



WINSTON ONLINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Student Experience

What is the school day like?

Students attend Winston Online Monday through Friday and all the classes are on Google Classroom. Students login to their first period class through the designated Google Meet link. Each period is 45 minutes. Students attend the following classes: language skills, literature, mathematics, history, science and Focus, our one-to-one daily program. All of their content classes, and Focus, are interactive and synchronous. In addition, students have one period of physical education two to three times per week, alternating with an enrichment class, such as art. Enrichment classes are designed based upon each class groups' learning profile, being mindful of the interests and strengths of the students.

Are there other options at Winston Online other than a full school day?

Yes! Students can be enrolled in a customized schedule that best meets their needs. Students can take the core course option of Literature, Language Skills, Math, and Focus, or families can pick and choose which classes they would like to enroll their children in. It is also possible for families to choose to have their children participate only in the Focus program, which meets daily for 45 minutes.

What technology are students and teachers using at Winston Online?

Winston Online uses the Google Education Suite, which includes Google Classroom, Google Meet, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Forms, and Google Drive. There are a variety of other online resources, Chrome extensions, and websites that are incorporated into the classes. This technology works to engage our students and to develop their skills as learners, and it is not intended to be overwhelming. We also strive to promote best digital and media literacy practices for our students. Chromebooks and headsets can be provided by the school if needed.

Do Winston Online students interact with other WPS campuses?

In order to provide our students with multiple opportunities to work on academic and social problem solving skills, Winston Online has teamed up with other WPS campuses. Our current students have social groups with the New Jersey and Long Island campuses, they participate in after school activities from the New York City campus, and we are continually developing ways for our students to interact with fellow classmates at all of our WPS schools.

What activities are available after school?

In keeping with our dynamic learning model, we are constantly striving to develop new and interesting extracurricular options designed to meet the interests of each year's student body. In response to community interests this year, our students can participate in other campuses' after school activities such as theater, choir, foreign languages, virtual pen pals with the California campus, and more.

How many students are in each class?

Winston online classes are very small due to the highly interactive online environment. Students are grouped based upon their learning profile, an understanding of which is developed through leadership and Admissions Committee review of the information shared by families, including neuropsychological reports, educational evaluations, parent feedback, etc. Our faculty to student ratio is typically 1:3.

What is Winston Online's homework policy?

Since all of our content and Focus classes are interactive, synchronous, and intensive, we do not want our students or teachers to feel overwhelmed or “burn out”. We emphasize *quality* over *quantity*, and therefore, no homework is assigned. It is important to note that the appropriate amount of work is assigned per class period. If for some reason a student does not finish within the class period, he or she may be asked to finish outside of class.

Do I need to continue outside tutoring if my child comes to Winston?

While the decision to continue outside tutoring is an individual one, we find that many students at Winston no longer need outside tutoring/learning support because of the intense remediation they receive within the Focus program and throughout the school day. Our leadership and faculty welcome the opportunity to discuss your child’s needs both as a WPS student, as well as their receiving support outside of the school setting.

Are there any breaks or independent days?

Due to the nature of synchronous online schooling, it is imperative for our students to take breaks throughout the day. There are 5 minute breaks between each class so students can get water, go to the bathroom, get a snack, or step away from the computer. There is also a 45 minute lunch period for students and staff. Physical education and art classes are asynchronous to promote movement and creativity away from the computer screen.

While there are no completely independent days, Winston Online has independent content class days. This system, which was originally created during distance learning at the WPSNY campus, allows students to work independently in each of their content classes one day a week. Students are still expected to log into the content class at the schedule start time to complete what the teacher has assigned for the period.

Winston Prep’s Philosophy & Programmatic Design

How does Winston’s educational philosophy determine my child’s learning group? The design and implementation of each student’s educational program begins with an understanding of their learning profile in the context of a neuropsychological model of learning disorders, as shared in our Open House presentations. This model is a result of neuropsychological and educational research that describes the learning process as an interactive one that involves three-part processing: language based, non-verbal and executive functions, which allows us to begin to focus upon and investigate primary areas of learning difficulty. The Program & Admissions Coordinators assess shared student data and place students in groups of similar learners based on their specific academic and social-emotional needs. This allows your child’s teaching team to more precisely develop a curriculum that meets the skill and content needs of each student in a small group, so that the dynamic nature of each learning profile can be understood and

addressed.

What is the QSIL?

We know the importance of academic skills, but we also know from research that there are other skills that are crucial in the lives of all students. At Winston we call these qualities the Qualities of a Sustainable and Independent Learner. Through the Science of Learning initiatives we have been able to identify the factors that contribute to success after high school and the qualities necessary to achieve them. Specifically, they are *Resilience, Social Responsibility, Self-Advocacy, Self-Regulation, Self-Reflection, Communication/Social Skills, Problem Solving, and Management and Organization*. Key to a student's development of these qualities is the assessment of them, the student and the community's understanding of them, specific individualized goals related to development, and activities that strengthen these qualities embedded throughout each WPS students' program. All students and teachers complete the QSIL Survey once a year in the spring. Reports are generated from the result, and serve as the basis for goal creation and program development for individual students. Furthermore, results are utilized in discussions with students and parents when appropriate. Sustained focus on developing the QSIL permeates every aspect of life at WPS from discussions with peers and faculty within the classroom, to clear expectations for extra-curricular activities. Students then are able to adopt these qualities into their own set of values.

What is the Winston Innovation Lab?

The Winston Innovation Lab focuses on creating, refining and supporting all iterations of the Winston Preparatory School. Specifically, the Winston Innovation Lab continues to develop and expand projects and programs related to campus Professional Development, Teacher Excellence and Leadership Development Program, Qualities of a Sustainable and Independent Learner, Lives Over Time and Promoting Wellness Among Middle and High School Students, as well as respond to the needs of the campuses and expand on projects and areas in need of research. The Winston Innovation Lab is deeply connected to the campuses, and serves as an intellectual meeting place for the field of learning disabilities and WPS leaders and teachers. It is a place where WPS school leaders can come with their questions, curiosities and ideas to further stimulate collaboration and research. With the formal establishment of this already flourishing fifth pillar of WPS, it is hoped that WPS will be further recognized as a leader in the field of learning disorders and education, as well as deepen partnerships, funding and research opportunities.

Is there a focus on social and emotional learning at Winston Online?

At Winston Online, we are proud of our focus on Social Emotional Learning and School Climate. The focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) takes many forms at Winston Prep, but comes from a belief that social emotional competencies are as important as academic ones. At Winston Prep, we strive to teach students not only how to read and write, but also the principles of conflict resolution, group decision-making, effective communication, personal responsibility, the ability to form relationships and the ability to set and achieve goals. SEL is integrated into a student's curriculum throughout the day at Winston Prep. Within content classes at Winston, the curriculum is carefully chosen not only to broaden student's horizons in terms of their appreciation of art and culture, but also to encourage them to take on multiple perspectives and foster empathy toward others. SEL also takes place during Focus, where teachers may pair their students with others to work on conflict resolution or social decision-making in the moment. Further emphasis is put on these characteristics via the QSIL and Winston's grading system. Students are not only given feedback on their course work but also on their ability to internalize the social emotional skills that will make them lifelong independent learners.

At Winston Prep we celebrate and remediate each student's individual strengths and weaknesses. Although we are not a therapeutic school for students with primary social or emotional disorders, we recognize that many of the challenges of learning may carry over into the social realm. For example, a student with a nonverbal learning disability may have difficulty understanding the nonverbal information communicated in a social interaction. For these students, social problem solving may be one of the main components of their education. In this case, they will work closely with their teachers to analyze and understand social misunderstandings and conflicts when they occur. At Winston Prep, we view these social misunderstandings or conflicts as teachable moments from which students can further expand their social problem solving skills.

Winston Prep is proud of its partnership with the National School Climate Center (NSCC). As part of this liaison, students, teachers and parents have participated in NSCC's annual school climate survey. Notable results included that Winston students ranked Community and Collaboration, Respect for Diversity, and Social Emotional Safety as the top three strengths of their school. Both Winston parents and teachers rated Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning as the greatest strength of WPS's program. Winston students reported that they feel physically and emotionally safe at WPS and that their teachers respect and understand them. This climate of respect and understanding is what enables Winston students to learn about Language, Literature and Math, but also about themselves and others.

Does Winston Prep use a particular decoding instructional program?

Winston Prep uses a variety of instructional methods to address students' needs. Faculty development ensures that all teachers are familiar with various methods of remediation to be used with students including, but not limited to, Orton-Gillingham, Wilson Reading Program, Preventing Academic Failure (PAF), and Lindamood-Bell.

Does Winston give grades?

Upon completion of each semester, narrative progress reports and grades are sent home to families. All students will receive a letter and number grade for each class. Grades are based upon the following criteria with consideration towards cohort objectives and a student's individualized goals: *Progress and Performance* (e.g., class work, graded assignments, homework, exams), *Participation* (e.g., preparedness, class participation, cooperation/collaboration), and *Commitment/Effort* (e.g., openness to instruction, consistency of effort, self-advocacy, problem solving, willingness to take risks). Faculty review of the grading system is ongoing with students, providing a sense of understanding of expectations both within the academic setting, as well as outside of the school environment.

What is the background of Winston Prep teachers?

Winston Prep teachers come from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds. Many WPS teachers are professionals in the field of Learning Disabilities with degrees or careers as Speech and Language Pathologists, Reading Specialists, or Special Education Teachers. Faculty workshops provide development of instruction for, and understanding of, students who "learn differently."

Admissions

What is Winston Prep's application process?

Winston Preparatory School accepts students on a rolling basis. The application can be completed through School Admin on our website or by contacting jksiegel@winstonprep.edu. A neuropsychological or psychoeducational evaluation is required in order to begin considering your child for enrollment.

Upon receipt of your child's application, the Admissions Committee will review your application in an initial screening. If the Committee believes the applicant may be an appropriate match for our program, your child will be invited for a virtual school visit and interview. Through the admissions process, the Committee begins to develop an understanding of your child's unique profile of strengths and weaknesses, and identifies whether Winston's educational philosophy can meet the needs of your child's learning profile. All applicants will be notified of the Committee's findings within three weeks of the initial screening and/or interview.

What is the tuition, and how do I finance a Winston Prep Education?

Winston Online has different tuition rates for different programs. Winston Preparatory School offers various financial assistance resources in an effort to be as accessible as possible to all of our accepted families, regardless of financial status. Loan programs, payment plans, discounted tuition, and assistance with district funding mechanisms are some of the ways WPS assists families. Families can apply for a discounted tuition by submitting SSS forms (<http://sssbynais.org/>) and their most recent W2 tax statements. Assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis by an internal finance committee. Currently, WPS does not have financial awards or endowed scholarships based on other qualifications such as merit, ethnic, or religious affiliations.

For all questions regarding tuition, funding, and financial aid, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Ramirez at (646)343-9080 ext 2205, or eramirez@winstonprep.edu.

What types of students are not appropriate for Winston Online?

Winston is a school for students with specific learning disorders, such as dyslexia, ADHD and Nonverbal Learning Disorders. WPS does not accept students with primary psychological or behavioral disorders, as Winston Online is not a therapeutic setting.

The Future

Do Winston Prep students mainstream prior to graduation?

Our goal is for our students to become independent learners beyond the walls of Winston Prep, and utilizing the QSIL, Continuous Feedback System, and ongoing assessments allow us to monitor progress and continually challenge our students. We encourage an ongoing and open dialogue between the child's family and the Winston Online Program Coordinator to determine when greater independence is achieved and to identify the types of options that may be appropriate as the next step for the student.

What kind of diploma do Winston Online graduates earn?

Winston Online is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which allows for students to graduate with an Independent School Diploma.

How does Winston facilitate the college application process?

The staff at Winston Online works closely with families, Focus teachers, and the Winston Online Program Coordinator to facilitate the college or post-graduate program application process. The process begins in the junior year where a meeting is scheduled for the family to meet to develop their post-Winston college or transitional plan. Winston supports families that wish to partner with outside consultants, however ask that these relationships remain collaborative to ensure communication and responsibilities are clear for each party. We encourage families to visit colleges and programs during the summer preceding their

senior year, to provide a better understanding of schools of interest. Focus instructors share in the preparation of the college application plan and are in constant communication with families to help ensure a smooth application process and transition to post-secondary options.

What post-secondary programs and colleges do Winston Prep graduates attend? Most Winston students choose to continue their education after Winston in college, while some attend alternative post-secondary options, including technical training programs, internship programs, and programs that continue to promote vocational and life skills. The list on the following page of academic institutions represents the range of colleges and programs that Winston students have been accepted to over the past years.

Thank you!

We hope this information has provided an additional insight into a child's experience at Winston Online. For further information, please contact our Director of Admissions, Kelly Thompson, at kthompson@winstonprep.edu.

College Acceptances

Below is a sampling of colleges, universities, and post-graduate programs that have offered admission to Winston students in the past 3 years:

Adelphi University	McDaniel College
Agnes Scott College	Mercy College
Berklee College of Music	Mitchell College
Centenary University	Mount Ida College
Champlain College	Muhlenberg College
Collective School of Music	Muskingum University
Concordia College	New England Institute of Technology
Cornell College	Norwalk Community College
Curry College	Pace University
Dean College	Pennsylvania College of Technology
Denison University	Quinnipiac University
Dickinson College	Randolph Macon College
Fairfield University	Ringling College of Art and Design
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Roger Williams University
Fordham University	Sacred Heart University
Framingham State University	Saint Thomas Aquinas College
Franklin & Marshall College	Savannah College of Art and Design
Furman University	School of Visual Arts
Goucher College	Southern Connecticut State University
Hawaii Pacific University	SUNY @ Alfred
Hobart & William Smith College	SUNY @ Cobleskill
Hofstra University	SUNY @ Delhi
Iona College	SUNY @ Fredonia
Johnson & Wales University	SUNY @ Morrisville
Landmark College	SUNY @ Purchase
Long Island University - CW Post	Thames @ Mitchell College
Lynn University	The College of Wooster
Manhattan College	The New School
Manhattanville College	University of Connecticut
Marist College	

University of Hartford
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina @ Wilmington
Western Connecticut State University
Wheaton College

Alternative Post-Secondary

Selections:

Chapel Haven
College Internship Program
Giant Step
GROW @ Riverview School
Impact U @ Concordia College
Institute for Collegiate and Career
Studies @ Maplebrook School
Threshold Program @ Lesley University
Transitions CT
Vermont Academy
Winston Transitions