

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL



School Name: Elmwood School	Admissions Director: Elise Ayles
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Admission requirements: Admission requirements vary by grade, and each application is treated individually. Please contact us for more details.	



COVID-19: Elmwood students continue to learn every day following the guidelines of the provincial health authority and the Ministry of Education. When on-campus, students learn in cohorts of 15 students in classrooms set-up for social distancing and equipped with state-of-the-art air filtration systems. Outdoor time is maximized both for learning and physical well-being. When engaged in online learning, students follow their regular schedule with synchronous and asynchronous learning with ample screen-free breaks. For more information, contact admissions@elmwood.ca.

1. What is the school known for? What is the mission?

Elmwood is one of the most innovative girls' schools in North America and ranked one of Canada's top 25 private schools. We are known for our academic excellence, caring atmosphere and strong community spirit. We strive to help every girl become an inquiring lifelong learner, a compassionate and engaged global citizen and a confident and caring leader. Our mission is to "inspire each girl to reach her full potential."

2. What type of student is the school looking for? Can any girl succeed here?

By the very nature of our mission, Elmwood is an individualized experience. Because we endeavour to inspire each girl to reach her full potential, there are as many different versions of that as there are girls in the school. That said, girls who are curious, open and hard-working will get the very most out of the Elmwood experience.

3. What curriculum does the school use? Does it meet or exceed provincial education guidelines?

Elmwood's curriculum exceeds the expectations of the provincial curriculum and is more rigorously evaluated than any other school in Ottawa. Our standards are evaluated by the International Baccalaureate Programme, the Ontario Ministry of Education and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). Our academic program continues to surpass the expectations of each regulatory body.

4. What is the average class size?

Junior School: 13 students per class. Middle and Senior School: 17 students per class.

5. How does the school involve parents?

We have an active and vibrant community of current and past parents and alumnae who support us, and the strength of the community that surrounds Elmwood is one of the reasons for the girls' success. Our teachers believe in open communication and a partnership approach to educating the girls. Throughout the year, parents can take advantage of many opportunities to be as involved in the school community as they would like.

6. How does the school measure and meet individual students' academic needs?

We continually strive to enhance the planning, personalization, enrichment and assessment of each student's academic path from admission to graduation. We use the Measures of Academic Progress test (MAP) to provide valid and reliable data to teachers measuring every student's growth regardless of their level. It allows teachers to determine who needs enrichment or additional support at a point in the year when they can effect change. It informs growth goals and compares actual growth to those goals. It is also used at the departmental level to monitor student growth by class.

Should we identify opportunities for support or enrichment, girls work with a Learning Strategist in the Student Success Centre. The Centre serves to bolster the excellence of the academic program and the school's supportive culture to provide each student with the resources, skills, and support to set, pursue, and achieve her academic, co-curricular, and personal goals in a healthy way. Students can also access additional support or learn and practice mentoring, coaching and teaching skills through our Helping Hands Peer-Tutoring Program.

7. Where do the school's graduates go?

We are extremely proud of the success our girls enjoy after Elmwood. Guided by our university counselling team through a process that begins as early as Grade 10, 100% of our graduates are accepted into excellent post-secondary institutions worldwide, including Ivy League school and, last year, Oxford in the UK. Over the past five years, 20% of our graduates chose to study at universities outside of Canada, and an average of 50% pursue STEM programs each year. In addition, an overwhelming majority of our graduates are awarded significant entrance scholarships.

8. How does the school support the excellence of its teachers?

At Elmwood, we consider ourselves experts on what makes a great teacher. We've looked at decades of research into teacher effectiveness and created a professional growth program for our faculty that is the envy of independent schools across Canada. It is a comprehensive evaluation system that we created based on best practice, and it looks at 11 core competencies for teachers. The best part of our approach is that our teachers have embraced it. They are all keen to continually improve their skills as teachers.

9. How does the school support the growth and development of the "whole girl"?

Elmwood offers an exceptional array of co-curricular opportunities for girls in all grades – both during the school day and after school. From Jiu-jitsu to debating, chess, and competitive rowing, there is something to appeal to every girl. With dozens of options to choose from, our students develop skills, discover passions and build confidence.

We know that the mental health and wellness of a student are essential to healthy growth and development. Our Director of Health, Wellness and Safety is a registered public health nurse and a key member of the team and offers support to students and families on either an on-going or ad-hoc basis. Our Experts@Elmwood speaker series brings leaders in girls' education and development to the parent community for regular in-person or virtual presentations and Q&A sessions.

Girls in the Junior School can also attend our 3:26 Club if after-school care is needed.

10. Are athletics required at school?

78% of Senior School students and 86% of Middle School students choose to play at least one sport. In addition, Physical Education classes are compulsory until the end of Grade 9. We believe athletics and physical activity are important for physically and mentally healthy girls. Girls are encouraged and supported– by their peers and their coaches– to try a new sport and explore various athletic opportunities.

11. What leadership opportunities does the school offer girls?

At Elmwood, girls enjoy not just equal opportunity but every opportunity. They fill every seat on house council, every position on the field, every role in the musical. For girls of every age, leadership opportunities are built into both the curriculum and our extensive co-curricular program.

12. Where do the girls come from? Does everyone live in the neighbourhood?

Though there are about 30% of our girls who come from the surrounding neighbourhoods of Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh, the majority of girls come from all around the City of Ottawa. We offer transportation to students outside the neighbourhood. Ask our Admissions Team for more details. We also have a small group of students who come to Elmwood from overseas, participating in our Homestay program.

13. What is the tuition? What does it include? What are the extra costs?

Elmwood's tuition ranges from \$15,540 (preschool and Kindergarten) to \$29,700 (Grade 1 to 12). Our tuition is quite comprehensive, so it is easier to list what isn't included. Things like uniform, lunches, and textbooks are not included. You can see all the details at elmwood.ca/admissions/tuition-and-scholarships.

14. What is the application process?

There are five key steps in our application process:

- ***Step 1- Visit:***

If you are in Ottawa, set up a tour for your family and your daughter.

- ***Step 2- Apply:***

Complete our online application form. Apply for financial aid and scholarships.

- ***Step 3- Interview:***

We will review your application and have a chance to ask and answer any questions.

- ***Step 4: Assessment:***

Academic assessment varies and, depending on the time of year and age of the student, they are either written Entrance Examinations or in-class assessments conducted by the teacher.

- ***Step 5: Acceptance:***

The Admissions Committee considers each girls' application, interview and assessment. Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Acceptance along with an Enrolment Contract. The signed Enrolment Contract, along with the non-refundable enrolment fee, secures your daughter's spot for the upcoming academic year.