HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED.
Get ready to learn more.

MASTERY SCHOOL
Grades 9–12
We thought it only fitting that the first signature of the Mastery School of Hawken should belong to our founder and visionary, James Hawken. This M comes directly from his pen and from a “character card” he composed for one of Hawken’s first students.

It also feels right that the Mastery School of Hawken is some 700 yards from Hawken’s original 1915 home on Ansel Road near what we now call University Circle.

Not only does the Mastery School return us to our geographical roots, but it also extends our commitment to Mr. Hawken’s forward-focused vision of what school should be and what school should do. The first M belongs to James Hawken. The next one belongs to you, our students.
Usually, high school is about getting in line. Following the track.

Not at the Mastery School of Hawken.

Here, you’re the pilot. The scout. The adventurer.

And this red thread is you.

Free to discover and change and grow as you work hard on work that matters.

“At the Mastery School of Hawken, we know that students learn best, and are most motivated to learn, when they get to work on things that are real. That’s why we’ve built our curriculum and program with you, your learning, and your growth at the center.

As you work on teams to develop solutions to real and urgent challenges with local partners, you’ll learn about your city, your strengths, and yourself. You’ll cultivate your sense of belonging and purpose as you help us build a community where each person is seen, heard, and valued for who they are.”

Julia Griffin
Director of The Mastery School of Hawken
Why our Where Matters

Where you learn can shape what, how, when, and why you learn.

At the Mastery School of Hawken, you’ll spend your days at the intersection of cultural treasures and community activists; artists and entrepreneurs; heart surgeons and the heart of our rich and rising city.

Our location between University Circle and the Glenville neighborhood means that you’re a short ride from downtown Cleveland and a short walk to arts organizations, universities, and a few hundred non-profit organizations working to build a stronger and more just future for our neighbors, for our city, and for us.

Your home base: several historic buildings on Magnolia Drive that we’ve transformed into your work, learning, and social space.

Your campus: the whole of the city -- from museums to medical labs, social service agencies, and two universities.

Your work at the Mastery School will urge you out into the world, but you’ll always know where your home is.
Here on Magnolia Drive, we do things a bit differently. The work we do requires a paradigm shift. Actually, it requires three of them.

Paradigm Shift 1: Your Learning

Here, your learning drives our teaching - which may not seem like that big a deal, but really, it is.

When we focus on what you learn as opposed to what we teach, we make a different set of choices.

For instance, we organize around skills and knowledge rather than classes and content. That’s why you won’t take Algebra II here, but you will take on challenges where a deep, sustained, and enduring understanding of algebraic principles is essential.

In high schools around the world, students often ask, When will I need to know this?

At the Mastery School, the answer is, emphatically: Now.
Paradigm Shift 2: Our Teaching

Focusing on your learning also changes *how* we teach.

We use the genuine challenges of a community partner to create your **learning terrain**, where you’ll learn hard things because you *need* to know them in order to help another human being.

This is a game changer because when we really need to know something, we’re *much* more motivated than when we’re studying for a test or writing a paper that only one person will ever read.

We believe that you learn by doing, so our job is to create opportunities for you to be engaged in challenging and consequential work for people who need your help.
Paradigm Shift 3: The End Result

Here’s a not-so-secret secret: Most people don’t remember much of what they learned in high school. It’s odd when you think about it: *Why do we spend so much time learning things that we will forget?*

Traditionally, school is based on the assumption that you need to prepare or “stock up” for some future where you'll need to know the quadratic formula, the causes of the War of 1812, and how to conjugate irregular verbs.

Here, we understand our job isn’t so much to teach you *things*; it’s to help you *learn how to learn*. The world you will inherit will be so complex and will change so rapidly that we have a responsibility to help you build your knowledge base and deepen your skills and habits.

After all, there is no exam at the end of high school, just a set of really hard questions:

How do you master complex content accurately and quickly?
How do you tackle a problem with no known solution?
How do you work with people who disagree with you?
How do you empathize? Lead? Listen? Partner?
How do you learn?

At the Mastery School, you’ll wrestle with these questions so that you’ll be the one who knows how to dive into complicated situations and make them better.
How We Measure Mastery

At the Mastery School of Hawken, we get grades out of the way so students and teachers can focus on what we know works: feedback to help you persist to mastery.

In fact, the Mastery School of Hawken is built entirely around the concept of mastery—which boils down to the simple idea that learning should be deep, enduring, creative, and transferable.

You’ll never receive a letter grade here. Instead, you’ll grow as you build a record that accurately captures the best of what you’ve produced and achieved. Instead of grades, we use Mastery Credits that you earn through presenting evidence that demonstrates your skills, knowledge, and abilities — or what you really know and are able to do. Mastery Credits allow you to show what you can do in ways that grades simply cannot.

There are two types of Mastery Credits: Foundational and Advanced.

**Foundational Credits** are the floor: Everyone must earn the baseline credits, which include areas such as Systems Thinking, Written Communication, and Quantitative Analytics.

**Advanced Credits** are the wide open sky. They allow you to demonstrate the depth of your skills in the areas that matter the most to you and to show off your unique profile of interests and strengths.

As your portfolio grows, these credits capture your knowledge, skills, and abilities in an entirely new way — via a graphic and interactive digital transcript.
Students around the world are earning admission to colleges and universities by using Mastery Transcripts that look like this example from another high school in the Mastery Transcript Consortium.
The world you’ll inhabit later will be profoundly different from the one we’ve experienced. Mastery learning recognizes this fact and organizes school around your future, not our past.

Our academic design is all about helping you learn complex content and critical skills in our six Mastery Credit areas:

1. Citizenship
2. Collaboration
3. Communication
4. Creative Problem-Solving
5. Critical Thinking
6. Self-Directed Learning

How do you generate evidence to earn credits in these Mastery Credit areas? That’s where the program elements come in.
### After-School Activities

*activities bus to Gates Mills*

### Other Macros could include:
- Entrepreneurship
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Arts in Community
- Public Health and Bioethics
- Civic Engagement
- Cleveland History
Program Elements

**Macros:** Interdisciplinary experiences where you work in teams to solve real challenges for a community partner. Year One Macros include Ethics and Technology; Reinvention; Movement and Belonging; and Talking to Strangers.

**Micros:** Small group and self-paced learning experiences designed with mentors and teachers to help you dive deeper into learning areas you want and need to master – topics like mathematical modeling, Spanish, journalism, visual arts, robotics, and more.

**Wayfinding:** Built-in time for you to learn how to navigate the world of and after high school with the guidance of your mentor, with a focus on topics like identity and self-knowledge, social and ethical decision-making, financial literacy, the college search and application process, and other life skills.

**Intensives:** Twice a year, you’ll join your classmates from Hawken’s Upper School campus for a class that meets all day, every day for three weeks. Choose classes that span multiple disciplines – courses like Homelessness, Rocket Science, Spanish Immersion, or Shakespeare in Performance.

Research shows that in a lot of high schools, students experience their greatest sense of autonomy, mastery, and purpose -- all the qualities that correlate with deep learning -- in clubs and on the courts, fields, and stage.

At most schools, though, that learning is considered extra and something you do over there.

Here, we consider this kind of deep learning essential and something you do everywhere.

**Having access to two campuses means double the options for activities and social time.**

At the Mastery School, you’ll be able to create clubs and choose activities that you care about. It’s one way you’ll develop a deep sense of agency, voice, and leadership.

And you can also head over to the Upper School after class and take part in activities there. Outdoor Leadership? Debate? Sports? The musical? Hop on the activities bus, and you’ll be with your Upper School friends in about half an hour.
Colleges and universities around the world are reconsidering their admissions practices. More and more are moving away from standardized tests and seeking ways to get to know students beyond what the typical transcript can show them.

After all, admission officers at selective institutions want to see more than just numbers when reviewing applications; they want to see a story. That’s the magic of a mastery-based education and the Mastery Transcript.

When you apply to college, you will share a clear picture of who you are and what you can do. With an easy-to-navigate design, the Mastery Transcript illustrates your knowledge and abilities in much more detail than traditional records can.

Students from Mastery Transcript Consortium member schools all over the country are successfully applying with their Mastery Transcripts, and they’re earning admission to colleges and universities everywhere.

When the time comes to apply to colleges, you’ll have a dedicated college counselor here by your side along with a dynamic and illustrative Mastery Transcript to make you and your story stand out.

Want to know more? Visit the Mastery Transcript Consortium at mastery.org.
What the Experts are Saying About the Mastery Transcript

“I care deeply about the collaborative spirit that we can’t get from grades and GPA. We need a better understanding of how kids work with peers better, for example. That is really beneficial for the selection process.”

Jarrid Whitney
Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment and Career Services
California Institute of Technology

“I believe that the Mastery Transcript will give us better context; it doesn’t matter whether those students are in a suburban or under-resourced high school. What I believe is going to come out is more about what that student had to work with, and then what that student was able to do—how he or she was able to develop skills. That is what is really exciting here—universally seeing not only skill sets, but also the deeper context in which those skills were achieved.”

Zina Evans
Vice President for Enrollment
University of Florida
(MTC Board of Directors)
In the long run, if we are successful in transforming how we deliver education to students and ultimately how we assess that, when we look back 20 to 30 years from now, I believe the Mastery Transcript Consortium will have been a catalyst to that movement.”

Kedra Ishop
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
University of Michigan

There is an authentic voice or lack thereof that we are not getting in our applications. I am excited to see the many ways the Mastery Transcript can give us a deeper sense of a students’ abilities, their potential, and the progression that students and their educators have seen over their four years.”

Mark Hatch
Vice President for Enrollment
Colorado College

Then there are things like the Mastery Transcript Consortium. They’re trying to shift away from traditional grades and have assessments that are based on the mastery of certain skills and knowledge. I think more and more high schools are going to start to turn to those kinds of things. And my sense is that more colleges will start to use the Mastery Transcript as an alternative to grades.”

Richard Weissbourd
Director, Making Caring Common Initiative
Harvard University

Personally, I think the Mastery Transcript will be a great thing. It will allow us to understand students’ stories in a deeper way.”

Karen Richardson
Dean of Admissions
Princeton University
Meet the Team

April Bain
Founding Faculty

Nick Cheadle
Founding Faculty
Design Team

Rasa Drane
Director of Admissions,
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Terry Dubow
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Ambrose Faduroti
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Julia Griffin
Director of The Mastery
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Julia Hodges
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Design Team

Zack Kordeleski
Founding Faculty
Design Team

Dan O’Connor
Founding Faculty
Design Team
It’s no stretch to say that Mastery School students will work with extraordinary teachers and mentors who bring expertise and experience their work. Even more importantly, though, they bring a commitment to redesigning school so that it’s more human and more humane; so that it’s built with your future in mind; so that it helps you identify, nurture, and own your talents and capacity for growth.

To meet and learn more about our amazing team, visit hawken.edu/MasterySchool