Forward-focused preparation for the real world through the development of character and intellect
“The main purpose for which the school exists is the development of character.”

James A. Hawken, Founder
At Hawken’s Lower School, we not only teach children to be great students, we teach them to be great people.

We believe that laying the groundwork for your child to live a happy, meaningful life requires not just mastery of skills and knowledge, but character traits like curiosity, honesty, initiative, confidence, and resilience. That’s why Hawken School has been deeply committed to developing both character and intellect from its earliest days.

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
Igniting the intellect

Establishing a solid academic infrastructure is essential to intellectual development. Our program focuses on providing a strong foundation in core academic skills with an increasing emphasis on personal responsibility. Using a child-centered approach, we emphasize collaboration, adaptability, and creativity in our approaches. All of this builds your child’s confidence in his or her ability to solve problems and master academic pursuits.

“You don’t want just to look something up on the internet. You want to actually learn things. That’s what happens at Hawken.”

Charlie, 1st Grade
“I am fortunate to teach children in a community where our first and most important priority is to build authentic, meaningful relationships with our students. These relationships are the foundation on which our students’ learning – academically, socially, and emotionally – are built, so we take this charge quite seriously.”

Jenn Harrison, 4th Grade Teacher
“The teachers make classes fun—like math class. We learn a new math skill and then we play a game with it so that you have to think about the math you’re using.”

Luka, 5th Grade

**Language Arts**
Through our language arts program, your child will learn what it takes to become a fluid, articulate writer and an independent, critical reader. We teach writing and reading as tools for effective communication, research, and analysis as well as a vehicle for lifelong enjoyment and enlightenment.

**Mathematics**
Students are empowered through Hawken’s mathematics program, which emphasizes the development of core skills and their application to solve problems. Cooperative learning, discussion, written explanations, and hands-on activities are designed to target individual learning styles to improve comprehension and retention.

**Science**
Children experience the joys of inquiry, discovery, investigation, and analysis in our hands-on Lower School science lab – a busy place where students are immersed in constructing tools and models, using scientific equipment, manipulating objects and substances, and observing natural phenomena. Your child will develop a better understanding of our world and have fun exploring and discovering.

**Social Studies**
Hawken’s social studies program opens children’s eyes to the interdependence of communities, states, and nations through studying the world around them. They come to understand what it means to be a responsible citizen and become empowered to make a difference.
World Language
The introduction to world languages at an early age teaches children to think beyond themselves and to navigate a multicultural society. Students take both Spanish and Chinese in grades one and two. Beginning in third grade, they choose to focus on just one of the two languages.

The Arts
We believe that experience in the universal language of the visual and performing arts provides an outlet for creativity and self-expression while also building confidence. Your child will come to see how participation in the arts not only enriches their lives, but transcends geographic borders, stereotypes, and barriers.

Human Performance (Physical Education)
Foundational motor skills established through our elementary physical education and aquatics program enhance social, cognitive, and physical development while instilling positive attitudes toward physical activity, safety, and wellness. Your child’s water safety skills will also be developed and strengthened through our swimming program.

Technology
While technology is essential in today’s world, we use it intentionally to appropriately enhance your child’s education. Students starting in third grade have access to tablets in a 1:1 capacity.

For more information about Hawken’s Lower School curriculum, visit hawken.edu/LowerSchool.
“At parent-teacher conferences, we clearly saw how sincerely our son’s teachers cared about him and his potential. We’ve appreciated when a teacher has said, ‘I’ve worked with your child, I understand your child, and I know that he can do more.’ The sincerity comes through.”

Grady Burrows, Parent
At the beginning of the year, the students in our class made signs with words for how we wanted to feel in our classrooms. The groups chose joyful, hardworking, and adventurous. We hung them and kept them all year long. And that’s how the class was.

Abbey, 3rd Grade

A nurturing community

Hawken teachers create a physically and emotionally safe environment that sets the tone for instilling curiosity, self worth, and a positive attitude toward learning.

Because children learn best when they feel known and valued, we highlight the importance of belonging. With an emphasis on routine and responsibility, students learn how to use respectful language and to appreciate differences. Leading assemblies, sharing in Morning Meeting, or participating in service learning opportunities imparts a sense of relevance, responsibility, pride, and empowerment in children.

From greeting every classmate by name each day to receiving a hug or handshake from the teacher at the end of the day, students understand that they are members of a warm and inclusive community.

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Abbey, 3rd Grade
At Hawken, we put children at the center of learning. Through developmentally appropriate activities, students learn to manage time and to think both critically and creatively. Teachers create a supportive atmosphere where students feel comfortable making choices and taking intellectual risks. As a result, students come to understand that there is more than one way to come to a solution.

Your child will learn to explore, ask questions, investigate, and share knowledge. Varied teaching methods ensure that students with different approaches to learning are supported and challenged. The result of this approach is a deeper, more genuine learning experience.

“We believe that children do their best work when it is authentic and meaningful to them. Through project work, students have choice, and are able to be challenged in various ways. Our goal is to create multiple pathways for learning so that students experience success, challenge, joy, and see themselves as capable, lifelong learners and problem solvers.”

Courtney Martin, Director of the Lower School
"I like the classrooms at Hawken because they are cozy and warm. I also really like the teachers and the people at Hawken."

Annabelle, 2nd Grade
Room to grow

Hawken’s instructional spaces are intentionally designed to support our real world approach to teaching. In addition to working within a classroom, students can also collaborate and learn from one another in common spaces and areas for small group study. Our dedicated science labs ensure that students have hands-on experience; our music and art studios nurture their creativity; and our outdoor classroom, Poutasse Woods, enables students to explore and interact with the natural world without leaving our school grounds.

Time well spent

Our school schedule is intentionally designed to meet student learning needs, providing both routine for comfort and change for stimulation as well as opportunities to engage in active inquiry and quiet reflection. Designated blocks of time are set aside for focus on foundational skills, while special enrichment time provides exposure to other academic areas. In addition, problem-based learning time is set aside for application and deeper reinforcement of skills learned.

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 new facility, 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. Even our younger students are able to harness and channel their natural creativity and curiosity as they build confidence in their ability to identify and create solutions to problems. Teachers design age-appropriate, project-based lessons in design, robotics, computer coding, architecture, 3-D printing, engineering, video productions, and more to promote student engagement and growth.

For more information about the Innovation Lab, visit hawken.edu/InnovationLab.
real world
Community at Hawken can be seen in the way the students take care of each other, show respect and kindness to the adults in the school, and work together to take care of the school. Throughout our time at the Gries Center or at various locations in the area doing community service, our students develop a very strong bond not only within the Hawken community but with Cleveland as well.

Steve Totte, 3rd Grade Teacher

Real world engagement

Real life learning and service opportunities are imbedded throughout the curriculum and are thoughtfully introduced in age-appropriate activities to make learning relevant, meaningful, and fun. Teachers and students travel to destinations throughout Cleveland, including the Sally & Bob Gries Center for Experiential and Service Learning, Hawken’s urban extension in University Circle. Here they might experience a sensory exploration of the neighborhood, a hands-on unit about archeology and prehistoric people at the nearby Natural History Museum, or an interdisciplinary study of the arts and architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome at the Cleveland Museum of Art. These introductions to the local community support the deepening relationship students will develop with Cleveland’s community and cultural organizations in future years.

“We went to Lake Farmpark and learned about animals. We went to the Holden Arboretum and learned about woods. I learn more when I’m outside doing things.”

Tanner, 1st Grade

For more information on Hawken’s Gries Center in University Circle, visit hawken.edu/GriesCenter
“Lower School assemblies elevate the ordinary to the extraordinary. Students gain confidence as they realize their ability to lead the entire school. Public speaking skills take center stage as students provide an update to other students and faculty alike about recent projects and special events from their class. Dancers, musicians, and artists take advantage of opportunities to be the ‘performer of the week’ to hone their performance skills. Students leave the assembly feeling connected, energized, and excited for the day ahead.”

Bryan Wamsley, Coordinator of Educational Technology for the Lower School
“My personal philosophy is that if we are mindful of our pedagogy, challenging ourselves to be inclusive and ensuring that 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’s Commitment to Diversity

“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 School Diversity Statement
"The Developmental Continuum helps me see beyond fourth grade and to really honor where a child is in her or his growth and development. It’s a tool that can help me set goals as I determine next steps for a child’s learning in all domains."

Julie O’Neil, 4th Grade Teacher
Hawken’s nationally recognized Developmental Continuum is our primary student assessment tool. A personal portfolio highlighting your child’s academic and social experience, this electronic document represents a collection of work over an extended period of time and fills the role traditionally taken by school report cards.

The Continuum reflects our child-centered approach by honoring 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 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 academic and social growth.

Personalized assessments

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"What I value about Hawken is that we are allies in the educational experience, intellectual growth, and character building of our children. Hawken reinforces what we do at home in a true partnership."
Nailah Suggs, Parent

"The teachers work hard to make every single child succeed. They know my kid. And not just the teachers – the nurses, the receptionists. I get goose bumps talking about it."
Kelly Kimball, Parent
“Teachers are kind and nice, but they also expect a lot from us. I’m really glad I’m here because if I need help on something, I’ll get the help I need.”

Chris, 5th Grade

A day in the life - Lower School

Morning Meeting

Specials:
- World Language
- Science
- Library/Technology
- Art
- Music
- Human Performance/Swimming

Core:
- Mathematics
- Numbers & Operations
- Measurement & Data
- Geometry
- Probability
- Algebraic Thinking

Language Arts
- Literature
- Vocabulary
- Reading
- Spelling
- Writing
- Handwriting

Morning Exercise

Project-Based Learning:
- Social Studies
- Application/Integration/Collaboration/Reflection

Closing Meeting

Nestled in the daily rotating schedule are moments for movement, including snack and recess.

Students participate in two Specials each day.
Outside the classroom

At Hawken, the school day doesn’t have to end at 3:00 pm. The Passport Program offers intramural athletics and enrichment classes in science, movement, visual and dramatic arts, language and culture, and music.

- Through our Passport Program, we offer students the opportunity to participate in enrichment 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.

- Before and After Care is offered Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until the beginning of the school day, and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm each afternoon. Families may sign up for this care when needed and are billed monthly for the use of this extended day support.

For more information on Before and After School Options, visit hawken.edu/BeforeAfterSchool
As the parent of a Hawken student, you will become part of a warm, friendly school environment filled with others who have chosen Hawken because of our mission and ethos.

Just as there is not a typical Hawken student, there is not a typical Hawken parent. As one mother put it, “There’s a place for everyone here. Parents get to be who we are, too.” Hawken parents find it easy and helpful to form and foster connections with other families in this supportive community.

For more information on the parent community at Hawken visit hawken.edu/Parents

“A community for families

Holly Wiertel
Parents’ Association President

“Hawken is a welcoming community. Throughout the year, the Parents’ Association works to provide opportunities to bring everyone together, from new families to faculty to alumni. Ask any student, parent, alumnus/a or member and they will share a story of what it means to be a part of this unique place.”
“As a working mom, if I can’t be at a particular event, I know that another parent will send a picture. I’ll be in a meeting and the text will come through. I’ve always felt that when you come into Hawken, you’re part of a family. That’s the rapport we have without ever asking for it. That’s invaluable.”

Melissa Burrows, Parent
Students advance from Hawken’s Lower School to Middle School through our Moving Up Ceremony. They soon realize that the groundwork laid in the Lower School has more than adequately prepared them for their Middle School experience, allowing them to branch out and explore their personal academic interests.

With established habits and a strong academic base, students feel comfortable and self-assured as they enter another stage of life alongside peers who will become lifelong friends.

For more information about Hawken’s Middle School, visit hawken.edu/MiddleSchool
Established 1915
Founded by James A. Hawken
Lyndhurst Campus Toddler – Grade 8
660 students

Faculty with advanced degrees 80%

$10.3 million Flexible Tuition the largest financial aid budget in the state of Ohio
Students K-12 receiving financial aid 45%

National Merit Recognition over past 10 years 92 semifinalists

All-School Student Body 1,200 Coed, Toddler–Grade 12

Students of Color 33%

Transportation available in 20+ communities

High School Grades 9-12 540 students
Hawken students are more than twice as likely to get into top national university and liberal arts colleges.

HAWKEN SCHOOL #1
Best Private High School in Ohio

HAWKEN SCHOOL #1
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.

“...The Lower School is a great place because the teachers really help you and you get to have lots of different kinds of friends.”

Lewi, Grade 5

Kathy Mitchell O’Neal
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