



Frequently Asked Questions

The affiliation of Covington Latin School with Thomas More University is a transformative step forward, not only for Covington Latin School but for Catholic education in the Diocese of Covington and the entire Northern Kentucky region. By uniting the rigorous, classical education model of Covington Latin with the resources and mission of Thomas More University, this partnership stands to enhance academic opportunities, strengthen Catholic educational values, and secure a thriving future for generations of students.

What does this mean for Covington Latin School?

Covington Latin School has long been recognized as a premier preparatory school, known for its exceptionally gifted and talented program, a selective admission process, and a rigorous curriculum that accelerates many students by more than one grade level. The University's affiliation will enhance this reputation by introducing pathways to college credit, building on the school's existing House system and potentially allowing Covington Latin students to graduate with up to 60 college credits in areas of academic interest such as healthcare, business, humanities, law, and technology. This unprecedented opportunity will give students a significant advantage in today's competitive higher education landscape, especially as higher education costs continue to rise.

Additionally, the University has administrative resources that will support the infrastructure of Covington Latin School, allowing the school to focus on the education of gifted learners as the primary function of the faculty, staff, and school leadership.

What will be different for the students?

Covington Latin School will remain in its current location in Covington, KY. Certainly, there will be opportunities for students to engage within the University's campus facilities, but there are no plans to move the school to Crestview Hills. Similarly, Covington Latin School will never divert from the foundation of a Catholic, classical education model of curriculum and culture.

The name of the school and its motto, *Bonitatem et disciplinam et scientiam, doce me*, will never change. The University has a firm commitment to nurturing a strong pipeline of Catholic-educated leaders who will carry forward values of goodness, discipline, and knowledge, as encapsulated in this motto. This is central to the identity of Covington Latin School.

The University plans to make improvements to the physical campus, including technological upgrades and modernized facilities. The intent is to create an enriched learning environment that supports both academic rigor and the classical education model. Through these investments, the university intends to uphold and strengthen Covington Latin's tradition of excellence while ensuring that the school remains a top choice for families seeking the highest quality, Catholic education, classical in design, modern in approach.

How will the University's oversight impact the teachers?

A core element of this affiliation is a commitment to attracting and retaining top-quality faculty at Covington Latin School. Thomas More University intends to bolster Covington Latin School's position as a beacon of gifted and talented education within the region and ensure that Covington Latin is a place where the region's best teachers are prepared to educate the region's most gifted learners. CLS faculty will have the opportunity for continued education and certification, providing students with access to highly credentialed and qualified educators who are being trained on the most up-to-date methodologies and ideologies in their field of study.

Covington Latin School will retain a faculty independent of the faculty at Thomas More University. However, access to shared pedagogical resources and ongoing professional development will become a staple of the partnership between the faculties of both institutions.

Administratively, the teachers will be employees of the University, providing them with access to the compensation and benefits packages, including tuition remission, that will differ from other public and private schools within the region.

Will Covington Latin students be enrolled as Thomas More students?

Covington Latin School students will be able to access collegiate courses as a part of defined pathway programs and through dual credit. There is further work to be done on the curriculum mapping for these pathways, but the intent is to offer Covington Latin School students an opportunity to earn up to 60 credit hours of college credit while they are students at Covington Latin.

This integrated approach will allow Covington Latin students to begin their college journey early, with courses that fulfill common general education requirements and align with their career interests. This academic advantage will provide an accessible, cost-effective pathway to higher education and prepare students to excel in their future fields.

How will this impact students' college decisions?

Thomas More University and Covington Latin School already share a network of notable alumni and a history of producing successful, civic-minded graduates. Of its more than 2,300 living alumni, 98% of Covington Latin graduates hold bachelor's degrees and 48% hold master's or terminal degrees. Many of these graduates came to Thomas More (or Villa Madonna College, prior to 1968) for their collegiate experience. This shared network of alumni, many of whom reside in the region, will provide an added benefit for the experiential learning opportunities that Thomas More requires of its students, whether through co-operative education programs, internships, mentorships or otherwise.

While the University sees this as a benefit for the students of this region, it is imperative that Covington Latin School graduates have the opportunity to advance to the nation's top colleges and universities. This will not change. This affiliation is not intended to create a bigger pipeline for Covington Latin School graduates to matriculate to Thomas More. The goal of Covington Latin School will be to prepare students to succeed at whichever university they attend and to thrive in whichever field of study they choose.

Will Covington Latin School still be known as 'The Bishop's School'?

Yes. While the University will assume oversight of the School, the Bishop of the Diocese of Covington is the Chancellor of Thomas More University. Thomas More University is one of the 12 Diocesan Colleges & Universities in the United States.

How will alumni and parents be involved moving forward?

Continuous input from parents and alumni will be critical for this partnership to succeed. Thomas More University will convene a task force on developing the next strategic plan for Covington Latin School. This task force will engage with stakeholder groups, including students, parents, alumni, employees, and industry leaders.

While the governing board for the school will be the Thomas More University Board of Trustees, Covington Latin School will have an Alumni Association Board and a Parent-Teacher Association that the school will use to inform, mobilize, and engage in open lines of communication with these key stakeholders of Covington Latin School.

Who will lead the school?

Dr. Rachel Noll is the interim Head of School at Covington Latin School. Dr. Noll will continue to serve in this capacity for the remainder of the academic year and has the full support of Thomas More University.

Thomas More University will advertise for the permanent Head of School in March of 2025. The intent is to name the Head of School prior to graduation in the spring of 2025. The search committee will be made up of representatives of both Covington Latin School faculty and Thomas More University employees.

Will Thomas More University uphold Bishop Howard's vision that no qualified student be turned away from Covington Latin School because they can't afford to attend?

Yes. Bishop Howard's vision is completely in line with the University's intent to uphold the academic integrity of the school while growing enrollment and advancing access to Catholic education. Many benefactors have established endowed scholarships for Covington Latin School that will continue to grow and be awarded to students in perpetuity.

The University will work with Covington Latin School to grow the endowment, secure more support for scholarships, and protect Bishop Howard's vision of ensuring that the gift of a classical, Catholic education is available to all students who are qualified and prepared to "Achieve here. Excel here. Belong here."