



Wildwood School

College Profile 2009-2010

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School Information

Wildwood School is an independent, co-educational K-12 school located on two urban campuses in West Los Angeles. The college preparatory middle and upper school was founded in 2000. The upper school has 227 students who travel to Wildwood from all over urban Los Angeles. Twenty-two percent are students of color. There are 52 students in the 2009 senior class.

Wildwood creates passionately inquisitive individuals who are empowered to make a difference in their local and global communities. Wildwood's challenging, multidisciplinary curriculum prepares students to excel in a demanding and competitive world. The school is dedicated to the intellectual and emotional needs of every individual, so students develop the self-knowledge and confidence required to achieve their personal best.

Curriculum

Wildwood students engage in an academically challenging program that includes a required four years of core subject classes. The school's project-based curriculum allows students to apply the metacognitive skills and knowledge they've learned in order to solve real-world problems.

Students experience a personalized, learner-centered environment in which they practice and exhibit thoughtful learning through exhibitions and portfolios. Students are involved in proactive community involvement. Every junior and senior takes their learning outside of school by working as an intern at a local jobsite of their choosing.

The curriculum is designed to prepare Wildwood students for the challenges of college, as well as develop young people who are lifelong learners committed to social justice and who have the ability to be leaders in an ever-changing world.

Faculty

There are 44 upper school teachers: 26 women and 18 men. Twenty-six have advanced degrees. The student to teacher ratio is 15 to one.

Accreditation and Affiliation

Wildwood School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California Association of Independent Schools. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs, The College Board, the Western Association for College Admission Counseling, and the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). Wildwood School follows the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

Wildwood is a nationally-known Coalition of Essential Schools (www.essentialschools.org) mentor school and is the only independent school to receive a prestigious Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant to serve as a model small school in southern California.

Honors and Advanced Courses

Wildwood offers the following honors classes to upper school students. In addition, students may pursue course work at local colleges and universities. Wildwood does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

Humanities (English and Social Studies)

Western Heritage
Modern U.S. History
American Studies

English

Genre and Style
British Literature
Contemporary Literature

Social Studies

Modern U.S. History
Human Rights: Theory
and Practice

Mathematics

Unified Math I
Unified Math II
Pre-Calculus
Calculus
Statistics

Science

Biology
Calculus-based Physics
Chemistry
Physics
Advanced Topics
in Science

Spanish

Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Spanish 4

Graduation Requirements

Wildwood upper school students are required to take a rigorous core curriculum that includes four years of English, four years of social studies, four years of mathematics, four years of science, four years of Spanish, four years of an arts, science or humanities elective, and two years of physical education. A series of portfolio pieces is required in each subject area.

Students must pass a graduation presentation of their work and learning that includes a presentation of their portfolio of required assignments and three senior projects. The following are examples of recent projects:

Academic passion

- Researching how the rise of technology has impacted the economy of a developing country
- Participating in the National Young Physicists tournament
- Working in a science lab at the Rockefeller University's High School Student Outreach Program

Community involvement

- Organizing a blood drive on campus
- Volunteering with the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation to further awareness of the environment
- Coordinating fundraising efforts for a children's organization in Guatemala

Personal challenge

- Attending a 6-week cooking class and throwing a dinner party
- Learning to sew and wearing a creation to a school exhibition
- Developing a weekly podcast for the school community

Sample Course Outcomes

Wildwood's demanding curriculum allows students to understand topics in depth and develop the skills needed for success in college. The following is a sample list of select course outcomes for upper school classes:

- Study major political philosophers—including Thomas Hobbes and John Locke—and the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights
- Understand the foundation of American government and politics
- Develop a mathematical model to determine the optimal positions for two lawn sprinklers that operate simultaneously
- Research Supreme Court cases tied to the First Amendment and present a mock Supreme Court Hearing of a specific case
- Read and analyze *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- Investigate the phenomenon of liquid that moves when an electric and magnetic field are applied, and suggest a practical application
- Research the biography and writings of a significant 17th- or 18th-century American and create a position paper and presentation on his or her experience
- Read and analyze *The Great Gatsby* as it reflects the experience of those who achieved the stereotypical American Dream in early 20th-century America, culminating in a persuasive essay

- Create a character (based on research) to represent an early 20th-century American immigrant or migrant and re-enact his or her story through an immigration timeline, memoir, letters, newspaper articles, and photographs
- Read and analyze *The Grapes of Wrath* to understand the experience of those affected by the Dustbowl and the author's discussion of the systems of Capitalism and Socialism, culminating in a literary analysis
- Research the economic causes and effects of the Great Depression

G.P.A and Grading System

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

Wildwood uses narrative assessments to provide a clear understanding of a student's progress in each subject area. These written reports review student's strengths in meeting defined expectations and their adherence to the Habits of Mind and Heart (see right). Assessments also address each student's "stretches," or areas that need further development.

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	Below C- = No Credit

SAT

Below is Wildwood's middle 50 percent range of SAT scores, based on a total of 2400 possible points.

Critical reading	500 - 610
Math	480 - 580
Writing	530 - 650

ACT

Below is Wildwood's middle 50 percent of ACT scores, based on a total of 36 possible points.

English	22 - 28
Math	20 - 27
Reading	20 - 28
Science Reasoning	20 - 25

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 drugs. While we do not report internal incidents, 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.

Seven Habits of Mind and Heart

Wildwood's innovative program is designed around habits and skills that enable our students to be successful in college and in life in the 21st century.

The Habit of Convention

The ability to acknowledge accepted standards in any area in order to be understood and to understand others.

The Habit of Evidence

The ability to bring together relevant information, judge the credibility of sources, and to find out for one's self.

The Habit of Perspective

The ability to address questions from multiple viewpoints and to use a variety of ways to solve problems.

The Habit of Connection

The ability to look for patterns and the ways things fit together in order to utilize diverse materials to form new solutions.

The Habit of Collaboration

The ability to work effectively with others, accepting and giving appropriate assistance.

The Habit of Service to the Common Good

The ability to recognize the effects of one's actions upon others, coupled with the desire to make the community a better place for all.

The Habit of Ethical Behavior

The ability to understand how personal values influence behavior and to live one's life according to ethical principles.

College Acceptances

The Wildwood graduating classes of 2004–2009 were accepted into the following colleges and universities; (*) indicates at least one student enrolled.

Adelphi University	Colgate University	Lake Forest College	Sarah Lawrence College *	University of Colorado, Boulder *
Alfred University	College of Wooster *	Lehigh University *		
American University	Colorado State University	Lenoir-Rhyne University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Allegheny College	Columbia College, Chicago *	Lesley University	School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston *	University of Denver *
Arizona State University	Connecticut College *	Lewis and Clark College *	Scripps College *	University of Florida
Art Center College of Design *	Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art *	Loyola Marymount University *	Simmons College *	University of Hartford
Bard College *		Lynchburg College	Skidmore College	University of La Verne
Barnard College *	Cornell College	Manhattanville College *	Smith College	University of Maryland
Bates College *	Cornell University *	Menlo College *	Sonoma State University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Bentley University *	Cornish College of the Arts *	Mills College *	Southern Methodist University *	University of Michigan *
Berklee College of Music *		Morehouse College	Southern Oregon University	University of North Carolina, Greensboro *
Boston College *	Drew University *	Mount St. Mary's College *	Southern University and A&M College	University of Oregon *
Boston University *	Drexel University	New College of Florida *		University of the Pacific *
Brandeis University *	Earlham College *	New York University *	Spelman College *	University of Pennsylvania *
Brown University *	Emerson College *		St. Andrew's Presbyterian College	University of Queensland (Australia) *
Bryant University	Emory & Henry College	Northeastern University *	St. John's College *	University of Redlands *
Bucknell University *	Eugene Lang, The New School *	Northern Arizona University	Suffolk University	University of Rhode Island
California Institute of the Arts *	Ferrum College	Northwestern University *	Syracuse University *	University of San Diego
California Institute of Technology *	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Oberlin College *	Trinity College *	University of San Francisco *
California Lutheran University *	Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising *	Occidental College	Tufts University *	University of Southern California *
California State University, Chico	Fisk University	Pace University *	University of Arizona *	University of the Arts *
California State University, Fullerton	Fordham University	Parsons, The New School for Design *	University of California, Berkeley *	University of Vermont
California State University, Monterey Bay	George Washington University *	Pitzer College *	University of California, Davis *	University of Washington *
California State University, Northridge *	Goucher College	Pratt Institute *	University of California, Irvine *	University of Wisconsin, Madison *
Carnegie Mellon University *	Hampshire College *	Randolph-Macon College	University of California, Los Angeles *	Vassar College
Centenary College *	Hampden-Sydney College *	Reed College *	University of California, Riverside *	Warren Wilson College *
Chapman University *	Hampton University *	Rhode Island School of Design	University of California, San Diego *	Western Washington University *
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	Hawaii Pacific University *	Salve Regina University		Wheaton College *
Claremont McKenna College *	Hood College	San Diego State University *	University of California, Santa Barbara *	Whitman College
Clark University *	Howard University *	San Francisco Art Institute *	University of California, Santa Cruz *	Whittier College *
Clark Atlanta University	Ithaca College	San Francisco State University		Willamette University
	Kalamazoo College	Santa Clara University	University of Chicago *	Woodbury University
	Kenyon College *			