

The Willows Academy

1012 Thacker Street – Des Plaines, IL 60016 – 847-824-6900 – Fax: 847-824-7089
www.willowsacademy.org – CEEB code: 142074



School Background

The Willows Academy, founded in 1974, is an independent, college preparatory school serving 205 young women from 6th through 12th grade. The Willows Academy offers an academic program of the highest caliber, a moral atmosphere and character education to instill lifelong values, with religious formation that is inspired by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The spirit of service is an integral element of The Willows experience. A low faculty/student ratio fosters growth in character and encourages students to rise to the challenges of academic excellence.

Academic Summary

The Willows offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. All classes are taught at the Honors, Accelerated or AP level. The Willows Academy does not rank due to small class sizes. GPAs are PARTIALLY weighted. Honors classes are assigned NO extra weight. Accelerated classes carry a weight of 0.33, and AP classes carry a weight of 0.67. The transcript will reflect both a weighted and a non-weighted GPA. Individual course grades are not weighted. The Willows does NOT include standardized test scores on the transcript. Students have their test scores sent directly from the testing agency.

Character Education & Service Learning

A formal character education program provides opportunities for students to learn about and to practice human virtues. Each student has an advisor who guides her in areas such as approaches to academic studies and social skills. In addition, Willows students are called to commit themselves to service. Each student is expected to perform 40 hours of service per year.

Honor Societies

The Willows sponsors chapters of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Société Honoraire de Français, and Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. Members of these societies serve in the school's peer tutoring program.

Athletics

A member of the Illinois High School Association, The Willows fields teams in volleyball, cross country, basketball, softball, and soccer. In addition, students compete for The Willows in swimming, tennis, and golf. Emphasis is placed on sportsmanship and commitment.

Drama

Outside of the fine arts curriculum, students have the opportunity to participate in a Fall Play and a Spring Musical.

Extracurricular Organizations & Clubs

To foster interest in areas outside of the classroom, The Willows sponsors numerous extracurricular activities including: A Team – School Ambassadors, Art Club, School Newspaper, Creative Writing Club, Environmental Club, International Club, Asian Club, Respect Life Club, Student Athletic Council, Student Council, World Youth in Science and Engineering Team (WYSE), Poms Squad, Yearbook.

Advanced Placement Testing

AP European History
AP US History

AP English Language
AP English Literature

AP French Language
AP Spanish Language

AP Chemistry
AP Biology

AP Calculus AB



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High School Course Offerings & Graduation Requirements

English: 4 Credits

Honors Introduction to Literary Studies & Writing
 Honors World Literature & Writing
 Honors American Literature & Writing
 or American Studies – English
 AP English Literature or Honors British Literature & Writing

History: 4 Credits

Honors Ancient and Medieval History
 Honors Modern World History
 AP U.S. History or American Studies – History
 AP European History or Honors European History

Foreign Language: 4 Credits

Honors French I, II, III & IV or AP French
 Honors Spanish I, II, III & IV or AP Spanish
 Honors Latin II, III & IV

Theology: 4 Credits

Sacred Scripture
 Life of Christ
 Church History
 Moral Theology
 Philosophy

Science: 4 Credits

Honors Biology
 Honors Chemistry or Accelerated Chemistry
 Honors Physics or Accelerated Physics
 AP Advanced Biology, AP Advanced Chemistry
 or Honors Anatomy and Physiology

Mathematics: 4 Credits

Honors Geometry or Honors Algebra I
 Honors Algebra II or Honors Geometry
 Honors Pre-Calculus or Honors Algebra II
 AP Calculus AB, Honors Pre-Calculus or Honors Statistics

Fine Arts or Technology Electives: 2 Credits

Art, Choir, Chamber Choir, Handbell Choir,
 Instrumental Ensemble, Voice, Music Theory,
 Form and Analysis, Aural Skills, History of Opera
 Introduction to Computer Graphics, C++ Programming

Physical Education/Health: 2 Credits

Technology – Computer Applications: 1 Credit

Summer Reading: 4 Units

Community Service Hours: 40 hours/year

Class of 2008 Academic Statistics

Number in Class: 48
 Percentage College Bound: 100 percent
 National Merit Commended: 1
 National Hispanic Merit: 1
 Illinois State Scholars: 7
 AP Scholars: 5
 AP Scholars with Honors: 3
 AP Scholars with Distinction: 3
 National Honor Society Members: 25
 Mu Alpha Theta Members: 18
 Community Service: In total over 4,100 hours

Class of 2009 Academic Statistics

Number in Class: 46
 Percentage College Bound: 98 percent
 National Merit Finalists: 1
 National Merit Semi Finalists: 1
 National Merit Commended: 1
 Illinois State Scholars: 14
 AP Scholars: 6
 AP Scholars with Honors: 4
 AP Scholars with Distinction: 1
 National Honor Society Members: 32
 Mu Alpha Theta Members: 21
 Community Service: In total over 4,000 hours

Testing Information

ACT

Subject	2008 Mean	2009 Mean	State Mean
English	27.2	29.2	20.4
Math	25.1	28.0	20.7
Reading	25.5	28.8	20.6
Science	25.0	27.0	20.5
Composite	25.3	26.3	20.7

SAT

Subject	2008 Mean	2009 Mean	State Mean
CR	623	613	583
Math	628	600	601
Writing	634	611	578

Class Statistics

Year	Class Size	ACT Average	Merit Scholarship
2007	28	27.5	\$1.7 mill
2008	48	25.3	\$3.9 mill
2009	46	26.3	\$3.2 mill
Illinois		20.7	

In 2007, 18 students took 57 AP Exams. 89% received a 3 or higher.
 In 2008, 29 students took 83 AP Exams. 82% received a 3 or higher.
 In 2009, 33 students took 75 AP Exams. 73% received a 3 or higher.

Since 2007 our goal has been to increase participation in the AP program. Scores include International Students.

Grade Scale

Letter	Range	Honors	Accelerated	AP	
A	95-100	4.00	4.33	4.67	
A-	93-94	3.67	4.00	4.33	
B+	91-92	3.33	3.67	4.00	
B	87-90	3.00	3.33	3.67	
B-	85-86	2.67	3.00	3.33	
C+	83-84	2.33	2.67	3.00	
C	79-82	2.00	2.33	2.67	
C-	77-78	1.67	2.00	2.33	
D+	75-76	1.33	1.67	2.00	
D	71-74	1.00	1.33	1.67	
D-	69-70	0.67	1.00	1.33	
F	0-68	0.00	0.00	0.00	
P	Pass				
I	Incomplete	Dean's List: 95 – 100 with no grade below 85			
W	Withdrawal	Honor Roll: 85 – 94 with no grade below 77			

Summer School Coursework appears on our transcript, but the grades are not calculated into the GPA.

Colleges and Universities That Have Accepted Willows Graduates

Ninety-nine percent of the graduates of The Willows Academy are accepted into and attend accredited colleges and universities across the country and abroad.

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE	LAFAYETTE COLLEGE	THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	LAKE FOREST COLLEGE	TUFTS UNIVERSITY
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO	LAKELAND COLLEGE	TULANE UNIVERSITY
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE	LEWIS AND CLARK	UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY	LORAS COLLEGE	UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA – SPAIN
BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY	LOYOLA UNIVERSITY – HONORS PROGRAM	UNIVERSIDAD LA AUSTRAL – ARGENTINA
BOSTON COLLEGE	LYNCHBURG COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	MACALESTER COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
BRADLEY UNIVERSITY	MAINE COLLEGE OF ART	UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS
BUTLER UNIVERSITY	MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
CARNEGIE MELLON	MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY	MCDANIEL COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA	MIAMI UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COLGATE UNIVERSITY	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII – MANOA
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS	MICHIGAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS – URBANA CHAMPAIGN
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY	MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
COLLEGE OF WOOSTER	MILLIKEN UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY	MOUNT MERCY COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY	NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
DRAKE UNIVERSITY	NORWICH UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND
DREXEL UNIVERSITY	OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY	PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY	PRATT COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON
FURMAN UNIVERSITY	PROVIDENCE COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – WHITEWATER
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY	PURDUE UNIVERSITY	URSINUS COLLEGE
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY	RHODES COLLEGE	VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
HAMILTON COLLEGE	SAINT AMBROSE UNIVERSITY	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
HILLSDALE COLLEGE	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY	WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
HOPE COLLEGE	SAINT NORBERT COLLEGE	WHEATON COLLEGE
HOWARD UNIVERSITY	SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY – NEW YORK	XAVIER UNIVERSITY
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE, NOTRE DAME	
INDIANA UNIVERSITY	SIMMONS COLLEGE	
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY	
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	
KNOX COLLEGE	SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	
	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	





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