



SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY & FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

WHAT IS WHEATON
ACADEMY'S APPROACH
TO EDUCATION? WHAT DO
WE EXPECT FROM OUR
STUDENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES?



WHEATON ACADEMY

WHEATON ACADEMY PHILOSOPHY

PARTNERSHIP

The mission of Wheaton Academy is “to nurture growth in our students through relationships, excellence, and service to the glory of God.” We believe biblically that “training up a child in the way they should go” is the parents’ responsibility. Accordingly, we see Wheaton Academy as an available partner in the education process for parents who desire a consistent philosophy of Christian education from the home, church, and school. Our Statement of Faith, Curriculum Guide, and Student Handbook provide an overview of our guiding educational philosophies. Families are encouraged to review these documents together as they consider applying for admission at Wheaton Academy.



STUDENT CULTURE

At Wheaton Academy our student culture is founded on the belief that students who are seeking to live out their relationship with Christ can be treated maturely, trusted appropriately, and held accountable in ways that reflect respect for students as individuals. This attitude toward students serves to intentionally create an environment specifically geared to help teenagers flourish. The Wheaton Academy student culture is designed for the mature, and those who are responsible, respectful, and motivated will absolutely flourish. Students are trusted but simultaneously held accountable to be good stewards of their opportunities.

These are the fundamental principles that guide our intentional efforts to build a culture unique to Wheaton Academy:

- We focus on the positive and emphasize the results of doing things right and experiencing positive natural consequences. We share the joy of living God's way. We work to help students discover their potential. Too often, teenagers are told what they cannot do rather than encouraged and empowered to live in such a way that they become a positive influence and make an impact for Christ's kingdom.
- We take our core standards seriously. Expectations like obedience, integrity, and respect are God's standards and accordingly are non-negotiable. At the same time, we work to avoid cluttering our culture with an endless list of "do nots." We expect that students will follow the school standards and be responsible. When students violate that trust, they will be held accountable, and the situation will be taken seriously.
- We value the individual. We believe the uniqueness of the individual should not be lost. Teachers work hard to see students for their individual strengths. Students respond when they sense they are known and valued individually.

- We are student-centered. We seek to organize our activities and schedules around what is best for student learning. That is not to say students set the goals or make the rules. Rather, we are interested in incorporating activities, practices, and policies that help students learn.
- We listen to teenagers. It sounds pretty simple, but it is amazing how often we overlook this powerful resource. Teachers ask their classes what is working. Coaches listen to their captains. We seek to tap into an incredible resource – direct feedback from those we work to impact. The result of listening is shared ownership in the result.
- We give students permission. Permission is given to create, innovate, dream, and lead now, not just in the future. Student leadership is a work in progress and, many times, imperfect and complex.
- We want students to impact and understand the world in ways that go beyond themselves. We intentionally give students opportunities to learn about and engage issues with the hope that they would invest in bringing Christ's redemption to our world. This includes relationships with their peers at other schools, our local community, and the global community at large.
- We believe peer pressure is valuable. We encourage and give opportunity for a majority of students who want to live a Christ-centered life to be an example to their peers. We want to teach students not only to “behave” but also to be a positive influence in situations and to hold their friends accountable to Christ-centered living as well.
- We work at treating students with dignity. No one responds well to embarrassment, sarcasm, and pressure. Mistakes and correction are handled as privately as possible. The focus of our discipline is growth, maturity, and restoration. We realize there is something very valuable about the growth that

can come from failure that is handled well. But, just as God shapes us through His correction, our goal with students is always growth.

- We celebrate successes and believe in having fun. We want to elevate and promote excellence and effort and as a school community regularly celebrate successes. We want to laugh and have fun while experiencing the joy God intended for learning and growing.
- We expect all students to treat each other with respect because they are created in God's image. Conduct that subjects another person to unwanted attention, comments, or actions because of race, national origin, age, gender, physical characteristics, or disability does not reflect God's design for community. God calls us to build each other up in community so this type of destructive behavior will not be permitted.





STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
- We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature that leads them to sin in thought, word, and deed.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
- We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate.
- We believe in “that blessed hope,” the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to gather His elect, to raise the dead, to judge the nations, and to bring His Kingdom to fulfillment.
- We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

ACADEMICS

Wheaton Academy identifies itself as a college preparatory school with high academic standards and challenging expectations. Wheaton Academy students will take more courses and spend more time studying than most high school students. Students and parents should familiarize themselves with the Academy's academic and graduation requirements. To prepare for college and life, we believe a rigorous high school experience is good for students, thus Wheaton Academy students should be prepared to work hard.

At the same time, because our commitment is to serve the whole Christian family, we do not select students for enrollment solely on academic abilities. We strive to determine if a student can be successful at Wheaton Academy, while understanding that God has made each of us unique, gifted with certain abilities. Some students will have abilities that will show up more readily in the classroom, while others will not. Our objective is to help every student discover and develop his or her God-given abilities.

We will seek to understand if Wheaton Academy can meet the needs of students who have struggled academically, have been identified with learning differences, or may have difficulties with our curriculum. Our desire is to see all of our students succeed; therefore, we will compare the student's needs with the available support programs. If a program of intervention and support is deemed necessary through Wheaton Academy support programs or outside programs, participation in these programs may be an ongoing prerequisite of enrollment.

Parents do need to recognize that Wheaton Academy may not be the best fit for every student. Additionally, Wheaton Academy reserves the right to determine whether or not a student is a good fit for admission, continued enrollment, or re-enrollment.

APPLYING AT WHEATON ACADEMY

If your family desires a partnership between the Christian education at Wheaton Academy, the Christian church, and your Christian home, if the prospective student fits the description of the patterns described, and if the family desires a rigorous academic education, then prospective parents should review the policies and expectations and proceed according to the application process.



Believing that Christian education is a partnership between the Christian home and Christian school, and working in concert with the Christian church we affirm that:

- We are born-again, Bible-believing Christians who have accepted and continue to acknowledge Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.
- If as parents with authority over our child's education, we are not able to make the affirmation above, we agree to support the biblical teachings and guiding principles that Wheaton Academy takes from the Bible to educate our child.
- We have read and agree with the Statement of Faith of the school, and agree to have our child educated in accordance therewith.
- We have read the "Standards of Conduct" in the Student Handbook and agree to hold our student accountable to these goals.
- Furthermore, we commit to honoring and building a Kingdom Community at Wheaton Academy through our words, actions, and example.
- We are and will remain in regular attendance and active fellowship with a Bible-believing church. Specifically, we will nurture our child's regular involvement in the local church.
- We commit to take an active role in the ongoing education of our child. We will make an effort to attend school functions and activities.
- We commit to support the school and our child in prayer and follow biblical principles of communication (Matthew 18). Specifically, we will address any dissatisfaction with the school by resolving the matter with the person or persons directly involved rather than begin to spread criticism or hold a negative attitude in our hearts.
- We give the school authority to discipline our child within the bounds of the discipline policy and according to the "Standards of Conduct" in the Student Handbook. As partners, we agree to support the school's efforts to nurture personal responsibility and accountability in our student.
- We agree that the information disclosed at any point during the admissions process may be shared with other school personnel. This ensures that the school is equipped in supporting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of the applicant upon acceptance Wheaton Academy.
- We agree to meet all tuition and other financial obligations. If we face potentially changing financial situations, we will communicate with the Business Office in a timely and open manner.
- We agree to contribute financially to the school as the Lord provides and we are able.
- We agree to demonstrate and model respect for authority including good sportsmanship at Wheaton Academy athletic events.
- We agree to model our family culture on biblical principles and embrace biblical family values such as a healthy marriage between one man and one woman. We will take our role as spiritual mentors to our children seriously.
- If at any time we are no longer in agreement with Wheaton Academy school philosophy, standards, or practices, we agree to withdraw our student.

We understand and are in agreement with the philosophy of Wheaton Academy as outlined in this document.

Father's Signature

Date

Mother's Signature

Date

Wheaton Academy exists to provide a learning environment that is consistent with the values of the Christian home and church. Consequently, students who desire to grow in their faith while becoming prepared for college and a life of service are encouraged to apply. As a student applicant to Wheaton Academy, I affirm that:

- I am a born-again, Bible-believing, Christ-honoring Christian, or
- I do not know Christ as my personal Lord and Savior yet, but I desire to grow in my understanding.
- I have read and wholeheartedly agree to live by the guidelines for Christian living as outlined in the Wheaton Academy “Standards of Conduct.”
- I commit to honoring and building a Kingdom Community at Wheaton Academy through my words, actions, and example.
- I will be regularly and actively involved in the community of a Bible-believing church.
- I have and will continue to demonstrate a pattern of positive influence on peers and a perceptible pattern of choosing good influences (whether it is people, music, movies, etc.) for myself.
- I have demonstrated (through report cards, teacher references, standardized test scores, and a pattern of effort) academic readiness for the college preparatory curriculum at Wheaton Academy.
- I believe I am sufficiently mature to function appropriately in the Wheaton Academy culture. I will demonstrate self-control, respectful behavior, and a proper sense of decorum as basic expectations of myself.
- I have demonstrated through past performance a pattern of excellence in effort. If this pattern has not been consistent, my family and I have a plan to address any deficiencies.
- In addition to my parents’ desire, I want to be a student at Wheaton Academy in order to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically for the ultimate purpose of using my life and gifts to honor God.
- I understand that Wheaton Academy reserves the right to withdraw my admissions decision prior to the start of school if, by Wheaton Academy’s judgment, my action, attitudes, or beliefs are no longer aligned with Wheaton Academy standards or beliefs.

I understand and am in agreement with the philosophy of Wheaton Academy as outlined in this document.

Student’s Signature

Date



**RELATIONSHIPS, EXCELLENCE, AND
SERVICE TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

Wheaton Academy

900 Prince Crossing Road, West Chicago, IL 60185

630-562-7501 | www.wheatonacademy.org