

Parent Guide



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS:
why sending your child
to Guerin College Preparatory High School
is one of the best decisions
you'll ever make.



Academics

“Guerin Prep strives to develop the unique potential of its diverse student body through an extensive curriculum, excellent instruction, service and extracurricular programs.”

—from the Guerin Prep Mission Statement

This educational philosophy is the guiding principle for life at Guerin Prep. Our parents agree that a Guerin Prep education prepares students for success in college and life.

COLLEGE PREPARTORY

We provide a college preparatory curriculum requiring 26 total credits in English, Math, Science, Social Science, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, Technology, Physical Education and Speech. Students also have the opportunity to earn four credits in Theology and 4.5 credits in courses of their choice. Our curriculum, aligned with ACT standards and Illinois State Standards, is delivered by a dedicated faculty, 65 percent of whom hold or are pursuing master’s degrees.

A college counselor is available to all students. The program includes visits with college admissions personnel and programs for parents on college scholarship and financial aid opportunities.

ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTING

We recognize that we must prepare our students for the technological world in which they will work and live. At Guerin Prep, students carry a laptop computer leased from the school to class every day, giving them the opportunity to learn 24/7 and to:

- Take notes, write and edit reports, essays and presentations electronically;
- Communicate with teachers and others worldwide and explore diverse cultures and new perspectives;
- Access textbooks electronically with accompanying supplemental materials;
- Conduct online research and fact-checking;
- Plan, prepare and present creative multimedia projects individually or as members of a project team.



“Teachers and counselors genuinely care and support my son. Their guidance has been key in his development as a student and as an individual.”

Debora S. Alverio, parent

“We believe strongly in Catholic education...Guerin Prep continues to teach and live the same values as we do at home.”

Brian & Shawn Tarpey '78 Campbell, parents

“I have a public school two blocks away but chose Guerin Prep because it’s an environment that mirrors what we instill at home—respect, trust and communication.”

Ron Huspen, parent

“Students need to be prepared for college, for the workplace, for the future. Information literacy skills are key skills for students today. ...The advantage of the “one-to-one computing” environment that Guerin Prep offers is incredible.”

Ben Freville, Educational Consultant for Technology, Assistant Professor at Dominican University

THE DISTINCTIVE IDENTITY OF GUERIN PREP



- Academic honors programs
- Programs for students with learning differences



- One-to-one computing environment
- Athletic opportunities
- College and personal counseling



- Scholarships and financial aid
- 17 to 1 student/teacher ratio



- Honor societies, clubs, organizations and fine arts
- Nearly 100 percent graduation and college acceptance rate



- A safe environment of care and respect
- Strong partnership with parents

Dear Parent,

Guerin Prep prepares our students for success. We do so by providing a challenging academic program. We consider the words “college preparatory” not just a part of our name, but a promise of what we do in our classrooms every day.

We also touch the souls of our students, teaching them to lead a life guided by Christian values. We are dedicated to the intellectual growth AND faith development of our students. That’s what makes Guerin Prep different from your other educational choices.

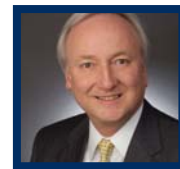
We believe in the unique potential of our students and provide opportunities for each student to develop his or her distinct identity. Our teachers live the words of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, “love the children first, then teach them.”

We are all challenged by the economic times we face. But, Guerin Prep provides more than enough reasons for you to make the sacrifice and the investment in our college preparatory education for your child.

Guerin Prep provides a safe environment for developing the full potential of your child. We strike the proper balance between freedom of thought and action and Christian-based discipline. You are justified in entrusting your children to our care. We promise a Catholic high school education worthy of who your children are now and who they will become.

Trusting in Providence,

Terry John Malik, Holy Cross Class of '69
President



**We are dedicated to the
intellectual growth AND faith
development of our students.**

Guerin Prep: one of the best decisions you'll ever make

We are proud of the environment we have created at Guerin Prep: safe, caring and challenging. It is a family atmosphere that encourages respect, enables success and allows the diversity we have among us to work. We embrace the mission of the Sisters of Providence, who sponsor Guerin Prep, and their promotion of God's loving providence through works of love, mercy and justice.

God is present in the wholesome relationships enjoyed among our students and our faculty and staff. We nurture those relationships through a student life program that includes a special freshman advisory program, the assignment of the same counselor and homeroom advisor to a student for four years and a zero-tolerance disciplinary process that strives to be fair and self-reflective, but tough when needed.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

Nolan Scholars Program

Gifted, motivated students pursue advanced courses of study, participate in enrichment experiences and receive special mentoring all aimed at preparing them to succeed at top-tier colleges and universities.

Advanced Placement Classes (AP)

Students may choose from college-level AP classes provided by six departments—English, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Science and Social Science—with the opportunity to test for and receive advanced placement and/or credit when entering college.

Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC)

PACC allows juniors and seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA and ranked in the 50th percentile and above to enroll in courses approved by Saint Mary's University, Winona, MN, that are taught at Guerin Prep by adjunct professors.

Career Exploration Enrichment Program

Seniors may enroll and take career courses at nearby Triton College for credit.

Sullivan Steps to Success Program

Freshman level one and at-risk students receive structured support services based on an interdisciplinary approach to help them make a successful transition to high school.

Barbara Welch Learning Enrichment Center

All students benefit from ongoing assistance with study skills, testing strategies and college preparation projects. A full-time director monitors the progress of at-risk students and oversees a faculty and peer-tutoring program.

"I watched my daughter grow into the beautiful, young, independent woman she is today, spreading her wings and learning from her experiences. She was encouraged to set and to strive to achieve goals."

Sue Bialk Alexander '76, parent



A balancing act worth pursuing



School is first and foremost about academics, about learning and about developing the habits of mind that will make young people successful no matter what they do in life. And, athletics and activities help make our students well-rounded people; they broaden their experiences and interests. These activities often lead to the lasting lifetime friendships that can really distinguish a high school experience.

SPORTS

Guerin Prep offers nine sports teams each for boys and girls with excellent athletic facilities and fields on our 22-acre campus. This guarantees the safety of our athletes, as all but the hockey team practice right on campus. With three levels of teams, everyone has the opportunity to play. In fact, our trophy cases are getting crowded. We are proud of earning six regional championships since we became Guerin Prep in the fall of 2004.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Thirty clubs and seven honor societies offer students ample opportunities for learning and fun as well as providing outlets for giving service and learning to make a difference in the lives of others—whether that be hurricane victims in the south or a fellow classmate suffering from a life-threatening disease.

FINE ARTS

Guerin Prep encourages participating in the arts and requires fine arts classes for graduation. Our students shine on the stage and in the art studio, winning local and national competitions. Music offerings include jazz and marching band, chorus, strings, piano and music theory. Theater productions are supported by drama classes that include acting and directing. Visual art students study painting, ceramics and drawing as well as choose from an expanding curriculum in photography and graphic design.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

God is at work in our school through daily prayer experiences, regular liturgical celebrations and campus ministry projects. Our young adults take part in annual retreats that bring them closer to God and deepen their understanding of our Catholic faith.

Power to our parents

An environment of care and respect
where a strong partnership with parents is treasured.

ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The more involved adults are in the life of a student, the more successful that student will be. Guerin Prep offers regular and structured activities to encourage parental involvement. For example, secure, online access through an Edline account is available to every family. Faculty are committed to updating Edline weekly, giving parents a detailed accounting of their student's grades and progress. An annual back-to-school night is held at the beginning of each school year and parent-teacher conferences are held each semester.

FINANCIAL AID

Currently, Guerin Prep offers approximately \$500,000 in aid to some 250 families each year. Three endowments provide aid to those most in need. The average grant to a family is \$2,000 per year. Financial aid applications are offered to all current and incoming families and discounts are offered to those with more than one child enrolled. Freshmen have the opportunity to compete for six specialty scholarships—the president's and principal's scholarships—that provide assistance to up to 40 students. In addition, four family scholarships are available for students meeting specific criteria. Families are also encouraged to apply to outside sources for scholarships, such as Daniel Murphy, HighSight and Link.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Active parents, athletic booster and band booster clubs involve Guerin Prep parents in events that enhance the student/school experience and strengthen the partnership among parents, students, faculty and administration. We want the "Guerin Experience" to be exciting for both students and parents.

These parent organizations serve as ambassadors to encourage new families to enroll at Guerin Prep, generate revenue to provide new equipment and experiences for our students and volunteer time to ensure the success of Guerin Prep programs and activities. Sharing your time and your talents will help your student succeed and the school prosper.

