



Loyola High School to launch co-education in 2023

125-year-old NDG institution looks to the future by welcoming young women

Montreal, May 18, 2022 – Celebrating a first step in a new strategic direction to make a Jesuit, Catholic education accessible to all, Loyola High School is proud to publicly announce that we will open applications to young women for the first time, with the school launching co-education for the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.

“This exciting change will open Loyola’s doors to new perspectives and diverse ideas, in an updated educational and spiritual environment that helps each child develop their full potential as enriched and well-rounded individuals,” says Marcelle DeFreitas, president of Loyola High School. “We are moving forward together to prepare our building and educational team so that we are ready for any student with English-language eligibility, regardless of gender, background or belief.”

The decision comes after nearly a decade of analysis within the Loyola Board of Governors, the school leadership and the Society of Jesus, who had all been tasked with charting a sustainable future for Loyola. Launching a co-educational program, where both young men and women will share learning spaces both inside and outside the classroom, was judged to be the best way forward.

“We have graduated Jesuit-educated young men for 125 years and are extremely proud of what our alumni have accomplished, becoming leaders for change in their respective fields, and giving back to their communities and the world,” says Tom Malone, Loyola’s Principal. “We are happy to extend this commitment to the whole person to all youth in Montreal and beyond, as we continue our efforts to shape men and women for others in the Jesuit ideal.”

“While the core mission of Loyola has remained the same since its founding, the culture and experience of our students has consistently changed from one generation to the next, and we must ensure that we keep updating our pedagogical approach for the times,” says Fr. Len Altilia, SJ, Superior of the Community. “Throughout our history, Loyola has offered a Jesuit, Catholic education centred on the development of the whole person, forming them into individuals who are intellectually competent, compassionate, guided by conscience and committed to a just global society. Our new strategic direction will allow us to continue to do so for years to come.”

“This change is not only a great opportunity for local girls to benefit from the close-knit community and the academic and extracurricular activities Loyola is known for, but it will also bring brothers and sisters from the same families together under one roof,” says Mark Noble, alumnus and parent of a current Secondary 2 student. “I am excited to be able to offer my younger daughter the chance to experience what my son has cherished at Loyola.”

That optimism for the future is shared by Patrick Shea, current Loyola parent, alumnus and the founding president of the Loyola High School Alumni Association. “Loyola students and graduates have always shared remarkable community spirit, with strong bonds of friendship and connectedness that they maintain for a lifetime to better serve our society with compassion for oneself and others. I look forward to expanding that spirit and tradition to a more diverse group of alumni and alumnae.”

To celebrate this exciting evolution to our community, Loyola will be unveiling more programming details in time for an Open House on September 17, 2022, when families of grade 5 and 6 students are invited to meet faculty, staff and students, and explore Loyola's facilities. Applications for both young men and women will open shortly, in anticipation of welcoming the first female students at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. As is currently the case, however, potential students must possess Quebec English-language eligibility to register.

About Loyola High School

Located in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood of Montreal, Quebec, Loyola is a private high school offering a Jesuit, Catholic education that challenges students in grades 7–11 to become intellectually competent, compassionate, guided by conscience and committed to a just global society. Loyola is a university-preparatory school committed to the development of the whole person through a comprehensive educational experience of academic excellence, spiritual and religious formation, and extra-curricular involvement. In the Ignatian spirit of care and concern for the individual, Loyola strives to develop the diverse and unique talents of each member of our community, and encourages the use of these talents to serve others for the greater glory of God.

Loyola is a member of the Quebec Association of Independent Schools (QAIS) and the Jesuit Schools Network (JSN) and the school is affiliated with the English-Speaking Catholic Council (ESCC). For more information about Loyola, please visit our website at www.loyola.ca, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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More Information and Interviews

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