



*Small Classes.*  
**BIG EXPERIENCES.**



**ANNIE  
WRIGHT  
SCHOOLS**

827 N Tacoma Ave, Tacoma, WA 98403 | 253.272.2216 | [www.aw.org](http://www.aw.org)

# About Us

## ANNIE WRIGHT UPPER SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

### *Mission*

Annie Wright's strong community cultivates individual learners to become well-educated, creative and responsible citizens for a global society.

For girls in Grades 9 through 12 who are ready to develop authentic passions and make a well-rounded education a priority, Annie Wright Upper School for Girls offers an extraordinary and enduring educational experience. We celebrate girls, incorporate international standards of excellence and give students the opportunity to do the things they love in authentic and meaningful ways.



# THE ALL-GIRLS EXPERIENCE

At Annie Wright Upper School for Girls, we believe in the strength and boundless potential of being a girl. Research reveals that compared to their peers in co-ed schools, girls from all-girl schools perform better on academic achievement tests and report greater confidence and willingness to take risks.

\*UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, 2009.



## **...WITH CO-ED OPPORTUNITIES**

While class time and leadership opportunities are for girls only, there are plenty of opportunities for co-ed experiences as well. Social events, elective arts activities, and a handful of other activities to name a few.



## **COORDINATE EDUCATION**

The Upper School for Girls and the Upper School for Boys at Annie Wright Schools combine a single-gender environment with opportunities for shared activities and social interactions. Our coordinate Upper Schools enable girls and boys to study in a single-gender academic setting each school day, then participate after the academic day in coeducational arts activities or single-gender activities, dependent on student choice. Activities are non-graded, optional elective opportunities allowing students to engage more fully in selected areas of passion or interest. Upper School students of both schools at Annie Wright participate in scheduled social activities together outside of class hours, in the dorms and on weekends.



## THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Annie Wright has offered the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme since 2009. Widely considered the world's most rigorous high school curriculum, IB is at the heart of our students' educational experience. Student inquiry, intellectual risk-taking and international mindedness highlight the school day and ensure our students are well-prepared for college and beyond. All students in Grades 11 and 12 take IB courses, and typically over half elect to pursue the full IB Diploma.

### IB GETS MORE COLLEGE KUDOS

Colleges and universities are increasingly recognizing the rigor and superior standard of an International Baccalaureate education. In May 2019, a law passed requiring all public universities in Washington to give college credit to students who earn at least a 4 out of 7 on each of their IB exams. This means that IB Diploma holders can earn a year's worth of credits. Many public and private colleges and universities nationally and internationally also grant credit for IB exams, recognizing the exceptional rigor of these courses.

## NURTURING PASSIONS

We believe in giving students the time and space to explore and pursue their passions. Our intensive after-school activities program, called (s)Electives, provide extraordinary opportunities to pursue passions, take risks, work both independently and collaboratively, develop strong relationships, bolster skills and have fun. Two essential components are the hallmark of each (s)Elective: a community engagement project and an opportunity to travel to experience a deep-dive into passions, perspectives and skills. Trips have ranged from conferences in Seattle to camping trips to Oregon to meetings in New York & Boston to expeditions to Cuba & Vietnam.



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# THE COLLEGE PROCESS

Annie Wright Upper School for Girls is a college preparatory school. With that purpose in mind, we start the college process in Grade 9 and culminate the process during Grade 12 with college application prep week. We believe in the best fit college choice for each of our students and judge our success by fulfilled, college-bound graduates whose academic and emotional needs match their college choices.

## COLLEGE WEEK

44 GIRLS. 5 DAYS.

3 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS. 0 HOMEWORK.

One highlight of the college process includes a full week of no classes and no homework, where seniors engage with our college counselors, university deans and directors, and Annie Wright faculty in order to complete three applications by the early November 1 deadline. Students report less stress and more enjoyment of the college process because they have dedicated time to devote to their applications.

**171** girls in the **UPPER SCHOOL**



FROM 12 COUNTRIES & 4 STATES



AVERAGE CLASS SIZE **12**



LARGEST CLASS SIZE **19**

**6:1** student-to-faculty ratio



**BOARDING STUDENTS**  
65% international  
35% domestic

## IB Scores (5-year average)

Diploma Candidates: 139

Earned IB Diploma: 88%  
World Average: 77%

Average Annie Wright Points: 30  
Required Points: 24

~1/3 of test-takers score over 30



ANNIE WRIGHT UPPER SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



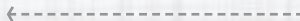
# *Campus Highlights*





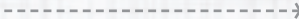
## GREAT HALL

*home of morning meetings & dances*



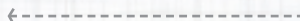
## DORMS

*where our boarding students  
& faculty live & learn*



## DINING HALL

*delicious meals in the company of  
friends, faculty & dorm parents*



## STUDENT LOUNGE

*the perfect spot to study or hang out  
between classes*



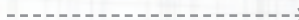
## BAMFORD COMMONS

*outdoor space for reflecting  
& celebrating*



## KEMPER GYM

*play volleyball, basketball  
& cheer on the Gators*



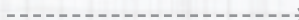
## KEMPER THEATER

*lip sync, plays & more happen here*



## LIBRARY & LEARNING COMMONS

*books & nooks make this an ideal  
space to read, study & collaborate*



## JAMES MEMORIAL FIELD

*all-weather turf field for playing soccer  
& powder puff football*



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# Live & Learn @ AWS

Our boarding programs offer students from around the state, country and world the chance to live, learn and develop deep friendships that last a lifetime.



## *Location, location, location*

Our beautiful campus is nestled in the North End neighborhood of Tacoma, Washington, overlooking the Puget Sound. Annie Wright is close to shops, restaurants, museums and national parks (including the majestic Mount Rainier). We are a short 30-minute drive to the airport and 45 minutes south of Seattle.



## *Feel right at home*

The rooms in our recently renovated dorm are unique, comfortable and spacious. Students enjoy shared kitchen facilities, lounges and study spaces around the dorm. Its location right in our main building makes access to the dining hall, classrooms, library, gym and other campus facilities as easy as walking down the hall. FLIK Independent School Dining provides our meals with an eye toward nourishing, delicious food made from local ingredients.



# Value of an INDEPENDENT SCHOOL EDUCATION

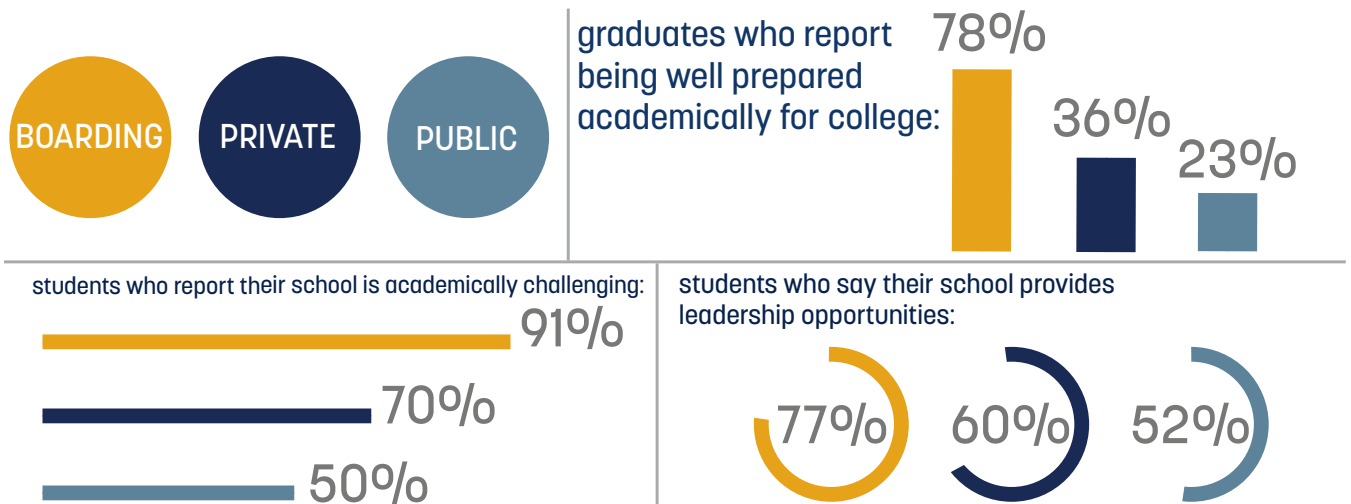


Dr. Richard J. Light of Harvard University conducted a study and published a report about the benefits of an independent school education. He describes how independent school graduates differ significantly from their counterparts.

## Independent school graduates are:

- » More likely to have a broader world view
- » Significantly better in writing preparedness, especially with research papers
- » Much more likely to seek out advice from a faculty member
- » Much more likely to have better time management skills

## THE TRUTH ABOUT BOARDING SCHOOL



# Tradition —meets— INNOVATION

Founded in 1884, tradition and innovation have been intrinsically bound throughout Annie Wright's history. Innovation was at the heart of the pioneering spirit that established Annie Wright as a school to educate girls when Washington was not yet a state, and traditions, some more than 100 years-old, are integral to the culture and identity of Annie Wright today. While we hold tradition near and dear to our heart, we also continue to honor our pioneering roots through promoting risk-taking, implementing innovative programming and offering what is known as the gold standard of education—the IB Diploma Programme.



Learn more about our traditions at [www.aw.org/traditions](http://www.aw.org/traditions)



# ATHLETICS

The Upper School for Girls athletics program addresses physical fitness, team play and good sportsmanship. Our faculty and coaches identify and support each student's individual aptitude and skills, whether she is an elite athlete or has never played a team sport. Opportunities both in and out of school will specifically address the athletic goals of each individual. Our physical education program is designed to create movement opportunities during the academic day as well as to help students discover opportunities for lifetime fitness. Credits may be earned in a variety of ways. We offer a full plate of after-school athletics options in state-of-the-art facilities and top-tier coaches. Upper School athletes have represented Annie Wright at the state level in basketball, volleyball, tennis, cross-country, track and golf. In addition to our own athletics program, students are given the time, space and flexibility to pursue outside athletic passions. In recent years we have also had national and world champions in a variety of sports including crew and speed-skating.

## LATE STARTS OFFERS TIME FOR SLEEP OR EXERCISE

Annie Wright Schools offers late start for Upper School students four mornings per week. The goals of this schedule change, based on research into adolescent health, are to increase opportunities for sleep and exercise.

After polling Upper School families, Annie Wright administrators found overwhelming support for the late start schedule, which will delay the academic day from an 8:00 am to a 9:15 am start. Students who play after-school sports may sleep in or use the first hour of the day for a study hall. Students who choose not to play after-school sports start the day at 8:00 am, choosing from a range of options for group or personal workouts. Students have access to campus gyms, weight room, spin room, dance studio and swimming pool.

# ARTS

We believe ALL of our students can and must create—and we offer a range of opportunities for every student to practice, analyze, imagine, design and perform. Optional arts activities include chorus, orchestra, theatre, theatre tech and visual arts and provide an opportunity to learn and collaborate with Upper School boys.

The newly launched Artist Laureate program allows students to showcase a portfolio of art for the entire community. After a rigorous applications process, selected laureates receive a stipend from the school to cover materials and supplies.



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# Contact Us

To learn more about Annie Wright Upper School for Girls and the admission process or to schedule a campus tour, contact Laura Bales '85, Upper School Admissions Director, at 253.284.8601 or [laura\\_bales@aw.org](mailto:laura_bales@aw.org).

I can't wait to meet you!  
-Laura Bales '85  
Upper School Admissions Director

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# Scholar Search

Scholar Search, held annually in February, provides you the opportunity to get to know Annie Wright Schools, our two Upper School programs (one for boys and one for girls), and for us to learn about you, too. Best of all, this is the only time in the year that we award merit scholarships to attend the Upper Schools at AWS, and attendance at Scholar Search means you're eligible for these awards. Best part? You'll get to view (or even participate in) our world-famous lip sync competition!

