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THE UPPER SCHOOL  
AT THE LAB SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON



Schools aren't designed for students who see the world differently.

Wouldn't it be great to be at a school with teachers who get the way you learn? Wouldn't it be great to be surrounded by students who do too?

At Lab, we understand that learning differences have nothing to do with intelligence, but come from a *difference* in the way students learn. And because we know that, The Lab School of Washington is different in how we teach.



## **1 | The Lab School transforms the way you think about yourself and your future.**

Other schools may be able to accommodate a student with learning differences by helping you to pass a test or keep up with the class. Lab does more—we design our program so that learning differently is seen as an advantage. Lab teaches you about your specific learning needs. You will understand *how* your brain works and *how* you learn. At Lab, we don't accommodate learning differences—we celebrate and leverage them!

## 2 | Lab helps you tackle learning challenges head on.

Your teenage brain is still developing. Although your intelligence enables you to work around your learning differences in earlier grades, the tasks we need to tackle get increasingly complex. Learning differences can be an impediment in a traditional environment—make you less efficient. At Lab, we design for you—while helping you build the skills to thrive in a more diverse and complex world.





In Lab's Upper School, students receive direct instruction in skills important for success in college and beyond—in an environment where **the goal is to thrive** not survive.







**“MY ADHD ACTUALLY MAKES  
ME FEEL VERY GIFTED  
BECAUSE LAB SCHOOL HAS  
TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE IT  
TO MY ADVANTAGE.  
SOMETIMES I THINK I HAVE  
A SECRET WEAPON THAT  
OTHERS DON'T HAVE.”**

**- LAB SCHOOL STUDENT**



Our Upper School has 130 students in grades 9-12.  
Class sizes range from **5 to 13 students.**



### **3 | We get you. The Lab School community supports your learning.**

Through collaborative and hands-on learning, Lab School gives you countless opportunities to express your unique gifts as an individual and as a group member. That's a powerful difference. Working together in our supportive environment inspires you to take risks and aim high.



## 4 | Our staff are experts at what they do.

At Lab, you will be surrounded by other students who learn differently and by teachers and staff who understand you and how you learn. With Lab's teaching techniques, the content of a class will become more meaningful and your understanding of it more lasting.

As a result, your learning difference will not be perceived as a burden, but will be celebrated as a part of who you are. Our program is designed for *you*.

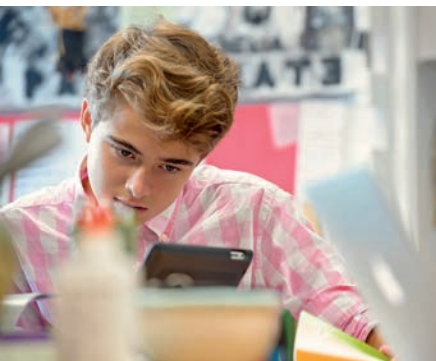
## OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are specialists in learning differences. **More than 80%** of our Upper School teachers have advanced degrees. They will inspire you through innovation, commitment, passion, and caring.



## **5 | We celebrate differences. We are intentionally diverse as we believe our differences are a gift.**

At Lab, we are committed to building a community where the identities and individual stories of our students, families, and staffuly inform their experiences at Lab. For that reason diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are integral parts of the Lab experience. In our Upper School, through our Student Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, students are able to foster more open communication, representation, and engagement.









## OUR COURSE OFFERINGS INCLUDE

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### ENGLISH

English 9: Finding Our Voice  
English 10: Being Informed  
and Creating Change  
American Literature  
World Literature  
Rhetoric

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### MATH

Algebra I, II  
Geometry  
Trig/Precalculus  
Probability/Statistics  
Calculus

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### HISTORY

Ancient World History  
Modern World History  
US History  
Government  
History of People of Color  
in America

### SCIENCE

Physical Science  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Environmental Science  
Earth Science

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### HEALTH/PE

Health and Physical Conditioning

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### FOREIGN LANGUAGES

ASL I, II, III, IV  
Spanish I, II, III, IV

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### 9TH GRADE

#### REQUIRED COURSES

Freshman Seminar  
Identity, Food, and Culture

*See Arts offerings, page 21*







## 6 | Lab helps you achieve success in a rigorous, college-prep program.

Our Upper School is a challenging, college-prep program designed for students who learn differently. Lab students thrive in our environment and will learn to advocate for themselves, taking advantage of new opportunities on and off campus.

## TECHNOLOGY

Lab's one-to-one Chromebook program and technology resources provide the tools to become an effective, efficient, and independent learner. We use apps and software that support organization, reading, note-taking, writing, researching, and study skills. All students also take an online financial literacy class.





## 7 | We understand that learning through art makes the difference.

The Lab School approach is based in the arts. Students learn art for arts sake and use the arts to full advantage to problem-solve and attack difficult questions. When you're trained to use your brain differently, you increase your potential. You will discover talents or passions you never knew you had.

### OUR ARTS OFFERINGS INCLUDE

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#### VISUAL ARTS

Studio Art  
Drawing  
Drawing, Painting & Sculpture  
Intensive  
Set Design/Stagecraft  
Advanced Stagecraft  
Jewelry Making/Metalsmithing  
Portfolio Development  
Ceramics

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#### DIGITAL ARTS

Digital Photography  
Digital Filmmaking  
Yearbook  
Robotics

#### PERFORMING ARTS

Beginning Music/Rock Band  
Intermediate Music/Rock Band  
Advanced Music/Rock Band  
Music Perspectives  
Musical Theater  
Drama  
Rehearsal and Performance  
Shakespeare and Beyond  
Theater for Social Change  
Dance



## 8 | At Lab, it's safe to take risks.

Lab students take risks because they are in a supportive environment where the opportunity to learn and grow is the first priority.

Because our program is designed for students who learn differently, Lab students have time to focus on passions in and out of the classroom



## **JUNIOR YEAR INTERNSHIP**

Our year-long internship program provides a structured, supportive environment that teaches real-world career skills and can lead to avenues for further study. Internships have included working in offices on Capitol Hill, The National Air and Space Museum, National Child Research Center Preschool, WAMU, the Center for Urban Ecology, and the Filmore Arts Center among many others.

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## **SENIOR THESIS**

Throughout senior year students use their research, presentation, writing, and editing skills to pursue a line of inquiry on a topic of personal interest. Projects have included studies of cartography and human evolution; the gentrification of urban neighborhoods; a survey of gender bias in the art world; and the impact on riding style when building surfboards out of alternative materials.

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## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Our Upper School students complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service prior to graduation. Projects have included hunger-relief programs, advocacy, mentoring, clothing drives, and beautification projects.

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## **GLOBAL CITIZENS**

We develop lifelong learners who engage with the world around them.

- In recent years, students have participated in a civil rights tour of Alabama, a literary and historical tour of Boston, and a conservation science trip to Florida to work with endangered marine mammals.
- International destinations—exploring history, culture, economy, language, and science—include China, France, the Galapagos, Rome, South Africa, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

## 9 | There's time to explore new interests at Lab.

At Lab, you can try things that excite you: participate in a new sport or one you already enjoy, get involved in Student Council or start a student club, perform in a theater production, or work behind the scenes. And you can take charge—there are numerous **leadership opportunities**.

### **ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Admissions Ambassadors  
Business/Stocks  
Chess Club  
Coding/Robotics  
Cooking/Baking  
Council for Equity & Social Justice  
Creative Writing  
Eye to Eye Mentoring  
Movie Club  
Philosophy  
Sci-Fi/Anime  
Student Advisory Council  
Thespian Society/Drama Club

### **ATHLETICS**

*Member of the Metro Independent School Athletic League and the Independent Small Schools Athletic Conference. Our teams are competitive, yet open to everyone. Sports include:*

Basketball  
Cross Country  
Fencing  
Golf  
Soccer  
Tennis  
Track  
Volleyball

### **AFFINITY GROUPS**

Ethnicity  
Family Structure/Adoption  
Gender  
Neurodivergence  
Race  
Religion  
Sexuality





## 10 | We'll help you get ready for college.

At Lab, our college advisory team gets to know you from the minute ninth grade starts—or before!—so that as you grow and zero in on your strengths and interests, we are there to help you find that right fit. More than **92%** of our graduates are accepted to college. We help each of our students make the right plan for life after Lab—whether it's college or a gap year getting real-world experience.

### COLLEGES ATTENDED INCLUDE

American University	McDaniel College
Bowie State University	Mitchell College
Champlain College	Morgan State University
Columbia University	New York University
East Carolina University	Oberlin College
Dean College	Sarah Lawrence College
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Savannah College of Art and Design
Goucher College	Skidmore College
Guilford College	Syracuse University
High Point University	Temple University
Hobart & William Smith College	Union College
Hofstra University	University of Arizona
Howard University	University of Vermont
Lynn University	Ursinus College
	Virginia Tech





Lisa McMahon, our Director of Alumni Engagement (and previous Head of our Upper School) looks forward to staying in touch with you as you move through your post-Lab journey.

**“SINCE I CAME TO LAB I’VE  
BECOME A BETTER STUDENT,  
WITH BETTER STUDY  
METHODS. THE TEACHERS  
HERE HELP ME LEARN HOW  
TO DO THINGS THAT I  
THOUGHT WERE REALLY  
HARD OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME  
TO LEARN.”**

- LAB SCHOOL STUDENT







## **A purpose-built Upper School**

Our Upper School students and teachers enjoy their own four-story building with 30,000 square feet of interactive classrooms, state-of-the-art science labs and makerspaces, and collaborative areas.

The campus blends indoor and outdoor learning spaces, combines communal teaching areas with quiet areas for self-directed learning, and encourages young minds to be creative, collaborative, and connected.



Equally suited for hands-on projects, independent study, and seminar-style presentations, Lab's new Upper School building fuels your excitement about learning and prepares you for college and your future workplace.

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*“Our Upper School building has transformed the way we teach and learn. The resources and the flexibility of space offer students endless opportunities to act spontaneously on their questions and interests; they have taken ownership of their learning space and blossomed in new and impressive ways.”*

- LAB SCHOOL TEACHER





Since 1967, The Lab School of Washington has provided an exceptional academic experience for bright students with specific learning differences.

The first school of its kind in the nation, The Lab School enjoys a worldwide reputation for transforming lives and launching students on the path toward success. In fact, our program is one of the most studied, most inspired instructional approaches in the field.

To learn more about Lab, come to our campus for a visit or check us out online at [www.labschool.org](http://www.labschool.org).



The Lab School's programs and policies are applied with equal consideration to all of its applicants and students. We do not discriminate on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, or any other status protected by applicable law.



**THE  
LAB  
SCHOOL**

**The Lab School of Washington**

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