

# **WINSTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL - Long Island**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### **Winston Prep's Philosophy & Programmatic Design**

#### ***How does Winston's educational philosophy determine my child's class grouping?***

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 described 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 school-based leadership team analyzes student assessment data from the admissions process, and aims to place students into 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 are the Qualities of a Sustainable and Independent Learner (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. WPS in collaboration with the National School Climate Center developed a survey to help assess a student's areas of strength and weakness in terms of the Qualities of a Sustainable and Independent Learner. All students and teachers complete the QSIL Survey once a year in the spring. Reports are generated from the results, 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, Qualities of a Sustainable and Independent Learner, Lives Over Time and Promoting Wellness Among 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.

The Winston Innovation Lab is founded on the ideas that:

1. School design should be informed by an in-depth and scientific understanding of how each individual learns.
2. This understanding should include and address a student's strengths and weaknesses and is always based on an evolving understanding of cognition and learning.
3. In keeping with the Continuous Feedback Process of WPS, the Winston Innovation Lab seeks to help our schools (and perhaps the field) become even more responsive to the ever-changing needs of each individual student.
4. The Winston Innovation Lab seeks to foster independence and wellness through the development of the Qualities of a Sustainable and Independent Learner. This means we seek to develop ways to improve students' resilience, communication/social skills, self-advocacy, self-regulation, self-reflection, problem-solving, social responsibility and management and organization, in addition to academic skills.
5. Winston Innovation Lab believes in the power of the increased refinement of educationally related assessment and diagnosis, and seeks to do work to increasingly differentiate different types of learners from each other.
6. Winston Innovation Lab believes in the power of partnerships with like-minded organizations, such as the National School Climate Center, Child Mind Institute, NVLD Project, Landmark College, NAIS, NYSAIS and NEASC.

### ***Is there a focus on social and emotional learning at Winston Prep?***

At Winston Prep, 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 Deans and 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, The Orton-Gillingham method, and aspects of the 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 a student's individualized goals/objectives: *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.

***What is the Summer Enrichment Program, and who usually attends?***

The Summer Enrichment Program at Winston Preparatory School provides students with the unique opportunity to participate in an individually designed program aimed to enhance academic skills and foster independence. It is taught by Winston Prep teachers, using the same model and philosophy as during the academic year. Parents have the flexibility to create an academic program specifically matched to the needs of their child. While the program is open to Winston Prep students, it is generally attended by students from other school settings who wish to skill-build over the summer months. It is also a popular option for our new students to help transition into September.

**Student Experience**

***What is the school day like?***

Students arrive at approximately 8:00am and first period begins at 8:15am. Each period is 47 minutes, and the school day ends at 2:45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday classes are 30 minutes with dismissal at 12:30pm to allow for meetings and professional workshops. Students attend one period each of language skills, literature, mathematics, history, science and Focus, our one-to-one daily program. In addition, students have one period per day that alternates between physical education and art. Classes are designed based upon each class groups' learning profile, being mindful of the interests and strengths of the students.

***Why is there a half-day on Wednesdays? Is there an option for students to stay at school?***

Every Wednesday, students are dismissed at 12:30pm to provide teachers the opportunity to meet for professional development and team meetings. These team meetings allow Deans, content teachers, and Focus teachers to discuss each group of students and implement the Continuous Feedback System, as well as have discussions related to best practices and latest research. Wednesday afternoon activities are available for students and take place between 1:00 - 2:00pm.

***What happens at lunchtime?***

Winston provides supervised lunch periods for all students. Students are provided a full class period to eat with friends and are offered recess time outside or within our gymnasium during inclement weather and winter months. For those who wish to remain in the lunchroom, there are art supplies, games, puzzles, and cards that are available to them. On Fridays, students can order and pay for pizza which is delivered by a local restaurant. Students are encouraged to bring a nut-free lunch and snacks to school as some of our students have nut allergies.



***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 we have provided after-school activities such as art, sports, chess/checkers, cooking, video games, coding, legos, Winston lends a hand community service, iMovie, animal club, and a drama production group, the *Winston Prep Players*. We also offer study hall on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. As a small school, we are supportive of responding to the interests of our community and plan to continue to develop after school sports and activities based upon our dialogue with families and students. Activities and study hall take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00pm and on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00pm.

***How many students are in each class?***

Winston classes typically have between eight and twelve students with one teacher. 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. Meaningfully, our overall faculty to student ratio is 1:3.

***What is the ratio of boys to girls?***

The average ratio within the schools is 60:40, boys to girls. Although it has become apparent that boys are historically more frequently diagnosed with learning differences than are girls, we have achieved a nearly equal ratio and work to maintain this balance every year.

***Do students have a homeroom?***

The Focus instructor – representing our 1:1 daily program - acts as the student's "home base." At Winston, all students go directly to their first period classes at 8:15am. While they may or may not have Focus first period of the day, our Focus instructors see their students every day and are frequently in touch with parents and content area teachers to communicate goals, methodologies and progress, as well as to discuss any concerns that may arise. Focus instructors, supervised by leadership members, receive frequent feedback, professional development and peer support to further coordinate their roles and responsibilities.

***What is Winston's homework policy?***

Our overarching goal of creating independent, self-reflective learners is directly applied in our approach to homework. We view homework as a valuable way to reinforce skills presented in the classroom, and as an assessment tool that allows teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of classroom instruction and learning strategies unique to the learning style of each student. It is an extension of learning that allows for daily practice of skills presented during class, and the amount and difficulty of assignments is reflective of each student's level of skill in that area. With Dean collaboration, teachers design homework assignments to be completed without parental help. We emphasize *quality* over *quantity*, and that mistakes are a part of learning that help us understand where a student needs additional support. We have found that this approach facilitates our students' sense of accomplishment, as well as relieving our parents of homework duty.



***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.

**Admissions**

***What is Winston Prep's application process for the Long Island Campus?***

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from families that are interested in their child attending WPS Long Island. Applications can be acquired by contacting Karen Preston at [kpreston@winstonprep.edu](mailto:kpreston@winstonprep.edu). A completed application is required in order to consider your child for placement. 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 visit and interview. Through the pre-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 Prep's tuition for 2020-2021 is \$71,200. The tuition allows Winston to employ leading educators in their fields while also maintaining small class sizes and a low student to teacher ratio. 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 Liz Ramirez at (646)343-9080 ext 2205, or [eramirez@winstonprep.edu](mailto:eramirez@winstonprep.edu).

***Does Winston offer transportation?***

Requests for transportation to or from school should be directed to the individual's local school district. Winston does not provide transportation and all communication occurs between the family and school district regarding our school schedule, vacations and after school activities.

***What types of students are not appropriate for WPS?***

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.



## **Post-Winston Experience**

### ***Do Winston Prep students mainstream prior to graduation?***

Winston Prep mainstreams an average 10-15 students each year. 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 Dean 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 graduates earn?***

Winston Prep 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?***

Our Leadership Team works closely with families and Focus teachers 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 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 and families to help ensure a smooth application process and transition to post-secondary options.

### ***Do students take the PSAT, SAT, or ACT?***

Many WPS students do take the PSAT, SAT and ACT. Our Leadership team partners with parents to determine and apply for accommodations as necessary and coordinate an appropriate testing site. The appropriateness of taking College Board exams is based on our working understanding of the student's profile, and individual conversations with the student's Dean, parents, and the Transition Team. Winston Prep does not provide on-site ACT administration.

### ***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 represents the range of post-Winston programs students have been accepted to over the past years.



## **Post-Winston Acceptances**

Below is a list of some of the Post-Secondary acceptances our students have received over the past five years.

Adelphi University	Eugene Lang College
Allegheny College	Fairfield University
American University	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Bennington College	Fashion Institute of Technology
Berklee College of Music	Five Towns College
Biola University	Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus
Brooklyn School of Music	Franklin & Marshall College
California Baptist University	George Mason University
California Institute of the Arts	Giant Steps Services
Castleton University	Goucher College
Cazenovia College	Green Mountain College
Centenary University	Guilford College
Champlain College	Hampshire College
Clark University	Hartwick College
Coastal Carolina University	High Point University
College Internship Program	Hofstra University
College of Charleston	Hope International University
College of St. Rose	Institute of Culinary Education
Concordia College	Iona College
Concordia University, Irvine	Ithaca College
Cornell University	Johnson & Wales University
CUNY	Johnson State College
- Borough of Manhattan Community College	Kent State University
- Brooklyn College	King's College
- Guttman Community College	Landmark College
- Hunter College	LaSalle University
- Kingsborough Community College	Lasell College
- Lehman College	Lesley University
- NYC College of Technology	Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus)
- Queens College	Long Island University- Post Campus
Curry College	Lynn University
Dean College	Manhattanville College
Drew University	Mansfield Hall
Drexel University	Maplebrook Institute Collegiate & Career Studies
Eckerd College	Marist College
Emerson College	



Marlboro College  
Maryland Institute College of Art  
Marymount Manhattan College  
McDaniel College  
Mercy College  
Midreshet Amit  
Mitchell College  
Moore College of Art & Design  
Mount Saint Mary College  
Muhlenberg College  
Nassau Community College  
New York Institute of Technology  
New York School of Interior Design  
New York University  
Niagara College  
Northeastern University  
Norwich University  
Pace University  
Pacific Northwest College of Art  
Parsons School of Design  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Pratt Institute  
Quinnipiac University  
Rider University  
Ringling College of Art and Design  
Riverview School GROW Program  
Rockland Community College  
Roger Williams University  
Sacred Heart University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
School of the Visual Arts  
St. John's University  
St. Thomas Aquinas College

SUNY  
- Albany  
- Alfred State  
- Buffalo  
- Cobleskill  
- Cortland  
- Delhi  
- Fashion Institute of Technology  
- Morrisville  
- New Paltz  
- Oneonta  
- Oswego  
- Plattsburgh  
- Polytechnic Institute  
- Potsdam  
- Purchase  
Syracuse University  
Thames Academy  
The New School  
Threshold Program at Lesley University  
Union College  
University of Arizona  
University of Bridgeport  
University of Colorado  
University of Connecticut  
University of Denver  
University of Hartford  
University of New Haven  
University of Tampa  
University of the Arts  
University of Vermont  
Ursinus College  
Vanguard University  
Vermont Academy  
Warren Wilson College  
Washington College  
Westmont College  
Wheaton College  
Winston Transitions



**We hope this information has provided an additional insight into a child's experience at Winston Prep. For further information, please contact our Director of Admissions, Karen Preston, at [kpreston@winstonprep.edu](mailto:kpreston@winstonprep.edu) or (631) 779-2400 x2404.**

