



The
Windward School



WHY WINDWARD?

Windward's research-based and multisensory program is designed to give students the skills they need to succeed in school and return with confidence to mainstream educational settings.

The Windward School's academic program focuses on the three basic challenges faced by students with language-based learning disabilities:

- Acquiring the academic strategies and skills necessary to reach their academic potential.
- Developing self-confidence in their ability to achieve success.
- Understanding their learning differences so they can become effective self-advocates.

Learn More

[The Windward Way: Teachers Transforming Lives](#)





“Though the student may leave Windward, Windward never leaves the student!”

— Middle School Alumni Parent

THE WINDWARD SCHOOL'S VISION

**A world where every child
with a language-based
learning disability is
empowered to achieve
unlimited success**

DIFFERENCE IS POWER



The Windward School

At a Glance



\$6 million+

Tuition assistance distributed for
2020 - 2021



11,000+

Cumulative hours of
professional development for
teachers each year



98%

Of students return to
mainstream schools



3

Periods of language arts
classes per day



5:1

Language Arts Class
Student-Teacher Ratio



9

Science classrooms across all
three campuses



37

Athletic teams across
all three campuses



940

Students across all three
campuses in grades 1-9



3

Campuses - Two in White
Plains, NY and one in
Manhattan



55

After-school clubs across all
three campuses

As part of its mission, the School is committed to making a Windward education accessible for all who need it.

- Each year, The Windward School provides more than \$6M in tuition assistance.
- Nearly 200 Windward families receive tuition assistance annually.
- The application for tuition assistance is 100% confidential and is independent from the admissions application.
- Tuition assistance is awarded based solely on the financial need of the family, not on academic performance or other merits.



OUR STUDENTS

To be considered for admission to The Windward School, students must be diagnosed with a language-based learning disability, have average to superior intelligence, and not have primary emotional or behavioral issues. Typically, our students stay for 2 to 5 years before returning to a mainstream setting.





***“We need Windward
all over the country,
because there is no
school like it.”***

***— Dr. Sally Shaywitz, Audrey G. Ratner
Professor in Learning Development at
Yale University and Co-Founder and
Co-Director of the Yale Center for
Dyslexia & Creativity***



OUR CAMPUSES



Westchester Lower School, Grades 1-5
1275 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605



Westchester Middle School, Grades 6-9
40 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604



The Windward School

212

Manhattan Lower and Middle Schools, Grades 1-8
212 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128

OUR PROGRAMS

Lower School



Language Arts and Math

All students have three 42-minute periods of language arts daily. These periods include oral language, reading, spelling, and writing. The Windward School uses the PAF Program for reading and spelling, a multisensory Orton-Gillingham-based program. Learn more about our nationally recognized [language arts program here](#).

All students have a daily period of math. Math groups are also formed based on instructional level and rate of progress. The math program is designed to develop a strong understanding of the language and vocabulary of math. Learn more about [our math program here](#), including its curriculum by grade level.

Social Studies, Science, and Additional Subjects

Students have regularly scheduled periods of [social studies](#) and [science](#), in addition to [library](#), [art](#), [music](#), and physical education. All areas of the curriculum are language-based, sequential, and highly structured. This is imperative, because language skills are key tools that will help students to develop and express their reasoning and problem-solving abilities, as well as helping them develop the confidence they need to return to and be successful in mainstream school.

Student Life

At Windward, nurturing social and emotional growth is just as important as academic remediation. Each year, we offer an array of extracurricular activities at our Westchester and Manhattan campuses to interested students. Activities and clubs vary each season, and have included Chorus, Yoga Club, Chess Club, Sports & Games, Gaga, Happy Sewing, Arts & Crafts, Communication Club, Lego & Jr. Robotics Club, Ceramics, Digital Storytelling, Papier Mâché, Soccer, "Wacky Baseball," Instructional Tennis, Fencing, and "Mad Science."



“The moment I realized she had picked up a book and started reading a bedtime story to her younger sister was very moving...What a difference Windward has made in our lives.”

— Lower School Parent

[Explore our Westchester and Manhattan lower school campuses](#)

OUR PROGRAMS

Middle School



Language Arts and Math

The [language arts program](#) is the core of the School's curriculum. Students receive three periods of language arts daily, which include reading, expository writing, vocabulary development, and study skills. Lessons for writing linguistically complex sentences and paragraphs, outlining, note-taking, paraphrasing, and summarizing are integrated across the curriculum.

Math lessons at Windward are created to teach computational and application skills, enhance conceptual understanding, and develop each child's ability to communicate using the language of math. Through homogeneous groupings, classes are tailored to student needs. Learn more about our [math program here](#), including its curriculum by grade level.

Science, Social Studies, and Additional Subjects

The [science](#) and [social studies](#) programs at the middle schools are guided by New York State curriculum standards and strive to integrate content, concepts, and skill learning while reinforcing the student's reading and writing competency.

Our unique, [research-based study skills](#) curriculum is the signature program of The Windward School, designed to prepare students for mainstream schools and academic success. The [library instructional program](#) reinforces the social studies curriculum, and includes opportunities for students to review and build upon previously learned skills. [Visual and Performing Arts](#) provide an arena for children to develop poise and confidence and the opportunity for creativity and self-expression. Our physical education program helps promote the student's mental, physical, and emotional well-being.

Student Life

At Windward, nurturing social and emotional growth is just as important as academic remediation. Each year, we offer an array of extracurricular activities and intramural sports at our Westchester and Manhattan campuses to interested students. Athletics, activities, and clubs vary by season, and have included Soccer, Basketball, Track & Field, Lacrosse, Cheering, Student Council, Drama, Photography, Computer Science, Fitness Fanatics, Vocal Fun, Rainbow Club, Model United Nations, Film & Cinema, Meteorology Club, Art Club, Ping-Pong Club, Chess Club, History Club, and Cooking Club.



“What struck us most is how coordinated each subject is with the others and that each teacher is working on the core skills of reading and writing—including science and math, which are not typically literacy-related classes.”

— Middle School Parent

[Explore our Westchester and Manhattan middle school campuses](#)

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



The Windward Visual & Performing Arts Program provides instruction in the disciplines of music, studio art, and drama. The structured and sequential curriculum promotes artistic expression within the context of a multisensory-based, direct instruction program so that the language needs of students are accommodated through the use of visual, kinesthetic, and auditory models.

Diversity is woven throughout the arts curriculum, and teachers seek opportunities to expand student exposure to people and ideas different from their own.

Music

Music in the lower schools is taught through a structured program that incorporates and integrates other subject areas, such as language arts, math, and social studies. For example, in keeping with the language-based model, words to songs are broken down into syllables on the board and analyzed to teach the rhythm; similarly, math skills are reinforced in music as students count steady beats and identify rhythmic patterns.



“Our daughter’s confidence continues to bloom before our eyes. It’s a beautiful thing to see her carry this confidence into everything she does here at home.”

— Middle School Parent



Studio Art

Studio art is taught in all divisions. The Lower School program introduces the elements of art and the principles of design. Middle School students study drawing, painting, ceramics, and woodworking. Projects refine and advance prior skills with an increasing level of difficulty.

Drama

Windward’s drama program improves students’ language skills through a multisensory curriculum that includes reading, writing, and performing plays. The program builds self-confidence and enhances memorization and public speaking skills.



ATHLETICS, ACTIVITIES, AND CLUBS



The Windward School provides a broad range of athletics, clubs, activities, and trips for our diverse student population. These experiences afford students the opportunities to socialize in a less formal academic setting.

The school year is divided into trimesters – the fall session commencing in September, the winter session kicking off in December, and the spring session getting underway in March. The overarching goal of the program is to appeal to as many students as possible by incorporating varied activities and season-specific sports that pique our students' interests and promote their abilities. Instructors are trained Windward faculty members and outside professionals that provide expert instruction.





OUR COMMUNITY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Windward is committed to creating and fostering a community that is inclusive for all its members regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, socio-economic status, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or any other attribute that does not define a person's character. We are dedicated to maintaining a sense of community for all people and for those individuals in particular who have struggled historically to be wholly accepted into society.

The Windward School's highest priority is to provide a caring, nurturing, and empathetic environment where everyone is valued and has a sense of belonging. Further, we recognize that this work is truly a journey and that we have much work ahead of us. In order to set us on this journey, we have launched our DivE In Committee. The DivE In Committee has a serious charge to guide, advise, and oversee the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts of our Strategic Plan.

[Read more about Windward's DEI initiative.](#)

The Windward School has also engaged DEI expert Dr. Gene Batiste for a multi-year commitment to

- Administer listening sessions for families, employees, and board members to gather data on our community's expectations, hopes, and concerns with regards to Windward's DEI commitment.
- Produce a report using qualitative research for the school administration and board of trustees, which is essential to drive our work forward.
- Conduct baseline training for all Windward employees through four faculty and staff professional development sessions throughout the year.

At The Windward School, we treat all people with decency and respect.

At The Windward School, we respect and value diversity in all of its forms.

At The Windward School, we do not blame or shame ourselves or others, especially when we disagree.

Social-Emotional Learning at Windward

Windward understands that achieving academic competence alone is not enough for our students. To help prepare them to return to mainstream education, we also provide them with opportunities for social and emotional growth. Windward offers special programs for lower and middle school students that are specifically designed to help them understand and manage their emotions; develop friendships and manage social situations; develop empathy for others; understand how they learn; learn how to advocate for themselves; boost their self-confidence and build self-esteem; and succeed socially and academically in a mainstream environment.

The lower school guidance program includes:

- New student transition support
- Coordination with outside providers
- Introductory unit on learning disabilities and dyslexia for 4th-graders
- Short-format lunch groups for students who would benefit from additional practice of social skills in a small setting
- Short-term, solution-based counseling and/or crisis intervention when necessary

Middle school students receive individual, short-term, solution-based counseling on an as-needed basis, in addition to **scheduled group guidance** lessons.

Group Guidance Curriculum

Fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-graders receive bi-weekly lessons taught by guidance counselors in a group setting. Eighth-grade students take part in a weekly GAINS program (Getting Ahead In School). The purpose of GAINS is to provide students with accurate information about learning differences, help them to gain insight into their strengths and weaknesses, become better self-advocates, and be better prepared for their transition to high school. In the ninth grade, students participate in a weekly advisory period where they discuss relevant teenage issues, practice public speaking skills, and participate in community service projects.

“...Windward teaches human values that I know my daughter will carry with her as an adult.”

— Middle School Parent



OUR ADMISSIONS PROCESS

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Criteria for admissions to The Windward School are the following:

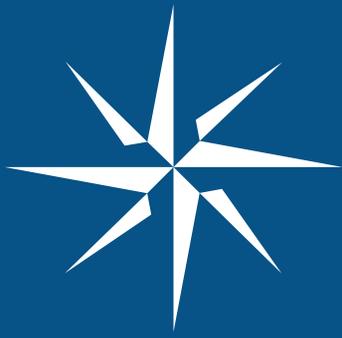
- o Written diagnosis of a language-based learning disability
- o Average to superior intellectual potential
- o No behavioral or emotional problems that would interfere with the instructional program

Learn more here:

- 1 Register for a virtual [Information Session and/or start your application in Ravenna](#).
- 2 Take a [Virtual Tour](#) of our campuses.
- 3 View our [FAQs](#) from prospective families.
- 4 Learn about the [Application Process](#).
- 5 Affording a [Windward Education](#)

Visit www.thewindwardschool.org for more information





The Windward Institute

Be informed. Be inspired. Transform lives.

The Windward Institute is a division of and serves The Windward School by:

- providing professional development;
- forming partnerships with leading education institutions;
- advocating for students with language-based learning disabilities;
- and expanding The Windward School's reputation and expertise.

Windward/Haskins Laboratories Collaborative Project

This partnership has established state-of-the-art labs at The Windward School's Manhattan and Westchester campuses. In-school research using neurocognitive measures is being conducted by Haskins scientists and Windward teachers to better understand which instructional strategies work best for which students, a critical step in moving toward individualized brain-based instructional programs. Cognitive and brain imaging research is also being carried out to improve early diagnosis of language-based learning disabilities in at-risk preschool children. Finally, a joint Windward/Haskins training and professional development program has been created for educators, clinicians, researchers, and other stakeholders so that critical research-to-practice goals can be achieved.



READ Podcast

The Windward Institute's **Research Education Advocacy Podcast**

With a new episode each month, **READ Podcast** offers insights in research, education, and advocacy by

- applying research in practice across educational contexts
- connecting with prominent researchers and thought leaders in education
- discussing important advocacy issues related to supporting students with language-based learning disabilities and all learners

Community Lectures and Webinars

The Windward Institute presents two free educational lectures open to the public in the spring and fall of each year: the Fall Community Lecture and Robert J. Schwartz Memorial Lecture in the spring.

The Windward Institute also regularly shares [webinars and resources](#) with the public.



Seminars & Workshops

Parent/Guardian Seminars

The Windward Institute provides monthly seminars specifically for current Windward Parents/Guardians that highlight the different research-based programs used at The Windward School, including reading, writing, language, SEL, DEI, and more.

Workshops

Current Windward families are invited to register and attend specific afternoon public workshops offered through The Windward Institute at no fee. Parents and guardians are also welcome to register for paid courses through the [Windward Institute](#) as well. Windward is grateful for the support from our families and hopes this opportunity gives our community even more access to the most current, scientifically-validated research in child development, learning theory, and pedagogy.





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