

NEW!

Sacred Heart Senior High School Moves to Co-ed



Starting in the 2025-26 Academic Year, students in Senior High School, Grades 10-12 will move from a single-sex model to a co-ed model of education. This change is predicated on a desire to provide a better student experience and to mirror a more realistic social setting that prepares them for a diverse and ever-evolving world. It also allows us to be more inclusive of all students.

This is an innovative change for Sacred Heart and allows us to provide a more intentional and relevant education and experience for our oldest students.

We will continue to offer single-sex education in the Junior High School (Grades 7-9). This model is unique, one of the very few in Canada. But, it is not uncommon in the UK where it is called the **diamond model** — together, apart, together. For us, that means co-ed education in the Elementary School (Grades JP-6), single-sex education in the Junior High School (Grades 7-9), and then back to co-ed in the High School (Grades 10-12). This model also exists at some schools in the United States, including our sister school, Convent & Stuart Hall in San Francisco.

The rationale for the diamond model, one that our experience and research validate, is that providing the right teaching approach at different stages in a student's development optimizes academic advantages and learning while accommodating social pressures and gender-specific learning needs. This is particularly crucial in the middle years, around ages 11-15, when children are developmentally sensitive and benefit most from tailored teaching strategies and single-sex learning environments. This is why we've kept our single-sex model in Grades 7-9 which will

continue to provide an optimal experience for these students and one which is in very high demand. We will then bring students back together in Grades 10-12 as they prepare for mixed-gender environments in university, the workplace, and society.

The benefits of this high school model change at Sacred Heart are multifold:

1. **Expanded academic opportunities** for high school students.
2. **Preparation for real-world experiences**, including multi-gender university and work settings.
3. **Equality and inclusivity** for all students.
4. **Optimal class sizes.**
5. A commitment to **evolving with society** and adopting innovative approaches.
6. Strengthening the School's ability to **grow and thrive.**

And while our high school model may have changed, what has not changed is our dedication to our Mission and Goals which remain focused on faith, love, social justice, kindness, and community. It is a Mission that is unlike any other school in this region. And, now, with this diamond model approach and new enrichment opportunities in the Elementary School, we are at the forefront of an innovative and tailored educational experience that gives our students the best foundation for their very bright futures.