CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL
Chicago, Illinois

PRINCIPAL
Start Date: July 2022
cristorey.net
Mission

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School provides a Catholic, college preparatory education and professional work experience to students from Spanish-speaking families with limited financial means.

Vision

The reason for the school’s existence is to advance the human and intellectual capacities, as well as the religious and cultural heritage, of the immigrant families it serves. Through its Corporate Work Study Program, faith-based college preparatory education, and Spanish heritage language curriculum, the goal is to prepare students to succeed in college and to assume leadership roles in the civic, religious, business, and cultural life of our city and nation. As committed alumni of a Jesuit high school, graduates become men and women for others who are open to growth, religious, intellectually competent, loving, committed to justice, and work experienced.

OVERVIEW

A pioneer for urban education, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School provides a faith-based college preparatory education and professional work experience exclusively for students from Spanish-speaking families with limited economic resources. A highly regarded Catholic school, Cristo Rey serves students in grades 9-12 and offers an engaging dual language curriculum program integrated with hands-on work experience allowing students unrivaled career exploration and mentorship, positioning them to succeed in college and beyond.

The school gives students from limited financial means and immigrant families the educational, spiritual, and professional opportunities they need to break the cycle of poverty, while honoring and building upon the heritage of their families. Cristo Rey adheres to the Jesuit philosophy of Cura Personalis, committed to developing the whole individual and cultivating a community of well-rounded leaders.

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School seeks a dynamic operational leader as its next Principal, starting July 2022. The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader devoted to the school’s mission and programs. Reporting to the President, the Principal is the chief academic officer and instructional leader of the school. The Principal has ultimate responsibility for the school’s teaching and learning that occurs through a well-developed Spanish heritage language, college preparatory curriculum, as well as the school’s Catholic and Jesuit identity. The Principal will be expected to maintain a nurturing culture while modeling values, fostering community connectedness, and supporting the mission and traditions that set this outstanding school apart. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead a dynamic secondary school with deep ties to its community and an unwavering commitment to its Catholic mission.
SCHOOL HISTORY

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School was founded by the Midwest Jesuits in 1996 to serve immigrant Latino communities near Southwest side of Chicago. Since its founding, the school pioneered a Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) model for inner-city education, providing students the opportunity to earn a percentage of their tuition by working at an entry-level position at one of the school’s corporate partnership organizations.

Today, Cristo Rey continues to receive national recognition for its groundbreaking model for urban education. In response to the success of Cristo Rey’s CWSP, the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invested close to $30 million toward replicating this educational model around the United States. Currently, there are 38 high schools throughout the country that are associated through the Cristo Rey Network and operate using the educational model named for the first Cristo Rey School in Chicago.

THE SCHOOL

Cristo Rey draws students from 29 different zip codes across Chicago’s Southwest Side, providing a supportive environment for students to explore their interests and intellectual studies for those who would not otherwise be able to afford it. This is accomplished through the school’s revolutionary Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP).
The CWSP provides students the opportunity to earn nearly 60 percent of their tuition while gaining valuable work experience at one of the school's corporate partners in the Chicago area. Every student works five, eight-hour days per month without missing any scheduled classes. Students are part of a job-sharing team of four that splits a full-time position in industries including law, technology, healthcare, finance, insurance, consulting, and other professional industries. This unique opportunity allows students to acquire invaluable marketable job skills, develop strong work ethic, and network with professionals, preparing them for to thrive after graduation. What began as an experimental project by the Jesuits to expand ministry for Chicago’s Hispanic population has become one of the most successful models of educational innovation in our country.

The school adheres to five Grad at Grad characteristics shared by all Jesuit high schools; open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, committed to justice, and an additional sixth characteristic unique to Cristo Rey, work experienced. Through its rigorous academics, professional work experiences, community service, and religious programming, Cristo Rey cultivates biliterate, highly educated, and compassionate individuals prepared to assume leadership roles in the local community and the nation.

Cristo Rey is accredited by AdvanceEd and the Illinois State Board of Education. The school is a member of Jesuit Schools Network, Cristo Rey Network, Illinois High School Association, and Chicago Prep Conference.
ACADEMICS

Students at Christo Rey receive a strong foundation in liberal arts with core curriculum consisting of four years of English, Math, and Religion and three years of Science and Social Sciences. Here, they gain self-confidence and embrace their linguistic and cultural backgrounds while challenging themselves to grow and hone new talents. This all takes place within the school’s distinct dual language program, which promotes proficiency in both Spanish and English. The program requires that 30 percent of classes be taught entirely in Spanish; the remaining 70 percent of coursework is taught in English.

The curriculum bridges the gap between classroom and the student’s work experience by integrating workplace skills into the classroom. Over half of the student body is enrolled in one of the stimulating honors and AP classes offered. In addition, Cristo Rey provides expansive extracurricular activities including robotics, athletics, and business clubs to develop the hard and soft skills that employers of the 21st century expect. Students also benefit from technical training in software programs, email etiquette, and notetaking. Because of Cristo Rey’s emphasis on soft skills as equally important as academic intellect, 97 percent of students meet or exceed expectations at their work study jobs.

The school’s college counseling program engages actively with students, preparing them for the formal college application process. Through a highly personalized process, the college counselors help each individual identify their best fit college.
STUDENT LIFE

Building relationships and developing character lies at the core of student life programs. Students participate in 19 varsity and junior varsity sports teams, through 13 different sports, and 24 different student clubs and activities. More than 78 percent of the student body participates in at least one sport or extracurricular activity. Through athletics and activities, students develop leadership skills, work cooperatively with others, and grow emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually outside the classroom setting.

Campus Ministry supports liturgical and spiritual needs of the school. Students are invited to pray, reflect, serve, discuss, and play - all for the greater glory of God, while many take on leadership roles as ministers coordinating retreats and lectors.

Committed to become “men and women for others,” students actively participate in community service programs. Each year, students in grades 9-11 are required to complete a class-based service project. Seniors must complete a minimum of 15 hours at an approved non-profit organization of their choice.

Through these programs, students become culturally and socially aware of how their actions impact others.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

100% of students from the Class of 2021 were accepted to colleges and universities including the following, among many:

Amherst College
Baylor University
Boston College
Bradley University
Chicago State University
College of Saint Benedict
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia University-Chicago
DePauw University
Dominican University
Elmhurst University
Fordham University
Furman University
Georgetown University
Hamline University
Holy Cross College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Lawrence University
Lewis University
Loyola University Chicago
Marquette University
Mercy College
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Northwestern University
Occidental College
Providence College
Regis University
Sacred Heart University
Temple University
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Oregon
Wesleyan University
Xavier University
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Cristo Rey is located in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago’s lower west side, lined with eclectic boutiques, colorful street art, dynamic musical performances, and award-winning restaurants. Home to the National Museum of Mexican Art, Pilsen is a vibrant, energetic community, steeped in Latino culture. Named one of Forbes 12 Coolest Neighborhoods Around the World, Pilsen is an art and entertainment mecca, defined by its creativity and culture.

Chicago is the third most populous city in the United States. With more than 2.7 million residents, it is the largest city in both the state of Illinois and the Midwest region. The extended Chicago metropolitan area is home to nearly 10 million residents.

Positioned along Lake Michigan, Chicago is known as an international hub for finance, commerce, industry, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. O'Hare International is the second busiest airport in the world. One of the city’s strengths is that it has one of the world's largest and most diversified economies. It’s also one of the most visited cities in the country.

Chicago is a highly livable city. The city is home to some of the nation’s top universities, including the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University, DePaul University, and the School at the Art Institute of Chicago. The city hosts sporting teams in each of the major professional leagues and has a vibrant arts community that includes The Art Institute of Chicago, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Goodman Theater, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Joffrey Ballet. Chicago is also well known as a center for live music, especially the blues, and for the long-running Second City comedy club. With its diversity of neighborhoods, plethora of restaurants and cultural opportunities, Chicago is an excellent place to live and work.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

• Set the direction, coordinate, and evaluate all aspects of academics at Cristo Rey Jesuit in a manner consistent with our identity as a Catholic and Jesuit school;
• Serve as faith leader of the school, promote faith formation for faculty and students, and consistently articulate the school’s Ignatian tradition and spirituality;
• Ensure the safety, health, and wellness of all students while under the care of the school, ensuring the building safety program meets all local/state requirements;
• Observe classroom instruction, supervising and providing consistent feedback to help teachers realize human and academic excellence for all students;
• Evaluate all faculty and staff that report to the Principal;
• Recruit, select, and retain faculty, administrators, instructional and extracurricular staff who are best fitted to the Jesuit mission of the school;
• Ensure the development and implementation of a rigorous, college-ready curriculum, embedded with a Spanish heritage language curriculum, so that all students can achieve at high levels;
• In collaboration with the Assistant Principal for Academics, coordinate agendas for faculty meetings, in-service days, and execute an effective faculty/staff professional development program;
• Lead teachers in interpreting and using student achievement data to inform instruction;
• Develop and review campus policies and procedures;
• Maintain overall responsibility of admission, dismissal, and graduation requirements of students;
• Collaborate with the VP of CWSP to ensure the importance of the work-study program to the mission of the school, and deepening curricular connections between what students learn in the classroom, at work, and vice versa;
• Collaborate with the VP for Finance to ensure the school is well resourced, and the academic expenditures operate within budgetary guidelines;
• Foster strong interpersonal and professional relationships with faculty, staff, leadership team, parents, alumni, and other school constituencies;
• Oversee timely communication to parents;
• Report at regular intervals on student academic progress to parents, faculty, related school committees, the Board of Directors, and other constituents;
• Coordinate and supervise the accreditation processes for the school;
• Represent Cristo Rey Jesuit to the local Archdiocesan Office, Jesuit School Network, Cristo Rey Network, Illinois State Board of Education, accrediting bodies, as well as other appropriate meetings and activities that relate to the academic and instructional aspects of the school.
DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications and Experience

• Demonstrated commitment to Catholic and Jesuit, faith-based education;
• Proven commitment to serve and connect on a personal level with Latino students and families, and foster a deep appreciation for Latino culture within the school;
• Exceptional leadership and management skills to inspire, lead with zeal, and work collegially with faculty and staff, challenge students to high levels of achievement, and engage families in their child’s education;
• Strong background in developing and implementing a rigorous, standards-based, college-ready, Spanish heritage language curriculum;
• Demonstrated success as an instructional leader who can create and sustain a student-centered learning environment;
• At least five years of experience supervising and evaluating faculty and staff;
• Evidence of an ability to analyze and utilize data to increase student achievement and effect school improvement;
• Strong communication style, coupled with excellent listening, written, and verbal language skills in English and Spanish;
• Master’s degree in education required and administrative license preferred or in process;
• Strong Latino cultural competency with proficiency in Spanish language.
Personal Characteristics

- A practicing Catholic who values the Church’s mission of service, education, and social justice;
- Passion and commitment for providing excellent, Catholic and Jesuit education to Spanish speaking students from traditionally underserved communities;
- A desire to learn and be a part of the unique Cristo Rey mission, recognizing the educational value and financial importance of the work-study program;
- Proven ability to thrive in a demanding role, requiring long hours, high expectations, often with limited resources due to the Cristo Rey financial model, but is motivated by what is in the best interest of students;
- A lifelong learner who is diligent about staying current in research on secondary education and strives for continuous improvement;
- Experience with Ignatian spirituality and pedagogy, and a commitment to ongoing formation;
- A leadership style that is firm and goal oriented, yet motivates, guides, and engages others in a constructive way;
- Ability to delegate effectively and work collaboratively with others.
TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

• A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
• A current résumé;
• A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission) to:

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