



Lick-Wilmerding High School

Head, Heart, and Hands



# SCHOOL PROFILE

2023 - 2024



**Lick-Wilmerding High School** is a **nonprofit, independent, coeducational, college preparatory** day school serving **grades 9–12** with a tradition of integrating demanding academic courses with **technical, performing, and fine arts.**

**The School**

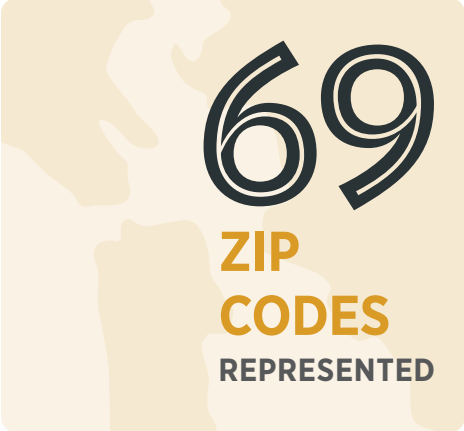
Endowed by San Francisco entrepreneur James Lick, the California School of Mechanical Arts opened its doors in 1895. Subsequently, the “Lick School” merged with the Wilmerding School of Industrial Arts and the Lux School of Industrial Training.

The 556 students at LWHS reflect the school’s strong commitment to cultural, social, and socioeconomic diversity. First generation-to-college students typically make up between 7% to 14% of a class. The enrolled student body at LWHS is 12% African American, 40% Asian (including East and South Asian), 17% Latinx and 60% White with 39% of the overall student body identifying as Multiracial. In all, 69% of the student body identifies as students of color.

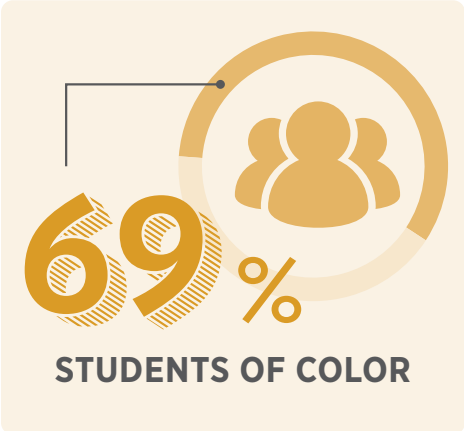
This year, the Flexible Tuition Program has awarded over \$7 million to more than 33% of enrolled students.

**Grading and Class Rank**

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated on a 4-point scale using all courses that receive a grade (Body Mind Education, Independent Studies, and Teaching Assistantships are pass/not pass), and the GPA is cumulative from fall semester of ninth grade. Grades are unweighted, students are not ranked, and we do not give any academic awards.



**69**  
**ZIP**  
**CODES**  
**REPRESENTED**



**69%**  
**STUDENTS OF COLOR**



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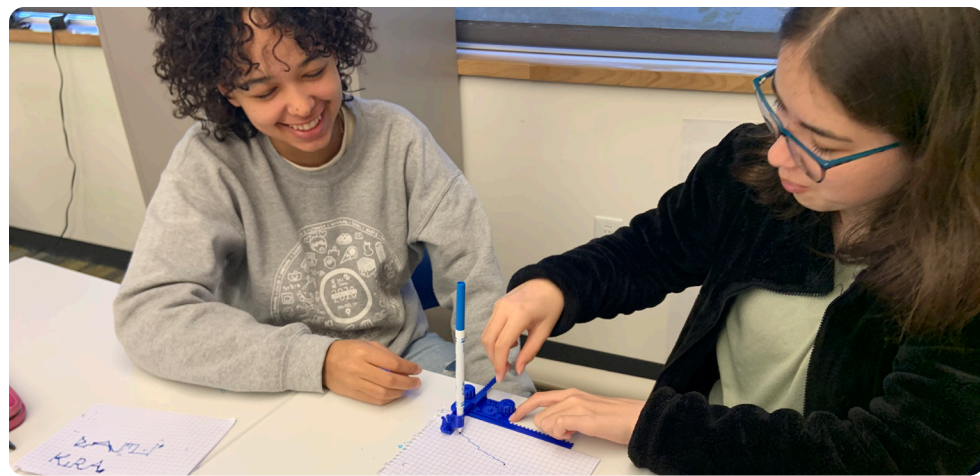
# 556

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**



Lick-Wilmerding High School is more selective than any other Bay Area independent high school, receiving between 900 - 1000 applications annually. The 134 students in the class of 2024 are highly motivated, typically graduating at the top of their middle schools. Differences in GPA are often miniscule and influenced by factors outside of a student's control such as course availability, prior educational preparation, neurodiversity, personal health/well-being, and family context.

As the school's unique "Head, Heart, Hands" curriculum continues to evolve into the 21st century, it becomes increasingly clear that GPA is a superficial, inadequate measure of the achievement and potential of LWHS students. Therefore, LWHS has chosen not to publicize GPA distribution in order to more closely align with the school mission, to encourage colleges to maintain the integrity of the holistic review process, and to celebrate students' individuality.



### LWHS Academics During the Covid-19 Pandemic

For the 2020-21 academic year (much of which operated in distance-learning mode), LWHS attempted to balance our values of academic rigor and student and faculty/staff well-being, both physical and mental. While our faculty practiced flexibility and emotional care for our community in many ways, they also transformed their classes into rich, synchronous online experiences and maintained basic grading practices.

After pivoting to use year-long grades during the pandemic, we continued to use that system for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. (Though students earned only one final grade for year-

long courses, the grade appears on the transcript twice, as if it occurred each semester, to keep our GPA calculations accurate.) In the 2023-24 school year, we have returned to semester-long grading.

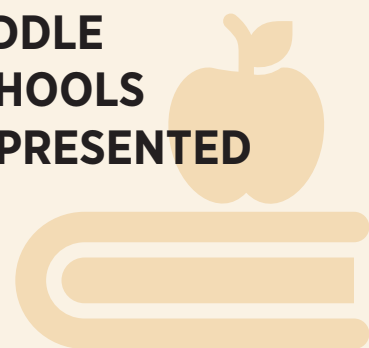
### Standardized Testing

To align with the school's mission and values, LWHS has not offered any school-based SAT or ACT. We have also encouraged our families not to travel to test, despite still-limited testing options in the Bay Area. We believe that standardized testing limits educational equity and does not accurately predict educational outcomes. Many of our students have not tested, given the test-free admission policies of our California state universities.



# 165

**MIDDLE SCHOOLS REPRESENTED**



### College Matriculation

Each year, 98 - 100% of LWHS graduates attend four-year colleges or universities; others will take a gap or attend a community college. LWHS students from the past four years attend the following schools:

Allegheny College	1	City College of San Francisco	1	Macalester College	2	San José State University	1
AMDA College & Conservatory of the Performing Arts	1	Claremont McKenna College	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	Santa Barbara City College	2
Amsterdam University College (Netherlands)	1	Cleveland Institute of Music	1	McGill University (Canada)	3	Santa Clara University	7
American University	3	Colgate University	2	Menlo College	1	Savannah College of Art and Design	1
University of Arizona	3	University of Colorado, Boulder	2	University of Miami	1	Scripps College	4
Babson College	1	Colorado College	3	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	7	Seattle University	1
Barnard College	5	Columbia University	3	Middlebury College	7	Seattle Pacific University	1
Bates College	1	University of Connecticut	1	Montclair State University	1	Skidmore College	1
Bentley University	1	Cornell University	14	New York University	20	Smith College	3
Berklee College of Music	3	Dartmouth College	5	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	2	University of Southern California	12
Boston College	3	Diablo Valley College	1	Northeastern University	14	Spelman College	1
Boston University	5	Duke University	3	Northwestern University	9	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)	4
Bowdoin College	2	Emerson College	1	University of Notre Dame	2	Stanford University	16
Brandeis University	1	Emory University	1	Oberlin College	3	University of Strathclyde (Scotland)	1
Bryn Mawr College	1	Fordham University	3	Occidental College	3	Swarthmore College	1
University of British Columbia (Canada)	2	George Washington University	5	University of Oregon	4	University of Sydney (Australia)	1
Brown University	10	Georgetown University	1	Oxford College at Emory University	1	Syracuse University	1
University of California Berkeley	18	Goucher College	1	Parsons School of Design	2	University of Texas, Austin	1
Davis	11	Grinnell College	2	University of Pennsylvania	6	University of Toronto (Canada)	1
Irvine	2	Gustavus Adolphus College	1	Pitzer College	5	Tufts University	6
Los Angeles	19	Hamilton College	1	Pomona College	9	Tulane University	8
Santa Barbara	6	Harvard University	3	University of Portland	1	Vanderbilt University	2
Santa Cruz	14	Harvey Mudd College	2	Pratt Institute	1	Vassar College	4
San Diego	2	Haverford College	1	Princeton University	5	University of Vermont	1
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	8	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	1	University of Puget Sound	1	University of Virginia	2
Cal Poly, Pomona	4	Hobart & William Smith Colleges	1	University of Redlands	2	University of Washington, Seattle	6
California Institute of the Arts	1	Holy Names University	1	Reed College	5	Washington State University	1
California Baptist University	1	Howard University	2	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1	Washington University in St. Louis	13
California Institute of Technology	1	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	2	Rice University	5	Wellesley College	4
California State University, Chico	1	Johns Hopkins University	2	University of Richmond	1	Western University (Canada)	1
Carleton College	5	Kenyon College	2	Rochester Institute of Technology	1	Williams College	3
Carnegie Mellon University	1	Lehigh University	4	University of Rochester	2	University of Wisconsin, Madison	5
Case Western Reserve University	2	Lewis & Clark College	5	St. Lawrence University	1	Yale University	13
Champlain College	1	Loyola Marymount University	2	Saint Louis University, Madrid (Spain)	1		
Chapman University	1	Loyola University Chicago	2	University of San Francisco	3		
University of Chicago	2			San Francisco State University	1		

Lick-Wilmerding High School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, People of Color in Independent Schools, and A Better Chance.

## Course Requirements and Offerings

Below, please find the courses offered over the past four years; note that every course is not offered every semester or year. All current course offerings are listed online at [lwhs.org/academic/course-catalog](http://lwhs.org/academic/course-catalog).

## Curriculum

The maximum number of courses a student may carry (beyond ninth grade) per semester is seven. Students may take only five courses designated “a–e” (the admission requirements for California’s public universities) from each of these departments: History (a), English (b), Math (c), Science (d), and World Language (e).

In keeping with LWHs’ 128-year tradition, every student is required to complete two years of technical arts courses and participate annually in the Public Purpose Program (PPP), a hands-on education/service experience. LWHs does not offer AP courses; faculty have designed high-level and demanding Honors courses that offer rigor and depth over coverage and breadth.

<b>English</b> <i>(4 years required)</i>	English 1 English 2	English 3H: American Literature English 4H: Seminars
<b>History &amp; Social Studies</b> <i>(3 years required)</i>	Modern World History U.S. History H	Modern U.S. History Senior Seminars Modern World History Senior Seminars
<b>Mathematics</b> <i>(3 years required)</i>	Algebra 1 Algebra 2 Algebra 2 Acc Calculus H	Calculus PPP Deductive Geometry Inductive Geometry Multivariable Calculus H Precalculus Precalculus H Precalculus H PPP
<b>Performing Arts</b> <i>(1 semester required)</i>	Acting Advanced Jazz & Contemporary Music Ensemble PPP Advanced Creative Projects in Music Production Advanced Stagecraft PPP Chamber Orchestra PPP	Creative Projects in Music Production Dance 1 Dance 2 Dance Ensemble PPP Directing Drawing & Painting the Mural Improv PPP Jazz & Contemporary Music Ensemble Music & Social Justice PPP Songwriting 1 Songwriting 2 Stagecraft Vocal Ensemble PPP
<b>Science</b> <i>(3 years required)</i>	Biology (9th grade required) Biology H: Anatomy & Physiology (not offered 2023-24) Biology H: Behavioral Genetics & Anthropology Biology H: Marine Ecology: Field & Lab Science PPP	Biology H: Molecular Genetics Chemistry (10th grade required) Chemistry H Environmental Science H Ethics in the Sciences & Technology Music & the Brain Physics Physics H: Mechanics Physics H: Modern Physics Psychology: Brain & Behavior Psychology: Brain & Behavior PPP

<b>Technical Arts</b> <i>(2 years required)</i>	Circuits & Electronics: Analog & Digital Circuits & Electronics: Device Invention Graphics & Game Design Community Computing PPP	Design & Technology (9th grade required) Jewelry 1 Jewelry 2 Private Skills for a Public Purpose PPP Rethinking Furniture	Sewing & Textile Arts Level 1 Sewing & Textile Arts Level 2 PPP 3D-Printing & Parametric Design Wood: Joinery & Turning
<b>Visual Arts</b> <i>(1 year required)</i>	Advanced Architectural Design Architectural Design Architectural Design 3 Art in Action PPP	Contemporary Media & Art (9th grade required) Drawing & Painting Film: Cinematic Storytelling PPP	Mixed Media Photography 1 Photography 2 PPP Studio Art – Painting
<b>World Languages</b> <i>(3 years of one language, or 2 years each of 2 languages required)</i>	Chinese (Mandarin) 1, 2, 3, 4 H PPP, 5/6H PPP French 1, 2, 3, 4H +	Spanish 1, 2, 2A, 3H, 3 PPP, 4, 4H, 5H Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1A, 2 H	
<b>BlendEd</b> <i>(Electives that combine online learning with face-to-face interactions)</i>	Applied AI in Python Astrophysics Black Holes & Einstein’s Theory of Relativity Cinematic Storytelling Fundamentals	Ecological Architecture Financial Literacy Food: A History Gender Studies Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies	Introduction to Psychology Public Health & Vulnerable Populations Social Psychology Wilderness Studies
<b>Other Opportunities &amp; Requirements</b>	Body Mind Education (9th grade required) Creative Writing – Creative Nonfiction Ethnic Studies: Exploring Our Collective Communities PPP Freshman PPP (9th grade required) Independent Study	Independent Study/Cohort PPP Internship PPP Intro to Fiction Writing Journalism PPP Junior Public Purpose Project Leadership in Action PPP	Senior Public Purpose Project Sophomore Health: Human Sexuality (10th grade required) Sophomore PPP (10th grade required) Teaching Assistantship

H = Honors class, A = Accelerated class, PPP = courses that have additional requirements in serving the Public Purpose Program.

## Lick-Wilmerding's Mission Statement

A private school with public purpose, Lick-Wilmerding High School develops the head, heart, and hands of highly motivated students from all walks of life, inspiring them to become life-long learners who contribute to the world with confidence and compassion.

