





WELCOME! Western Academy is an educational adventure that provides an excellent learning opportunity uniquely tailored to boys. I hope you'll have the time to engage with our campus and community, and in so doing discover some of the tangible and intangible ingredients that make it original and that have led to its growth and success.

One of those key ingredients is our focus on developing a culture that allows individual persons to be known and to flourish rather than forcing them to fit to some institutional mold. Of course, this means people — our faculty, students, families — are the most vital ingredient to our special mix.

I invite you to come and see what makes this school a place of wonder and adventure, where hearts and minds can grow — a place where boys may become the young men they are called to be.

Sincerely yours,

Jason Hebert

HEADMASTER





WESTERN ACADEMY

Wonder is the seed of wisdom.

—SOCRATES



MISSION STATEMENT

Western Academy is a private, independent, liberal arts, lower and middle school for boys. Through personal attention and dedicated effort, teachers foster a genuine passion for learning and provide an integrated education, assisting parents in developing the whole person: intellectual, moral, physical, and spiritual. With a spirit of adventure and freedom, students are encouraged to approach their academic work with professional excellence and to strive in the life of virtue.

A Catholic priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei serves as chaplain and oversees the religious education program.

Studium

LOVE AND ZEAL FOR LEARNING

AT WESTERN ACADEMY WE WORK WITH PARENTS to develop young men who have *a passion for learning and wisdom*. It is natural for boys to want to know how to do things and to “do it themselves.” And, as all parents know, it is natural for boys to ask “why?” about little things and the Big Things, and they trust there are answers. Boys love stories, and are born curious about the world, with a natural capacity for wonder at the marvels of creation and the inventions of man. They are eager for and capable of friendships, hungry for adventures and to test themselves, and naturally want to defend what is good and “fight the bad guys.” They also come open and responsive to the things of the spirit and religion, especially if they are presented in a manly and beautiful way. At very young ages boys want to be shown (not just told) how to be good men.



We recognize these natural characteristics of boys and seek to educate these elements so that they mature and are naturally integrated within graduates of Western Academy. We also know that boys have natural “windows” and stages of development, and that the window for engaged learning, receptivity to ideals, and formation of the moral imagination is open from early childhood through pre-adolescence, and that this window is difficult to re-open after these stages of development—at least to open wide. Working with parents, who have the primary responsibility for the education of their sons, we prepare boys with the academic skills and habits, the hearts, and the creative minds to become young men of real leadership and service—young men who truly seek and who are willing to defend what is Good, True, and Beautiful.



FACULTY

AN EXCELLENT FACULTY IS THE CORNERSTONE of Western Academy. The majority have advanced degrees and all are well-qualified teachers who have been carefully selected. All students have a homeroom teacher who teaches three or more core subjects to his class. This arrangement allows the teacher to better teach and mentor his students and to have an informed and cooperative rapport with parents.



Marks of our faculty include several core ingredients: a passion for learning and culture; a drive for professional and personal excellence; an ability to understand boys and to lead them; an eye for details and for the development of study skills and habits; an ability to keep perspective, to see failure as a part of growth, and to have a good sense of humor; and a personal mentoring approach with students.



LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM

OUR EDUCATION IS BASED ON A TRADITIONAL LIBERAL arts curriculum and incorporates modern advancements in methodology and understandings of child development. We also incorporate elements that are considered “progressive”, such as educating the imagination, incorporating nature — from trees and grass to outdoor lessons and field trips — employing tactile learning and narrative techniques throughout the curriculum. Our education is demanding and hones academic skills, such as the ability to write and communicate, and “how” to think. We also incorporate the “why”, from sparking natural curiosity to asking and wrestling with the *Big Questions* of life.

NATURE

NATURE SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT of our education, from classes in natural history to a recess space where boys can engage in imaginative and adventurous play. Signs of a good day at Western Academy are a smile on a boy’s face, a few books and an assignment notebook in his bag, dirt and grass stains on his pants, and the urgent question of whether he can stay just a few more minutes to catch insects with his net, build on his fort, play another game of chess, or have a rematch in tackle football.





ARTS & LEISURE

THE ARTS ARE A VITAL aspect of our education. All our students are instructed in **music, drawing, creative writing, and poetry.** Every student participates in a **play.**

We engage students in the joy of writing, of stories, of poetry, and of song. The boys keep journals, compete in poetry recital contests, experience great music, learn to sing traditional songs, practice the art of writing and telling stories, as well as hear a wide range of interesting stories — from folk tales and historical narratives to epic legends of heroes.

THE ART OF RHETORIC IS INCULCATED throughout the curriculum. Students learn the skills and mechanics of public speaking and writing. The writing program fosters attention to detail and practicing skills, but also exercises the imagination and creativity.

ATHLETICS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IS OFFERED for each grade and includes training in the fundamentals, strategy, virtues, and leadership skills associated with team sports, as well as with individual sports such as wrestling and track and field.

COMPETITIVE SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS are offered in the middle school and include team sports such as football, basketball, baseball, soccer, wrestling, cross country, rugby, and track. Excellent coaches provide high-level training for their student-athletes, while developing the skills and character of a young sportsman.



Libertas

FREEDOM



FREEDOM IS A CORE INGREDIENT to the Western Academy mix. A love and understanding of the importance of freedom should be a mark of every WA graduate.

Boys have *the freedom to be boys*—to climb trees, wrestle, and catch frogs and snakes (non-venomous, of course). They have the freedom to exercise their nature, to take challenges, to learn from mistakes, and to grow in strength—not to become destroyers, or young men of license, but to become young men of responsibility and authentic virtue.

To *strive to do one's work well* has a special emphasis at the school. Students (and faculty) are encouraged to take pride in and ownership of their work, and are often reminded of the fact that work was part of life in the Garden of Eden *before* the Fall. It should not be regarded as a punishment but as a way to live justice, develop one's personality, serve one's community, and to share in the creative process of the Creator.

Each student is guided in a personal way and has an *advisor*. An advisor meets with each middle school boy regularly, talks to him about life and helps him with practical advice to grow as a son, a brother, a student, a friend, a child of God—to grow in his unique personality.

*He was not only discovering the general lesson
that his glory was not to be in overthrowing men in battle
but in building up the positive and creative monuments of peace.*

—G. K. CHESTERTON SPEAKING OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI





FOUR HOUSES

SIMILAR TO MANY TRADITIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOLS, all students are placed in one of four houses: *House of the Raven*, *House of the Shell*, *House of the Green*, *House of the Water*. Each House is derived from the shield on the school's coat of arms and features a particular virtue as its motto. The houses cultivate camaraderie, leadership, and a healthy rivalry among the boys. They serve as families within the larger family-like community of Western Academy. The student's placement in a House is permanent and siblings will automatically be placed in the same House. Student leadership is orchestrated through the Houses. Throughout the year the Houses compete in chess tournaments, academic projects, poetry and short story competitions, athletic events, etc. The primary days of competition are festival days — days designed to help students have a sense of season and to truly celebrate a feast: they know the reason for the feast — the feast's *gift* — and can naturally rejoice in receiving the *gift*.

House of the Raven



House of the Shell

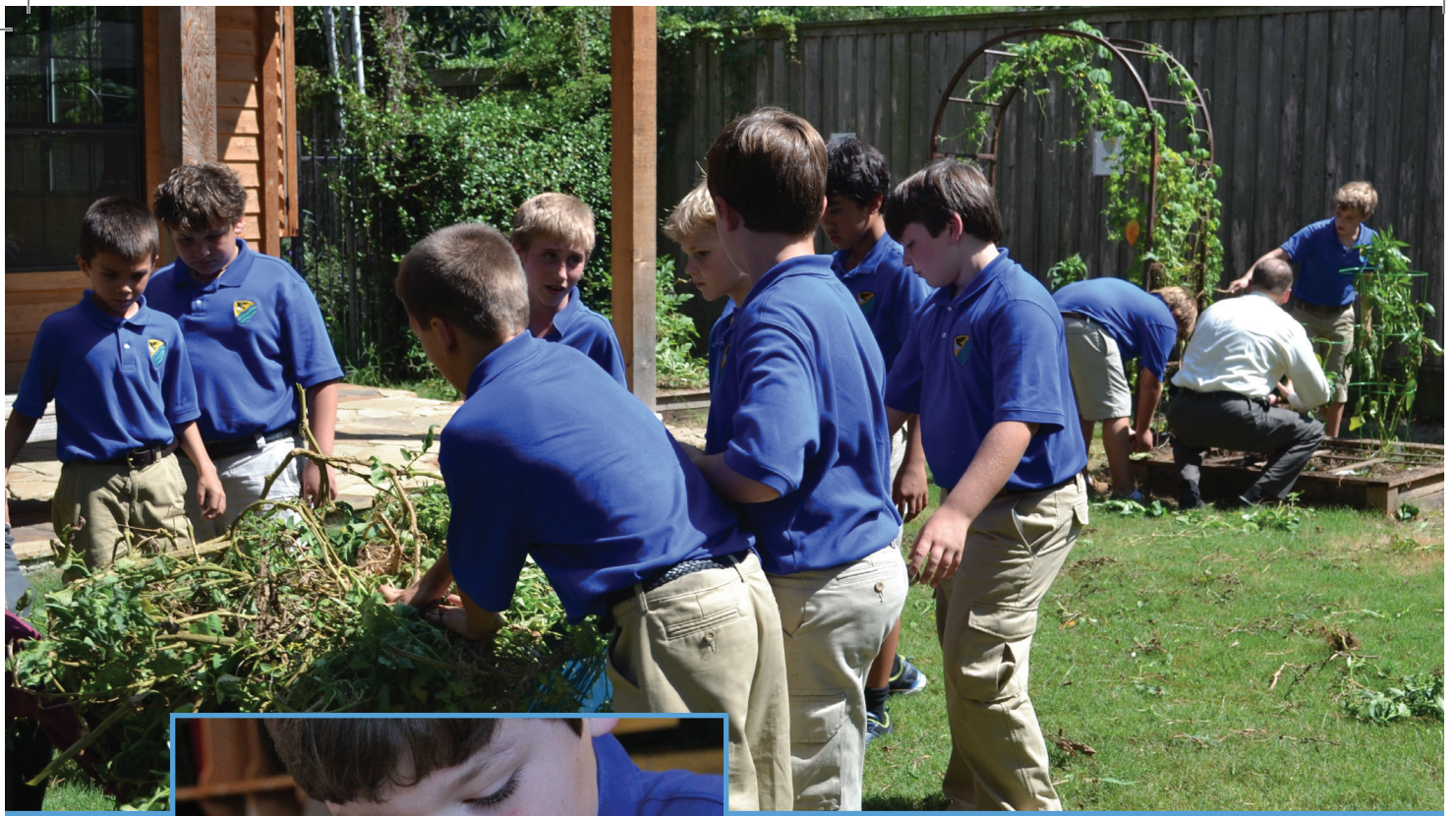


House of the Green



House of the Water





*What we have to learn to do,
we learn by doing.*

—ARISTOTLE

Veritas

TRUTH

OUR MOTTOES CULMINATE with our central motto: Veritas, Truth. Similarly, our aspiration is that our students integrate their learning and their lives in the culmination of becoming men who love, have a burning zeal for, and live the Truth, knowing in a deep intuitive way that this is the path to true freedom and happiness. We know this journey is personal yet will require real friendships and strong community. It will require courage and heroism, especially in the little, unnoticed things—such as struggling to finish one’s work or staying loyal to a friend. It will require sacrifice and the strength to become a gentleman—a man who can protect the weak, endure the tests of life, and always know how to rise and begin again when he falters.

Our hope is that Western Academy men persuade others to see, love, and pursue the Truth by becoming men of real light and warmth—with a light on inside, not a neon light or an illusion, but a flame that gives light, heat, is dangerous but good, and cannot be turned off with a switch.



The *spiritual aspect of man and the world* is not relegated to the religion class or chapel. The amazing intelligence and design of the Creator comes through in math and science—whether in a classroom or on a field trip. Virtues and vices, heroic goodness and destructive evil, tragedy and comedy mark the pages of history and literature and the notes and content of songs. A true moment of insight and leisure—seeing with a connected heart and mind the inherent goodness and beauty of all things—may happen in a chapel, or when hearing a wonder tale replete with giants and dwarfs, or while on a quiet hike hearing the subtle sounds of nature. The unity and Truth of things and a Christian vision of man work their way through the Western Tradition and similarly wend their way throughout our curriculum. With a Catholic spirit, we at Western Academy will ever seek to remind ourselves of the *inherent unity of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty*.

Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church founded by St. Josemaria Escriva, provides a chaplain who in turn administers the sacraments on a daily basis and oversees the religious education program.



How to Apply

TOUR OUR SCHOOL

To register for a school tour, please visit our website, www.westernacademy.net, and click the “Request a Tour” tab at the bottom of our homepage.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Our application process includes the following:

1. SHADOW DAY

Call the Admissions Office to arrange a shadow day (a daylong student visit) for your son.

2. ONLINE APPLICATION

a) Application Form

Go to www.westernacademy.net and click “Online Application” under the Admissions tab.

b) Academic Records Request

Send an electronic *Academic Records Form* request to your son’s current school via your admissions parent portal “checklist”.

c) Teacher Recommendation Request

Send an electronic *Teacher Recommendation Form* request to one of your son’s teachers via your admissions parent portal “checklist”.

d) Application Fee

Pay the \$100 application fee by echeck via your admissions parent portal “checklist”.

3. FAMILY INTERVIEW

Once all other application items are completed, you may call the Admissions Office to arrange a family interview. Completing the family interview is the final step required for full consideration by the school.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please visit our website,

www.westernacademy.net/important-dates, to see key admissions dates.

TUITION

Please visit our website,

www.westernacademy.net/tuition, for tuition information.

FINANCIAL AID

- Please apply online through our website, www.westernacademy.net/tuition.
- Please see the financial aid application deadline, also online.
- All financial aid is needbased and confidential.
- Admission to Western Academy is need blind.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Western Academy’s Admissions Office

admissions@westernacademy.net

713-461-7000, EXT I02

1511 Butlercrest Street Houston,

Texas 77080



Western Academy is open to all interested and qualified students and admits students of any race, creed, color, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at Western Academy. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan program, athletic and other school-related programs, or in the employment of its faculty and staff.



A person is magnanimous

*if he has the courage to seek what is great
and becomes worthy of it.*

—JOSEF PIEPER

Reflections

WHY WESTERN ACADEMY...

Western Academy has completely changed my life. The best thing this school does is that it helps any boy take steps to become a virtuous man. The teachers teach in fun and exciting ways. But I've saved the best for last: the after school activities like football and film club!

ANDY G.
STUDENT

Western Academy is unlike any school where I've taught before. Whereas one good colleague can make a huge difference in my effectiveness and satisfaction as a teacher, here at Western I'm *surrounded* by men like that—men who share my faith and philosophy of life, who help inspire professional excellence and who care deeply about their students. What a beautiful experience!

NATHANIEL SAYLOR
FACULTY

My boys have loved going to Western Academy. The Liberal Arts focus gives them the ability to think for themselves, the skills to communicate their thoughts, and the capacity to just love learning. The campus is a boy's dream and the faculty are men I want my boys to be like when they are grown. WA is a place where the whole boy is taught, therefore his whole self is caught up in learning, playing and growing.

WENDY O.
PARENT

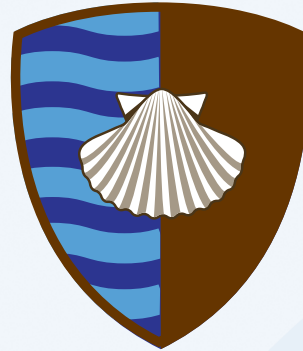
Western Academy has been an incredibly important part of my life. At Western, school was so much more than excellent learning, it was a real community. It was an intimate setting that helped me build lifelong friendships with both my peers and teachers and set me on the road to academic success. I will be forever grateful for the formative years spent at that very unique place, and for faculty who cared about me, not just as a student, but as a person.

GABRIEL J.
ALUMNUS

House of the Raven



House of the Shell



A true liberal arts education

touches on permanent, eternal things.

It invites us to understand and develop individual hearts

and minds and to explore the fundamental truths

holding the fabric of life and society together —

some truths natural,

some evident, some mysterious,

all dynamic and furthering what is real

and good

and beautiful.

—JEFFREY PRESBERG, FOUNDING HEADMASTER

House of the Green



House of the Water



*Working with parents,
we hope to help form
excellent professional men
of service and community—
men who will strive
to be good friends, good husbands,
and good fathers.*



WESTERN ACADEMY

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