HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED.
Get ready to do school differently.

Early Childhood
Coed Toddler, Preschool, Prekindergarten & Kindergarten
Forward-focused preparation for the real world through the development of character and intellect
"I like Hawken School because it’s a happy place, and the teachers and kids are all nice. All the teachers and kids respect one another."

Kindergarten Student
“The main purpose for which the school exists is the development of character.”
James A. Hawken, Founder

At Hawken, we not only teach children to be great students, we teach them to be great people.

Our Early Childhood program allows students to experience the joys of childhood while developing the foundational knowledge and habits of mind to support lifelong learning. We believe that laying the groundwork for your child to live a happy, meaningful life requires not just mastery of skills but character traits like curiosity, honesty, initiative, and resilience.

That’s why our century-old motto of “Fair Play” permeates all that we do. It helps guide the thinking, speaking, and actions of every member of our community and creates responsible, empathetic citizens.

“Instilling in students the skills they need to become successful adults is a top priority at Hawken. But we believe that who students become is just as important as what they become. We intentionally create our innovative programming and our community culture of inclusiveness in ways that inspire our students to go out and be good people who do good things in the world.”
D. Scott Looney, Head of School

To meet our Head of School, visit hawken.edu/HeadofSchool
“Help the child to feel, to see and to hear; to wonder, admire and revere; to believe, hope and love.”

James A. Hawken, Founder
Early childhood students are innately creative beings. We nurture your child’s creativity at every turn, fostering a love of exploration and the joy of discovery.

Research has proven that children in the early developmental stages of growth learn best when given the time and space to explore and play. Purposeful play helps children learn how to make decisions and choices. When your child spends time engaged in activities that he or she cares about, confidence flourishes.

That’s why there is essentially no distinction between work and play in our early childhood program; work is play and play is work. Every activity and interaction is geared toward helping your child develop into a capable, caring, and resourceful learner.

“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.”

David Sobel

“Connecting children to the natural world is one of the most important responsibilities of an educator. Getting muddy, enjoying rain on our faces and feeling the earth with our bare feet are precious gifts we give to our children.”

Mary Beth Hilborn
Interim Co-Director of Lower School

For more information on Hawken’s Early Childhood curriculum, visit hawken.edu/EarlyChildhood
Hawken’s Early Childhood program is unique and extraordinary. We deliberately craft strong, personal relationships with each family, allowing us to know every student as if he or she were our own. Guiding students and their families through their first years of school is an honor and a responsibility that we take seriously.”

Sara Milbourn, Early Childhood Teacher
A learning environment that says, “You are valued.”

Because children perform best when they feel known and cared for, Hawken teachers work to create a safe environment that sets the tone for the development of your child’s innate curiosity. Emphasizing a student-centered approach, teachers attend to each child as he or she makes discoveries and observations about the world. In this supportive atmosphere, your child will develop confident, positive attitudes toward school.

Through reassuring routines that include greeting each child by name during Morning Meeting and a warm farewell from the teacher at the end of the day, your child will quickly come to understand that he or she is part of a caring and inclusive community. This sense of engagement and self worth will inspire in your child the confidence and desire to make a difference in his or her classroom and beyond.

“You want a happy child. Hawken is a joyful learning environment, and the teachers make it so.” —Hawken Parent
“My personal philosophy is that if we are mindful of our pedagogy, challenging ourselves to be inclusive and ensuring that the most marginalized or underrepresented among us feel like they are a member and not a guest in the community, that helps everyone.”

Darnell Epps, Director of Fair Play
Hawken School’s original rule book from 1915 consisted of two words: Fair Play. Today, you will still find Fair Play signs on the walls of all Hawken classrooms – a reminder of our school’s emphasis on the importance of character. The concept remains at the core of our community’s collective consciousness, and it helps to inform our programming and our culture.

Hawken’s mission calls upon us to periodically examine the meaning of Fair Play through a new lens – the feminist movement and the civil rights movement being perhaps the most notable historical examples. Today, we find ourselves at a similar pivotal point in our story as we prepare our students for an increasingly complex, global world. That’s why “Deepening Fair Play: Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice” is a strategic priority at Hawken. Through our developing DEIJ programming, students are encouraged to learn from the stories and life experiences of others, build empathy, and create a culture of belonging and inclusiveness.

**Early Childhood Highlights:**
The Identity Project supports students in exploring their identity through self-portraits, family photos and portraits, and names.

The HOPE project involves the creation of HOPE lanterns and an artistic rendering of the word “HOPE” by prekindergarten students. The project culminates in the sharing of their artwork and the recitation of the “HOPE” poem pictured above.

“Hawken School’s steadfast commitment to diversity in all of its forms is rooted in our mission of ‘forward-focused preparation for the real world through the development of character and intellect.’ We honor the dignity of every human being, and we respect and value differences including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, political and social values, culture, religion, and physical ability. We believe that this commitment to diversity, equity, and social justice is vital to the realization and cultivation of character and intellect in our students.”

Excerpt from Hawken’s Diversity Statement
Facilities that welcome and inspire

A community space for our youngest students and their parents, the Nido is a physical reminder of the important partnership between family and school. Intentionally designed as a welcoming gathering place for parents, students, and teachers, the Nido encourages parent engagement and one-on-one time between student and teacher. The Nido also supports small group work for targeted learning and provides space for larger student assemblies.

This unique, stimulating environment invites your child to think in new and creative ways while facilitating his or her academic, social, and personal growth.
“The Nido, with its natural elements to allow for a range of sensory experiences, offers a central space for our youngest learners to work with teachers one-on-one, in small groups, and in larger community groups with a teacher. This flexibility allows us to meet the needs of children, offer diverse learning explorations, and celebrate what we enjoy most – being together in and supporting the natural joy of children.”

Brooke Marcy
Director of Early Childhood, Interim Co-Director of the Lower School
### Toddler Program

Children 18-35 months (child must be 18 months by September 30)

#### OPTION 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 Mornings</th>
<th>Monday-Friday</th>
<th>8:30-11:00 am</th>
<th>with doors opening at 8:00 am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Lunch**: may be added 1-5 days
  - 11:00-11:30 am

- **Afternoon Explorations**: may be added 1-5 days
  - 11:30 am - 2:45 pm

#### OPTION 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 Mornings</th>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday</th>
<th>8:30-11:00 am</th>
<th>with doors opening at 8:00 am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Lunch**: may be added 1-3 days
  - 11:00-11:30 am

- **Afternoon Explorations**: may be added 1-3 days
  - 11:30 am - 2:45 pm

#### OPTION 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Mornings</th>
<th>Thursday, Friday</th>
<th>8:30-11:00 am</th>
<th>with doors opening at 8:00 am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Lunch**: may be added 1-2 days
  - 11:00-11:30 am

- **Afternoon Explorations**: may be added 1-2 days
  - 11:30 am - 2:45 pm

*These options may be added prior to the start of school and at multiple times throughout the year.*

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### Program Options

Hawken’s Early Childhood Program offers families a range of choices to meet their needs, including early morning and late afternoon care. Toddler families can choose between two, three, five mornings; preschool families can choose between three, four, and five mornings; and prekindergarten is a five-morning program. Children enrolled in any of our early childhood programs have the option to stay through lunch or Afternoon Explorations.
**Preschool**
Children turning 3 years of age by September 30

**OPTION 1**
- 3 Mornings
  - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
  - 8:30-11:00 am
  - with doors opening at 8:00 am
- Lunch *
  - may be added 1-3 days
  - 11:00-11:45 am
- Afternoon Explorations *
  - may be added 1-3 days
  - 11:45 am-2:45 pm

**OPTION 2**
- 4 Mornings
  - Monday-Thursday
  - 8:30-11:00 am
  - with doors opening at 8:00 am
- Lunch *
  - may be added 1-4 days
  - 11:00-11:45 am
- Afternoon Explorations *
  - may be added 1-4 days
  - 11:45 am-2:45 pm

**OPTION 3**
- 5 Mornings
  - Monday-Friday
  - 8:30-11:00 am
  - with doors opening at 8:00 am
- Lunch *
  - may be added 1-5 days
  - 11:00-11:45 am
- Afternoon Explorations *
  - may be added 1-5 days
  - 11:45 am-2:45 pm

*These options may be added prior to the start of school and at multiple times throughout the year.

Prior to attending Hawken, we ask that preschoolers are able to use restroom facilities independently.

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**Prekindergarten**
Children turning 4 years of age by September 30

**OPTION 1**
- 5 Mornings
  - Monday-Friday
  - 8:30-11:00 am
  - with doors opening at 8:00 am
- Lunch *
  - may be added 1-5 days
  - 11:30 am -12:15 pm
- Afternoon Explorations *
  - may be added 1-5 days
  - 12:15-2:45 pm

*These options may be added prior to the start of school and at multiple times throughout the year.

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**Afternoon Explorations**
Afternoon Explorations are activities that promote creativity, imagination, and physical development. Experiences include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Science
- Large Motor Movement
- Visual & Dramatic Arts
- Music
- Global Connections
  - (Language & Culture)
- Natural World

Afternoon sessions end at 2:45 pm.

**Beyond the school day**
We offer the following before and after school programs to care for and engage students:

**Before and After Care** options are available for early childhood students Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until the beginning of the school day at 8:00 am and from 2:45 to 6:00 pm each afternoon. Students enrolled in After School Care enjoy playing in the familiar Nido environment as well as on the playground. This care can be scheduled regularly or on an as-needed basis and is billed by the hour at the end of each month.

Additionally, through our **Passport Program**, we offer students in prekindergarten through 6th grade the opportunity to participate in specialized classes. These classes are offered in the hours immediately following the school day and are taught by Hawken faculty and professionals from the community. Classes promote creativity, academic enrichment, physical activity, and relaxation for every student.
A day in the life: Toddler

• Whether beginning the day at Before Care (available from 7 am) or at the start of the Toddler Program morning (between 8-8:30 am), the transition from parent/caregiver to the classroom environment is respectful in pace, responding to the needs of the individual child.

• Parents/caregivers will have the opportunity to share any thoughts or important information with the teachers in person each morning. Teachers support families in the transition plan that has been developed cooperatively between home and school – a plan that will evolve throughout the year in response to the child’s development.

• Open Explorations provides time for children to separate from parents, interact with teachers and classmates, and engage with their school environment at a pace that meets their needs. A variety of activities and materials are provided to address large and small motor, language, sensory, social-emotional, and cognitive skills.

• Opportunities to develop and strengthen large motor skills are provided each day within the classroom, in the larger indoor community, in The Nido, and on the outdoor play area specifically designed for toddlers’ physical and social needs.

• Teachers provide time for individual and small group work each day, allowing for focused attention to and careful observation of each domain of development.

• Throughout the week, students are given additional opportunities to participate in music, language development, movement, and natural world explorations.

• Nutritious snacks are provided throughout the day based upon students’ individual needs.

“We believe that providing a respectful, responsive and relationship-based learning environment allows young children to grow and thrive socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically.”

Jenny Eshleman, Early Childhood Teacher
Toddler program highlights1

- Physically and emotionally safe learning spaces that are intentionally designed to nurture cognitive stimulation
- Sustained, uninterrupted time for toddler-initiated play, exploration, discovery, and interaction with other children
- Engagement of children through encouragement of active participation instead of passive observation
- Careful and sensitive observation by teachers of each child’s behaviors and interactions to promote understanding of and appropriate response to the child’s needs
- Clearly defined and consistent expectations and limits to enable the child to develop an understanding of routines

preschool/prekindergarten
A day in the life: Preschool & Prekindergarten

• The day begins with Morning Explorations where your child will interact with teachers and friends. Teachers greet and welcome every student and invite each one to read the Morning Message. The message introduces students to their day and includes an interactive component that promotes a sense of belonging and encourages them to become an active learner in their classroom community.

• Following Morning Explorations, students gather for Morning Meeting. This integral part of every school day acknowledges the importance of each individual in the classroom community and develops enthusiasm for learning together.

• Teacher-directed and student-initiated choices follow Morning Meeting. Experiences span a variety of interests including creative arts, building and construction, cooking, science inquiry, math awareness, language arts, and dramatic play. Students’ curiosity drives teacher-guided projects, which allow children to engage more deeply in topics of interest.

• Students participate in one or more special area classes every day. These include literacy (in addition to daily reading and writing activities in the classroom), music, library, and physical education.

• The Innovation Lab, utilized by all students in preschool through grade 8, features four distinctive learning areas: the Discovery Zone, the Fabrication Zone, the Innovation Zone, and the Engineering Loft, enabling our younger students to harness and channel their natural creativity and curiosity as they build confidence in their ability to identify and create solutions to problems.

• Students spend extended time exploring the natural world in Poutasse Woods on Hawken’s campus.

• Large motor skills are practiced and strengthened on a daily basis, utilizing both indoor and outdoor facilities. Each class meets once each week for a formal physical education class.

• The morning concludes with a Closing Meeting that may include read-alouds, poems, finger plays, sharing, or reflections. Reflecting on a day’s events is an important component of the learning process.

“My favorite thing is playing with my friends because it makes me happy and makes me feel safe, and I don’t worry about anything.”

Preschool Student
Preschool & Prekindergarten program highlights

- Academic and social curricula of equal importance
- Strong partnerships with families to support individual student growth and development
- Focus on emergent curriculum – naturally following student interests
- Two teachers in each classroom to ensure personalized student attention
- Recognition of the power of language and its impact on children
- A wide variety of program choices to meet students’ developmental needs
- Optional afternoon programs in movement, visual and dramatic arts, literacy, and music
A day in the life: Kindergarten

A typical kindergarten day involves children engaged in large and small group activities, cooperative learning projects, and a host of explorative and self-initiated learning endeavors. Daily investigation time allows your child to choose to work in the art, construction, dramatic play, inventions, library, research, math puzzles and games, or writing areas of the room as he or she is encouraged to explore personal interests, try something new, and express him or herself freely through play.

• Morning routines include reading the Morning Message with a teacher and small group of students, independently managing personal belongings from home, and completing morning work. Next, students may choose an activity that supports initial interactions with friends and sets a positive tone for the school day.

• Morning Meeting follows where students are recognized as individuals and contributing members of their classroom community. During these meetings, students have the opportunity to greet one another, share a personal story or new interest, and participate in a group activity as they transition into the school day.

• Interspersed throughout the day, various workshops focus on math and literacy skills. During workshops, students work together with teachers in small groups on benchmarks along the Hawken Developmental Continuum. Small groupings allow teachers to identify students’ individual skills and plan curriculum to meet their developing competencies.

• Recess is another activity time that addresses developing gross motor skills. Students have the opportunity to play on the playground each day and explore Poutasse Woods throughout the week. During inclement weather, students enjoy gross motor activities in the Nido community space.

• Routines are an important component of the day and include activities such as read-alouds, poetry notebook, reflections, snack, quiet time, and Closing Meeting. Taking time to reflect with students about their day is an important component of the learning process.

Extended Day support

We offer the following before and after school programs to care for and engage students:

Before and After Care options are available for kindergarten students Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until the beginning of the school day at 8:00 am and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm each afternoon. Students enrolled in After School Care enjoy playing in the familiar Commons area as well as on the playground. This care can be scheduled regularly or on an as-needed basis and is billed by the hour at the end of each month.

Enrichment opportunities

Additionally, through our Passport Program, we offer students in prekindergarten through 6th grade the opportunity to participate in specialized classes. These classes are offered in the hours immediately following the normal school day and are taught by Hawken faculty and professionals from the community. Classes promote creativity, academic enrichment, physical activity, and relaxation for every student.

For more information on Before and After School Options, visit hawken.edu/BeforeAfterSchool
Kindergarten program highlights

- Curriculum, environment, and faculty that recognize and support kindergarten as an important transitional year in your child’s education, with two full-time teachers per classroom
- Responsive Classroom approach that places equal value on social-emotional skills and academic skills
- Engagement in large and small group learning settings, cooperative learning projects, and self-initiated learning ventures
- Interdisciplinary project work that is often enhanced by experiences in the Goldberg Family Innovation Lab
- Math curriculum that includes direct instruction, open-ended exploration, practical application of skills, and increased conceptual understanding
- Math experiences that focus on number sense and operations, geometry and spatial sense, measurement, patterns/functions/algebra, and data analysis/probability
- Reading workshops that promote early literacy through independent and shared reading with a partner or teacher with strong focus on phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension
- Writing workshops that provide students the opportunity to express personal thoughts and ideas as well as practice emerging writing skills
- Special area teachers in additional subjects including visual art, Chinese/Spanish, literacy, music, physical education, and science

“I feel like I got a lot smarter in kindergarten. My teachers taught me a lot of things I didn’t know yet.”

1st Grade Student
Hawken’s nationally recognized Developmental Continuum is our primary student assessment tool. A personal portfolio highlighting your child’s academic and social progress, this electronic document represents a collection of your child’s work over an extended period of time and fills the role traditionally represented by school report cards.

This meaningful method of assessment represents our child-centered approach by honoring and celebrating the fact that children learn in different ways and at different rates. As teachers share what your child looks like as a learner through a sequence of benchmarks designating specific progression of development and anecdotal observations, the partnership between home and school is strengthened. Hawken’s Continuum equips parents with the knowledge and tools needed to support their child’s growth.
Early Childhood students have the opportunity to engage with activities in the Innovation Lab through afternoon explorations, class projects, and scaffolded maker curriculum. Examples may include “Maker Mondays,” “Breakerspace” take apart activities, an Introduction to Woodworking Unit, plenty of exploration and constructionism with loose parts and cardboard, blueprinting and design of classroom furniture, 3D printing of student-designed objects, and sewing. We find that open opportunities to explore, construct, build, and choose materials not only develop student creativity, but enhance students’ fine motor development and overall confidence.
Lyndhurst’s Goldberg Innovation Lab

Because play is such an important part of growth and development, “making” projects that involve playing, tinkering, designing, and creating begin at a young age. This newly opened facility, utilized by all students in grades preschool through grade 8, features distinctive learning spaces outfitted with flexible furniture and organized for access to tools and creative materials based on student readiness. Early Childhood teachers collaborate with Innovation Lab faculty to follow student interests and engage in this space, encouraging even our younger students to harness and channel their natural creativity and curiosity as they build confidence in their ability to identify and create solutions to problems.

For more information about the Innovation Lab, visit hawken.edu/InnovationLab
Studies show that instilling habits of character and intellect can make a significant difference in the kind of student and learner your child will become in the future. Hawken’s academic and social curriculum incorporates the skills, knowledge, and character that will enable your child to flourish in our interconnected world.

Our Early Childhood program feeds directly into our Lower School program. With established habits and a strong academic base, your child will feel comfortable and self-assured as he or she enters the next step alongside Hawken friends. These friends will become lifelong companions as your child’s educational journey continues.

We hope that you will join us in this essential partnership in your child’s life.

For more information about Hawken’s Lower School, visit hawken.edu/LowerSchool
Established 1915

Faculty with advanced degrees 80%

Lyndhurst Campus
Toddler – Grade 8
680 students

High School
Grades 9-12
580 students

National Merit Recognition over past 10 years
95 semifinalists

$10.7 million
Flexible Tuition
the largest financial aid budget in the state of Ohio

Students of Color 33%

Students K-12 receiving financial aid 45%

Transportation available in 20+ communities

Hawken students are more than twice as likely to get into top national university and liberal arts colleges.

All figures as of July, 2021.

Hawken School
Best Private High School in Ohio

Hawken School
Best Private K - 12 in Ohio
Visit us!

The best way to get to know Hawken is to visit. For more information, please contact us at 440.423.2950 or visit www.hawken.edu

We look forward to welcoming you.

Hawken School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of its admission policies or Flexible Tuition.