

# FAQs

## ABOUT THE WMS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



### ***What type of student is likely to be successful attending the WMS High School program?***

A student who wants to learn, is curious, has a good work ethic, enjoys working collaboratively and wants to make a positive impact in the world is likely to thrive in the WMS High School program.

### ***Do you have any statistics on the success of the WMS High School program?***

Since WMS began the High School program in 2014, 22% of our students have earned distinction as either National Merit Finalists or Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program, based on their junior year PSAT scores.

### ***What percentage of WMS High School graduates attend college?***

97% of our seniors have gone on to attend a four-year college or university directly after graduation.

### ***Does the WMS High School offer Advanced Courses such as AP or IB programs?***

WMS has Advanced Courses, called Honors classes, which provide opportunities for extended learning, deeper exploration into content, and a more challenging level of critical and analytical thinking. Honors classes are available to students in all four years of Math, Science, Social Studies, and English. When reviewing applications, colleges evaluate the rigor of a student's high school course load in the context of the advanced opportunities provided by their school such as Honors, AP, or IB classes. The key question colleges consider is, *"Did the student take the most advanced classes that were offered at their school?"*. Therefore, colleges will be looking to see how many of the over 16 different Honors classes that WMS offers a student has taken advantage of to challenge themselves in their learning.

### ***Which universities do WMS High School graduates attend and what majors do they pursue?***

WMS graduating seniors have been accepted to more than 80 colleges and universities throughout the United States and internationally. Schools our graduates attend include: University of Washington - Seattle, Whitman College, Willamette University, Seattle University, Colorado School of Mines, Dartmouth College, Occidental College, Olin College of Engineering, Rhode Island School of Design, and University of British Columbia - Okanagan. WMS alumni pursue majors such as: Math, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, English, History, Psychology, and Art.

***"Montessori encourages independence, creativity, and problem-solving, all of which are skills that are a great fit for Olin's hands-on, project-based approach. Because Montessori students are used to self-directed learning and working in teams, they often adapt quickly to our collaborative and innovative environment."***

- Jenna Green, Olin College of Engineering Admission Counselor

### ***What support can my student expect from the College Counselor at WMS?***

The College Counselor advises students through their entire journey of the college application process, from helping them develop a list of colleges that are a strong fit for their individual needs and interests to working closely with them on their applications and essays. All juniors and seniors meet with the College Counselor weekly. The High School Humanities teachers also support the writing of personal statements and supplemental essays during the college application process.

### ***What accreditations has the WMS High School program earned?***

Woodinville Montessori School is dually accredited by the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS) and the American Montessori Society (AMS). WMS is the only school in the Pacific Northwest accredited through 12th grade by both organizations.

### ***What are the benefits of small class sizes?***

Small class sizes allow lessons and curriculum to be tailored to further student interest and passions. An average core subject class is composed of 15 students, allowing each student to have deep connections and learn from one another. Teachers are available both during and after class to answer questions, provide support, and engage in conversations about material and course content.

### ***What are the benefits of a low teacher-to-student ratio?***

The WMS High School program is made up of 15 teachers, in various areas of expertise. Our well-rounded faculty model intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning, and positive global citizenship. Teachers come to know their students very well over their years in High School. This becomes especially valuable during the college admission process, when teachers write detailed letters of recommendation that reflect those personal connections.

### ***What clubs, sports or other extracurricular opportunities are available for WMS High School students?***

Clubs in High School are student-driven and student-led. Examples include: Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) Leadership, Fundraising and Charity, Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), and the Raven Review newsletter. Sports offered at WMS include: orienteering, pickleball, soccer, and basketball. Outside of school, our students pursue many passions, such as swimming, baseball, dance, fencing, karate, climbing, scuba diving, skiing, singing, piano, and more.