



LOS ALTOS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Kindergarten | Elementary School | Middle School | High School

WWW.LACS.COM | 650-948-3738 | 625 MAGDALENA AVENUE, LOS ALTOS, CA 94024

Accredited by





HISTORY

Forty years ago, the leadership of First Baptist Church of Los Altos envisioned an additional area of ministry for the church. A dedicated core group of the membership studied other Christian schools in the area and prayerfully made the decision to open a Christian school on the church's campus. The founding documents were written, and the first school administrator was hired. The doors of Los Altos Christian Schools opened in September 1981 with a student body of 68 children in grades K – 6.

Early on, LACS administration and staff saw the need to provide a specialized program for children of average to above average intelligence with diagnosed learning differences who were experiencing difficulties learning through traditional methods and strategies. A Learning Assistance Department (LAD) was established with classrooms staffed with teachers knowledgeable about learning differences and trained in the Slingerland and/or Orton-Gillingham approach to reading and writing. This program is offered in grades 1 - 5 with up to 12 students per class.

Following many parent requests for additional grades, a middle and a high school were eventually added. The school currently has an enrollment of approximately 200 students.

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOLS

Dear Prospective Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Los Altos Christian Schools (LACS), a school community which hosts excellent educational programs throughout preschool, kindergarten, elementary, middle school, and high school. Since our 1981 inception, 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 that provides 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, collaborative learning, and a hands-on approach into their daily lessons. Our planned instructional approach involves specific planning by year, unit, week, and 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 and the Association of Christian Schools International, 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 Sejin Lim, at sejin.lim@lacs.com to learn more about our admissions process.

Sincerely,

Cathy Robinson, M.Ed.
Head of Schools



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 skills 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." Revelation 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

FACULTY

- Total: 21 Teachers
 - Full Time: 16
 - Part Time: 5
- Master's Degree: 24%
- Doctorate: 5%
- Teacher/Student Ratio 1:15 (on average)
- 100% classes are fewer than 21 students

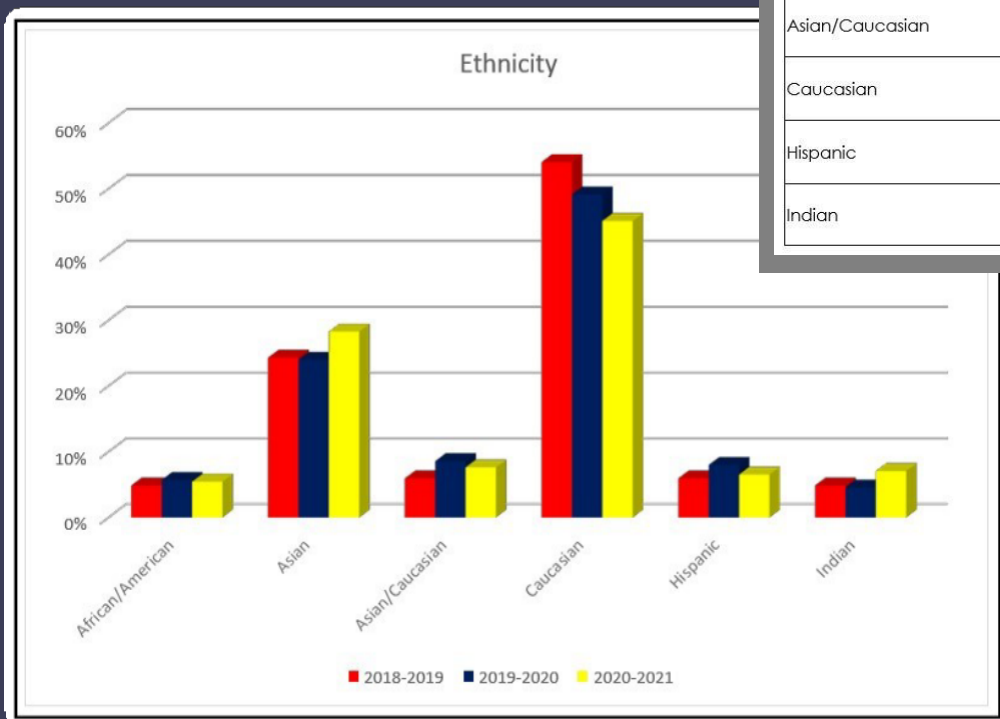
STUDENT POPULATION

Total 190 students (based on January 18, 2021)

- Elementary: 149
- Middle school: 35
- High School: 6

STUDENT ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
African/American	5%	6%	5%
Asian	24%	24%	28%
Asian/Caucasian	6%	9%	8%
Caucasian	54%	49%	45%
Hispanic	6%	8%	7%
Indian	5%	5%	7%



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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Core Academic Subjects

- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Bible

Specials

- Art
- Computers
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Three-Year Course Plan

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
English	English 6 Literature and Composition	English 7 Literature and Composition	English 8 Literature and Composition
Math	Math 6 Pre-Algebra Pre-Algebra Advanced	Pre-Algebra Pre-Algebra Advanced Algebra 1	Pre-Algebra Pre-Algebra Advanced Algebra 1 Geometry
Science	Earth Science and Ecology	Life Science	Physical Science
History	Ancient History	World History	American History
Foreign Language	Spanish 1 ASL 1	Spanish 2 ASL 2	Spanish 3 ASL 3
Bible	Bible 6 Redemption: God's Design	Bible 7 The Life of Christ from the Gospel of John	Bible 8 The Spirit-filled Life of the Believer from the Book of Acts
PE	P.E. 6 Strength & Conditioning	P.E. 7 Strength & Conditioning	P.E. 8 Strength & Conditioning
One Elective per Semester	Art Studio Gardening & Cooking Basics Introduction to Journalism Knitting Learn to Play the Ukulele Math Lab Speech and Debate Tech Challenge Trail Trekking Web Programming	Art Studio Gardening & Cooking Basics Introduction to Journalism Knitting Learn to Play the Ukulele Math Lab Speech and Debate Tech Challenge Trail Trekking Web Programming	Art Studio Gardening & Cooking Basics Introduction to Journalism Knitting Learn to Play the Ukulele Math Lab Speech and Debate Tech Challenge Trail Trekking Web Programming

Community Service Guidelines

Students must complete **at least 40 hours** of LACS-approved community service during their three-year middle school career as part of their graduation requirements.

Students will complete a minimum of eight hours in 6th grade, and 16 hours each year in 7th and 8th grades.

HIGH SCHOOL

Four-Year Course Plan

	9 th GRADE	10 th GRADE	11 th GRADE	12 th GRADE	LACS Graduation Re- quirements 240 Required	UC/CSU 'a-g' Course Subject Area Requirements 150 Required
History		Modern World History, Culture & Geography	U.S. History	American Gov. & Civics (1 semester) Economics (1 semester)	30 credits	2 years minimum
English	English 9: Literature & Composition	English 10: World Literature & Composition	English 11: American Literature & Composition	English 12: British Literature & Composition	40 credits	4 years required
Math	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus Calculus	40 credits	3 years required through Algebra 2 (4 years recommended through Pre-Calculus)
Science	Ecology: Marine Biology Environmental Sciences	Biology - with lab	Chemistry - with lab	Physics - with lab	40 credits	UC: 1 Biological science, 1 physical science required CSU: Biology and Chemistry/Physics 4 Years lab science recommended
Foreign Language	Spanish 1 ASL 1	Spanish 2 ASL 2	Spanish 3		20 credits 30 of the same language recommended	2 years of the same language required 3 years recommended
Visual & Performing Arts			TBD	TBD	10 credits	1 Year-long course required
Elective			TBD	TBD	10 credits	1 Year-long course required
Bible	Bible 9: Introduction to Biblical Interpretation	Bible 10: The Life & Teachings of Jesus	Bible 11	Bible 12	30 Credits	N/A
P.E.	P.E./Strength & Conditioning	P.E./Strength & Conditioning Spartan After school sports			20 Credits	N/A

HIGH SCHOOL

Community Service Guidelines

Students must complete **at least 50 hours** of LACS-approved community service during their four-year high school career as part of their graduation requirements. Students will complete a minimum of 10 hours each year in the 9th and 10th grades, and 15 hours each year in the 11th and 12th grades.

Senior Projects

Senior projects allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to practical situations.

Academic Planning & College Counseling

Los Altos Christian Schools recognizes the importance of providing academic planning and college counseling to our high school students. During this process, we keep individual student needs in mind, and use these unique differences to customize college and academic planning.

The Academic Planning and College Counseling program begins in the ninth grade. Students and their parents have the opportunity to meet with our college counselor during spring of their ninth-grade year.

During their tenth-grade year, our academic counselor schedules a one-on-one meeting with every student and their parents for academic planning and advising for college admissions, including SAT test planning. Students in the 10th grade take the PSAT with their scores analyzed and interpreted to provide students and their families with a baseline for preparing for the SAT.

Students and their families continue to work with our college counselor in one-on-one settings throughout their junior and senior years.

Our Academic Planning and College Counseling program includes individualized counseling, informational presentations, student workshops on essay writing and applications, and guest speakers on topics such as financial aid, in partnership with other schools.

Our counselor works closely with families to identify colleges and universities that are best aligned with each student's academic and extracurricular interests, career choices, and financial aid requirements. The primary goal is to help students find an institution that will best fit their individual needs.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

KINDERGARTEN				
Field Trips/Overnights	Leadership	Spiritual/Service	School Spirit	Afterschool/Enrichment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm/Pumpkin Patch • CuriOdyssey Outdoor Museum and Zoo 	Lead Flagpole Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Chapel • Spiritual Emphasis Week • Support: Globally: Hand of Hope Locally: Guide Dogs for the Blind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit Week • Pep Rallies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool Care • Spartan Lion Obstacle Training • Basketball • Volleyball • Cycling Club • Christmas Musical • End of Year Talent Show • Author Fair • Science Fair • Art Show

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Field Trips/Overnights	Leadership	Spiritual/Service	School Spirit	Afterschool/Enrichment
<p>1st Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pumpkin Patch YSI field trip - Animal unit in Science Class party: Pizza My Heart Concluding unit in community workers. Tour restaurant and make our own pizza <p>2nd Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hidden Villa Farm & Wilderness Tour History Park in San Jose: A Child's Life in the 1890s De Anza College Fujitsu Planetarium <p>3rd Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohlone Field Trip Caroling at Sunny View Retirement Community Los Altos History Museum Owl Pellet Dissection <p>4th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filoli Gardens San Juan Bautista Mission Gold Rush Overnight Walk Through California Rock-N-Water Overnight Gold Rush <p>5th Grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balclutha Overnight State Capital and Train Museum Walk Through American Revolution The Tech Interactive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Activity Council Grades 3 - 5 Lead Flagpole Ceremony Grade Level Buddies Ball Monitor Lead Pledges and Prayer Classroom Helpers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Chapel Spiritual Emphasis Week Support: Globally: Hand of Hope, Locally: Guide Dogs for the Blind Caroling at SunnyView Retirement Community Economic Bake Sale Raising Money for Global Charity Change for Charity Coat Drive Angel Tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Week Pep Rallies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afterschool Care Spartan Lion Obstacle Training Basketball Volleyball Cycling Club Math Olympics Speech Meet Christmas Musical End of Year Talent Show Author Fair Science Fair Art Show Good News Club Music Lessons Tutoring

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL				
Field Trips/Overnights	Leadership	Spiritual/Service	School Spirit	Afterschool/Enrichment
<p>6th Grade: Science Camp</p> <p>7th Grade: Kidder Creek</p> <p>8th Grade: East Coast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Junior Honor Society • Student Activities Council • Ambassadors • Lead Flagpole ceremony • President's Volunteer Service Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Chapel • Spiritual Emphasis Week • Support: Globally: Hand of Hope • Locally: Guide Dogs for the Blind • Service Trip • Community Service • Advisory Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit Week • Pep Rallies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool Care Program • Spartan Lion Obstacle Training • Basketball • Volleyball • Cycling Club • Math Olympics • Speech Meet • The Tech Challenge • Christmas Musical • End of Year Talent Show • Author Fair • Science Fair • Art Show • School Musical

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH SCHOOL				
Field Trips/Overnights	Leadership	Spiritual/Service	School Spirit	Afterschool/Enrichment
<p>9th Grade: Monterey Bay Aquarium</p> <p>10th Grade: Zoo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Junior Honor Society Student Activities Council Lead Flagpole Ceremony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Chapel Spiritual Emphasis Week Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally: Hand of Hope Locally: Guide Dogs for the Blind Community Service Advisory Groups Baja Service Trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Week Pep Rallies Stanford Shopping Center Lunch, Christmas Shopping San Francisco Zoo Ice Skating: Winter Lodge, Mini Golf: Golfland Color Me Mine Bowling Pizza My Heart Tour and Pizza Making San Francisco Pier 39 and Ghirardelli Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afterschool Care Spartan Lion Obstacle Training Basketball Volleyball Cycling Club Speech & Debate Christmas Musical End of Year Talent Show Author Fair Science Fair Art Show School Musical Tech Support