



**A PROUD HISTORY –
A FOCUSED FUTURE**

The Background

St. Gregory the Great High School is located in the Edgewater/Andersonville neighborhood. It opened in 1937 as the first coed high school in the Archdiocese. SGHS has always been one of Chicago's smaller high schools with enrollment peaking at slightly more than 500 in 1973 and for the last three years has held steady at approximately 175. The educational, national and religious diversity of the student body is what makes SGHS truly unique among Chicago Catholic high schools. Students come from over 100 elementary schools and represent 31 countries. 55% are Catholic with the balance representing almost every Christian denomination as well as Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish students. Its smaller size and reputation for caring faculty who provide individual attention as well as the development of the Learning Resource Program (LRP) over the last twenty-five years have made it the ideal environment for students with a wide range of abilities.

The LRP serves approximately 1/3 of the student body who have mild to moderate learning disabilities. It is directed by a certified special education teacher and a corps of support staff. A full time Title One teacher ensures that accommodations are available to students in need. Approximately 20 students are from group homes such as Mercy Home, Uhlich and Lawrence Hall. St. Gregory also admits students at anytime during the year provided there is an appropriate program for them.

St. Gregory is valued for its individualized academic program and its commitment to diversity. With the LRP placed within a college preparatory environment, all students are challenged to achieve their potential. Each year approximately 90% of graduates go on to colleges, universities and post-secondary education.



The Mission

In a caring, structured environment, empowered by Gospel values and rooted in the spirit and tradition of its Catholic faith, St. Gregory the Great High School challenges students of diverse backgrounds:

- To develop their intellectual, spiritual, social and physical potential
- To become advocates for their own success
- To develop a life-long commitment to service
- To value diversity and respect themselves, others and the community

The Identity

St. Gregory is unique in:

- Class instruction that meets the individual needs of each student
- Providing an inclusive college preparatory environment for students of all abilities
- Providing a comprehensive, mainstream program for students with learning disabilities. Founded in 1982 as the first such program in the Chicago Archdiocese, the Learning Resource Program (LRP) successfully serves a population representing 33% of the total student body
- Accepting transfer students at anytime during the year provided an appropriate program is available.
- Serving a number of social service agencies that recognize that their students have the best chance for success in the St. Gregory environment (e.g. Mercy Home for Boys, Lawrence Hall)
- Providing a diverse academic, cultural, religious and economic environment
- Welcoming international students through the English Language Learner (ELL) Program
- Offering career preparation and work experience through the Protégé Internship Program

The Need

Even with its seventy two year history at the corner of Bryn Mawr and Paulina, research indicates that St. Gregory's name recognition is limited yet its mission is unique among Chicago Catholic high schools. Because of the LRP and the policy of accepting transfer students at any time of the year, SGHS is a school that meets the needs of at-risk students as well as students seeking their first chance at success. Parents discover the LRP through referrals by other parents, Catholic and public school principals and counselors and Chicago's Office of Catholic Schools. Unless their student needs the LRP, most parents seek high profile schools in spite of the fact that St. Gregory may be a perfect fit for their son or daughter. Approximately 90% of graduates go on to post secondary education with the balance joining the military or entering the work force. A strong support staff of two full-time and two part-time counselors guides all students in making appropriate choices for their future.



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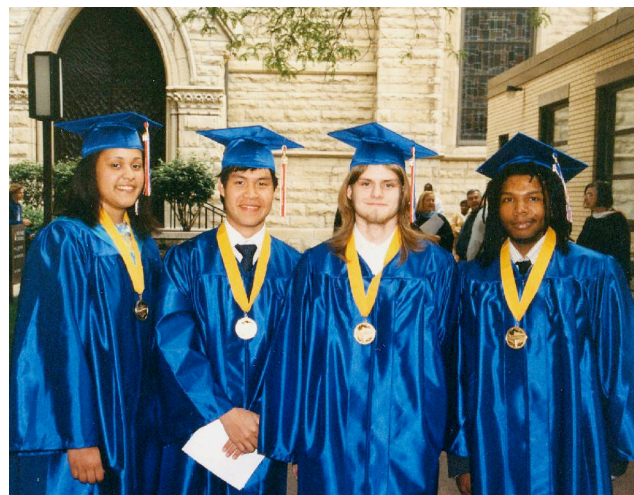
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SGHS = Success for All!