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Profile for College and University Admissions 2022-2023

For over 50 years, Wildwood School has been committed to a progressive approach defined by research-driven educational practices. We combine academic excellence with innovation to nurture high achieving, emotionally intelligent students who are inspired to transform their world. A Wildwood education is a dynamic experience, which prepares students for a future defined by change.

Wildwood’s learning environment reflects the way the world is changing. Students are challenged every day to ask questions, take risks, get in over their heads, and then creatively find their way out. More than being college ready, Wildwood students graduate as confident, empathetic, and resourceful thinkers with the ability to make an impact.

Wildwood’s elementary school was founded in 1971, and the middle and upper school was established in 2000. Thirty-eight percent are students of color. The upper school includes 231 students from 9th through 12th grade. There are 65 students in the class of 2023. Since its first graduating class, 100 percent of Wildwood’s seniors that applied to college have been admitted to colleges and universities around the world.

Habits of Mind and Heart

At the core of Wildwood’s middle and upper school program are the Habits of Mind and Heart, a set of values and skills that can serve students throughout their lives. Everything from curriculum and assignments to year-end narrative assessments is based on the Habits, and they guide students’ growth as learners as well as responsible citizens. Narrative assessments review student’s strengths in meeting defined expectations and their adherence to the Habits of Mind and Heart. They also address each student’s “stretches,” or areas that need further development.

HABITS OF MIND



Perspective

Addressing questions from multiple viewpoints and using a variety of ways to solve problems

Evidence

Bringing together relevant information, judging the credibility of sources, finding out for one’s self

Connection

Looking for patterns and for ways in which things fit together in order to bring together diverse material and form solutions

Convention

Meeting accepted standards in any academic area in order to be understood and to understand others

HABITS OF HEART



Collaboration

Making appropriate provisions for accepting and giving assistance

Ethical Behavior

Demonstrating how personal values influence behavior and a set of principles by which to guide one’s life

Service to the Common Good

Demonstrating an awareness of the effects of one’s actions upon others and a desire to make the community a better place for all

Curriculum

Wildwood students are given the confidence to be intellectually and creatively fearless. To prepare students for success, Wildwood emphasizes project-based learning, which allows students to delve deeply into course material and merge it with their own interests. Through projects, students acquire additional insights, connecting new knowledge to what they already know. Students practice and demonstrate thoughtful learning through exhibitions and portfolios. Community involvement is woven into the curriculum, and students are assessed on their community work. Wildwood’s internship program allows students to investigate career options in fields of personal interest. Our unique program integrates the internship experience into the school-day schedule for all juniors and seniors, providing students with a consistent opportunity to gain professional experience for academic credit.

Graduation Requirements

Upper school students are required to take a rigorous core curriculum of academic courses in Humanities, literature, history, mathematics, science, world languages, and electives and Institutes to meet the requirements for graduation.

Humanities	2 years
Literature	2 years
History	2 years
Mathematics	3 years (including Geometry and Algebra II)
Science	3 years (including Conceptual Physics and Biology)
World Languages	3 years (at least 2 years of the same language through Level 2)
Physical Education	1 year
Electives and Institutes	4 years (1 year must be a UC-approved Visual or Performing Arts class)
Community Involvement	3 years
Advisory	4 years

At the end of 12th grade, students must present a graduation exhibition, an oral defense of their academic and personal evolution that is presented to faculty, administration, family, and friends. As both an evaluation and a salute to student achievement, exhibitions reinforce the discipline and self-reflection that make for a successful college career.

GPA and Grading System

Wildwood School is on the semester system. The cumulative GPA is based on all course work completed between the 9th through 12th grades. One additional point is awarded to classes designated as honors courses. Students are not ranked.

Wildwood uses narrative assessments to provide a clear understanding of a student's progress in each subject area. Narrative assessments function in the place of letter grades. Assessments are converted to grade point averages for the purpose of applying to colleges and universities.

The conversion system is as follows:

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0
A- = 3.66	B- = 2.66	C- = 1.66
B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D = 1.00
		Below D = No Credit

Awards

Due to Wildwood's small size, we do not bestow any academic awards. We have had 3 National Merit Scholars and 16 National Merit Commended Students, and 3 National Hispanic Scholars.

Faculty

There are 47 middle and upper school teachers: 31 women and 16 men. Thirty-one have advanced degrees.

Discipline

At Wildwood, our community values the Habits of Mind and Heart, and we promote a culture of decency and trust. We report major disciplinary incidents to colleges such as academic dishonesty, theft, physical threats or violence, and the use and distribution of alcohol and drugs. While we do not report incidents occurring outside of school, we would not recommend a student to a college or university about whom we had a serious reservation. In cases that reflect a student's inability to participate in our program, the student will not remain at Wildwood. We instruct students who have had a disciplinary violation to answer questions honestly regarding their disciplinary history to the colleges to which they are applying.

Accreditations and Affiliations

- California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)
- College Board
- Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)

Upper School Curriculum

Wildwood's upper school curriculum engages maturing intellects with core courses and electives. While individual student schedules can vary, the scope and sequence of required courses is mapped here for easy reference, and to illustrate the foundational curriculum.

Wildwood offers honors courses. Students also may pursue college-level work at local colleges and universities. Wildwood does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

[H] Honors course: The honors program challenges students with passion in a subject to go deeper with their work and their thinking. Honors work is added on to core courses rather than offered as separate honors classes. Honors is not simply about doing more work but about doing more sophisticated, challenging work. Students work independently—with teacher guidance—on more complex assignments.

* Although not designated as an Honors course, this class represents the highest level available in its discipline. Similarly, Senior Seminar is a capstone humanities class with no Honors designation.

Humanities (English and History)

Western Heritage [H]
The American Experience [H]

Literature

Modern American Literature [H]
World Literature [H]

History

Modern U.S. History [H]

Senior Seminar*

Global Environmental Change
Politics and Government
Philosophy, Ethics, and Law
Social Problems in America

Science

Conceptual Physics [H]
Biology [H]
Chemistry [H]
Advanced Physics [H]
Advanced Biology and Biotechnology [H]
Environmental Science [H]

Mathematics

Algebra I
Geometry [H]
Algebra II [H]
Math Analysis
Pre-Calculus [H]
Statistics [H]
Calculus*
Calculus 2*

World Languages

Mandarin 1
Mandarin 2 [H]
Mandarin 3 [H]
Mandarin 4 [H]
Mandarin 5*
Spanish 1
Spanish 2 [H]
Spanish 3 [H]
Spanish 4 [H]
Spanish 5*

Electives

The Actor and the Stage 1 and 2
Advanced Drawing
Advanced Digital Photography
Advanced Painting
Advanced Topics in STEM
Advanced Topics in Technical Theater
Cinema
Digital Photography 1 and 2
Drawing
Introduction to Jazz Ensemble
Intro to Motion Pictures
Introduction to Music Composition and Performance
Jazz Ensemble
Law, Individuals, and Societies
Music Production Lab 1 and 2
Musicianship for Singers and Songwriters 1, 2, and 3
Painting
Script, Pitch, and Produce
Stagecraft 1 and 2
Theater and Performance
Theater and Advanced Performance
Yearbook

The Institutes at Wildwood

Institute for Entrepreneurship
Institute for Social Leadership
Institute for STEM Research and Development

Athletics and Physical Education

9th Grade Physical Education/Health
Competitive Junior Varsity and Varsity Athletic Teams: Compete in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)

College Acceptances

The Wildwood graduating classes of 2015–2022 were accepted into the following colleges and universities; (*) indicates at least one student enrolled.

Agnes Scott College*	Duke University*	Pennsylvania State University	University of Maryland*
American University*	Earlham College	Pepperdine University*	University of Massachusetts Amherst*
American University of Paris*	Eckerd College	Pitzer College*	University of Miami*
Arizona State University*	Emerson College*	Pomona College*	University of Michigan*
Art Center College of Design*	Emory University	Pratt Institute*	University of New Hampshire
Bard College*	Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts*	Providence College*	University of North Carolina Greensboro
Barnard College*	Fairfield University	Purchase College, Conservatory of Music*	University of Oregon*
Bates College*	Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising	Purdue University	University of Pennsylvania*
Belmont University*	Fashion Institute of Technology*	Quinnipiac University	University of Pittsburgh*
Beloit College	Fisk University	Reed College*	University of Puget Sound*
Bennington College*	Fordham University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Redlands*
Bentley University*	Franklin & Marshall College	Rhode Island School of Design*	University of Rhode Island
Berklee College of Music*	George Washington University*	Rice University*	University of Richmond*
Boston College*	George Washington University*	Rochester Institute of Technology*	University of San Diego*
Boston University*	Goucher College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*	University of San Francisco*
Bowdoin College*	Grinnell College*	Rutgers University	University of South Carolina
Bradley University	Hamilton College*	Santa Clara University	University of Southern California*
Brandeis University	Hampshire College*	Santa Monica College*	University of Texas at Austin *
Brown University*	Hampden-Sydney College	Sarah Lawrence College*	University of Vermont
Bucknell University*	Hampton University*	Savannah College of Art and Design*	University of Virginia*
California State University: Channel Islands*	Hawaii Pacific University*	School of the Art Institute of Chicago*	University of Washington
Cal Poly Pomona*	Hofstra University	School of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston)	University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*	Howard University*	School of Visual Arts*	Vassar College*
Long Beach	Hult International Business School*	Scripps College*	Villanova University
Los Angeles*	Indiana University*	Simmons College	Virginia Tech
Monterey Bay	Ithaca College*	Skidmore College*	Wake Forest University*
Northridge*	Johns Hopkins University*	Smith College*	Warren Wilson College
San Diego*	Kalamazoo College	Southern Methodist University	Washington University in St. Louis*
San Francisco*	Kenyon College*	Southern Oregon University	Wellesley College*
Sonoma*	LA Film School*	Spelman College*	Wesleyan University*
California Institute of the Arts*	Lafayette College*	St. John's College	Wheaton College
California Institute of Technology*	Lake Forest College*	Stanford University*	Whitman College*
Carleton College*	Lawrence University*	Swarthmore College	Whittier College*
Carnegie Mellon University*	Lehigh University*	Syracuse University*	Willamette University
Centre College*	Lewis & Clark College*	Trinity College	Williams College*
Champlain College*	Loyola Marymount University*	Tufts University*	Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
Chapman University*	Loyola University New Orleans	Tulane University*	Yale University*
Claremont McKenna College	Lynn University	University of Arizona*	
Clark Atlanta University	Macalester College*	University of California: Berkeley*	
Clark University	Manhattanville College	Davis*	
Colby College*	Marist College*	Irvine*	
Colgate University*	Maryland Institute College of Art	Los Angeles*	
College of Wooster	Massachusetts Institute of Technology*	Riverside	
Colorado College*	Miami University (Ohio)	San Diego*	
Colorado School of Mines	Michigan State University*	Santa Cruz*	
Colorado State University*	Middlebury College*	Santa Barbara*	
Columbia College Chicago*	Mills College*	University of Chicago*	
Columbia College Hollywood*	Morehouse College	University of Connecticut*	
Columbia University*	Muhlenberg College*	University of Colorado Boulder*	
Connecticut College	New College of Florida	University of Colorado Denver	
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art*	New York University*	University of Denver*	
Cornell University*	Northeastern University*	University of Florida	
Cornish College of the Arts*	Northwestern University*	University of Hartford	
Culinary Institute of America*	Oberlin College*	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*	
Deep Springs College*	Occidental College*		
DePaul University*	Oregon State University*		
DigiPen Institute of Technology*	Otis College of Art and Design		
Drew University	Pace University*		
Drexel University	Parsons School of Design*		

International Schools:

American International University (London)
The American University of Paris*
Bard College Berlin*
Dalhousie University (Canada)
Franklin College (Switzerland)*
University of British Columbia
University of Queensland (Australia)*
University of St. Andrews*
University of Victoria