



LOS ALTOS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

# Elementary School

Kindergarten - 5th Grade



L E A D E R S H I P | A C A D E M I C S | C H A R A C T E R | S E R V I C E

## VISION STATEMENT

The 21st-century vision for Los Altos Christian Schools (LACS) is to be a Christ-centered community, which develops graduates to encompass values of leadership, academics, character, and service. LACS empowers students to be leaders in their own lives by emphasizing personal responsibility, self-advocacy, and effective interpersonal skills.

## MISSION STATEMENT

LACS equips students by providing a challenging academic environment through caring and rigorous instruction. The curriculum encourages innovative and critical thinking, strong communication skills, and effective skill to real-life application. LACS actively promotes knowledge and understanding of God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ, which will transform all aspects of the student's life and character. Social-emotional learning is incorporated in all areas of student life. LACS nurtures a community of diverse learners where students, parents, and faculty support each other and positively influence the world around them.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible, God's inspired and inerrant Word, is of final authority in faith and life.  
2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21

Based on this Word:

- We believe in one God, existing eternally in three persons.  
Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30
- We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and is true God and true man.  
Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35
- We believe man was created in God's image, but sinned, incurring spiritual death, which has passed upon all the race.  
1 Corinthians 11:7, Romans 8:29, Genesis 1:26, Romans 12:1-2
- We believe that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that all who trust Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.  
John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5
- We believe that the personal, pre-millennial return of Christ is our "blessed hope."  
Revelations 22:12, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.  
1 Peter 1:3, Romans 10:9, John 11:25

## CORE VALUES

- LEADERSHIP** LACS encourages students to be "leaders in their own lives" by emphasizing personal responsibility, self-advocacy, and effective interpersonal skills.
- ACADEMICS** LACS provides students with a challenging academic environment through a curriculum that encourages critical thinking, strong communication skills, and effective skills application.
- CHARACTER** LACS integrates a thorough knowledge of God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ, into all aspects of the school's life.
- SERVICE** LACS nurtures a community of students, parents, and staff who seek to actively support each other and positively influence the world around them.

## GOALS FOR GRADUATES

- **COMMITTED CHRISTIANS** who understand that Salvation only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ, demonstrate how to use the Bible as a guidebook for life and share this saving faith with others.
- **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS** who read, write, speak, listen and respond appropriately in differing situations.
- **CRITICAL THINKERS** who apply problem-solving strategies to real-life situations.
- **QUALITY PRODUCERS** who develop their God-given talents and abilities by showing responsibility, organization, and innovation as they pursue their goals.
- **COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS** who contribute positively and productively to their community, both locally and globally.

## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME LETTER

Dear prospective parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Los Altos Christian Schools (LACS), a school community which hosts excellent educational programs in preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle school, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Since our beginnings in 1981, our schools have been dedicated to student centered learning focused on building leadership, growing academic skills, developing character, and instilling the value of service. At LACS, we believe that with a positive partnership between the home and the Christian school, our students will flourish in all areas of life and learning.

Los Altos Christian Schools is situated on a beautiful campus surrounded by rolling hills, mature trees, and a scenic creek. This serene setting is a haven of peace in the Bay Area to provide rigorous yet unhurried academic programs paired with unique co-curricular opportunities inspiring student growth and lifelong learning. At LACS, your child will receive an outstanding education that includes hard work and discipline, but also allows time for extra help from teachers, prayer, and play. Students who experience our positive balance leave school at the end of the day excited to return the next morning.

Each administrator, teacher, and staff member at LACS is carefully screened and selected for both their professional credentials and their Christian character. Our teachers understand that instructional needs for individual students differ. Classes are small and involve multiple modalities of teaching and learning providing for learning differences while also encouraging greater challenge for advanced learning where needed. While we believe there are several time-tested methods of instruction, our teachers integrate technology, cooperative learning, and a hands-on approach into their daily lessons.

Our planned instructional approach involves specific planning by year, by unit, by week, and by day. Administration and faculty work closely to ensure a vertical planning approach that enhances continuity and growth from grade level to grade level and class to class.

With accreditation through both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), families may have confidence in Los Altos Christian Schools' vision, mission, and goals.

I look forward to greeting you in person soon. Once you meet our administrative and teaching team, tour our campus, and see our students in action, I believe you will discern the LACS difference for yourself. Please contact LaSha Heard, Admissions Coordinator, at [admissions@lacs.com](mailto:admissions@lacs.com) to learn more about our admissions process.

Sincerely,

**Cathy Robinson, M.Ed.**  
**Head of Schools**

## ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME LETTER

Dear parents,

Welcome to Los Altos Christian High School. For more than 38 years, Los Altos Christian Schools (LACS) focus has been on serving students and families. The school has grown to where it is currently serving students from Kindergarten-10th grade with unique learning needs, specializing in language-based learning disabilities (LBDL) as well as students with no assessed learning needs. We have a rigorous yet unhurried approach to learning where students may experience success across all subject areas regardless of their learning style. LACS provides a safe and positive academic environment with programs structured to support students and help them acquire and improve their academic and social skills. We carefully assess each student and design individually tailored programs to address the student's strengths and weaknesses. Our teaching principles and practices are based on years of frontline experience; our practical, classroom-tested methods are influenced by the latest research on human intelligence, cognitive development, and learning disabilities. LACS teachers receive specialized hands-on training when they arrive at LACS, and they continue education through in-service training and our teacher mentorship program.

We look forward to you joining our journey of excellence in Christian education.

Sincerely,

**Lizette Hibbert**

**Assistant Head of Schools**

## CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION & CAMPUS CULTURE

### CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

A Christian school is an extension of the Christian home in training students for time and eternity in a Christian environment and LACS seeks to partner with both church and unchurched families to fulfill the Great Commission.

The Christian philosophy of education has its foundation in the revelation of God in nature, in the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, and in the person of Jesus Christ, who is Truth. The Christian standard is the Word of God, and is absolute because its Author is an absolute God. Because of this absolute authority, the Christian educator is committed to God's Word, the Bible, as the source for the principles of education.

With this foremost in our minds, we therefore are dedicated to the purpose of preparing students academically, emotionally, and spiritually to be truly effective citizens of God and country.

To that end, the following educational objectives result from this philosophy.

#### For the Students' Spiritual Development

1. To lead students into a personal, saving relationship with Christ as Lord and Savior
2. To develop a desire in each student to know and to do the will of God
3. To teach the students consistent daily Christian living and encourage service towards others
4. To provide for the students an excellent role model in the person of their teacher
5. To develop in the student a Biblical sense of right and wrong
6. To foster self-discipline in the student based on respect for and reverence toward God and all authority
7. To build in the students a God-consciousness and consistent Christian philosophy of life

#### For the Students' Academic Standards

1. To promote high academic standards and help students gain a thorough comprehension and command of the fundamentals processes used in communicating with others
2. To teach and encourage the formation of good study habits
3. To teach the students how to do research and to use the scientific method
4. To develop creative and critical thinking and the proper use of Biblical criteria for evaluation
5. To promote good citizenship through developing an understanding and appreciation of our Christian and American heritage of freedom and human dignity
6. To impart knowledge of the world and current affairs in all fields, and relate them to God's plan for men.

### CAMPUS CULTURE

- Well credentialed, qualified, caring, Christian faculty and staff
- Beautiful, peaceful, and well kept campus setting in Los Altos
- Open enrollment private, Christian school with more than 38 years of excellence
- Warm and friendly relationships developed in a speaking culture
- Parents actively involved in the daily life and events of our school
- An environment that nurtures growth and fosters a desire to return
- A place where learning is engaging
- A campus where positive pride is increasing every day

## LEADERSHIP | ACADEMICS | CHARACTER | SERVICE

### ACADEMIC DIRECTION

- Collaboration becoming an increased focal point
- Hands-on science integrated at all levels with a balance of projects, terminology, and experiments
- Social-emotional learning integrated across all grade levels
- Experiential learning through travel to various locations linked to academics, adventure, and culture
- Continuing education for faculty and administration through professional training including Orton-Gillingham and others
- Foreign language learning including American Sign Language, Spanish, and a desired addition of Latin
- Student assessments in speech, language, math, and science
- Collaboration becoming an increased focal point
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### LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER & SERVICE

- Placing character before achievement
- Focus on the person of Jesus Christ
- Increasing awareness of service to others locally and globally
- Weekly Chapel services and advisory groups for middle school
- Student Council, Ambassadors, and National Junior Honor Society
- Building virtues through scripture memory, lessons, and daily life
- Desire to create increased character, service, and leadership opportunities through a parent task force

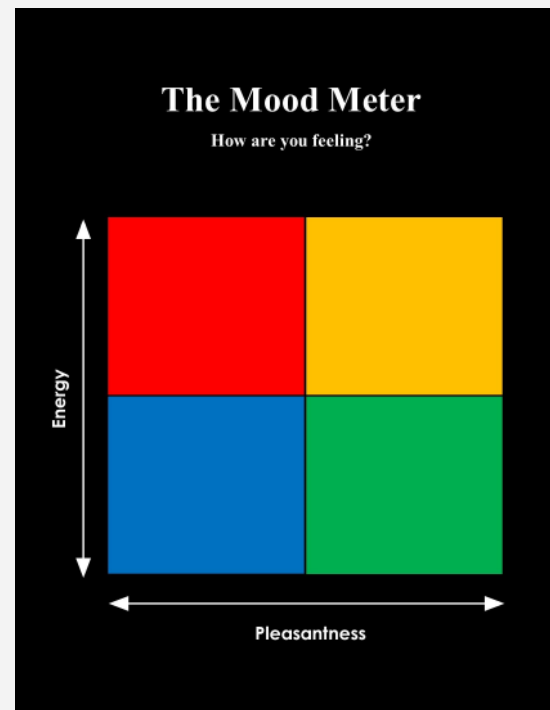
## EMOTIONS MATTERS & LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### EMOTIONS MATTERS

Social and emotional cognition play a vital role in academic outcomes. Learning to channel attention to productive tasks, sustain motivation when work becomes demanding, and handle the frustrations of sharing, learning, and communicating with peers are skills that depend on the ability to understand and manage emotions.

A mindful Curriculum for students will help cultivate emotion regulation, attention, and performance.

- Reduced rumination
- Stress reduction
- Boosts to working memory
- Focus
- Less emotional reactivity
- More cognitive flexibility
- Relationship satisfaction



### LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Extension of schoolwide Learning Assistance Department
- Language arts teachers are Oroton-Gillingham or Slingerland trained
- Teaching tailored to students needs
- Executive function skills incorporated each year
- Social and emotional skills training
- Accommodations are extensive and specifically followed
- Self-contained classrooms.

## KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

### KINDERGARTEN CLASS INFORMATION

- Small class sizes for individualized learning
- Variety of approaches between play and structured academics
- Full-Day program from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with extended day care options
- Phonics based reading and writing
- Biblical values integrated throughout the curriculum
- Inquiry based science and math programs
- Weekly instruction in co-curricular classes including Physical Education, Spanish, Music, Art, Library, Computers and STEAM Lab.



### GESELL SCREENING

The Gesell Screening is a comprehensive multi-dimensional assessment system that assists educators, and other professionals in understanding characteristics of child behavior in relation to typical growth patterns between 2½ to 9 years of age. This screening uses direct observation to evaluate a child's cognitive, language, motor and social-emotional responses in five strands: Developmental, Letter/Numbers, Language/Comprehension, Visual/Spatial, and Social/Emotional/Adaptive. Gesell Screenings are assessed at LACS by Mrs. Cathy Robinson, Assistant Head of Schools for Learning Services.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR KINDERGARTEN

- Go to our Website [www.lacs.com](http://www.lacs.com), click "Admissions", then "How to Apply", and fill out your Application
- Pay Application Fee
- Upload Birth Certificate and Immunization records
- We will call you to set a **Gesell Screening** date for your child/ren
- Admissions Decisions will be notified within 1 week
- Enrollment Packet will be emailed to you
- Complete Enrollment Packet online
- Pay Enrollment Fee in order to hold space within 72 business hours

## HOW TO VISIT & HOW TO APPLY

### HOW TO VISIT OUR SCHOOL

- Go to our Los Altos Christian Schools' Website [www.lacs.com](http://www.lacs.com)
- Call the Registrar, Ms. La'Sha Heard, at 650-948-3738 (ext.124)
- Email the Registrar, Ms. La'Sha Heard at [lasha.heard@lacs.com](mailto:lasha.heard@lacs.com)

### Attend our Visitor Days and Open Houses on the following dates.

- **Visitor Days are on Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at BCC Family Center upstairs**  
2020 : 9/17, 10/15, 12/3  
2021 : 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/15, 5/6
- **Open House:** 11/7/2020, 10:00 a.m.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Go to our Website [www.lacs.com](http://www.lacs.com),
  - Click "Admissions Inquiry"
  - Choose "How to Apply"
  - Create an account and follow the directions
- Upload two previous report cards, standardized testing scores, assessments, writing/math sample and a teacher recommendation.
- Pay application fee.
- Schedule a screening date through Ms. Heard.
- Admissions decisions will be notified within 24 hours.
- Enrollment packet will be emailed to you.
- Complete Enrollment Packet online
- Pay enrollment fee in order to hold space within 72 business hours.

## TUITION INFORMATION 2020-2021

TUITION	Annual	Monthly 10 Installments
Elementary School: Grades Junior Kindergarten - 5	\$ 10,820	\$1,082
* Elementary Learning Assistance Department: Grades 1-5	\$ 18,930	\$1,893
Middle School: Grades 6-8	\$ 13,620	\$1,362
* Middle School Learning Assistance Department: Grades 6-8	\$ 18,930	\$1,893
* High School Learning Assistance Department: Grade 9-10	\$ 26,000	\$2,600

LACS tuition is an annual rate with 3 payment options: annual, semi-annual, or 10 equal installments via FACTS account. The first installment is due in **June 2020, and is non-refundable**. Subsequent installments are due September 2020 through May 2021.

#### \* LAD (Learning Assistance Department) program

This special program is for students experiencing academic difficulties due to specific learning differences.

EXTENDED DAY CARE	EDC Annual	EDC 9 Installments
Before and After School (7:30 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. / 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)	\$ 2,610	\$290
After School Only (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)	\$ 1,980	\$220
Before School Only (7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.)	\$ 990	\$110
After Kindergarten (KinderCare) 2:00 - 3:00 PM	\$ 990	\$110
Hourly Drop In Rate (billed monthly as used)	\$ 10.00 per hour	

Monthly EDC is paid in 9 equal installments (September through May), no reduction will be allowed for months with fewer days.

EDC drop-in charges are for a full hour and are rounded up in the event of a partial hour. There is no discount for a partial hour.

**NOTE: Children picked up after 6:00 p.m. will be charged \$2.00 per minute for late pick-up.**

ADDITIONAL FEES (Non-Refundable)	
Application Fee Due with application. (Waived for LACP students.)	\$ 100
Elementary Registration Fee (Junior K - 5) Due at time of acceptance. Includes classroom, room parent, and field trip & technology fees.	\$700 Priority/Re-Enrollment - Until February 14, 2020 \$800 Open Enrollment - Begins February 15, 2020
Middle & High School Registration Fees (Grades 6 - 10) Due at time of acceptance. Includes classroom, room parent, and most field trip & technology fees.	\$900 Priority/Re-Enrollment - Until February 14, 2020 \$1,000 Open Enrollment - Begins February 15, 2020
DISCOUNT OPPORTUNITIES	
Pay In Full Pay the annual tuition in full by June 30, 2020 or at the time of enrollment if approved by Principal.	2% tuition discount
K-8 Sibling Discount (second child & subsequent) Divided equally between installments. Pro-rated if enrolled after school begins.	\$ 1,000
Bridges Community Church Members One time credit divided equally between installments. Conditions apply.	\$ 1,000
LACS Referral Credit Per New Student. Conditions apply.	\$ 300