



**Winchester Thurston School**

**Expect Great Things**



[www.winchesterthurston.org](http://www.winchesterthurston.org)

**Winchester Thurston School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school with two campuses: a Pre-Kindergarten through grade five North Hills Campus in Allison Park and a Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 City Campus in Shadyside.**



# Open Eyes



A researcher of cancer cell biology. A critic of twenty-first century filmmaking. A scholar of world languages. A programmer testing robotic maneuvers. A pioneer on the Oregon Trail. A jazz guitarist in a recording studio. A colonist carving out a new government.

In any one day, our students aren't just learning. They're doing. And by seeing things through someone else's eyes, they're understanding a whole lot more about the world they see through their own. This interactive approach brings concepts to life more fully than any textbook or classroom lecture ever could.

At every grade level, our students learn in holistic fashion. A fourth-grade unit on Ancient Greece brings together reading and writing, art and architecture, math and music, fashion and food, and, of course, history. Eighth-graders pay homage to victims of World War II by creating their own Holocaust Museum. Twelfth-graders immerse themselves in a topic of their choosing for the Senior Project. From organ transplantation to the cold war and from environmentalism to media literacy, the subjects are as diverse as the student body itself.

We call this the blossoming of the intellect. Throughout our campuses, you'll find a palpable spirit of discovery. Our students call it exciting, because there's an incredible amount of pride that comes with the mastery of each new concept. You'll call it amazing, because when a young person loves learning, great things are possible.

**It's not a question  
of what you're going  
to be when you grow up.  
  
But rather, all the  
things you can be  
before you grow up.**

*Learning is discovery.  
And each student is a pioneer.*



# Open Minds



Somewhere between *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and AP chemistry, something incredible happens. Our students find ways to push themselves into new territories. It's often challenging, but always worth the effort.

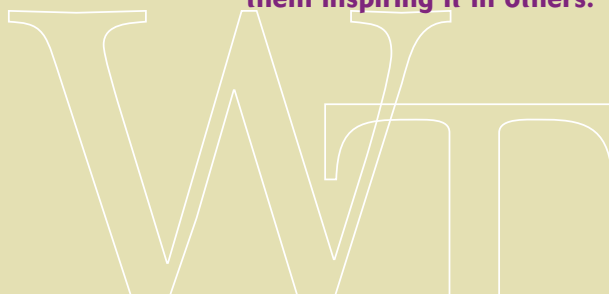
The ability to think creatively, independently, and analytically is at the very core of our academic programs. We foster critical thinking in each grade level, and our students feel comfortable taking risks in an environment that rewards their hard work.

Here, academic rigor is carefully balanced with a strong support system, in proportions that shift as students mature. In the early childhood years, our focus is on nurturing, so students gain confidence as they acquire new skills and knowledge. In the Upper School years, students are increasingly challenged with scholarly work that prepares them for advanced study. This is why WT offers more Advanced Placement courses than many schools twice our size. And it's why WT graduates attend America's most prestigious universities and colleges.

But academic rigor isn't just about test scores and measurements, although ours are among the strongest in the region and consistently exceed national averages. To us, it's about a different kind of result: the confidence and intellectual curiosity that our students carry with them to college and throughout life.

**It's exciting to see  
students inspired  
to think critically.**

**Even more so to see  
them inspiring it in others.**



*It's not just about answering questions,  
but questioning answers.*

# Open Hearts



Respect. Empathy. Compassion. What we hold in our hearts is just as important as the strength of our minds. That's why we focus as much on building character as we do on a foundation of academics.

You see, WT isn't just a school; it's a community. Because faculty teach from a platform of trust and mutual respect, students develop greater understanding of their classmates and become ethical thinkers, earnest collaborators, and responsible citizens. In any day, it's not unusual to see Middle Schoolers volunteering in Kindergarten classrooms. Or seniors mentoring younger students in their free time.

As a community, we also offer help to those who need it. In fact, each of our classes adopts special community service projects that foster a strong sense of character and a desire to serve. Our students have beautified roadways as partners with local conservancy organizations, baked holiday pies for homeless shelters, forged relationships with elderly residents of a Hill District nursing home, and helped a local community of women refugees and their non-English speaking children build language skills.

We're honored that today's members of the WT community are tomorrow's contributing citizens of the world.

**At a very early age,  
students here  
realize they can  
change the world.  
And they do.**

*“Think also of the comfort  
and the rights of others.”  
It's not just our credo, it's our way of life.*





# Open Doors



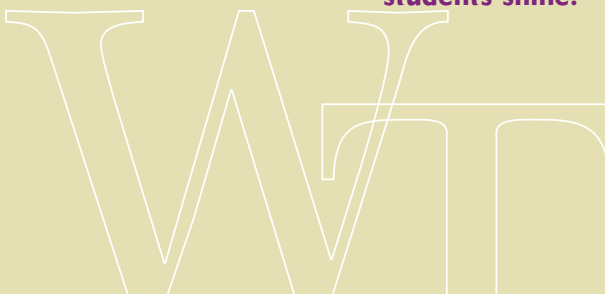
Deep within every student is passion—for writing or robotics, biology or basketball, chorus or calculus. The real work is in helping each student discover and develop her or his talents and affinities. That's why Winchester Thurston is a small school that offers big school opportunities.

A third-grader who writes and illustrates her own eight-page book may grow into the twelfth-grader who attends a national conference on editing and publishing, and applies what she has learned as editor of *Plaid*, the school's literary magazine. Along the way, she might discover a passion for field hockey during Middle School and complete a summer internship at the Hillman Cancer Center between eleventh and twelfth grades. A fourth-grader who stars as Zeus in the Greek play might grow into a tenth-grader who coaches Lower School students in drama. On his educational journey, he might discover a passion for equations and compete in the Math League, play violin in the Upper School Orchestra, and take photographs for the yearbook.

In the classroom and beyond, our students pursue multiple interests with great energy, enthusiasm, and a true desire to achieve. They're doing things they never thought possible, guided by a dedicated faculty that helps them build confidence and tenacity. They're becoming nationally ranked Math Olympiad competitors. Performing in award-winning musicals. Battling for league championships in golf, crew, lacrosse, basketball, field hockey, and more. Mastering the art of glassblowing. And playing alongside a world-class symphony orchestra.

**As educators, our role is  
a little like aligning the  
stars. It's difficult to put  
everything in the right  
place, but once you do,  
students shine.**

*Give a young person an opportunity  
and watch what happens.*



# Open Arms



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Eighth-graders engage in a year-long project on tolerance, an exploration that links them to faraway students in the Congo, as well as to neighboring residents of East Liberty. Guided by teachers, fifth-graders develop their own Rules of Conduct with input from all Lower School students. Upper School students attend the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, part of the national People of Color Conference, then organize a successful film series and panel discussion and teach a week-long class on diversity.

At WT, we embrace our differences. We welcome varying points of view. And we encourage each other not only to share our unique backgrounds, perspectives, and ideas, but to learn from them. Because when we create a culture of inclusiveness, we prepare students to be fully effective in an increasingly complex world.

Ours is a multifaceted community. Yet its weave is tight, bound by the strength of our Mission: *Winchester Thurston School actively engages each student in a challenging and inspiring learning process that develops the mind, motivates the passion to achieve, and cultivates the character to serve.*

We activate this Mission by creating a learning environment that promotes and instills appreciation for five core values: critical thinking, integrity, empathy, community, and diversity.

**Our mission is bold.**

**And we bring it to life  
every day, in every grade,  
in every student,  
in our every action.**

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*We're all different.  
And we like it that way.*





# Open Horizons



## An opportunity to explore.

Students documenting the behavior of endangered species at the Pittsburgh Zoo have their findings incorporated into a study published by the zoo's lead researcher. Student musicians jam with jazz great Ellis Marsalis at the nationally recognized Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. Still other students visit and photograph public war monuments and memorials, gaining a new appreciation for how history lives on all around them.

Funded by a generous grant from the E. E. Ford Foundation in 2005, our *City as Our Campus* educational initiative expands students' physical and intellectual horizons beyond the campus to include Pittsburgh's unrivaled educational, cultural, and historic resources. The resulting experiences challenge the intellect, fire imaginations, and instill a lifelong love of learning.

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## An opportunity to lead.

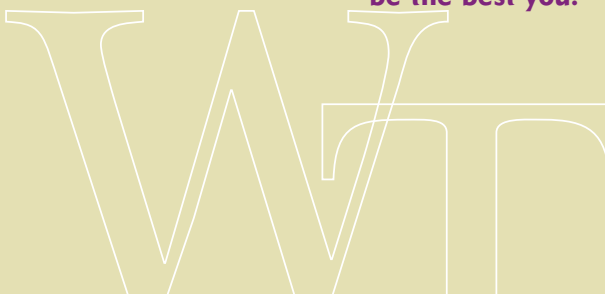
Within each student is the capacity for leadership. Our skilled teachers lend support as the necessary qualities—a sense of confidence, ethics, and respect—emerge. Through electives, student government, clubs, athletics, and performances, our students test and hone leadership skills.

## An opportunity to excel.

High-ability learners need an education that recognizes their unique learning needs. That's why we offer a Lower School Academic Enrichment and Challenge Program. Using methods that address the style, complexity, and individual learning paces of these bright students, we create an instructional environment that fosters inquiry, flexibility, creativity, and critical thinking. So students develop to their fullest potential.

Learn to lead,  
make an impact,  
be outstanding, be happy.  
Learn how to  
be the best you.

*We can only understand the world  
when we spend time living in it.*



# Open Invitation



## Expect great things.

Energy. Spirit. Respect. Intelligence. Warmth. You feel these things as you walk through our hallways. And while walking through a brochure is no substitute, we hope that you've gleaned a little of what to expect at Winchester Thurston School.

We welcome you to join us. In a visit to our campuses, you'll see that we're a different kind of school. Yes, we have a challenging academic focus. And it's nicely balanced with the characteristics that not only build minds, but develop people.

We look forward to introducing you to WT. Where you'll come to expect great things, just as we do.

To learn more or to arrange

a tour, please e-mail us at

[admission@winchesterthurston.org](mailto:admission@winchesterthurston.org),

visit our Web site at

[www.winchesterthurston.org](http://www.winchesterthurston.org),

or call and speak with one of our

Admission representatives:

City Campus (412) 578-7518

North Hills Campus (412) 486-8341

[www.winchesterthurston.org](http://www.winchesterthurston.org)

*Winchester Thurston admits qualified students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.*



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*City Campus*

555 Morewood Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412.578.7518

*North Hills Campus*

4225 Middle Road

Allison Park, PA 15101

412.486.8341