



WESTLAKE ACADEMY

IB WORLD SCHOOL



Westlake Academy New Student/Parent FAQs 2023-2024 SY

Admission Questions:

1) Do you offer before and after school care options?

Westlake Academy (WA) does not have before or after school care. We do have some after school programs that students can join but they are extracurricular activities rather than a care program.

2) Can our twins be in the same classroom?

The decision to place twins in the same or different classrooms is made by the administrator of each department after meeting with the parents of the students. The best interest of the students is always taken into consideration when making the decision.

3) Can siblings get into Westlake Academy now that I will have one child enrolled?

Siblings of enrolled students will be placed on the sibling waitlist for their grade level. When a space becomes available we offer that space to students on the sibling waitlist first before offering it to students on the general lottery waitlist. There is no guarantee of when a sibling will be offered a space at WA.

4) How early can I see the school calendar for the following school year?

School calendars are created during the school year and must be approved by the Board of Directors. We publish the calendar as soon as possible each year. Next year's calendar will be confirmed by the end of May

5) What are uniform requirements?

Students are required to wear uniforms Monday through Friday. Please see our uniform policy [here](#). (We are making updates to our uniform policy for the 2023-2024 school year, please do not purchase uniforms until June, 2023.)

6) What kind of security does the school have? Is there a police officer on campus?

Westlake Academy has a key card entry system on all exterior doors. All visitors are required to check in at the front desk and provide a photo ID which is run through a basic background check before entering the school.

We have a School Resource Officer on our campus and a Keller Police SubStation located in our Multi-Purpose Hall.

7) What is late start Wednesdays?

Late Start Wednesdays are a time for our teachers to meet and collaborate to enhance vertical alignment of curriculum, do more peer mentoring and coaching and strengthen our programme development.

8) What are the school hours?

School starts at 7:50 am and ends at 3:15 pm each day except for Late Start Wednesdays.

Late Start Wednesdays begin the first Wednesday in September and end the last Wednesday of April. During this time school starts at 9:30 am on Wednesdays

9) What are the disciplinary rules?

You may read our Discipline Policy in our Parent/Student Handbook [here](#).



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10) Is there a shuttle pick-up for after school organizations?

WA does not provide any bussing except for school sponsored extracurricular activities and field trips. Parents provide all transportation to and from school. However, there are some private after school care services that offer after school pick-up.

Our goal at Westlake Academy is to provide a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment for all students.

11) How do we get involved with HOC and other affiliates?

WA Affiliates would love to have you support them and get involved! Once your child is enrolled you will receive communications from the House of Commons, our Westlake Academy Athletics Club and the Westlake Academy Foundation.

12) How do we order school supplies and uniforms?

Our [Back to School Tool Kit](#) has all of this information and more!

13) What accommodations are there for early drop-off and late pick-up?

WA does not have an early drop-off or late pick-up program unless a student is participating in an afterschool program. Parents are expected to drop students off between 7:40 - 7:50 am and pick up students between 3:15 - 3:35 pm.

14) When will we get the results of the assessments?

Assessments will be reviewed in the week following the assessment. Parents and students will begin meeting with the Counselors and/or Administrators starting on May 15th. These will be 15-20 minute meetings to review the results of the assessment and assist you in making your final decision for enrollment at WA.

General Academic Questions:

1. Do you offer tutoring?

Teachers offer a standing tutorial time at least one time per week. Most are available by appointment at other times.

2. Will my student be behind in language B?

Our grade 7 Language Acquisition Spanish and French programs start with the beginning of the Level 1 Texas TEKS. Although many of our students have previous exposure through our PYP and grade 6 world cultures exploration class, students new to the learning Spanish or French are equipped with all the instruction needed to start fresh in grade 7

3. Is there a Gifted and Talented program?

No. An International Baccalaureate programme is a rigorous academic programme designed to provide students opportunity to learn in an enhanced classroom with increased pace and rigor.

4. How can parents support students in their transition to WA?

Parents new to our programs can support their students by giving them some grace during the adjustment period. Our instruction is based on inquiry and follows the International Baccalaureate curriculum as well as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Learning here looks and feels very different from a traditional ISD. Parents should read about our assessment process and reporting so they are familiar with



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and can share our common vocabulary. Students who do best here have an excellent attendance record because our classes are rich in quality instruction that is not easily duplicated by independent study.

5. How can students catch up if they have not had a second language?

Our grade 7 students take semester 1 of the Level 1 high school course and grade 8 students take semester 2 of the Level 1 course. If we can, we make adjustments to placement for middle school students. Summer school or correspondence classes are potential options as well. Language Acquisition is an IB requirement and our students study it every year.

6. How is the IB curriculum different from other schools?

Please check out our Academics [page](#) on the Westlake Academy website for more details.

7. Do you offer languages other than French and Spanish?

No.

8. Are Westlake Academy students required to take the same exams as students in ISDs?

Because we are a public charter school, our students are required to take all the Texas state assessments such as all grade level the STAAR exams and End of Course (EOC) exams for high school (Algebra 1, English 9, English 10, US History (G11), Biology). Because we offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, all our students take the IB exams as seniors. We also offer many Advanced Placement (AP) exams on campus as well.

9. How do you place a student who has had several years of a different foreign language but will only be in their first year of Spanish or French?

Students with no previous experience in Spanish or French will be placed into Level 1.

10. How does the school help support new students?

Students new to Westlake Academy are provided with an onboarding experience coordinated by our programme coordinators and our counseling department. Our Student Council also provides some mixer activities at the start of school. In Grade 6 and then again upon entering the DP, specific class bonding experiences are a regular part of our programming. We have a House System that supports bringing students together for some activities throughout their time here and provides a sense of belonging.

11. How many levels of curriculum are there for math, reading, etc?

In the Middle Years program, we have one pathway for students. In math, we are on an accelerated program where in grade 6, students complete grade 6 and half of grade 7 math TEKS. In grade 7, they complete half of grade 7 and all of grade 8 math TEKS. In grade 8, everyone takes Algebra 1. Our goal is to equip all our students to be prepared academically and emotionally for the rigor of the college preparatory Diploma Programme.

12. How much homework does my student have each day?

Students work at different paces and require different amounts of practice to achieve mastery of new skills and content. In grades 6-8, expect about 15-20 minutes per class. In high school, expect at least 30 minutes per class.

13. How does IB grading work?

Our grading differs by program and our Parent/Student [Handbook](#) is the best reference for an explanation of our process.



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14. Is it difficult for students to transition from regular ISD school to an IB school?

Transition of any kind can be challenging for children. We recommend that each family research our IB curriculum and decide for themselves if this college preparatory program is a good fit for their student. Students who are well suited to the IB curriculum are natural inquirers and want to learn independently.

15. Is Summer school required if a student performs low on the assessment?

We aim to offer summer intervention instruction for students who score “not meets” grade level standards on the STAAR exams for grades 6-11.

DP Questions (Grades 11 & 12):

1. What courses are offered for secondary students?

Please see our list of Diploma Programme courses on our website [here](#).

MYP Questions (Grades 6-10):

1. Are there advanced classes in Math and Spanish for MYP students in Grades 6-8?

All WA students are on an advanced pathway for both math and foreign language, which starts in grade 6.

2. What courses are offered for secondary students?

The course catalog can be viewed [here](#) and is located on the school’s webpage.

PYP Questions (Grades K-5):

1. What is the academic expectation for incoming first graders?

This will be answered in the PYP Student Profile for all grade areas. The document will be provided to parents on Wednesday of this week.

2. What is the DRA2 level for your students entering and then exiting first grade?

At Westlake Academy, reading growth is measured using the Fountas and Pinnell reading benchmark system. A first grader begins the year reading at a Fountas and Pinell instructional level E (DRA E). By the end of first grade, a student is expected to read at an instructional level J. This correlates to a DRA level 18.

3. What is the frequency of communication between teachers and parents in the PYP?

Grade level newsletters and a campus-wide Communique are issued to PYP parents on a weekly basis. In addition, homeroom teachers communicate with families throughout the week, as needed.



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SPED Questions:

1. How do you support learning differences, IEPs, 504s?

Students who have an IEP are supported through their IEP goals and objectives, accommodations and services. Students who qualify for a 504 plan are provided accommodations as they progress through the curriculum. Each respective committee develops individualized plans /504 plans to meet the needs of each student.

2. How are services provided at Westlake Academy?

Services are provided in compliance with the student's IEP. Currently in the Primary Years Program we serve students in a hybrid pull-out/inclusion model. In the secondary, at this time, student's IEPs are implemented through inclusion within the general education classroom, with the support of the special education teacher and paraprofessional. More information is available on an individualized basis.

Counseling Questions (Grades 9-12):

1. Will you please share the last two years of college placement stats?

95% of our Westlake Academy graduates go on to 4 year institutions.

2. What universities do WA graduates attend?

Our students attend institutions in the state of Texas, across the country and World at some of the most prestigious and selective colleges and universities. Currently, we have students attending Harvard University, Columbia University, Brown University, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, Vanderbilt University, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Southern California, Pomona College, Rice University, Texas A&M University, United States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy, University of Texas at Austin, United State Military Academy, etc.

3. What summer school programs are available?

Our Summer School course information and catalog can be found [here](#).

4. Does WA offer the ability to graduate with an Associates Degree?

Westlake Academy does not offer the ability to graduate with an Associates Degree.

5. Does WA offer career counseling?

Westlake Academy works with students to be college, career, and military ready.

6. How does the IB impact college acceptance?

Being an IB Diploma candidate at Westlake Academy indicates to colleges and universities that our students are taking academically rigorous courses and are expected to write extensively throughout the curriculum.

7. Is there a concern about not accumulating college credits during high school?

Students have the opportunity to not only earn college credit by taking AP exams and earning a three or higher, but also taking six IB exams and earning at least a four or higher. Although college credit can be earned through these exams, it is up to each college or university on whether they will accept the credit.

8. How many College Counselors does WA have?

WA has one College Counselor.



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9. How does IB compare to AP and does it help with college admissions?

The IB program is a curriculum that is taken over the course of two years and AP courses are taken for a semester and/or one year. While having an IB Diploma does enhance a student's resume, typically, AP and IB scores are not part of the admissions process.

10. How does a student's current four year graduation plan translate to WA?

Students at Westlake Academy achieve the Foundations diploma. They have the opportunity to achieve four endorsements: Multidisciplinary, Arts and Humanities, and STEM

11. Will high school credits from other schools be recognized?

Westlake Academy accepts high school credits from accredited schools. We require transfer students (or their previous schools) to provide us with an official transcript, which will be evaluated by our counselor to award credits.

12. Do students at WA take AP courses?

Students can take three AP classes AP Human Geography, AP World History, and AP Computer Science Principles. 11th grade students elect to take AP exams, which the school offers. Our IB courses in English, History, Spanish, French, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems & Societies, and Economics align well to support students on AP exams.

13. Is there CBE to skip a grade?

Westlake Academy does not offer CBE courses.

14. Is there a dual credit curriculum?

Westlake Academy does not offer a dual credit program.

Athletic Questions (Grades 6-12):

1. What athletic programs do you offer for each grade level?

Cheer, Cross Country, Football, Track and Volleyball for Grades 6-12
Baseball, Golf and Tennis for Grades 9-12

2. Are there extra costs associated with sports or extracurricular activities?

A participation fee is required for each sport in which a student desires to participate. Fees are based on the cost incurred for Westlake Academy to offer the sport and vary from sport to sport.

After School and Summer Program Questions:

1) What after school programs are offered?

We offer a variety of after school enrichment activities each semester. Information is available on our website's [webpage](#). This is the latest [after school catalog for Spring 2023](#).

2) Are there extra costs associated with sports or extracurricular activities?

Athletics teams and after school activities and clubs have registration costs.



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3) What summer programs are available?

We offer enrichment programs each summer. Information is available on our website's [webpage](#). The [Summer 2023 catalog is here](#).

This summer 2023, we are also offering summer school for credit recovery and auditing of several courses.

All information [about Summer School 2023 is located here](#).

Extra-curricular questions:

1) Do you have an orchestra, band or choir?

Westlake Academy does not have an orchestra, band or choir, however we do have a drumline and we have an afterschool Guitar Club and a Strings Ensemble.

2) Are there extra costs associated with sports or extracurricular activities?

Some of our programs do have costs associated with them. The cost is determined by the individual activity