



**ST. IGNATIUS
LOYOLA ACADEMY**

Educating Boys • Transforming Lives

Frequently Asked Questions for Families Interested in the Academy

How much is the Academy's Tuition?

The Academy was created with the mission to provide opportunities for young men through education. The Academy does not charge student families tuition to attend. Similar to other independent schools, the Academy raises funds to support the school and our programs. A part of our efforts is identifying people who are interested in sponsoring a student's journey at the Academy. Applicant families must meet our [income eligibility requirements](#). Families are responsible for an annual activity fee of \$300 and providing 20 hours of volunteer service at the Academy.

How will my son get to the Academy?

About half of our students take public transportation to the Academy each day. The other half is generally dropped off by a parent, family member or carpool with another Academy student.

Does my son have to be an honor student to get accepted?

Academy students come from all over Baltimore and have had varying educational experiences. The majority of students accepted to the Academy each year test below grade-level. The Academy seeks students who are motivated to learn and are willing to work hard. We will be there to support each student, meeting him where he is and helping him build his skills and grow to be a confident student. Upon graduation, our students test at or above grade-level.

How many students get accepted to the Academy?

The Academy only accepts 30 new 5th-grade students each year. Each grade is divided into two class sections so that the typical number of students in a class is not more than 15 students. Our small class sizes enable students to receive more individualized attention during instruction.

Can my son attend the Academy in 6th, 7th or 8th grade?

The Academy does not accept students entering the 7th or 8th grade. In general, we will have a small number of spaces available for 6th grade. To be considered for 6th grade, applicants must complete all of the items on our Admissions checklist including an application, family interview, and attend *JumpStart*. In spring, when we know how many spaces are available, we will review and select applicants that have completed all items on the Admissions checklist.

What if my son has already completed the 5th grade?

A number of student applicants choose to repeat or reclassify as a 5th grade student at the Academy even though they may have completed the 5th grade at another school. Choosing to

reclassify just means your student will get an additional year to mature and grow socially, emotionally and academically. Students who repeat the 5th grade will be treated no differently than every other new student at the Academy. A large number of our graduates go on to attend an independent high school where classmates are more likely to be older as they have completed both a Kindergarten and a pre-first year. If you want to consider this step, we ask that you consult with our Admissions Director and/or Principal.

What is my role as a parent/guardian?

St. Ignatius Loyola Academy is a community. We ask that parents and/or guardians participate as a member of our community. You will be asked to be involved with your student's education, providing support and encouragement. As students experience difficulties, we will reach out to parents and ask that they be a part of the solution. What we ask of you is to reach out if your student or your family is experiencing difficulties that may impact your child. Every Academy family is asked to volunteer for a minimum of 20 hours each school year. Volunteer opportunities include helping at Academy events (Admission Open Houses, donor events, etc.), providing assistance in our front office, and more. The Academy also offers parent programs and a PTA.

What if my child has an IEP or 504 plan?

If your child has undergone educational testing or has/had an IEP or 504 plan in place, we ask that you indicate that on your application and provide us with a copy of any documentation at the time of your application. Students who have educational plans are eligible for admission to the Academy. Just as we work with each child individually, we will review your child's plan to determine if we can follow the recommendations and provide accommodations as indicated. We request that the most recent IEP or 504 plan be dated within the last 12 months to be sure we are reviewing the most recent recommendations and accommodations.

Do I have to live in Baltimore City?

Applicants do not need to be a resident of Baltimore City; however, priority is given to Baltimore City residents that meet income and other admission requirements.

How does the Academy support my child's social-emotional development?

The Academy provides a supportive environment. Our small classes enable teachers to truly get to know each student. As a Jesuit institution, our "Grad at Grad" traits (meaning a graduate's traits when he graduates) are a core part of an Academy education and help develop loving and caring global citizens who are committed to justice. Additionally, our commitment to the "care of the whole person" is evident in the classroom and on the playing fields. Our faculty is dedicated to understanding each child on his journey through the Academy.

Does the Academy offer sports or other activities?

Yes! The Academy offers interscholastic sports for students in 6-8 grades including cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball, golf and lacrosse. The Academy competes against other independent and Catholic schools. Students may also participate in intramurals. For students interested in music, the Academy participates in the Junior Bach program, a semester-long after-school program where students work with graduate students at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute to compose music. The Academy also offers students the

opportunity to explore engineering through our First Lego League team, as well as additional art, athletics, and other activities that enable students to explore interests. Students are provided transportation to and from all activities and there are no additional fees to participate. Lastly, there are additional summer learning opportunities available for students in grades 7 and 8, as well as graduates of the Academy.

When will my student start school?

The Academy's school year begins in July. All students are required to attend our July Term (July 3 through July 28, 2023). Students are off for approximately 3 weeks at the beginning of August, returning the last week of August. The school year ends the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend. Students then return for the first two weeks of June for summer camp. Participation in the July Term and summer camp are required for all students.

What happens when my student is accepted?

First, welcome to the Academy community! Once offered admission, parents/guardians are asked to sign a commitment letter and return it with a \$50 non-refundable deposit that will be credited towards your annual Activity Fee. Parents/guardians are expected to attend a Student-Parent Contract meeting to review Academy expectations in June and an in-person orientation with your student in late August. Additional enrollment forms including vaccination records, medical forms, permission slips, etc. will be due before the start of the school year on July 3, 2023.

Activity Fee Schedule

\$50 deposit due at time of signed commitment letter

\$50 due June 16, 2023

\$100 due July 14, 2023

\$100 due August 28, 2023

Are there additional fees?

There are no additional fees in addition to the annual Activity Fee. All students will be provided with books, a computer for use during the school day, breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. All new students are provided a PE uniform and uniform tie. Uniforms must be purchased via an approved outside vendor.