



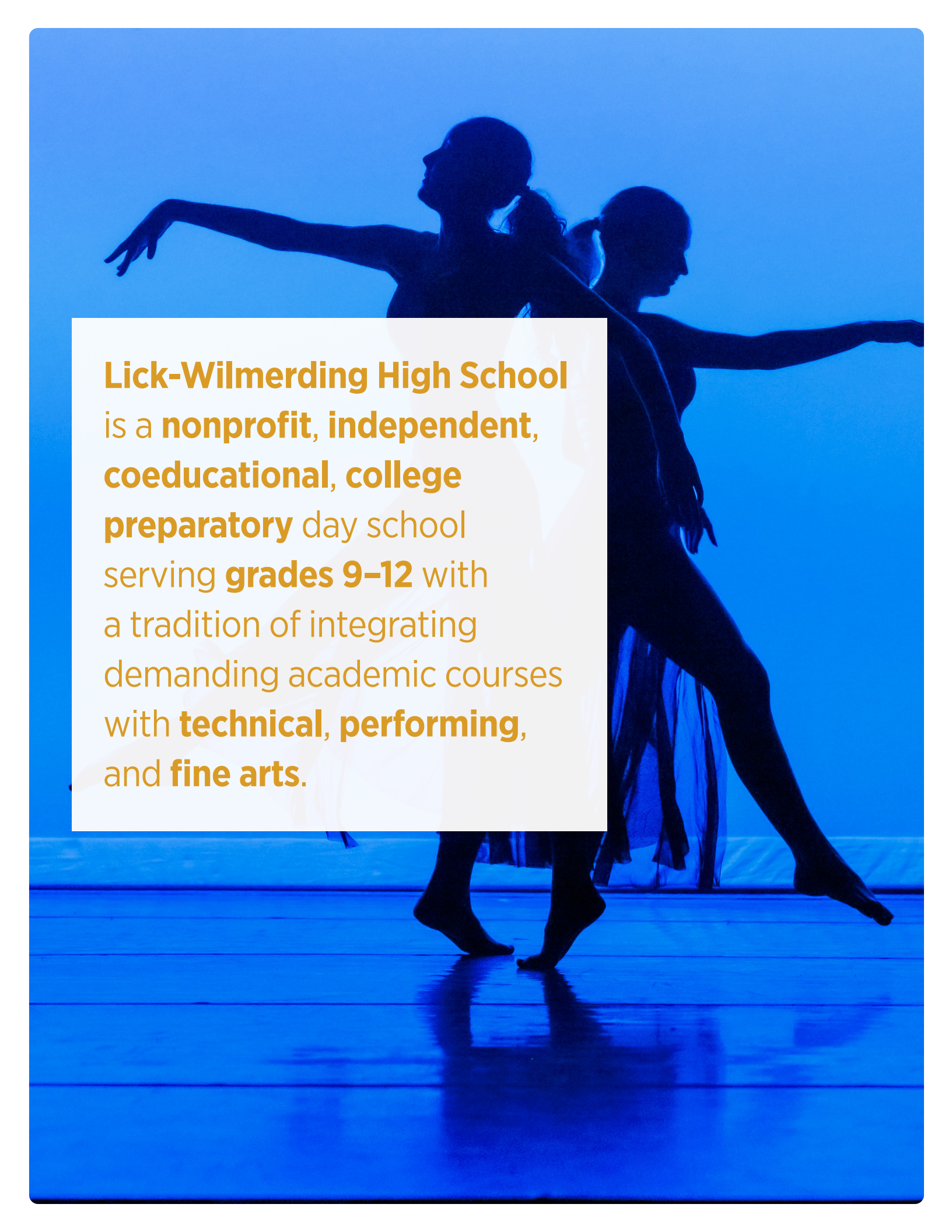
Lick-Wilmerding High School

Head, Heart, and Hands

LICK-WILMERDING
755

SCHOOL PROFILE

2025 - 2026

The background of the entire page is a monochromatic blue photograph. It depicts two dancers in profile, captured in a graceful, mid-movement pose. They are silhouetted against a lighter blue background, likely a studio wall or backdrop. The floor is dark and reflective, mirroring the dancers' forms. The overall mood is artistic and serene.

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

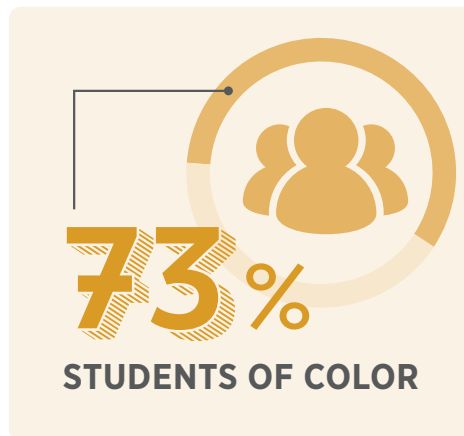
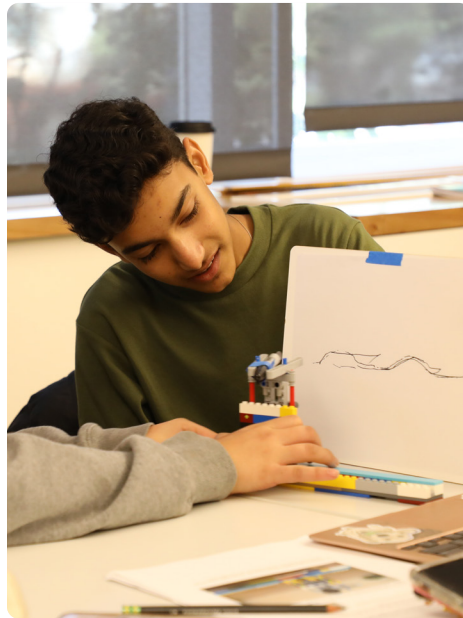
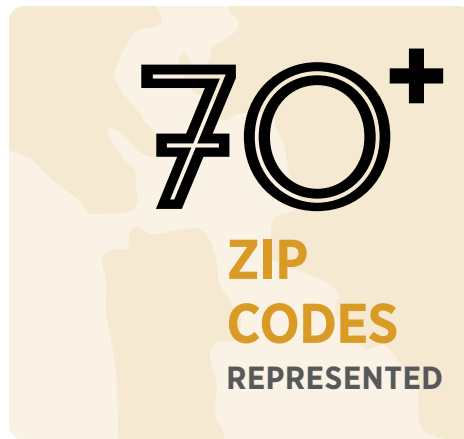
Endowed by San Francisco entrepreneur James Lick, the California School of Mechanical Arts opened its doors in 1895. Subsequently, the “Lick School” merged with the Wilmerding School of Industrial Arts and the Lux School of Industrial Training.

The 563 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 11% African American, 46% Asian (including East and South Asian), 17% Latinx; 5% Middle Eastern/Middle Eastern American, 3% Native American, 2% Pacific Islander, and 58% white, with 41% of identifying as multiracial. In all, 73% of the student body identify 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.



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TOTAL ENROLLMENT



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 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.



Public Purpose Program

As a private school with public purpose, LWHS places service and community engagement at the heart of education. The four-year Public Purpose Program enables students to live our mission by meaningfully connecting with local, national, and global communities. This scaffolded program helps students recognize how to apply their education and unique talents to create positive change and advance social justice.

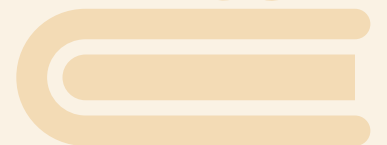


Technical Arts at LWHS

In "The Shops," students explore the intersection of design, engineering, and craft through Technical Arts courses in Coding, Electronics, Jewelry, Woodworking, Sewing, and Metal and Digital Fabrication. They learn to design, prototype, and build while developing project management skills, teamwork, persistence, and craftsmanship—discovering joy, confidence, and meaning through hands-on creation.

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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:

AMDA College of the Performing Arts, Los Angeles	1	Cornell University	8	Reed College	3	University of Chicago	4
American University	3	Dartmouth College	3	Rice University	5	University of Connecticut	1
Amherst College	1	Denison University	1	San Diego State University	2	University of Denver	1
Amsterdam University College	1	Diablo Valley College	1	San Francisco State University	1	University of Hawaii at Manoa	1
Azusa Pacific University	1	Duke University	3	San Jose State University	1	University of Idaho	1
Babson College	1	Emory University	4	Santa Barbara City College	2	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	4
Bard College	1	ESADE Business School	1	Santa Clara University	3	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	11
Barnard College	8	Fordham University	1	Savannah College of Art and Design	2	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	4
Bates College	1	Georgetown University	3	Scripps College	7	University of Notre Dame	1
Baylor University	1	Georgia Institute of Technology	1	Seattle Pacific University	1	University of Oregon	5
Berklee College of Music	2	Grinnell College	1	Skidmore College	1	University of Pennsylvania	9
Boston College	2	Gustavus Adolphus College	1	Smith College	2	University of Puget Sound	1
Boston University	6	Hamilton College	1	Southern Methodist University	1	University of Richmond	1
Bowdoin College	2	Harvard University	5	Spelman College	1	University of Rochester	2
Brandeis University	1	Harvey Mudd College	2	St. John's College	1	University of San Diego	1
Brown University	8	Howard University	4	St. Lawrence University	1	University of San Francisco	2
Bryn Mawr College	1	Johns Hopkins University	3	Stanford University	17	University of Southern California	8
Cal Poly, Pomona	1	Kenyon College	2	Syracuse University	2	University of St Andrews	3
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	10	Lehigh University	2	The Culinary Institute of America, CA	1	University of Strathclyde	1
Cal Poly, Humboldt	1	Lewis & Clark College	1	The George Washington University	5	University of Toronto	2
California Baptist University	1	Loyola University Maryland	1	The University of British Columbia	4	University of Vermont	2
California State University, Chico	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	Trinity College Dublin	1	University of Virginia, Main Campus	2
Carleton College	7	McGill University	3	Tufts University	10	University of Washington, Seattle Campus	12
Carnegie Mellon University	2	Middlebury College	3	Tulane University of Louisiana	8	University of Wisconsin, Madison	4
Case Western Reserve University	2	Montclair State University	1	United States Air Force Academy	1	Vanderbilt University	3
Champlain College	1	New York University	16	University of Arizona	4	Vassar College	4
Claremont McKenna College	3	North Carolina Central University	1	University of California Berkeley	40	Washington University in St Louis	12
Colgate University	4	Northeastern University	16	Davis	6	Wellesley College	9
Cleveland Institute of Music	1	Northwestern University	8	Irvine	6	Wesleyan University	9
Colorado College	3	Oberlin College	2	Los Angeles	20	William & Mary	4
Colorado School of Mines	2	Occidental College	3	San Diego	1	Williams College	2
Columbia University in the City of New York	5	Pitzer College	4	Santa Barbara	7	Yale University	12
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	1	Pomona College	8	Santa Cruz	10		
		Pratt Institute, Brooklyn	1				
		Princeton University	7				
		Purdue University	3				

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

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.

English

(4 years required)

English 1

English 2

English 3H

English 4H: Seminars

History & Social Studies

(3 years required)

Modern World History

U.S. History H

Modern U.S. History

Senior Seminars

Modern World History

Senior Seminars

Mathematics

(3 years required)

Algebra 1

Algebra 2

Algebra 2 Acc

Calculus H

Calculus PPP

Deductive Geometry

Inductive Geometry

Precalculus

Precalculus H

Precalculus H PPP

Performing Arts

(1 semester required)

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

Science

(3 years required)

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

Technical Arts

(2 years required)

**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
3D-Printing & Parametric Design
Wood: Joinery & Turning

Visual Arts

(1 year required)

Advanced Architectural Design
Architectural Design
Architectural Design 3

Contemporary Media & Art
(9th grade required)
Drawing & Painting
Film: Cinematic Storytelling PPP

Mixed Media
Photography 1
Photography 2 PPP
Studio Art – Painting

World Languages

(3 years of one language, or 2 years each of 2 languages required)

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

BlendEd

(Electives that combine online learning with face-to-face interactions)

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

Other Opportunities & Requirements

Body Mind Education (9th grade required)
Creative Writing
Ethnic Studies – Love as Emergence
Freshman PPP (9th grade required)
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** (10th grade required)
Sophomore PPP (10th grade required)
Teaching Assistantship

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.

