SEARCH PROSPECTUS

Headmaster

CULTURA VITAE

Chesterton Academy of The Florida Martyrs

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

— G. K. CHESTERTON



About Chesterton Academy

Chesterton Academy of The Florida Martyrs (CAFM) opened in 2023 as an independent **classical high school**, joyfully grounded in the **Catholic Faith**.

Through our integrated classical curriculum, we form our students in intellect, character, and spirituality – fostering a love of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. Inspired by Saint Pope John Paul II, we take as our motto ***Cultura Vitae****, the* ***Culture of Life***. We make it our mission to prepare our students to triumph over the materialism and despair that pervade our culture and to accept our Lord's offer to have life and have it abundantly.

Guided by the wit and wisdom of 20th Century English author and poet **G.K. Chesterton**, CAFM operates as **one of over 80 member schools** operating in the **Chesterton Schools Network**, an initiative of The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, a worldwide Catholic lay apostolate dedicated to evangelization through education.

Located at **St. Anne Catholic Parish** in the Bellview area of **Pensacola, Florida**, CAFM accepts the State of Florida's ***Step Up for Students* Scholarship**. Academic year 2026-2027 is CAFM's fourth year of operation.

<u>Enrollment & Staff:</u>

Current 2026-27 enrollment: **26**
Current 2026-27 staff: **10 (4 full time)**

Projected 2027-28 enrollment: **32**
Projected 2027-28 staff: **10 (4 full time)**

The Chesterton model includes **clubs, fine arts, athletics, a house system, and daily Mass**. We aim to unlock student potential and prepare our graduates to succeed in college and professional life in service of family, country, and Christ, Our Lord.

A Message from Our Board of Directors

As a team of servant leaders, we consider it our sacred duty to support, enable, and empower our headmaster in the formation of the next generation of leaders and saints. G.K. Chesterton wrote, “Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.” Indeed, we seek to partner with a school leader who shares our heart for offering a timeless and proven educational model – one that made our society great over the centuries. We aim to ensure Chesterton students are able to defend the Faith upon graduation, and to succeed in college and professional life. Confident in the work of the Holy Spirit, we look forward to enhancing an already promising trajectory under the leadership of a new headmaster focused on fostering a distinctly Catholic culture wherein the Mystery of the Incarnation is infused in every academic subject and aspect of school life.

Mission Statement

Under the patronage of G.K. Chesterton and in partnership with families and the Church, the mission of Chesterton Academy of The Florida Martyrs is to foster a Culture of Life by forming a new generation of joyful leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and grounded in the truths of the Catholic Faith.



Summary of the Role

Part of your mission is to call forth joyful leaders and saints. This begins with a faculty that has itself answered this call and is prepared to show up to school each day as a "joyful witness to Christ." You will be a headmaster that can lead this good work on a daily basis and understands that school culture begins with faculty culture.

As Headmaster, you will serve as the educational leader, responsible for managing policies, regulations, and procedures to ensure that all students are supervised in a safe learning environment that adheres to our Catholic identity and meets the approved curricula and mission of the school.

Your responsibility will be in forming the whole person and providing institutional stability through effective oversight of both school operations and business operations. You will ensure curriculum implementation, staff leadership, hiring and supervision of instructional personnel, student life and discipline, new student recruiting, business/financial administration (budget execution), and marketing.

You will be supported by an Advancement Director who oversees fundraising and development and an Operations Assistant who provides administrative support.





Key Responsibilities

Curriculum and Academic Excellence

- Oversee adherence to Chesterton Schools Network curriculum
- Oversee implementation of changes to curriculum
- Review results of student tests (CLT, PSAT, ACT, SAT)
- Oversee school accreditation process and renewal per Network guidelines

Instruction

- Oversee faculty hiring, evaluation, rehires, terminations
- Conduct classroom observations for teachers as part of evaluation process
- Personally teach 1-2 classes per semester (if able); lead by example in classical instruction

Student Life and Discipline

- Ensure discipline policies are enforced, communicated
- Oversee parent-led sports and extracurricular activities
- Ensure effectiveness of house system and faculty mentor programs
- Oversee academic and behavioral eligibility for extra-curricular activities

Parent Communications

- Send weekly Headmaster Missive or school newsletter to parents
- Meet with parents regarding student discipline and academic issues

Admissions

- Admit new students upon review of placement exam, application and family interview
- Initiate transfer process (curriculum adjustments & student transition)
- Review placement tests and contact parents with remediation needs
- Deliver presentations to prospective parents and at selected school events

Guidance

- Coordinate standardized testing, college applications and transcript prep
- Communicate with colleges and universities and other post-secondary school programs
- Promote various vocational opportunities

Compliance

- Oversee compliance with SUFS, Florida Department of Education, and other relevant government entities.

Other School Operations

- Coordinate materials acquisition (software, textbooks, furniture, etc.)
- Financial oversight: budget drafting, spending oversight, serving on the Finance Committee.

Qualifications

In addition to being a practicing Roman Catholic -

Education:

- Required: Bachelors degree and willing to work toward a Masters
- Desired: Masters in Education or related field

Experience:

- Required: Previous experience in secondary school education; familiarity with and commitment to the classical model of education; familiarity with the mission of Chesterton Academy and the teachings of the Catholic Church; and working knowledge of institutional growth
- Desired: Significant experience in secondary school administration and/or business administration.

Certification:

- Not required
- Willingness to participate in continuing education and certification, including attainment of the *Classical Education Teaching Certificate* offered by the State of Florida





About Pensacola

Located in the Florida panhandle, Pensacola is surrounded by **over 50 miles of coastline**[1] including white sand beaches and inland rivers and bayous. The temperate climate, friendly community, forward-leaning business community, and school choice policy present an unparalleled quality of life. Pensacola is **the perfect combination of a relaxed beach town and lively metropolitan center**.

Established in 1559 by Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna, Pensacola is America's First Settlement. Proud of its rich heritage and significant place in America's history, Pensacola celebrates its fascinating past throughout the year at various **historic sites, festivals, and parades**. NAS Pensacola is **home to the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels**.



In 2025, Pensacola was ranked **#1 best coastal city** to move to by ConsumerAffairs (in part due to relatively low crime and abundance of green-spaces) and **one of the top mid-size cities** on the rise by LinkedIn. Pensacola has many **vibrant Catholic parishes** and four diocesan grade schools.

1 - According to the City of Pensacola



Median Household Income	$72,699
Median Age	40.8 yrs
Metro Area Population	500,000+

Table: Statistics from U.S. Census Bureau



COMPENSATION

Competitive and commensurate with experience

START DATE

By June 1, 2027.
An earlier start is welcome to allow for a transition.

REPORTS TO

Board of Directors

TO APPLY

Please send the following:

- Résumé
- Cover letter
- Statement of Catholic educational leadership philosophy
- List of five professional references

SEND TO

csalamida@chestertonpensacola.org

Subject line: Headmaster Position

Applications will not be considered complete unless all requested items are received.

All applicants will be handled with utmost confidentiality, and references will not be contacted without a candidate's prior knowledge. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

