Walther Christian Academy

900 Chicago Avenue * Melrose Park, Illinois 60160
(708) 344-0404 * WWW.WALTHER.COM
CEEB Code:142-865

School Profile 2026-2027

Tim Bouman, Head of School * Dr. Terence Swims, Principal *

VISION STATEMENT

Walther Christian Academy will graduate Christ-centered learners from a relevant and rigorous academic environment, and prepare them for a fulfilling lifetime of purpose, learning and service.

MISSION STATEMENT

Walther Christian Academy is a culturally diverse and inclusive Christian middle and high school, rooted in the Lutheran tradition. Walther nurtures and prepares learners to fulfill their God-given potential through academic excellence, spiritual growth and service, leadership and enrichment opportunities.

VALUES

We live in God's grace.
We are family.
We believe God has a purpose for everyone.
We are a proudly diverse community
We are Christ-centered, and rooted in the Lutheran tradition.

COMMUNITY

Melrose Park is a near western suburb of Chicago with a population of 25,000. Its primary economic base is light industry. It is characterized by a large population of families of Italian-American descent and a growing Hispanic community.

CONSTITUENCY OF THE SCHOOL

Walther serves students from more than thirty communities and fifty different zip codes across the Chicagoland region. Those communities include: Addison, Berwyn, Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Elmhurst, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Glen Ellyn, Hillside, Lombard, Lyons, Maywood, Melrose Park, Oak Park, River Forest, River Grove, Stone Park, Villa Park, Westchester, and the city of Chicago.

Our student body includes members of the Lutheran parishes which financially support the Walther Lutheran High School Association and students from the Christian and public grammar schools of the surrounding communities.

ENROLLMENT

Walther Christian Academy has a total enrollment of approximately 263 students (45% African American, 3% Asian-Pacific Island, 15% Caucasian, 31% Hispanic and 4% Multi-Ethnic). The graduating class in 2026 consisted of 52 students. 65% are attending four-year colleges/universities below, 26% attend two year colleges listed below, and 10% have entered the trades, military or joined the workforce..

ACCREDITATION

Walther Christian Academy was established in 1954 and is accredited by the National Lutheran Schools Association (NLSA) and recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Walther Christian Academy is a member of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, National Association of College Admission Counseling, Illinois High School Association and the Chicago Prep Conference.

FACULTY

The faculty consists of Christian educational professionals, 50% of whom hold a Master's Degree or beyond. The effective student teacher ratio is 14:1.

COLLEGE CREDIT

Students with the requisite GPA have the possibility of taking courses through Concordia University Chicago (CUC) in River Forest, IL, as well as Brigham Young University Independent Study for both high school and college credit**.** College credit can also be earned through our eight Advanced Placement courses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn a total of 24 credits for graduation.

English	4.0 credits	Fine /Applied Arts	1.0 credits
Social Studies	3.0 credits	Physical Education	2.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits	Health	0.5 credits
Science	3.0 credits	Computer Science	0.5 credits
Religion	2.0 credits	Electives	5.0 credits

A credit is earned for a subject continued for five periods a week throughout one school year. Each semester course receives 0.5 credits. Classes meet daily. Class periods are 46 minutes long.

A passing grade in U.S. History indicates that the student has passed tests on the U.S. and the State of Illinois Constitution.

In addition to group and school wide service projects, students are responsible for completing 60 additional service hours within the church, community, and school: 15 for each year. A passing grade in each religion class indicates successful completion of service hours.

Courses transferred to Walther from another institution appear on the transcripts in lower case.

GRADING SCALE

Walther follows a percentage grading scale as outlined below for all classes:

100 - 98 = A+	81 - 80 = B-	67 - 62 = D
97 - 92 = A	79 - 78 = C+	61 - 60 = D-
91 - 90 = A-	77 - 72 = C	59 - 0 = F
89 - 88 = B+	71 - 70 = C-	
87 - 82 = B	69 - 68 = D+	

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) - WEIGHT SCALE

(Walther does not utilize class rank)
Advanced Placement & CUC* - A= 5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=1.0
Honors - A=4.5, B=3.5, C=2.5, D=1.0
College Prep (unweighted) - A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0

CURRICULUM

Art: Art I, Art II, Art III, Art IV and Senior Studio

English: World Literature, Honors World Literature and Honors American Literature, Contemporary Literature and Composition, Honors Contemporary Literature and Composition, AP English Literature & Composition, Senior English and Yearbook

World Language: Spanish 1, II, III, IV/AP Spanish Language and Culture

Mathematics: Algebra Concepts, Algebra 1, Honors Algebra I, Algebra II, Honors Algebra II, Geometry, Honors Geometry, PreCalculus, Consumer & Business Math, Advanced Math Topics I & II, AP Statistics, AP PreCalculus and AP Calculus AB

Music: Introduction to Music, Beginning Guitar, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble/Orchestra, Concert Choir, A Cappella Choir, Music Appreciation, Music Theory and Advanced Music Theory

Physical Education: Health, Mind & Body, Personal Fitness, Officiating and Physical Education I, II, III and IV

Religion: Old Testament, New Testament, World Religions and the Christian Life

Science: Integrated Science, Biology, Honors Biology, AP Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, and Honors Human Anatomy & Physiology.

Social Studies: World Studies, AP World History, Government (w/Constitution), AP Government & Politics, Contemporary Events & Issues, Psychology, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, Sociology, Consumer Economics, History through Film/Media and Women's History

Technology: Introduction to Computer Science, Game Programming, Graphics & Imaging, Web Design and Advanced Web Design

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer the following varsity sports, which compete through the IHSA.

BOYS' ATHLETICS

Cross Country	Golf	Volleyball
Football	Basketball	Baseball
Wrestling	Track & Field	Soccer

GIRLS' ATHLETICS

Cross Country	Flag Football	Tennis
Track & Field	Basketball	Softball
Volleyball	Cheerleading	Wrestling

ACTIVITIES

Student Council	Video Game Club	Pep Band
National Honor Society	Drama Club	Chess Club
Jr. National Honor Society	Gospel Choir	Gaming Club
Remuda (Yearbook)	Chamber Choir	Jazz Band
Christian Minstrels	Scholars Program	Mathletes
Chapel Committee	Aura Arts (Magazine)	
Prom Committee	Christian Minstrels	

Dual Credit through Concordia University Chicago: Art, English Composition, General Psychology, Greek, Introduction to Theatre, Primer for Philosophy, Introduction to Sociology, Schola Cantorum (Choir), Speech Communication and Writing About Literature

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The class of 2026 was awarded over $3 million in scholarships.

COLLEGES ATTENDED BY THE CLASS OF 2026

Arizona State University
Augustana College
College of DuPage
Concordia University Chicago
DePaul University
Dominican University
Governors State University
Illinois State University
Jackson State University
Kenyon College
Knox College
Lincoln College of Technology
Morehead State University
North Central College
North Central University
Northern Illinois University
Purdue University
Roosevelt University
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Triton College
University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
Xavier University