

Embracing our

Tradition of Excellence

A Tradition of Excellence

Vandebilt Catholic High School has a rich history as a school in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. As the only Catholic secondary school in Terrebonne Parish, which is predominately Catholic, Vandebilt serves the important function as the sole provider of a Catholic, Christian, values-based education for teenagers of the families in this constituency and beyond. Vandebilt Catholic High School was founded by the Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross in 1870 and is continued by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.



Vandebilt Catholic High School is committed to spiritual formation and academic excellence in an environment rooted in Catholic values and in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Within the context of a caring and orderly atmosphere, Vandebilt offers a college-preparatory curriculum and stresses a personal approach to the education of the whole student through diverse academic, athletic, and cocurricular programs.

We cultivate a family atmosphere in which administrators, teachers, students, and parents work together harmoniously to promote love of neighbor, love of God, and good citizenship. Vandebilt Catholic High School fosters intellectual growth while challenging students to actualize individual potential.



Vandebilt Catholic High School has seventy-seven certified professional faculty members.

Seventeen faculty members have advanced degrees.

The average teaching experience is nearly fifteen years.

Average tenure of Vandebilt faculty and staff is more than eight years.

Average class size is twenty-six.

Vandebilt consistently has the most state qualifiers at the District Literary Rally.

Religious Formation

The primary goal of the religious education and the program of campus ministry in our school is to enable students to integrate their faith with their daily living. Emphasis is placed on transferring religious values into the real world.

Rooted in Catholic values and in the teachings of Jesus Christ, Vandebilt is a haven for spiritual formation. Emphasizing the importance of prayer, each school day and class period commence with students and faculty praying together. Morning Mass is also offered in the school's chapel before school. School-wide liturgies are celebrated at least once a month; additionally, seasonal religious rituals are observed.

Each Vandebilt student receives approximately one hundred fifty hours of faith instruction per year through daily religion classes. In turn, this faith instruction is practiced by Vandebilt students contributing some twenty thousand service hours per year to the school, the Church, and the community. Among the school's notable undertakings, the annual Christmas Project permits Vandebilt students to assist the needy in the area by providing them with food, necessities, and gifts.

A campus ministry organization was begun so that juniors and seniors could develop their faith and share with peers who have the same objective.

The Religion Department seeks to bring a strong academic education program of religious formation and experiential faith. One method of putting the Gospel into practice, service to others, is stressed at every level. Consequently, service hours are a required part of the religion program.

The campus ministry program at Vandebilt is based on the belief that each person has his or her own gift from God and that each gift is to be used for the common good. The program also recognizes that it is through the Catholic school's special charism that students gain an experience of the teaching of the Church in a faith community that complements the family and is directed toward the local parish.

Catholic spirituality and Christian values are integrated into our curriculum.

- † Annual Christmas Project and Lenten Project for the poor and needy**
- † Campus ministry**
- † Class retreats**
- † Daily religious instruction**
- † Hourly classroom prayer**
- † Monthly school liturgies**
- † Seasonal reconciliation services**
- † Daily Mass**

Academics

We view academic excellence as the development of each student to the maximum of his or her potential.

Vandebilt enjoys a tradition of consistent academic success. With participation of the entire senior class, composite ACT scores invariably rank well above the local, state, and national averages. Typically, two thirds to three fourths of the senior class qualifies for TOPS, and nearly ninety-nine percent of each senior class attends a four-year college or university upon graduation from Vandebilt. Vandebilt is proud of its list topping thirty National Merit Scholars and its two Presidential Scholars.

Academic excellence is achieved at Vandebilt in part because it is a progressive educational institution. Vandebilt has a new multipurpose building that houses a gymnasium/auditorium, a girls' weight room, and a band/choir wing. Improvements were made to the art room with the addition of a kiln room and a graphic design computer lab. The school also has two newly equipped computer laboratories for student use, at least one computer in each classroom, a modern library with a multimedia center, and an updated interactive Web site. Vandebilt teachers and staff use Edline, an effective means of parents, students, and teachers communicating grades, assignments, and school news via the Internet.

Vandebilt Catholic is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. It operates in full compliance with and with the approval of the Louisiana State Department of Education and the Diocesan Office of

Catholic Schools. All students meet and exceed the Louisiana Core 4 requirements, providing needed TOPS courses as well.

The curriculum of Vandebilt is college preparatory. Students have the opportunity to earn seven credits per year and are required to earn twenty-six units for a Vandebilt diploma. Honor graduates are required to take a minimum of ten honors courses over the four years of high school, to earn at least twenty-seven units, and to earn at least a 3.5 average.

Placement in honors courses is based upon standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations. Certain criteria must be met for continued placement in honors courses. Resource classes are available to students with learning differences. These classes are college-preparatory courses that are designed to meet the needs of students using a multi-sensory approach.

Technology has an increased presence in Vandebilt classrooms and has been integrated in daily teaching and learning activities. The school is currently piloting the use of iPads in the classroom by teachers and students with expanded implementation in the coming year. Students are also using laptops and e-Readers to enhance classroom instruction. Available resources include having textbooks online and having access to online assessments that provide immediate feedback. Our academic program continues to address the changing needs of our students to prepare them for their future college careers.

Academics

Course Offerings for Ninth Through Twelfth Grades

English

Skills English I, II, III, IV
 English I, II, III, IV
 Honors English I, II, III, IV
 Speech I, II
 Publications I, II
 Reading I

Foreign Language

French I, II, III*, IV*
 AP French*
 Spanish I, II, III*, IV*
 Latin I, II

Music

Band I, II, III, IV
 Chorus I, II, III, IV
 Music Appreciation^
 Dance^

Fine Arts

Art I, II, III, IV
 Art History^
 Photography^
 Graphic Design^

Driver Education^

Video Journalism^

^ **One-half Unit Course**
 * **Honors Course**

Social Studies

Civics
 AP American Government*
 World Geography
 American History
 Honors American History
 World History
 Church History (Religion III)
 Psychology I^, II^

Mathematics

Basic Algebra I
 Algebra I, II
 Honors Algebra I, II
 Geometry
 Honors Geometry
 Math Essentials
 Advanced Math I (Pre-calculus)
 Advanced Math II (Functions/Statistics)
 Honors Advanced Math – Pre-calculus
 Calculus*
 AP Calculus*

Business

General Business I^, II^
 Accounting^
 Business Law^

Physical Education

Physical Education I, II, III, IV
 Health^
 Varsity Athletics
 Cheerleading^

Science

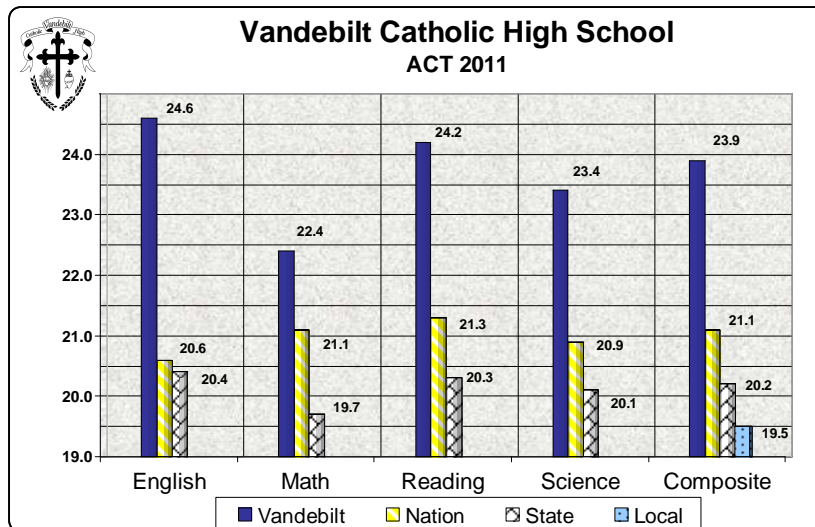
Physical Science
 Honors Physical Science
 Biology I
 Honors Biology I
 Biology II*
 Chemistry I
 Honors Chemistry I
 Chemistry II*
 Chemistry III*
 Physics
 Honors Physics

Computer Education

Computer Applications I^, II^

Religion

Religion I, II, III (Church History), IV



Scores used by colleges for admissions and scholarships

Student Life

We address the religious, academic, social, psychological, physical, and cultural development of our young people through the school's programs, courses, and policies.

A personal approach to the education of the whole student is stressed at Vandebilt by offering diverse academic, athletic, and cocurricular programs to the school's diversified student population. Pupils with various ethnic heritages, religious affiliations, economic situations, and academic abilities are offered a college-preparatory curriculum at Vandebilt. High-school experiences are enriched through a wide array of elective courses, programs, and activities.

The philosophy of Vandebilt emphasizes friendly discipline, which corrects and admonishes but at the same time teaches and encourages. While we expect and demand respect for authority and adherence to rules and regulations, we advocate discipline that is respectful of the Christian dignity of the individual, is consistent and fair, and is based on a relationship of mutual trust and cooperation. This is essential to teach love of God, love of neighbor, and love of learning. Our structured environment provides us with the means to achieve our goal of developing self-disciplined, Christian young men and women.

We are confident that based on their experiences as students in a Brothers of the Sacred Heart school, our graduates are becoming well-rounded, faith-filled, self-disciplined, compassionate, and academically prepared men and women who respond to God's love.

WE HOPE OUR GRADUATES

- are aware of their own gifts, talents, and limitations
- recognize the need to continue their own spiritual, psychological, emotional, social, intellectual, and physical growth
- respond to God's call to be balanced, compassionate adults
- have a strong belief that God loves them
- respond to Jesus' directive to love one another
- use their intellectual gifts to serve others more effectively and generously

Student Activities

We believe that high quality cocurricular programs help to develop students' pride in their school and in themselves. If students feel good about themselves, there is a better chance that they will feel good about the aspects of school that are necessary to develop them into the persons God created them to be.

Vandebilt considers clubs, organizations, and activities an important part in the development of the whole person, which is part of the educational mission and ministry of the school.

The cocurricular program at Vandebilt is designed to develop talents and skills as well as qualities of scholarship, leadership, service,

and character. Vandebilt offers a variety of cocurricular activities and encourages maximum student participation. We strive to give ample opportunity to as many students as possible to develop skills that they are unable to show or develop in the classroom and to create in the school a stimulating and attractive environment.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- 4-H Club
- Academic Team
- Art Club
- Band
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Big Brother / Big Sister
- Bowling
- Builders Club
- Campus Ministry
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Close Up
- Computer Club
- Cross Country
- Foreign Language Club
- Football
- Golf
- Guard / Auxiliary
- Gymnastics
- Junior High Cheerleaders
- Junior High Quiz Bowl
- Junior High Student Council
- Junior National Honor Society
- Junior Varsity Dance Team
- Key Club
- Men of Christ
- National Honor Society
- Photography Club
- Pro-Life Club
- Senior High Student Council
- Sisters in Christ
- Soccer
- Softball
- S.W.A.T. (anti-drug club)
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track
- Vantastics Dance Team
- Varsity Cheerleaders
- VC Theatre
- Volleyball
- Yearbook

Athletics

Pride, tradition, and excellence are words often used to describe Terrier Athletics. Our tradition goes back more than fifty years to St. Francis de Sales High School. Our excellence and pride have been built over half a century with the school boasting in excess of sixty state championships in ten different sports. Vandebilt has been recognized statewide for offering one of the best athletic programs in Louisiana Class 4A.

Vandebilt offers twenty-seven sports with forty-six organized teams. Our junior high athletic programs are great building blocks for our varsity programs. Fundamentals, character, discipline, and responsibility are stressed at the junior high level.

2010-2011 Terrier Athletic Accomplishments

Football – Bi-district Champion

Girls Basketball – District Champion & State Semifinalist

Boys Basketball – District & Bi-district Champion

Girls Cross Country – Parish Champion

Boys Cross Country – District & Parish Champion

Girls Swim Team – State Champion

Boys Swim Team – State Champion

Golf – Regional Champion, 3rd in State

Girls Tennis – Regional & State Champion

Boys Tennis – Regional & State Champion

Girls Track – District Champion

Boys Soccer – State Finalist

Girls Soccer – State Finalist

Softball – State Semifinalist

Volleyball – State Semifinalist

Boys Bowling – District Champion

Vandebilt Catholic High School is a member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and is bound by the Association's policies with regard to transfer students' eligibility. The following are general summary statements of these policies. For more information or clarification, please call Coach Laury Dupont, athletic director.

- Students entering the eighth grade from any school are immediately eligible for any eighth grade athletic team.
- Students entering the eighth grade who reside in Terrebonne/Houma Jr. High school districts may be eligible for any ninth grade team or junior varsity team.
- Students entering the ninth grade directly from a Catholic feeder school in Lafourche Parish are immediately eligible for any ninth grade team, junior varsity team, or varsity team.
- Students entering the ninth grade who reside outside the Terrebonne/Houma Jr. High school districts are only eligible for any ninth grade team or junior varsity team.
- Students entering the ninth grade who reside in Terrebonne/Houma Jr. High school districts may be eligible for any ninth grade team, junior varsity team, or varsity team, depending on circumstances. Transfer students entering ninth grade who are moving into Vandebilt's attendance zone (Houma Jr. High/Terrebonne/Houma Christian) may be eligible, depending on the purpose for moving. Students moving because of religious, academic, or athletic reasons are considered **ineligible** according to LHSAA.

Athletics

Sports Available at VCHS

VCHS offers varsity, junior varsity, and junior high **football**. This sport requires of the student athlete self-discipline and daily attendance at practices. Our coaches teach proper techniques needed to succeed in the game of football. Varsity games are played on Friday nights. JV games and junior high games are played on Wednesdays.

Volleyball is a tryout sport that consists of eighth through twelfth grade girls. Tryouts and practices begin in August, and the team plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays with some Saturday tournaments. Practices are held daily right after school in the gym. Girls should also plan on attending at least three weekend tournaments. Junior high volleyball is also offered.

Basketball is offered to eighth through twelfth grade boys and girls. It is a tryout sport that takes place from October to March. Games are held on Tuesdays and Fridays with some weekend tournaments. Practices are held daily right after school either in one of our gyms or at one of the parish recreation gyms. Junior high basketball is also offered.

Cross country and **track** are two sports to think about for those who love to run, jump, or throw things. Cross country is a fall sport while track takes place in the spring. Participants in both sports compete against other teams in the area. Both sports are “no cut” but require daily, rigorous practices. These sports are available to eighth through twelfth grade boys and girls.

Fast-pitch **softball** is offered to girls at VCHS. With nine state titles in the past twenty years, our varsity squads have gained national attention. This is a highly competitive tryout sport. This squad usually consists of about fifty girls trying out in the spring. The team plays on Tuesdays, on Thursdays, and in weekend tournaments. Junior high softball is also offered.

Varsity and junior varsity **baseball** are offered in the spring to any student athlete in grades eight through twelve. The season runs from January through May. Because of the success of VCHS baseball, this sport is a highly competitive tryout sport.

Soccer is offered as a winter sport. Girls in grades eight through twelve can participate in junior varsity and varsity soccer. Boys in grades eight through twelve can participate in junior high, junior varsity, and varsity soccer. Both teams are tryout sports that require team members to be at daily practices, including weekend tournaments and some Christmas holiday tournaments. These teams are for students who do not participate in select recreational team sports.

Swimming is a sport that is offered to eighth through twelfth grade students. This is a co-ed team. Practices are held in the fall after school at the Ellendale Country Club swimming pool. This is a “no-cut” sport that requires experience in competitive swimming and knowledge of the four strokes.

Varsity **tennis** is offered to students in grades eight through twelve during the spring. This requires daily after-school practice at Renaissance Health Club. The season runs from January through May.

Golf is offered to eighth through twelfth graders. The season for this winner of six state championship titles runs from February through May.

Gymnastics is offered to eighth through twelfth grade girls and boys.

Girls and Boys Bowling are the newest sports teams added to enhance the athletic program.

Admission

High priority is given to those whose families have supported our schools and Catholic schools in general, and great care is taken to ensure that the school does not become available only to the social, academic, or athletic elite.

Vandebilt Catholic High School admits students of any race, color, religion, nationality, and ethnic origin. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission policies, tuition assistance program, or any school-administered program.

Admission is based on the following considerations:

1. a desire to attend Vandebilt
2. elementary school record
3. an interview with the student

Registration for incoming eighth graders and new ninth graders to take the Vandebilt Placement Test occurs during December. The placement test is given in January, and registration for the next school year is held in February-March. Vandebilt provides tuition assistance to families who are deemed financially in need.

What Our Students Say About Us

“Deciding to come to Vandebilt was the best choice I could have made for my high-school career. The people are amazing and the school itself is just in a league of its own.”

“Vandebilt is the best opportunity for a great education in a Catholic environment. The faculty, staff, and students are a big family here. This has definitely been the best high-school experience I could hope for.”

“My years here have been the best years of my life. The faculty, staff, and students have made my years here the best I could hope for. This is my home away from home.”

“There is never a day that I walk in these halls and feel unwanted, unwelcome, or even unnoticed.”

Recent Accomplishments

National Merit Scholar, National Merit Commended Scholar, National Achievement Scholar

South Louisiana Quiz Bowl Champion

Literary Rally – 18 District Medalists, 27 State Qualifiers, 11 State Medalists

Choir – Sweepstakes winner at LMEA State Festival

Indoor Percussion – LCGPC State Champion

Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands:

Band – Class Champion, Drum Major – Overall Champion, Percussion – Overall Champion

The Vanderbilt Campus



Vandebilt Catholic High School
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President -----	Mr. David Keife
Principal -----	Mr. James Reiss
Assistant Principal (Academics) -----	Mr. Quinn Moreaux
Assistant Principal (Attendance/Discipline) -----	Mrs. Keri Dupré
Assistant Principal (Activities) -----	Mrs. Melissa Adams
Athletic Director -----	Mr. Laury Dupont
Resource Program Director -----	Mrs. Michelle Hansen
Business Manager -----	Mrs. Penny Breaux
Receptionist -----	Mrs. Cindy Himel
Director of Advancement & Public Relations -----	Mrs. Lisa Vegas

MISSION STATEMENT

Vandebilt Catholic High School, founded by the Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross in 1870 and continued by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, is a diocesan coeducational institution for grades 8-12 in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. We are committed to spiritual formation and academic excellence in an environment rooted in Catholic values and in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We primarily serve Catholic students of our diocese in a caring and orderly atmosphere. We offer a college-preparatory curriculum and stress a personal approach to the education of the whole student through diverse academic, athletic, and cocurricular programs.