



## St. Mary's International School Top 10 Reasons to Choose St. Mary's

Key Messages	Talking Points
<p><b>1. Tokyo's Most Prestigious International School for Boys</b></p> <p>St. Mary's is Tokyo's most prestigious international school for boys, with a student body of 900 from 60 nationalities.</p> <p>In 2014, the school celebrates 60 years of history. During those years, over 13,500 boys have passed through its doors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student body of 863 in 2014 makes St. Mary's one of the largest international schools in Japan.</li> <li>• Most international school with 54 nationalities in the student body today, and 116 nationalities in its history.</li> <li>• School admissions grew by 5.3% in 2014.</li> <li>• 92% of parents are happy or very happy to have their son at St. Mary's (2013 poll survey).</li> <li>• Established in 1954, St. Mary's has a substantial history.</li> <li>• Over 13,538 boys have attended St. Mary's since 1954.</li> <li>• School provides a solid foundation of transferrable learning for those who are here for only a few years.</li> <li>• CIS/WASC Accreditation Team commended SMIS, "staff, students and school leadership for maintaining an atmosphere inclusive of all cultures and religions... a feeling of unity and involvement, a very distinct school identity".</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. An All Boys Education</b></p> <p>St. Mary's is the largest international school specializing in the education of boys.</p> <p>Core- and extra-curricular programs with outstanding facilities nurture boys' intellectual, physical, emotional and social development.</p> <p>Boys and girls can mature at different rates. An all-boys school environment alleviates gender stereotyping and ensures students pursue their interests and capabilities without inhibition.</p> <p>At St. Mary's boys build lifelong friendships, as reflected in the strength of our alumni's beneficial influence as role models and mentors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources, facilities, core- and extra-curricular programs all designed with educational and developmental needs of boys as a single goal.</li> <li>• Boys-only environment ensures the responsiveness of students and avoids gender stereotyping. Boys can pursue their interests without inhibition and develop multiple talents.</li> <li>• High-level participation in athletics, fine arts and activities.</li> <li>• Joint activities with our sister schools, Seisen and Sacred Heart, enable academic, cultural and social projects in a mixed gender environment.</li> <li>• A 2013 poll found that 75% of SMIS parents consider an all-boys education a strong or very strong advantage.</li> <li>• CIS/WASC commended SMIS, "for moral and ethical training consistent with Christian values. Students develop respect for others and positive self-esteem, learn responsibility, and work effectively with others."</li> <li>• Why a Boys' School in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Further information can be found on the International Boys' Schools Coalition website</li> </ul>



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<a href="http://www.theibsc.org/page.cfm?p=16">http://www.theibsc.org/page.cfm?p=16</a>	
<p><b>3. Educational Leadership</b></p> <p>St. Mary's teachers are recognized for their expertise and significant experience in international education. Our faculty is international and brings a global perspective to the classroom.</p> <p>The majority of our professional educators have advanced degrees, and all are passionate and committed to learning and continual development.</p> <p>Their commitment to innovation as career educators was commended in a recent accreditation report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our faculty represent a range of experience and qualifications: 46% have more than 10 years teaching experience; 45% between 2-10; and the remainder under two years. 59% of the faculty earned Masters or Doctorate qualifications.</li> <li>• 15 nationalities are represented on the faculty.</li> <li>• St. Mary's overall student / teacher ratio is 10:1. Academic class size is limited at 24 (18 in Kindergarten and 22 grade 1).</li> <li>• The CIS/WASC Accreditation Team commended the teaching staff for, "their dedication which has led to students achieving strong results in external assessments".</li> <li>• "Students were appreciative of their teachers' commitment to ensuring they were prepared socially and emotionally, as well as academically for post-secondary pursuits," wrote the CIS/WASC Accreditation Visiting Team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Academic Excellence</b></p> <p>Curriculum quality in the classroom is our first priority.</p> <p>St. Mary's was the first to introduce the high school International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum to Japan, a universally recognized diploma that offers a rigorous, broad reaching education.</p> <p>St. Mary's boys excel on standardized tests and demonstrate character traits such as creativity, leadership, integrity and selflessness.</p> <p>We are leaders in introducing innovative curricula, digital learning and the use of technology.</p> <p>Our ESL program ensures the full</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full CIS and WASC accreditation renewed in 2012.</li> <li>• The IB Diploma is the most universally recognized high school diploma in the USA, Canada, UK and Commonwealth, Europe, Japan. Almost every country recognizes the Diploma for college admission.</li> <li>• While approximately 70-75% of IB candidates earn the Diploma worldwide, St. Mary's average is over 80%.</li> <li>• SMIS boys consistently score above boys in other international schools in the IB program, with an average pass rate for the last three years of 91% and up to 85% of seniors in any given year are full IB Diploma candidates.</li> <li>• Average IB score of SMIS boys for the past three years is 31 compared to a world average score of 29.</li> <li>• In International Schools Assessments for grades 3, 5, 7 and 9, our boys consistently score at or above average.</li> <li>• In Iowa Assessments for grades 2, 4, 6 and 8 boys, St. Mary's boys are consistently above average to high average.</li> <li>• ISA and IA mathematics scores are consistently high for SMIS boys.</li> </ul>



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<p>integration into mainstream classes of non-native speaking students.</p> <p>St. Mary's is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), The Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly 80% of St. Mary's parents rated our academic performance as strong or very strong in a 2013 poll.</li> <li>• One school counselor each in the Elementary, Middle and High schools works with students, parents and staff to help with developmental and academic needs.</li> <li>• A learning support coordinator each in the Elementary, Middle and High schools supports boys through any learning difficulties and strategies.</li> <li>• Innovative and diverse course offerings, such as IB design technology, computer assisted design, architecture, leadership, and ethics are available.</li> <li>• Teachers work closely with our boys to provide academic support where differentiated instruction is necessary.</li> <li>• Parenting classes are offered by the Elementary School counselor to support families in their son's education.</li> <li>• ELL teachers provide English language support for students from grades K-10 to ensure full integration into mainstream classes.</li> <li>• Accredited by three authorities: The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO)</li> <li>• St. Mary's IB Curriculum offerings: <a href="http://cas.smis.ac.jp">http://cas.smis.ac.jp</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Pathway to Global, Prestigious Institutions</b></p> <p>St. Mary's boasts an almost 100% track record of graduates attending college and many are accepted into prestigious institutions worldwide.</p> <p>Our curriculum prepares students to succeed through a rigorous college-preparatory program and sound liberal arts education.</p> <p>The College Guidance Office maintains strong relationships with universities and colleges worldwide.</p> <p>Many St. Mary's boys receive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMIS students are accepted into some of the best colleges in the world, with 61% going to the United States, 15% to Japanese universities, 14% to the UK and 4% to Australia in 2013.</li> <li>• Our graduates are recognized for their achievements at St. Mary's. In 2013 alone, 21 university scholarships were awarded to the graduating class of 2013, totaling nearly \$1.4 million.</li> <li>• Counselors and teachers work closely with our boys to select and apply for colleges that meet their goals and aspirations.</li> </ul>



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<p>scholarships to their schools of choice.</p>	
<p><b>6. Best Facilities, Location &amp; Access in Tokyo</b></p> <p>St. Mary's nine-acre campus offers world-class facilities and the best learning environment of any international school in Tokyo.</p> <p>Rebuilt in 2010, the ecologically designed, solar powered facility is 25% stronger than required by Tokyo's most stringent building standards.</p> <p>Set in a secured campus, St. Mary's provides the latest information technology in the classroom, as well as world-class facilities for sports and the arts, and a multi-purpose athletic field.</p> <p>St. Mary's is easily accessed by public transport and operates its own extensive bus service to all major Tokyo residential districts with an average journey time of 20 - 30 minutes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 98% of parents polled in 2013 agreed or strongly agreed that the facilities at SMIS are excellent.</li> <li>• All classrooms are equipped with computers and digital projectors.</li> <li>• SMIS has four tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, and a multi-purpose field for baseball, soccer and field sports as well as a ski lodge.</li> <li>• A fully equipped gymnasium for basketball, as well as a world-class natatorium with year-round heated pool assures our boys teams consistently win year after year.</li> <li>• Tennis courts and the field are open on weekends for student and family use.</li> <li>• Facilities include a multi-purpose hall, 7 science labs, 6 computer labs (ES, MS, HS), CAD/CAM systems, 3D printing, design tech, digital photography, music composition, art and architecture studios and two libraries.</li> <li>• SMIS also provides a separate kindergarten playground and rooftop playground for early elementary classes.</li> <li>• The multi-purpose hall serves both the boys and the school community for year round performances and events.</li> <li>• Ecologically engineered: The facility is partially powered by the second largest solar array in Tokyo, and features green walls and roofs and a recycled rainwater system.</li> <li>• Safe and secure: the building is 25% stronger than existing building codes require, and the campus is enclosed with two guarded entry points.</li> <li>• St. Mary's location in Setagaya Ward places it in one of the most desirable residential districts among Tokyo's 23 wards. More than 50% of students live in Setagaya.</li> <li>• SMIS operates a bus service connecting the school to the major residential districts of Tokyo.</li> <li>• Easy access: a 10 minute walk from Futako Tamagawa or Kaminoge station on the Tokyu line, and nearby highways 246 and Ring Road 8 for quick access by car or bus.</li> <li>• Futako Tamagawa Station is 10 minutes by train from Shibuya Station, and 20 minutes from Hiroo Station.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>7. Athletics and Arts</b></p> <p>St. Mary's offers a wide range of athletics and arts courses that provide for a balance of interests.</p> <p>Intellectual, physical, emotional and social development are emphasized at St. Mary's.</p> <p>Outstanding teachers and facilities provide students ample opportunity to excel in both sports and the arts. St. Mary's students win many titles among international and Japanese school competitions.</p> <p>The school's bands and choirs are known for their world-class performances.</p> <p>Our graduates include Olympic athletes and professionals in fine and performing arts.</p>	<p><b>Athletics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports promote physical fitness, healthy competitiveness, school pride, and the values of sportsmanship: discipline to achieve with respect for opponents, teamwork, meeting challenges and self-improvement.</li> <li>• Most major sports such as swimming, baseball, basketball and wrestling are introduced at the Elementary School level.</li> <li>• Ski trips are part of the regular academic program.</li> <li>• Three sports are offered per season, and after school athletics and activities are offered from grades 2 -12.</li> <li>• Over 70% of students participate in athletics and other activities.</li> <li>• St. Mary's Titans are the HS Kanto Plain League champions and consistent contenders in all sports.</li> <li>• In wrestling, the Titans have been Far East Champions 3 years out of the last 4.</li> <li>• St. Mary's Buccaneers achieve top placements in regional and Japan national swimming competitions. The team has produced the 2011 national high school champion, 3 of 4 Tokyo 15-18 year-old championship relay records and a two-time Olympian. More than 40 boys have gone on from the team to compete collegiately at NCAA top colleges.</li> <li>• Full curricular participation in arts, athletics, community service.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fine &amp; Performing Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An excellent Fine Arts Program features 2-D and 3-D art classes, design technology and architecture, as well as a very strong performing arts program including fall play, one-act play, an annual school musical production, and choral and instrumental music.</li> <li>• Art and music classes are offered at grades K-12. A high percentage of involvement in the fine arts includes vocal music, instrumental music, drama, speech, debate, and other activities.</li> <li>• Research supports involvement in the arts with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and</li> </ul>



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	<p>verbal skill. Arts learning can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are encouraged from an early age with after-school activities from Elementary School, including board games, karate, Book Bowl, art contests, drama and other programs.</li> <li>• A world-class choral music program has produced winners of national and international competitions for over 11 years.</li> <li>• SMIS boys represent consistently place highly in Kanto League competitions, producing the highest number of students chosen for the Kanto Plains Select Honor Choir and for the Kanto Plains Select Band</li> <li>• Music and drama also offer co-ed opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Developing Global Citizens</b></p> <p>Our students and graduates are prepared to thrive in an increasingly multicultural and interconnected world.</p> <p>As the most international school in Tokyo, St. Mary's host 60 nationalities in its student body and has welcomed 116 nationalities throughout our 60 year history.</p> <p>St. Mary's is committed to educating boys to be self-directed lifelong learners of good character. Our boys demonstrate academic, physical, artistic and moral excellence, as well as respect for religious and cultural beliefs, and responsibility to the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Mary's teaches and enhances the core values of respect, honesty, fairness, responsibility and compassion, through a K-12 religion and ethics program that respects virtues of all faiths.</li> <li>• Boys are engaged in community service work at all ages. The Elementary School provides ongoing support for a Tohoku kindergarten and sponsors a school in the Philippines. The Middle School conducts charitable works including support for the Tohoku region.</li> <li>• Students at all grade levels participate in charity work and positive service learning experiences, culminating with the High School's IB Community / Action / Service (CAS) program.</li> <li>• Catholic, Christian, World Religion and Ethics classes support spiritual, moral and ethical development.</li> <li>• Historically, 116 nationalities have attended SMIS.</li> <li>• 40% of the student population holds dual nationalities.</li> <li>• St. Mary's is commended by the CIS/WASC Accreditation Visiting Team for its, "commitment to promoting international open-mindedness, understanding, and intercultural experiences."</li> <li>• The K-12 Religion/Ethics curriculum offers a variety of classes including Catholicism, Christianity, World Faiths and Ethics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Welcoming Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Mary's Association involves parents in fund-raising and community activities for school programs.</li> </ul>



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<p>St. Mary's is a 'school with a heart'. It's a vibrant community of students, parents, alumni and faculty.</p> <p>The Parent-Faculty Advisory group enables communication and interaction between parents and faculty on campus-wide academic concerns.</p> <p>St. Mary's Association supports a year-round calendar of activities and events to support our boys.</p> <p>St. Mary's Alumni Association provides a life-long network that extends our community beyond school years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent-Faculty Advisory group ensures parent communication with administrators and faculty regarding curriculum, academic development and the general performance of the school.</li> <li>• St. Mary's Alumni Association maintains alumni connections with all former students worldwide and the school community in Japan.</li> <li>• Highlights of the school year include the Carnival, Bingo Night, and the annual International Ball.</li> <li>• Parents form an element of the boys' experiences and are involved in class trips, field studies and ski week.</li> <li>• Parent-teacher conferences and student-led conferences promote community involvement and learning.</li> <li>• "The staff, students, and school leadership maintain an atmosphere that is inclusive of all cultures and religions, and leads to a feeling of unity and involvement, and a very distinct school identity," concluded the CIS/WASC Accreditation Visiting Team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Unmatched Alumni Association</b></p> <p>St. Mary's Alumni Association is an active and integral part of the life of our school.</p> <p>The success of our alumni offers mentors and inspiring role models for all of our boys. St. Mary's boasts an unmatched alumni network that can connect over 13,500 former students of all ages in a global network across 76 countries worldwide.</p> <p>As an all-boys school, the bonds of friendship among alumni extend throughout life, creating powerful mentors and offering success stories across generations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Mary's Alumni Association (SMAA) has 19 regional chapters worldwide and actively engages 13,500+ SMIS alumni in over 76 countries with regular meetings, reunions and networking activities.</li> <li>• SMAA social events include the Titans Golf Cup, Titans Night and an annual Carnival Booth.</li> <li>• Alumni organize speaker events with prominent alumni, visit the school on Career Day for HS boys, and host Career Forums for alumni college students seeking summer internships and career mentoring.</li> <li>• SMAA maintains lifelong links via social media, email and newsletters.</li> <li>• Website <a href="http://alum.smis.ac.jp">http://alum.smis.ac.jp</a></li> <li>• "Students said they had gained a sense of community, fraternal friendship, camaraderie, integrity, trustworthiness and the ability to own their culture while accepting other cultures," report the CIS/WASC Accreditation Visiting Team.</li> </ul>