



The Emery/Weiner School

Connecting with the Past, Preparing for the Future

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ADMISSION

What kind of student will Emery/Weiner accept?

The Emery/Weiner School, a college preparatory and Jewish community day school, is committed to serving students (irrespective of religion) who are able to demonstrate academic excellence in a dual-studies curriculum (general and Judaic studies). Students who are admitted must demonstrate the maturity and independence to meet these academic demands and challenges, and they must demonstrate positive values and high ethical standards.

May prospective students visit the campus and spend a day at Emery/Weiner?

Yes! We encourage all prospective students to visit our school for a half-day or full-day to get a first-hand glimpse at what makes us unique. Prospective students will be paired with a current EWS student host, attend classes, meet current students, and receive a free lunch. Additionally, both parents and students are welcome to take a campus tour. For more information on the shadowing program and/or campus tours, please call Stephanie Miller, Associate Director of Admissions, at 832-204-5895.

What are the application requirements?

- Complete the application form and student questionnaire (including \$100 application fee)
- Submit 2 teacher recommendations
- Submit official school transcripts and records
- Take the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE)
- Attend a student interview
- Attend a shadowing day at Emery/Weiner (full or half-day)

On what basis will applicants be evaluated for admission to The Emery/Weiner School?

A broad range of factors will be considered, including:

- Previous academic achievement
- Extracurricular interests and activities
- Student questionnaire
- Recommendation forms
- Performance on the ISEE
- All available information regarding the applicant's character, maturity, and conduct

Is the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) a requirement for all applicants?

All applicants to The Emery/Weiner School entering grades 6-9 must take the ISEE. Students applying to grades 10-12 may submit scores from any of the following exams in lieu of the ISEE: Stanfords, PSAT, SAT, or ACT. Applicants to grades 10-12 who lack the aforementioned standardized testing must take the ISEE.

What important dates do I need to keep in mind?

- Sunday, January 10, 2010 and Sunday, January 24, 2010: ISEE Admission Testing at Emery/Weiner
- Friday, January 22, 2010: Application Deadline
- Wednesday, March 3, 2010: Admissions Committee Decisions Mailed
- Wednesday, April 7, 2010: Completed Contracts Due

TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

How much is tuition?

Tuition for the 2010/2011 school year will be set by the Board of Trustees in January 2010. As an estimate, the tuition for this academic year (2009/2010) is:

Middle School Tuition: \$15,140*

Upper School Tuition: \$17,760*

**There is a one-time New Student Enrollment Fee of \$250 for all new students. Eighth graders pay an additional trip fee of \$1,400 for the week-long trip to Washington, D.C.*

Tuition includes most required trips, activities, and technology replacement costs. Only certain individualized activities require separate fees. Books and uniforms are purchased separately.

Is financial aid available?

Students are accepted on a needs-blind basis, and we are committed to the principle that tuition expenses not be a barrier to enrollment. For the 2009/2010 year, we awarded over \$750,000 in scholarships, with approximately 20% of our student body receiving some form of financial aid.

How does a family apply for financial aid?

Emery/Weiner utilizes a third-party company, FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment Program, in helping to determine financial aid. Families may visit the FACTS website at www.factstuitionaid.com to apply online. Parents must submit forms to FACTS by **March 1, 2010** in order to be considered in the first round of financial aid awards. Please note that approximately 85% of our financial aid awards are made in the first round, and subsequent requests/applications will be considered based on remaining dollars. Early application and attentiveness to application procedures are essential, as financial aid funds are limited.

ACADEMICS

What is the Middle School Educational Program?

Grade 6

English
Mathematics
Life Science
History
Hebrew
Judaic Studies
Physical Education
Fine Arts Rotation

Grade 7

English
Mathematics
Earth Science
History
Hebrew
Judaic Studies
Physical Education
Fine Arts Elective

Grade 8

English
Mathematics
Integrated Physics & Chemistry
History
Hebrew
Judaic Studies
Physical Education
Fine Arts Elective

What are the graduation requirements for the Upper School?

Discipline/Area

English
Judaic Studies
History
Mathematics
Science
Foreign Language*
Academic Elective Courses
Arts
Physical Education/Sport Team Participation
Extracurricular Activity/Club Participation

Credits

4 credits
4 credits (see below)
3 credits
3 credits (4 recommended)
3 credits
3 credits
3 credits
2 credits (minimum of 4 semesters)
2 (minimum of 4 semesters/seasons)
Recommended minimum of one per year (do not count as credit)
27 academic credits**

Total

**Demonstrated competency in Hebrew or one-year course required.*

***Students must also complete eighteen hours of community service per year. Emery/Weiner is also currently considering amending the requirements so that math and science must be taken for four years, beginning with the Class of 2012.*

CO-CURRICULARS

What athletics do you offer?

We believe that an exemplary athletic program is an extension of the classroom. As such, athletics offers students an opportunity to develop and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. The positive benefits that participation in athletics offers include, but are not limited to, self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and the development of team spirit. Last year, we offered the following competitive athletics:

| | <u>Fall</u> | <u>Winter</u> | <u>Spring</u> |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Boys: | 6-Man Football (Upper School) Soccer (Middle School) | Soccer (Upper School) | Baseball |
| Girls: | Volleyball | Soccer | Softball |
| Both: | Cross Country (Upper School) | Basketball | Golf (Upper School) Tennis Track & Field |

What types of fine arts do you offer?

EWS is fortunate to have some of the best faculty and facilities for its fine arts programs in the city. Last year's campus expansion added a black-box theater, gallery space, and music classrooms to Emery/Weiner's already extensive fine arts facilities, which included a 500-seat theater with state-of-the-art lighting & sound, two visual arts classrooms, a darkroom, three computer labs (one Mac and two PC), and music practice rooms.

During the 6th grade year, students rotate through each of the fine arts, and grades 7-8 may choose a fine arts elective, which includes a general survey of the fine arts discipline. Electives for Upper School students delve deeper into specific aspects of a given discipline (e.g. taking digital photography instead of a general visual arts class). Many fine arts courses also incorporate technology. Students may also participate in after-school theatre productions without enrollment in a theatre-related elective. Course offerings include:

Middle School

Instrumental Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts

Middle School students may also take the following courses to fulfill the fine arts elective requirement for grades 7-8: Film Appreciation, Introduction to Spanish, Introduction to Latin.

Upper School

A Cappella, Acting, Ceramics, Dance, Darkroom Photography, Digital Graphic Design, Digital Imaging, Drawing & Painting, Instrumental Ensemble, Instrumental Studies, Introduction to Stagecraft, Music Appreciation, Music Theory, Printmaking, Studio Art, Survey of Art History, Theatre Production, Web Development, Yearbook, Yoga/Pilates

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TRIPS

What is an experiential learning trip, and what kinds of trips do students take?

Experiential learning trips in the Middle School are intended to complement the curriculum and provide opportunities for experiential learning. Faculty members chaperone each of the trips. The sixth grade participates in an overnight camping experience and local field trips; The seventh graders embark on a three-day, two-night Texas Heritage Tour; and eighth graders visit Washington, D.C. on a five-day, four-night trip. Also, students take part in a range of activities during the all-Middle School retreat.

In the Upper School, each grade takes three distinct trips: A weekend Shabbaton, or Sabbath retreat, that is more religious in nature; a week-long outdoor education experience in places such as Big Bend National Park that focuses on skills including hiking, caving, camping and canoeing; and a week-long culture trip to cities such as Los Angeles and New York where students are exposed to the regional cultures (both Jewish and non-Jewish) by visiting museums, historical sites and places of local interest. This part of our program culminates with a senior trip to Poland and Israel coordinated with the Alexander Muss School.



The Emery/Weiner School

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Our Mission

To educate and develop students whose intellect, moral character and Jewish identity provide a lifelong foundation for personal growth, commitment to the Jewish people and *Tikkun Olam* - improving the world in which we live.