



Lick-Wilmerding High School

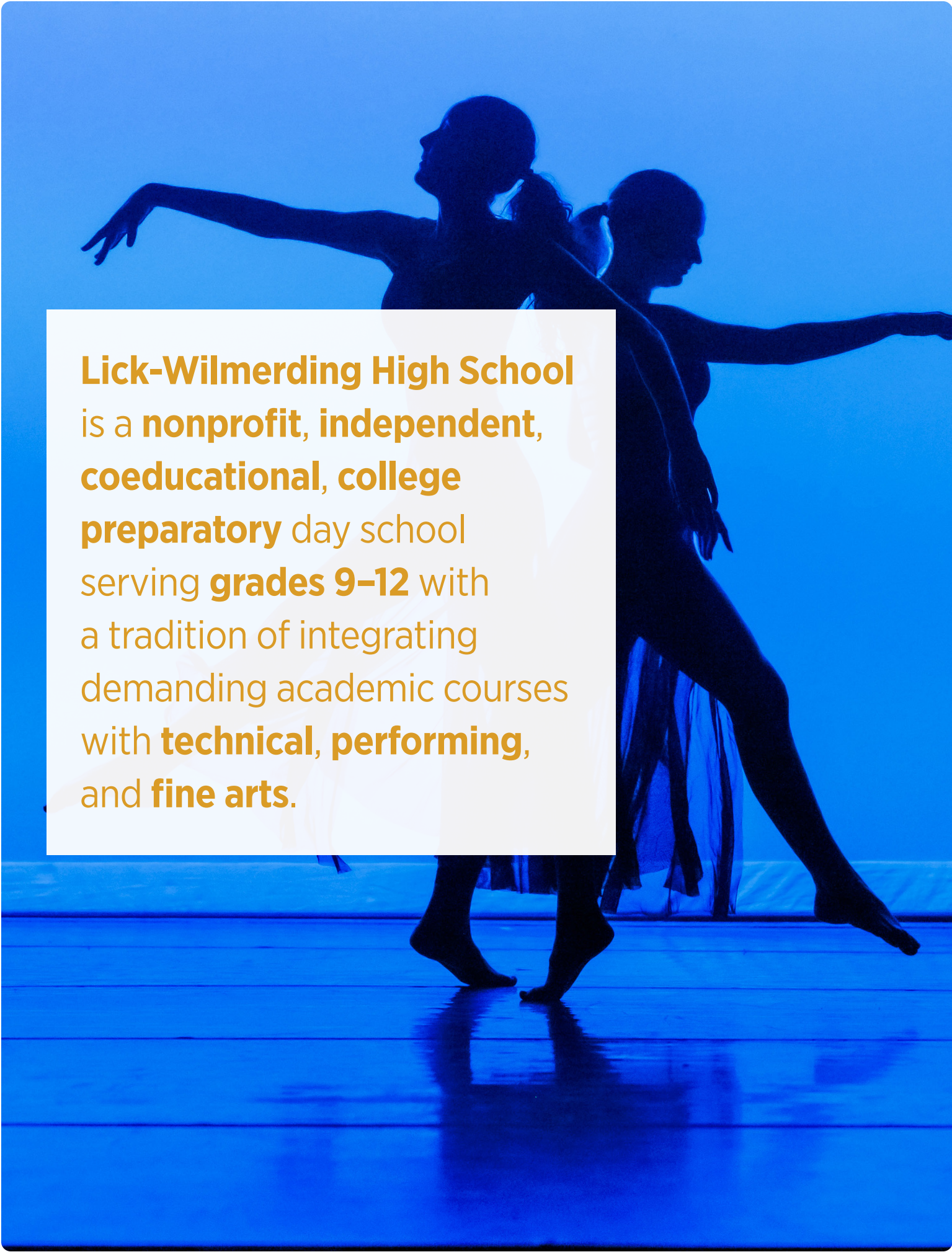
Head, Heart, and Hands

LICK-WILMERDING  
755

# SCHOOL PROFILE

— 2024 - 2025 —





**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

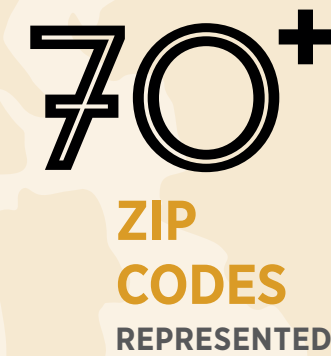
Endowed by San Francisco entrepreneur James Lick, the California School of Mechanical Arts opened its doors in 1895. Subsequently, the “Lick School” merged with the Wilmerding School of Industrial Arts and the Lux School of Industrial Training.

The 560 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 40% of the overall student body identifying as Multiracial. In all, 70% of the student body identifies as students of color.

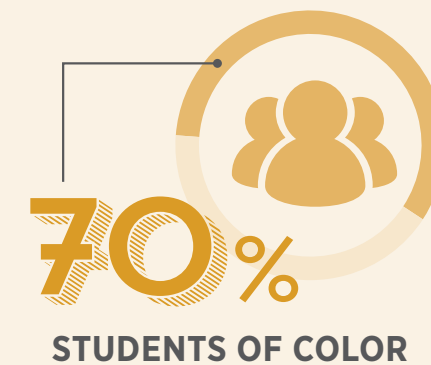
This year, the Flexible Tuition Program has awarded over \$7.6 million to more than 33% of enrolled students.

### 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



**70+**  
**ZIP**  
**CODES**  
**REPRESENTED**



**70%**  
**STUDENTS OF COLOR**

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Lick-Wilmerding High School is more selective than any other Bay Area independent high school, receiving between 900 - 1000 applications annually. The 139 students in the class of 2025 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.

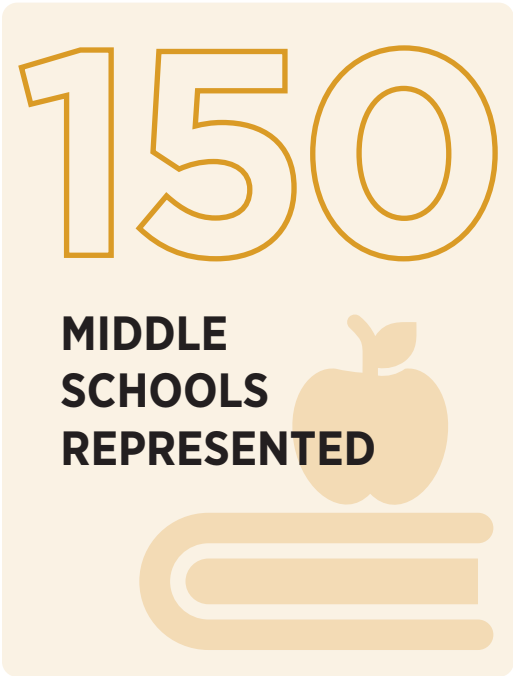
As the school’s unique “Head, Heart, Hands” curriculum continues to evolve into the 21st century, it becomes increasingly clear that GPA is a superficial, inadequate measure of the achievement and potential of LWSH students. Therefore, LWSH has chosen not to publicize GPA distribution in order to more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



**LWSH Academics During the Covid-19 Pandemic**  
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 returned to semester-long grading.



**Standardized Testing**  
To align with the school’s mission and values, LWSH 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.



College Matriculation

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

Allegheny College	1	Champlain College	1	Macalester College	1	San Francisco State University	1
AMDA College & Conservatory of the Performing Arts	1	University of Chicago	2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	San José State University	1
Amsterdam University College	1	Claremont McKenna College	1	McGill University (Canada)	2	Santa Barbara City College	1
American University	4	Cleveland Institute of Music	1	Menlo College	1	Santa Clara University	5
University of Arizona	4	Colgate University	5	University of Miami	1	Savannah College of Art and Design	2
Babson College	1	University of Colorado, Boulder	2	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	8	Scripps College	2
Barnard College	7	Colorado College	3	Middlebury College	6	Skidmore College	1
Bates College	1	Columbia University	1	Montclair State University	1	Smith College	2
Bentley University	1	University of Connecticut	1	New York University	17	University of Southern California	11
Berklee College of Music	2	Cornell University	14	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	2	Spelman College	1
Boston College	3	Dartmouth College	6	Northeastern University	17	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)	2
Boston University	7	Diablo Valley College	1	Northwestern University	10	Stanford University	19
Bowdoin College	2	Duke University	4	University of Notre Dame	1	University of Strathclyde (Scotland)	1
Brandeis University	1	Emory University	3	Oberlin College	3	Swarthmore College	1
Bryn Mawr College	1	Fordham University	2	Occidental College	3	Syracuse University	2
University of British Columbia (Canada)	4	George Washington University	6	University of Oregon	5	University of Texas, Austin	1
Brown University	10	Georgetown University	2	Oxford College at Emory University	1	University of Toronto	1
University of California Berkeley	29	Grinnell College	1	Parsons School of Design	2	Tufts University	7
Davis	11	Gustavus Adolphus College	1	University of Pennsylvania	7	Tulane University	6
Irvine	2	Hamilton College	2	Pitzer College	4	Vanderbilt University	3
Los Angeles	17	Harvard University	3	Pomona College	7	Vassar College	5
Santa Barbara	6	Harvey Mudd College	2	University of Portland	1	University of Vermont	2
Santa Cruz	13	Haverford College	1	Pratt Institute 1		University of Virginia	2
Santa Diego	1	University of Hawaii, Mānoa	1	Princeton University	6	University of Washington, Seattle	10
Cal Poly, Humboldt	1	Holy Names University	1	Reed College	4	Washington University in St. Louis	15
Cal Poly, Pomona	2	Howard University	5	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1	Wellesley College	5
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	8	University of Idaho	1	Rice University	4	Wesleyan University	5
California Baptist University	1	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	4	University of Richmond	1	Williams College	2
California State University, Chico	1	Johns Hopkins University	3	Rochester Institute of Technology	1	University of Wisconsin, Madison	6
Carleton College	5	Kenyon College	2	University of Rochester	1	Yale University	12
Carnegie Mellon University	3	Lehigh University	3	St. Lawrence University	1		
Case Western Reserve University	2	Lewis & Clark College	3	University of San Francisco	2		
		Loyola Marymount 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 and People of Color in Independent Schools.

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](https://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’ 129-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 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 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 Chamber Orchestra PPP	Creative Projects in Music Production Dance 1 Dance 2 Dance Ensemble PPP Drawing & Painting Improv PPP Sketch Comedy & Improv	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 <sup>(9th grade required)</sup> Biology H: Anatomy & Physiology <i>(not offered 2023-24)</i> Biology H: Behavioral Genetics & Anthropology Biology H: Marine Ecology: Field & Lab Science PPP	Biology H: Molecular Genetics Chemistry <sup>(10th grade required)</sup> 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 <sup>(9th grade required)</sup> Jewelry 1 Jewelry 2 Private Skills for a Public Purpose PPP Rethinking Furniture	Sewing & Textile Arts Level 1 Sewing & Textile Arts Level 2 3D-Printing & Parametric Design Wood: Joinery & Turning
<b>Visual Arts</b> <i>(1 year required)</i>	Advanced Architectural Design Architectural Design Architectural Design 3	Contemporary Media & Art <sup>(9th grade required)</sup> 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, 4H, 5/6H PPP French 1, 2, 3, 4H	Spanish 1, 2, 2 Acc, 3, 3H, 4, 4H, 5H Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1 Acc, 2H	
<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	The Golden Gate: Bay Area Literature History & Activism Incarceration Nation: The Rise of the U.S. Prison Industrial Complex Mathematics of Politics PPP	The Science of Sci-Fi Movements for Change Poetic Computation Ancient Greek
<b>Other Opportunities &amp; Requirements</b>	Body Mind Education <sup>(9th grade required)</sup> Creative Writing Ethnic Studies – Love as Emergence Freshman PPP <sup>(9th grade required)</sup> Independent Study	Independent Study PPP Internship PPP Journalism PPP Junior Public Purpose Project Leadership in Action PPP Senior Public Purpose Project	Sophomore Health: Human Sexuality <sup>(10th grade required)</sup> Sophomore PPP <sup>(10th grade required)</sup> Teaching Assistantship

H = Honors class, Acc = 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.



LICK-WILMERDING HIGH SCHOOL • 755 OCEAN AVENUE • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112