Wildwood School
Profile for College and University
Admissions 2023-2024

For over 50 years, Wildwood School has been committed to a progressive approach defined by research-driven educational practices. We combine academic excellence with innovation to nurture high achieving, emotionally intelligent students who are inspired to transform their world. A Wildwood education is a dynamic experience, which prepares students for a future defined by change.

Wildwood’s learning environment reflects the way the world is changing. Students are challenged every day to ask questions, take risks, get in over their heads, and then creatively find their way out. More than being college ready, Wildwood students graduate as confident, empathetic, and resourceful thinkers with the ability to make an impact.

Wildwood’s elementary school was founded in 1971, and the middle and upper school was established in 2000. There are 50 middle and upper school teachers: 31 women and 19 men. Thirty have advanced degrees. The upper school includes 218 students from 9th through 12th grade. There are 53 students in the class of 2024. Since its first graduating class, 100 percent of Wildwood’s seniors that applied to college have been admitted to colleges and universities around the world. School-wide, 42% of students and 43% percent of our faculty/staff identify as members of the BIPOC community, which includes Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Multiracial, and other Persons of Color.

Habits of Mind and Heart

At the core of Wildwood’s middle and upper school program are the Habits of Mind and Heart, a set of values and skills that can serve students throughout their lives.

Perspective
Addressing questions from multiple viewpoints and using a variety of ways to solve problems

Evidence
Bringing together relevant information, judging the credibility of sources, finding out for one’s self

Connection
Looking for patterns and for ways in which things fit together in order to bring together diverse material and form solutions

Convention
Meeting accepted standards in any academic area in order to be understood and to understand others

Collaboration
Making appropriate provisions for accepting and giving assistance

Ethical Behavior
Demonstrating how personal values influence behavior and a set of principles by which to guide one’s life

Service to the Common Good
Demonstrating an awareness of the effects of one’s actions upon others and a desire to make the community a better place for all

Curriculum

Wildwood students are given the confidence to be intellectually and creatively fearless. To prepare students for success, Wildwood emphasizes project-based learning, which allows students to delve deeply into course material and merge it with their own interests. Through projects, students acquire additional insights, connecting new knowledge to what they already know. Students practice and demonstrate thoughtful learning through exhibitions and portfolios. Community involvement is woven into the curriculum, and students are assessed on their community work. Wildwood’s internship program allows students to investigate career options in fields of personal interest. Our unique program integrates the internship experience into the school-day schedule for all juniors and seniors, providing students with a consistent opportunity to gain professional experience for academic credit.
Graduation Requirements
Upper school students are required to take a rigorous core curriculum of academic courses in Humanities, literature, history, mathematics, science, world languages, electives, and Institutes to meet the requirements for graduation.

- Humanities (English and History) 2 years
- Literature 2 years
- History 2 years
- Mathematics 3 years (including Geometry and Algebra II)
- Science 3 years (including Conceptual Physics and Biology)
- World Languages 3 years (at least 2 years of the same language through Level 2)
- Physical Education 1 year
- Electives and Institutes 4 years (1 year must be a UC-approved Visual or Performing Arts class)
- Community Involvement 3 years
- Advisory 4 years

At the end of 12th grade, students must present a graduation exhibition, an oral defense of their academic and personal evolution that is presented to faculty, administration, family, and friends. As both an evaluation and a salute to student achievement, exhibitions reinforce the discipline and self-reflection that make for a successful college career.

GPA and Grading System
Wildwood School is on the semester system. The cumulative GPA is based on all course work completed between the 9th through 12th grades. One additional point is awarded to classes designated as honors courses. Students are not ranked.

Wildwood School uses a standards-based approach to narrative assessments. Standards help provide students and teachers with clarity around course or grade-level expectations. Each middle and upper school course at Wildwood has six clearly defined standards, which are assessed throughout the year and then reported on in the mid-year and year-end narratives. Assessments are converted to grade point averages for the purpose of applying to colleges and universities.

The goal of Wildwood’s assessment process is to give detailed feedback for students to reflect upon their work and their learning. Narrative assessments list the standards of a course and provide a summary of patterns in a student’s strengths and stretches to help inform goals for the student’s ongoing learning. The narrative conversion system is as follows:

- A = 4.0
- A- = 3.66
- B+ = 3.33
- B = 3.0
- B- = 2.66
- C+ = 2.33
- C = 2.0
- C- = 1.66
- D= 1.00
- Below D = No Credit

Awards
Due to Wildwood’s small size, we do not bestow any academic awards. We have had 3 National Merit Scholars and 16 National Merit Commended Students, and 6 National Hispanic Scholars.

Test Scores
In light of the increasing shift toward test-blind admissions, we support student choice regarding score submissions. As such, the test scores for the Class of 2024 will not be shared on this profile.

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 alcohol and drugs. While we do not report incidents occurring outside of school, 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.

Accreditations and Affiliations
- California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)
- College Board
- Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)

Uniquely Wildwood Programs
Senior Exhibitions
With their advisors and teachers as coaches, students reflect on their experiences and present a culminating self-assessment of their time at Wildwood.

Wildwood Institute Model
The Institutes are set in real-world, authentic contexts where participants navigate best practices to create meaning and add value to the local community and to the world.

Senior Seminar
Seminar students examine contemporary global issues while engaging in critical reading and writing, Socratic discussions, independent research, and oral and multimedia presentation.

Internships
Students go beyond Wildwood to explore careers of their own interests, develop social skills for a professional setting, and build their college résumés.
**Upper School Curriculum**

Wildwood’s upper school curriculum engages maturing intellects with core courses and electives. While individual student schedules can vary, the scope and sequence of required courses is mapped here for easy reference, and to illustrate the foundational curriculum.

Wildwood offers honors courses. Students also may pursue college-level work at local colleges and universities. Wildwood does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

[H] Honors course: The honors program challenges students with passion in a subject to go deeper with their work and their thinking. Honors work is added on to core courses rather than offered as separate honors classes. Honors is not simply about doing more work but about doing more sophisticated, challenging work. Students work independently—with teacher guidance—on more complex assignments.

* Although not designated as an Honors course, this class represents the highest level available in its discipline. Similarly, Senior Seminar is a capstone Humanities class with no Honors designation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanities (English and History)</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Photography</th>
<th>The Institutes at Wildwood</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Heritage [H]</td>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Advanced Painting</td>
<td>Institute for Entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Experience [H]</td>
<td>Geometry [H]</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in STEM</td>
<td>Institute for Social Leadership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Algebra II [H]</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Technical Theater</td>
<td>Institute for STEM Research and Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Math Analysis</td>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td>Athletics and Physical Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre-Calculus [H]</td>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>9th Grade Physical Education/Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistics [H]</td>
<td>Digital Photography</td>
<td>Competitive Junior Varsity and Varsity Athletic Teams: Compete in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calculus*</td>
<td>Digital Skills for Entrepreneurs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calculus 2*</td>
<td>Drawing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Calculus 3*</td>
<td>Foundations in Digital and Studio Arts</td>
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<td>World Languages</td>
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<td>Graphic Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandarin 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandarin 2 [H]</td>
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<td>Introduction to Jazz Ensemble</td>
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<td>Mandarin 3 [H]</td>
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<td>Intro to Motion Picture Studies</td>
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<td>Mandarin 4 [H]</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Music Composition and Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandarin 5*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jazz Ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Law, Individuals, and Societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish 2 [H]</td>
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<td>Music Production Lab 1, 2, and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish 3 [H]</td>
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<td>Musicianship for Singers and Songwriters 1, 2, and 3</td>
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<td>Spanish 4 [H]</td>
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<td>Neuroscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish 5*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Painting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**History**

Modern U.S. History [H]

**Senior Seminar**

Global Environmental Change and Policy

Media, Culture, and Society

Politics and Government

Philosophy, Ethics, and Law

**Science**

Conceptual Physics [H]

Biology [H]

Chemistry [H]

Advanced Physics [H]

Advanced Biology and Biotechnology [H]

Environmental Science [H]

**Electives**

The Actor and the Stage 1 and 2

Advanced Drawing

Advanced Digital Photography and Graphic Design

Script, Pitch, and Produce

Stagecraft 1 and 2

Theatre and Performance

Theatre and Advanced Performance

Yearbook

**The Institutes at Wildwood**

Institute for Entrepreneurship

Institute for Social Leadership

Institute for STEM Research and Development

**Athletics and Physical Education**

9th Grade Physical Education/Health

Competitive Junior Varsity and Varsity Athletic Teams: Compete in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)
College Acceptances
The Wildwood graduating classes of 2015–2023 were accepted into the following colleges and universities; (*) indicates at least one student enrolled.

Agnes Scott College*
American University*
American University of Paris*
Arizona State University*
Art Center College of Design*
Bard College*
Barnard College*
Bates College*
Belmont University*
Beloit College
Bennington College*
Bentley University*
Berklee College of Music*
Boston College*
Boston University*
Bowdoin College*
Bradley University
Brown University*
Bucknell University*
California State University: Channel Islands*
Cal Poly Pomona*
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*
Long Beach
Los Angeles*
Monterey Bay
Northridge*
San Diego*
San Francisco*
Sonoma*
California Institute of the Arts*
California Institute of Technology*
Carleton College*
Carnegie Mellon University*
Centre College*
Chapman University*
Claremont McKenna College
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Colby College*
Colgate University*
College of Wooster
Colorado College*
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University*
Columbia College Chicago*
Columbia College Hollywood*
Columbia University*
Connecticut College
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art*
Cornell University*
Cornish College of the Arts*
Culinary Institute of America*
Deep Springs College*
DePaul University*
DigiPen Institute of Technology*
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University*
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Emerson College*
Emory University
Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts*
Fairfield University
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
Fashion Institute of Technology*
Fisk University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University*
Grinnell College*
Hamilton College*
Hamphden-Sydney College
Hampton University*
Hawaii Pacific University*
Hofstra University
Howard University*
Indiana University*
Ithaca College*
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College*
LA Film School*
Lafayette College*
Lake Forest College*
Lawrence University*
Lehigh University*
Lewis & Clark College*
Loyola Marymount University*
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Macalester College*
Manhattanville College
Marist College*
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Miami University (Ohio)
Michigan State University*
Middlebury College*
Mills College*
Montana State University
Morehouse College
Muhlenberg College*
New College of Florida
New York University*
Northeastern University*
Northwestern University*
Oberlin College*
Occidental College*
Otis College of Art and Design
Pace University*
Parsons School of Design*
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University*
Pitzer College*
Pomona College*
Pratt Institute*
Providence College*
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Reed College*
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design*
Rice University*
Rochester Institute of Technology*
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*
Rutgers University
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Santa Clara University
Santa Monica College*
Sarah Lawrence College*
Savannah College of Art and Design*
School of the Art Institute of Chicago*
School of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston)
School of Visual Arts*
Scripps College*
Simmons College
Skidmore College*
Smith College*
Southern Methodist University
Southern Oregon University
Spelman College*
St. John’s College
Stanford University*
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University*
Trinity College
Tufts University*
Tulane University*
University of Arizona*
University of California: Berkeley*
Davis*
Irvine*
Los Angeles*
Riverside
San Diego*
Santa Cruz*
Santa Barbara*
University of Chicago*
University of Colorado Boulder*
University of Colorado Denver
University of Denver*
University of Florida
University of Hartford
University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign*
University of Maryland*
University of Massachusetts Amherst*
University of Miami*
University of Michigan*
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of Oregon*
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Pittsburgh*
University of Puget Sound*
University of Redlands*
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond*
University of San Diego*
University of San Francisco*
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California*
University of Texas at Austin *
University of Vermont
University of Virginia*
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Vassar College*
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University*
Warren Wilson College
Washington University in St. Louis*
Wellesley College*
Wesleyan University*
Wheaton College
Whitman College*
Whittier College*
Williamette University
Williams College*
Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
Yale University*

International Schools:
American International University (London)
The American University of Paris*
Bard College Berlin*
Dalhousie University (Canada)
Franklin College (Switzerland)*
Goldsmiths, University of London
University of British Columbia (Canada)
University of Queensland (Australia)*
University of St. Andrews*
University of Victoria