the internship program, which is giving me hands-on work experience. It is teaching me responsibility and is preparing me well for my future.

SHG is giving me opportunities that I never dreamed I would have!

Abigale Millburg
Class of 2012

You'll be well prepared to attend the college of your choice after graduating from SHG. Each year over 97% of the senior class continues their education at colleges and universities locally and across the country. You will find our graduates at Augustana, Benedictine University, Boston University, Cornell, Lincoln Land Community College, Marquette, MIT, Northwestern, NYU, Princeton, Purdue, St. Louis University, the University of Illinois, Vanderbilt, Washington University, and dozens of other outstanding institutions.

Our diverse curriculum will spark new interests and help you achieve your maximum potential, and our instructors offer challenges beyond classroom lectures. We have many classes to choose from beyond the state requirements. Some of our most popular classes include fashion, U.S. at war, journalism, anatomy, engineering/infinity project and psychology.

Courses for college level credit are available through our strong Advanced Placement program and dual credit with Benedictine University. Honors courses are offered for students who excel. In addition, SHG offers modified classes for those who may need academic assistance in certain areas.

SHG partnered with St. John's Hospital to bring an AthletiCare facility and program to the school. St. John's staff and SHG faculty provide on-site education programming to interested students with a hands-on immersive healthcare experience. Students work closely with therapists and physicians in a clinic setting. They also receive on-going healthcare seminars and fairs designed to increase their level of awareness about key issues in medical technology, healthcare practice, policy and education. Mentorship programs are available to students to create a greater level of involvement and support as they explore healthcare opportunities.

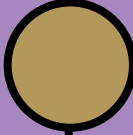
Although our enrollment is approximately 800 students annually, you'll find that our class sizes tend to be small and personal. Our student-teacher ratio is approximately 15:1, which ensures direct interaction and teacher attention.

Realizing the benefits of our personalized educational program, some of our students and teachers travel from the communities of Auburn, Chatham, Elkhart, Pawnee, Petersburg, Rochester, Riverton, New Berlin, Jacksonville, Morrisonville, and Farmersville.

SHG is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCACASI). SHG is a member of National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and Dominican Association of Secondary Schools (DASS).



AthletiCare
St. John's Hospital



arts



When I first came to SHG from St. Patrick's Grade School, I was really shy. Because of the family atmosphere, I quickly got to know my classmates and teachers so I felt more comfortable getting involved. I became active in the art department where I have started an animated comic book! It is rewarding to share my talent with others. SHG is now my second home!

Kenny Beler
Class of 2014

More than just sitting in a classroom, life at SHG embraces the wide variety of the arts. Our Fine Arts Department is known for its superior musical productions, award-winning art shows, and state-winning musicians. Over half of our students make the arts a part of their lives.

Musicians will find a place for their talents at SHG through our instrumental lessons or participation in our four bands. The Concert, Marching, Pep and Jazz bands provide spirit at sporting events and pep rallies as well as concerts and shows.

Vocal musicians will enjoy Mixed Chorus, Premiere or Encore, which offer a chance to explore a variety of musical styles, refine vocal skills, and incorporate choreography into performance. We also offer music lessons, and students have the opportunity to achieve their Silver Cross and Gold Medal in voice and piano.

Our annual musical steps into the spotlight every spring, garnering media headlines. In addition to the rewards of a polished production, new friendships are formed as the cast and crew create this lavish production together.

Paintings, drawings, and photography by our talented art students line our hallways and art rooms. In addition to traditional media, students work with photography, graphic design, and clothing design. Student works are showcased in various competitions, and senior art students participate in the Golden Palette show at the end of the year with an exhibition of their year's work in the SHG Commons.

Through these and other activities on campus and in the community, the arts are a vital part of student life at SHG.





activities



It may seem to some students that SHG is a big school, but it never feels like a big school. I came from a small school and I didn't know many people. That quickly changed as I became active in the Freshman Retreat and Student Ambassadors. Suddenly, I was making friends and getting involved.

The sense of community will help you make new friends and will enrich your high school experience!

Sam Mounce
Class of 2013

Activities at SHG stimulate and encourage social, cultural, intellectual, and recreational interaction by providing learning experiences outside of the classroom. Opportunities for citizenship, community development, leadership, and fun abound! Academic excellence is reinforced through participation in National Honor Societies, Academic Team, Math-Science Club, Science Olympiad, and WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science & Engineering).

Our world language clubs reinforce the skills taught in the classroom while expanding students' perceptions of other cultures.

Many of our students also look forward to traveling abroad during the summer break, and SHG even offers academic credit for those experiences. Some of the countries our students have visited include Italy, England, Ireland, France, Germany, and Spain.

Our campus life is enriched by participation in Student Council and Class Councils, *Campus Crier* newspaper, FIRE (Friends In Resistance Education), Peer Counseling, Yearbook, Student Ambassadors, and OP Teen.

Focusing on the community, the nation, and the world, students learn and grow from their involvement in Key Club, Political Action Club, Junior Statesmen of America, and Student Environmental Awareness Club.

Although to some SHG may seem like a "big" school, students find that becoming involved in campus activities makes the school seem smaller, and getting involved is a wonderful way to make new friends.





events



As parents, we base our decisions upon what we think is best for our children and their happiness. Sacred Heart-Griffin is an investment in the future of our children. SHG grads qualify for millions of dollars in merit-based scholarships each year. The education, discipline, and spiritual focus they receive give them the edge when seeking career or educational opportunities. Our sacrifices are well worth the financial investment because the return will multiply many times back to our children.

SHG was the only real option for us!

Kevin McClain
Parent

From the exuberant kick-off of the school year with Spirit Week, to the pageantry of graduation ceremonies in the spring, for the students at SHG it seems like there's always something going on.

Throughout the year, the SHG calendar fills with interesting events for our students and their families. The crisp air of autumn brings the excitement of football games, pep rallies, and Homecoming. The annual Powder-Puff football game also takes to the field, as the senior girls battle the junior girls in a lively game of flag-football. SHG is proud to participate in national Red Ribbon Week, which focuses attention on all aspects of awareness, prevention, and self-esteem.

We host several family-centered events during the year, which are always popular with students and parents. Everyone puts on their finery for the annual Family Dance for an enjoyable evening of dinner and dancing. The annual Mother-Daughter Mass/Brunch is another cherished tradition for our students. Entertainment events, such as the annual Christmas Concert and Spring Musical, fill the auditorium with the sound of applause.

In the spring, the Golden Palette Art Show is a prestigious event showcasing the year-long works of our talented art students. The work of our fashion students hits the runway at the Silver Thimble Fashion Show.

The annual Mostaccioli Dinner is a tradition that we've been cooking up for over 50 years. This event has become a much-loved tradition for the community as well, with dozens of volunteers serving thousands of meals to happy patrons.

It also wouldn't be spring without the excitement of Prom and SHG's very own Morp – the backwards Prom – where the girls invite the guys.

As the year draws to a close, graduation events take center stage with the Senior Brunch and Honors Night leading up to the graduation ceremony – the culmination of our students' experience at SHG.

Throughout the year, many of the campus clubs and organizations also create special events that further add to the vibrant experience of student life at SHG.





athletics



There's nothing like a sea of black and gold erupting in a deafening cheer – whether it's for a touchdown, a basket, a goal, or a spike – unless, of course, you're on the opposing team!

Known for both athletic excellence and excellent sportsmanship, SHG teams have earned local, regional, and state titles; and our coaches, athletes, and fans are a source of pride for our school. Athletes at SHG will find a bounty of choices: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, hockey, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling.

Our teams are encouraged by the lively choreography of our cheerleaders and Pom Squad.

So whether it's on the field, the court, the track or the ice – or even in the bleachers – athletics at SHG are a big part of campus life!

SHG is not your ordinary, everyday high school. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Athletically, socially, and academically SHG is second to none. From NFL to CEO, or whatever your dream may be, there's no better place to start than SHG!

Academics:
The academic foundation put me well above the curve and gave me a great chance to succeed.

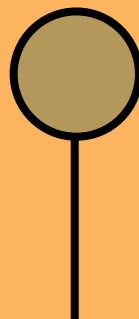
Athletics:
How to handle success as well as defeat was one of the many valuable lessons learned through my athletic career in high school.

Faith:
Classes, group discussions and retreats helped me to grow in my faith and gave me a better understanding of why I am a Christian.

Extracurricular activities:
Piano, Science Olympiad, Tech crew, Math Team – the diversity of extracurricular activities is really what makes SHG special. That is the kind of well-roundedness that colleges and employers are looking for.

Eric Peterman
Class of 2005





join us

If these pages have sparked your interest in the offerings and campus life of Sacred Heart-Griffin, we would love to have you come for a visit. We would be happy to offer a personal tour and introduce you to some of our students and faculty. Even better, spend the day shadowing a student: attend his or her classes, eat lunch in our cafeteria, and experience first-hand what life at SHG is like!

Our dedicated counseling staff helps students achieve success. They are always happy to meet prospective students to show how SHG can benefit you personally.

We would also love to see you throughout the year at our many events. Perhaps you'd like to attend an athletic event or a musical program, or even join us for a bite to eat at the annual Mostaccioli Dinner!

We look forward to getting to know you as you get to know Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 217-787-1595 or visit www.shg.org.

Sacred Heart-Griffin High School is an accredited, co-educational Catholic high school dedicated to participation in the educational mission of the Church, responsive to the vision of St. Dominic to "teach the truth (veritas) in charity." As part of the vision, we seek to promote academic excellence in a community of faith.

Photography courtesy of Terry Farmer, Class of 1977
Design courtesy of HIP Advertising

