



Westland School

Dear Prospective Parents:

We are very pleased that you are interested in Westland School. Enclosed is information to guide you through the process of learning about Westland and applying for your child.

The admission process is one of mutual discovery – you will be gaining essential information about our school and community, and we will be getting to know you and your child. Throughout this process we want to make sure that you have all the resources you need to make a thoughtful decision when the time comes.

As a start, the material in this packet covers the rich breadth of our program. Our website, www.westlandschool.org, has a wealth of information about our curriculum, parent involvement, and history. Helpful details about the admission process are included in the enclosed checklist.

An important step is to visit our beautiful, wooded campus to see our program in action. Three open houses with a parent-led tour will be held in the fall. Please check our website after July 1 for open house dates and call the office to RSVP. *Note that both parents must attend an open house before applying to Westland.*

Feel free to call us any time – we're happy to help you. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

The Westland Admission Committee



Westland School

Dear Prospective Parents,

Welcome to Westland! At its best, the admissions process you are embarking upon can be a time for deep personal reflection. It is a process that invites parents to articulate their family values and personal philosophy on education—and one that offers each parent the opportunity to ask themselves:

“Who is my child?”

“What does it look like when my child is thriving?” and

“What are my true hopes for my child?”

I look forward to supporting you throughout this deeply personal process. Having recently been appointed Head of School by the Board of Trustees, I had my own recent version of a search process! I'm confident you will quickly discover what I did: Westland is a leader in progressive education. Founded in 1949, Westland has been—and is—ahead of its time. It is a school that is learner-centered, emphasizing skills and values like collaboration, critical thinking, creative problem solving, empathy building, equity, and inclusion. Westland equips its students to navigate our rapidly changing and dynamic world.

Westland teachers have an unflagging commitment to each child. By honoring their natural curiosity, the teachers guide students through an integrated, hands-on, thematic curriculum. Learning is active. Students are engaged, motivated, and joyful! They see that their learning is connected to something bigger: community, social justice, and active citizenry—all of which is modeled to them by the surrounding community of adults.

Throughout a student's Westland education, parents serve a vital role—they are essential partners in each child's education. Parent involvement is intentionally woven into life at Westland. As such, this admissions process is a chance for you to imagine yourself as a learner, a leader, and future community member, as well. I sincerely look forward to meeting you, connecting with you, and exploring your questions as you seek out the ideal match for your family.

Warmly,

Melinda A. Tsapatsaris
Incoming Head of School



Westland School Application for Admission

Child's Name _____ Grade in Fall 2018 _____

Child prefers to be called _____ Birthdate _____ Gender _____

Primary Address _____ Home Phone _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address (if different from primary)

Address (if different from primary)

Cell Number _____

Cell Number _____

Email _____

Email _____

Occupation _____

Occupation _____

Business Name _____

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____

Business Phone _____

High School Attended _____

High School Attended _____

College (s) Attended _____

College (s) Attended _____

Child's Present School _____

School Address _____

School Telephone Number _____

Previous Schools _____

Siblings

Name _____

Name _____

Birthdate _____

Birthdate _____

Present School _____

Present School _____

How did you hear about Westland? _____

Why are you interested in progressive education?

What are your expectations regarding your child's education?

In what areas of parent participation are you interested?

Are there any special characteristics about your child of which you would like us to be aware?

OFFICE USE ONLY

Applic. Fee \$ _____ Date Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Rec'd By _____



Westland School

School Information Release Form

To the Parents:

Please complete and sign this form, attach it to your completed admission application, and return to Westland. We will send the form directly to your child's school.

I/we authorize the release of information for my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

To the Current School:

The following student has applied for admission to Westland School. Enclosed is our Student Evaluation form for the classroom teacher to complete. Along with this form, please send copies of recent report cards, assessments, transcripts, and test scores to the address below.

Applicant's Name _____
Last First Middle Nickname (if any)

Birth Date _____

Current School Name

Phone #

Address

City, State, Zip

Westland School
Admission Committee
16200 Mulholland Drive
Los Angeles, California 90049



Westland School

How to Apply 1st - 5th Grades Admission Information & Checklist

There are a number of important steps to follow when applying to an independent school. In order to help you easily navigate this process, we have designed this checklist. Please call us if we can answer questions or assist you in any way.

While most Westland students enter the school as kindergarteners, occasionally, through attrition, there are openings in grades 1 through 5. (The school does not accept new 6th graders, as we want students to spend at least two years at Westland.)

The application process includes a parent tour of the school, a parent interview, a time for your child to visit with a teacher, and receipt of school records from your child's current school.

- Applications may be submitted at any time.
- The Application Fee is \$125 and is due with the application.
- Open Houses: Three morning open houses with campus tours will be held in the fall. Please check our website after July 1 for dates, and then call our office to RSVP.
- Flexible Tuition is available to qualifying families. If you are interested in applying for flexible tuition, please sign and return the enclosed Flexible Tuition form with your application for admission.
- Parent Interview: After receiving your application, we will call to schedule your interview with one of our administrators.
- School Release of Information Form: Please complete, sign, and return with your application for admission. We will send the form to your child's current school and they will send records directly to Westland.
- Student Visit: After your parent interview, we'll schedule your child's visit to Westland on a school day.
- 1st – 5th Grades Admission Acceptance Letters will be mailed on March, 2018.



Westland School

Fast Facts

The numbers:

- ❖ We have 130 students in 6 multi-age class groupings kindergarten through 6th grade.
- ❖ There is a head teacher and an associate teacher in each class group of 22 students.
- ❖ Head teachers have an average of 23 years of teaching experience.
- ❖ 20% of our students are children of color.
- ❖ The school day is 8:45–3:00, with early dismissal at 2:30 on Tuesdays.

Who we are:

- ❖ We were founded in 1949 on the developmental and progressive principles of John Dewey and Jean Piaget.
- ❖ Active parent participation is integral to the life of the school.
- ❖ Children become self-motivated, enthusiastic learners through real-world experiences that make learning relevant to them.
- ❖ Our social studies-based approach integrates and connects language arts, math, the visual arts, science, music, woodworking, and print shop. Children participate in specialist classes several times per week.

Our children's rich experience also includes:

- Gardening every week in our organic edible community garden.
- A twice-per-week P.E. program that is non-competitive and stresses cooperation, sportsmanship, individual skills and the rules of the game.
- Frequent field trips that are vital to the social studies units; children recreate and share their experiences through block-building, culminations, artwork and journals.

Beyond Westland:

Our graduates successfully matriculate at Westside and Valley public middle schools and the following independent and parochial schools:

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School - Archer School for Girls - Berkeley Hall School
Brentwood School - Campbell Hall School - Chaminade College Preparatory School
Crossroads School - Harvard-Westlake School - Manzanita School - Marlborough School
MUSE School - Oakwood School - Our Lady of Angels School - St. Francis de Sales School
Sierra Canyon School - Waverly School - Wildwood School - Windward School



Westland School

Flexible Tuition

The flexible tuition model has a different approach to tuition reduction. Rather than focusing on a tuition grant or aid, the focus is on a tuition rate that each family can afford. The change in language and practice conveys our fundamental belief that all families have equal value in our community, regardless of the tuition they pay.

The perception of the traditional financial aid model intimates a one-way street – that the recipients are the sole beneficiaries. The flexible tuition model creates a more accurate and inclusive picture, acknowledging that socioeconomic diversity itself brings value to the entire community. In addition, research demonstrates that diversity benefits all students, from improved critical thinking skills and cognition to a more socially responsible worldview.

Our goal over the course of the next several years is to extend flexible tuition to help some of our families whose incomes fall in the middle range. Each year, as we move forward, we expect that we will gain a clearer understanding of the income levels that will be eligible for flexible tuition. After submitting an admission application please contact Carole (cbarber@westlandschool.org) should you have any questions about your eligibility for flexible tuition.

If you would like to apply for flexible tuition, please complete this form and return it with your admission application. We will then send you an email with instructions for submitting a flexible tuition application.



We are interested in applying for Flexible Tuition:

Name of student applicant _____ Grade applying _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Email Address _____