

# St. Pius V School

## Why Pre-K to Eight?

*Do your best...Be kind to others...*



**“If I could design psychologically safe schools, every elementary school in the United States would go from kindergarten through grade 8 and be no larger than four hundred students.”**

*Best Friends/Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Worlds of Children,*  
Michael Thompson, Renowned Child Psychologist



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Dr. Thompson's description of  
the ideal design of a  
psychologically safe school  
looks remarkably like  
St. Pius V School.

Recent research on schools indicates that the benefits of a Pre-K through Grade 8 education go far beyond psychological safety. St. Pius V School ensures the healthy spiritual, social, emotional, and intellectual growth of all students.

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**St. Pius V School preserves childhood.** St. Pius V students remain more ingenuous, more likely to engage in healthy, age-appropriate activities, and more comfortable being kids a few years longer than peers at many other schools. This organizational structure allows for validation of the unique needs of pre-adolescents in Grades 6, 7, and 8.

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**St. Pius V School students enjoy the privilege of having close and continuous relationships with their teachers, who are experts both in their curriculum area and in child development.** Knowing that their teachers are their mentors and allies, St. Pius V School students feel safe taking intellectual risks and benefit from early leadership opportunities.



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Students in the St. Pius V Upper School are at not at the beginning of high school or in the middle of anything...They are at the “top of the hill.” They serve the school as leaders. They respond to new responsibilities, such as mentoring students in the lower grades, with maturity and vision uncommon for their age.



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**St. Pius V School students have signature academic experiences that they cannot get anywhere else.** Hands-on science and math projects, literature, and art studies go far beyond what their peers experience elsewhere. Students who graduate from our 8th grade are uniquely prepared for academic success in high school.



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**St. Pius V School students graduate from 8th grade with a strong sense of who they are, both as learners and as members of society.** The faculty and staff know each student well and assist each 8th grader in the selection of the high school that best matches his/her strengths. As a result, our students emerge well prepared to succeed in their next school environment.



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<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171016190530.htm>

•Harvard Graduate School of Education. "Do Middle Schools Make Sense?"  
Harvard Ed Magazine Fall 2012

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/12/09/do-middle-schools-make-sense>

•New York University. "Attending a Middle vs K-8 School Matters for Student Outcomes." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 16 October 2017.

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