

NEW!

# Full-School Diamond Model of Education



Starting in the 2025-26 Academic Year, students in Senior High, Grades 10-12, will move from a single-gender model to a co-ed model of education. This change is predicated on a desire to provide a better student experience and to mirror a more realistic social setting that prepares them for a diverse and ever-evolving world. It also allows us to be more inclusive of all students.

This is an innovative change for Sacred Heart and allows us to provide a more intentional and relevant education and experience for our oldest students.

We will continue to offer single-gender education in the Junior High School (Grades 7-9). This model is unique, one of the very few in Canada. But, it is not uncommon in the UK where it is called the **Diamond Model** — together, apart, together. For us, that means co-ed education in the Elementary School (Grades JP-6), single-gender education in the Junior High School (Grades 7-9), and then back to co-ed in the Senior High (Grades 10-12). This model also exists at some schools in the United States, including our sister school, Convent & Stuart Hall in San Francisco.

The rationale for the Diamond Model, one that our experience and research validate, is that providing the right teaching approach at different stages in a student's development optimizes academic advantages and learning while accommodating social pressures and gender-specific learning needs. This is particularly crucial in the middle years, around ages 11-15, when children are developmentally sensitive and benefit most from tailored teaching strategies and single-gender learning environments. This is why we've kept our single-gender model in

Grades 7-9 which will continue to provide an optimal experience for these students and one which is in very high demand. We will then bring students back together in Grades 10-12 as they prepare for all-gender environments in university, the workplace, and society.

The benefits of this Diamond Model change at Sacred Heart are multifold:

1. **Right education at the right time** in a student's academic and social development.
2. **Expanded academic opportunities** for Senior High students.
3. **Optimal class sizes** for Senior High students.
4. **Preparation for real-world experiences**, including all-gender university and work settings.
5. **Strengthening our students' ability to grow and thrive.**

And while our Senior High model may have changed, what has not changed is our dedication to our Mission and Goals which remain focused on faith, love, social justice, kindness, and community. It is a Mission that is unlike any other school in this region. And, now, with this Diamond Model approach and new enrichment opportunities in the Elementary School, we are at the forefront of an innovative and tailored educational experience that gives our students the best foundation for their very bright futures.