

PRESIDENT SEARCH

CATHOLIC MEMORIAL SCHOOL

West Roxbury, Massachusetts

catholicmemorial.org

Start Date: July 2025



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM



At a Glance



Established
1957



Enrollment
603



Total faculty
60



Student-faculty ratio
8:1



Students of color
28%



Financial aid awarded
\$5.4M



Faculty with an advanced degree
90%



Campus size
14 acres

Zip codes represented: 100+

Faculty of color: 17%

Students receiving aid: 60%

Endowment: \$12M in investable assets
between CM Foundation, CM
Endowment, and Board Fund

Annual operating budget: \$14.8M

AP courses offered: 40

Athletic teams: 40

State championships: 56

Hours of service: 16,000

Mission

Catholic Memorial is a college preparatory school for boys founded in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice and guided by the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Education. Our faith and learning community are dedicated to transforming boys' lives through academics, arts, athletics, and campus ministry. We challenge students to pursue excellence, embrace Gospel values and lead through service.

Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers, was a wealthy Irish businessman, widower, and parent who dedicated his life to educating the poor boys of Ireland in a Catholic tradition—when establishing Catholic schools was illegal in the country.

In 1802, Edmund Ignatius Rice founded the Congregation of Christian Brothers in order to provide quality Catholic education to the materially poor. The Brothers journeyed to the United States in 1906 and over time established over 250 schools and colleges throughout the world that live by their principles.

The essential elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Education call for educators to:

- Evangelize Youth within the Mission of the Church
- Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity
- Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice
- Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith
- Celebrate the Value and Dignity of each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person
- Collaborate and Share Responsibility for the Mission
- Pursue Excellence in all Endeavors

Overview

For over 67-years, Catholic Memorial has served as an oasis of educational opportunity for Boston area young men. By combining a rigorous academic program with an atmosphere of Christian care and concern, CM is focused on guiding each of its students to maturity – as learners, servant leaders, athletes, and individuals. The school's 60 faculty (90% of whom hold an advanced degree) offer a college preparatory curriculum to over 600 students in grades 7-12 and, in all pursuits, aim to foster the religious, moral, intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development of their students. Reflecting the school's spirit and ethos, the chant "We are CM" echoes throughout campus, in the classrooms, on the playing fields, in chapel, and on service trips. CM students, who hail from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds (100 zip codes), and the faculty that guides them, form a tight-knit community dedicated to serving one another and those in need. Here, character matters. As one of the smaller schools in the Boston area's Catholic conference, CM is known for its warmth as a community, the friendliness and mutual support of students toward each other, the quality and accessibility of its teachers, and the commitment to CM parents that "CM will care for and inspire our students to become the best version of themselves."



CM teachers understand how to teach boys during the most important years of their development. CM's commitment to thoughtfully and creatively shaping curriculum, program and pedagogy around how young men learn recognizes that students want to experience subject matter through active engagement, hands-on opportunities, constructivist learning, and dynamic interactions. They want to understand a concept's relevance and want context as they solve complex problems; to learn by doing. Faculty commitment to inspire interest, stimulate thinking, employ technology, and collaborate with others helps ensure that graduates are prepared for the world ahead. Teachers appreciate the autonomy they are granted in the classroom as well as the collaborative spirit of colleagues. The leadership team, both talented and enjoyable, functions at a high level and continues to propel the school and its programs forward. This is a school on the move.

Students know there are many areas in which CM excels as a school and they are positive, enthusiastic, and very involved. Many students, Catholic and non-Catholic, now arrive at CM from Boston suburbs as well as the city of Boston, creating broader geographic student body diversity. CM is known for its warmth as a community, the friendliness and mutual support of students toward each other, the quality and accessibility of its teachers, and the commitment to CM parents that as a school, as one teacher observed, "we're going to get to know your boys and figure out what their gifts are and help them realize their potential."

Over the past eleven years, CM has undergone a renaissance in everything from academics to fundraising to campus infrastructure. CM has expanded academic offerings at the AP level and in dual enrollment, while embracing a student-centered approach to teaching and learning. This belief in each student's capacity to excel through dynamic teacher-student relationships that activate a student's unique gifts and talents has led to over 90% of CM graduating classes completing AP or dual enrollment coursework. Admission to highly selective colleges has also substantially increased, with over 89% of CM students enrolling in colleges ranked "very competitive or higher" by Barron's in 2024. The school has supported an expansion of the performing arts; the speech and debate team has won seven of the last eight state championships; and a continued focus on athletic excellence has resulted in many individual and team conference and state titles. There's a "grittiness" and "strong sense of perseverance" pervasive in the culture of the school which has shepherded its resources imaginatively and always with student needs in mind. The mindset is that each student has limitless potential.



Impressively, CM has also invested over \$20 million back into campus renovations to support the growth in academic programs and hands-on learning, while simultaneously renovating and expanding its classroom and lab space and its athletic facilities. The highlight is the innovative Yawkey Center for Integrated and Applied Learning, complemented by Kennedy Commons, Hegarty Plaza, Math Laboratory, Middle School Maker Space, Walsh Field House, Dahlstrom Weight Room, and the Athletic Training Suite. The school has also recently renovated the Ronald Perry Gymnasium and the James Healey Athletic Complex, including the Br. McKenna Football Field, Albert Todesca Jr. Baseball Field, and the Walsh Track. With the acquisition of a parcel of adjacent land that can be developed for educational purposes, CM has plans for additional campus improvements. Through the leadership of the CM Board, the school has raised over \$32 million in the last decade and significantly increased the endowment. To be sure, CM has positioned itself for its next chapter of growth and an even brighter future.

Boston and West Roxbury

The charming Boston neighborhood of West Roxbury lies southwest of the downtown area. Residents may traverse Centre Street, the main thoroughfare dotted with local restaurants and establishments. Greenery complements the city structure, and single-family homes, churches, and buildings abound. Millennium Park houses 100 acres of trails, fields, and picnic areas. Originally part of the town of Roxbury, West Roxbury was the home of a 19th century experimental utopian community, which hosted writers and philosophers including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau. As part of “Boston proper,” West Roxbury residents enjoy easy access to its amenities and attractions. Historic attractions including the Freedom Trail, Faneuil Hall, the State House, Harvard Square, the Seaport, and Fenway Park are all within close proximity to West Roxbury. Residents and visitors enjoy Boston’s exceptional cultural appeal as well as the beaches and mountains that lie close to the city.

Boston is one of the world’s premier cities, home to world-class cultural and educational resources. Harvard, Tufts, MIT, BU, BC, Berklee College of Music, Northeastern, New England Conservatory, and Wellesley College and 55 other colleges and universities contribute to the area’s youthfulness, vitality, and pride. Rich in history and central to the birth of our nation, Boston also gave the country its first college, secondary school, public park, subway, and periodic newspaper. Boston is a world leader in medicine and pharmaceutical research, technology innovation, and education.



Some leading cultural institutions that call Boston home include the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston Ballet, Boston Symphony and Pops, and Museum of Science. Boston is also a legendary sports town, abounding in professional, collegiate, and youth teams of all varieties (and generating plenty of opinions on each). A river city with a busy harbor and the adjacent Massachusetts Bay, Boston is also ideally positioned for recreation with mountains, lakes, and seacoast all within an easy drive. Boston features a high number of people who actually live in one of the city's neighborhoods, including Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the South End and South Boston, as West Roxbury and other nearby areas. Though served by good public transit, Boston is also an eminently walkable (and bikeable) city.

Opportunities and Challenges

With the impending transition of Dr. Peter Folan who has served in the role for eleven years, and with the committed leadership of the Board of Directors, Catholic Memorial seeks a visionary and highly relational leader to serve as President effective July 2025. The next President will join a proud, premier Catholic school for boys at a time of dynamic opportunities for its future. With mission clear, tradition rich, and faculty experienced and deeply dedicated to students, CM poises itself to grow strategically – by building on its enduring strengths and capitalizing on the palpable spirit of the community. This unique opportunity will attract an inspirational Catholic leader who embodies CM's Catholic values, is dedicated to changing the lives of deserving boys and their families, and who can - energetically and collaboratively – continue the charted course toward a vibrant future that integrates its traditions with innovative academics and vibrant co-curricular programs. Deservedly proud of its history and traditions, CM also seeks to become a leader in dynamic teaching and learning practices while growing its enrollment and philanthropic giving. And so, the school poises itself to strengthen its foundations while growing toward an even more vibrant future.

With these dynamic elements in play, CM's next President will need to:

- Authentically champion – internally and throughout greater Boston – the CM mission, Catholic values, and the unique blend of kindness, care, and pride exuded by its students and teachers
- Build on the foundation of the last decade of fundraising success to strengthen existing donor relationships and open doors to transformational philanthropic support to secure CM for all that lies ahead



- Skillfully promote and tell the story of the CM of today to increase its visibility and reputation for academic excellence and character formation in the greater Boston market
- Visibly and joyfully engage with students, faculty and staff, parents, and alumni
- Vigorously and genuinely center and celebrate CM's authentic diversity while making the school a destination of choice for all families
- In partnership with the Board of Directors, strategically position and steer CM for the future while honoring and preserving its founding roots
- Steward and manage resources and budgets prudently and efficiently

Qualifications and Personal Attributes

- A proven, collaborative, leader of the Catholic faith who excels at building teams and in leading and mentoring others
- An energetic ambassador who will be the school's persuasive public champion and spokesperson, able to compellingly articulate CM's unique benefits as a Catholic boys school
- A demonstrated capacity to think strategically and execute plans for growth and improvement
- An active listener who inspires trust through authenticity, shared accountability, and the capacity to be both compassionate and decisive
- An approachable and relational community builder who will be visible on and off campus
- A strong fundraiser, friend-raiser, and institution-builder who is relatable, approachable, and comfortable asking for financial contributions
- A persuasive, articulate communicator with poise, presence, command of message, and a desire to play a high-profile role in the community and with diverse constituencies
- Strong ability to attract and retain talent
- A resourceful and innovative problem-solver, able to navigate challenges and motivate others
- A competitive spirit who will confront opportunities and challenges with a great sense of urgency, confidence, critical thinking, and optimism
- An inspiring mix of personal humility, drive, and ambition for the school
- A deep belief in transforming boys' lives and preparing them for the world
- Experience working with a board and in supporting best practices in governance
- Demonstrated capacity to be grounded internally in the school and focused externally on the school's strategic and philanthropic priorities
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Catholic Memorial.

[School Website](#)

[College Matriculation](#)

[Christian Brothers School](#)

[About Boston, Massachusetts](#)

[Campus Ministry](#)



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 strong cover letter expressing interest in this particular position;
- A current and comprehensive résumé of no more than four pages;
- And for finalists, 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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