Founded in 2001, Headwaters School is an independent school serving students from early childhood through grade 12 on three Austin campuses.

- **Springs Campus (18 months to Age 5)** in South Austin at 6305 Menchaca Road
- **Creek Campus (Kindergarten to 5th Grade)** in Southwest Austin at 9607 Brodie Lane
- **River Campus (6th to 12th Grade)** in Downtown Austin at 807 Rio Grande Street

*Shuttle service offered between Creek and River Campuses.*
Peacemaking and Mindfulness

Peace Education is paramount to us. We believe that the best way for children to learn about the power of peaceful, healthy communication and conflict resolution is through practice. We dedicate time to the ongoing teaching of communication skills, from discussions with the whole class to one-on-one coaching. As children progress through each grade level, they acquire increasingly sophisticated tools for problem-solving, and are encouraged to practice utilizing these tools. Academically, we examine and celebrate peace leaders and movements throughout history.

We explore mindfulness at each level at Headwaters. By sharing periods of intentional silence, both students and guides are able to set an intention for the class, self-regulate emotions, and feel more connected to their surroundings. We call these moments of silence or guided meditation "Centering" and they allow each of us to calm and focus the mind and body. Every class in the Middle and High School starts with a brief Centering, often led by a student. We also use Centering in parent and staff meetings.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Our school's foundation is grounded in the concept of personal agency and active peacemaking, and we work to provide educational experiences for our students to help them grow as individuals in order to actively bring more peace to the world. This work includes recognizing the ways racism and privilege manifest in us as individuals and in our school community and broader communities, and doing the work to dismantle systems that support them.

Headwaters School’s Purpose, Promise, and PACT

We are inspired, organized, and guided by our Purpose, Promise, and PACT. These ideas serve as the foundation for our daily work.

Our Purpose

We cultivate identity formation, foster empathy, and embrace diversity to bring more peace to the world.

Our Promise

We guide our students to live authentically, think expansively, and create bravely.

Our PACT

We invite our students, guides, staff, parents, and trustees to be:

Peacemakers. As we learn to resolve conflicts, we demonstrate compassion, grace, skill, and courage. We take responsibility for our actions.

Advocates. We strive to understand and value diverse perspectives, cultures, and faiths. We recognize our agency and act with integrity in pursuit of a more just and equitable society.

Creators. Curiosity, wonder, and the creative process are essential to a fulfilling life. We discover ourselves and our voices by taking intellectual and artistic risks.

Thinkers. As self-directed learners, we approach education with intention. We use observation, research, and reason to explore problems that matter to us, our community, and the world.

Montessori Foundation, International Baccalaureate® Diploma

The Montessori curriculum in our Early Childhood and Elementary programs is the foundation that leads to our International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme, and sets us apart from every other school in Austin. Both Montessori and IB share a dedication to growing compassionate global citizens who are self-directed, lifelong learners. The mission of the International Baccalaureate is “to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” This is exactly what Maria Montessori hoped to create—a way of helping children learn who they are both as individuals and as part of the global community.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Twice each year, 4th-12th grade students reflect on their academic and social progress in a conference with parents and guides. Students examine and consider their goals for the year and present their insights to these caring adults.

Headwaters by the Numbers

Since 2012, our graduates have received more than $39.2 million in scholarship offers.

COMPOSITE EXAM RESULTS FOR CLASS OF 2020

Middle 50% SAT 1130 - 1310 ACT 23.25 - 30

FACULTY AND STAFF

90 Full-Time Faculty and Staff Members

7 Part-Time Faculty and Staff Members

13 Average years of faculty and staff experience

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity at Headwaters

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School Calendar

We follow a semester structure, with school typically beginning in late August and continuing through late May. Students attend school five days a week. On the Early Childhood campus, families can choose a half-day program or a full-day program.

Our most up to date school calendar can be found on our website. It can be filtered by program and exported to the online calendar of your choice.

headwaters.org/calendar

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COMPOSITE EXAM RESULTS FOR CLASS OF 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>Middle 50%</th>
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<tr>
<td>1130 - 1310</td>
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</table>

| ACT      | 23.25 - 30 |

FACULTY AND STAFF

| 90 | Full-Time Faculty and Staff Members |
| 7  | Part-Time Faculty and Staff Members |

| 13 | Average years of faculty and staff experience |
Early Childhood Programs
Ages 18 months to 5 years

ACADEMICS

Young Children's Community (YCC)
Our Montessori YCC curriculum falls into three general categories: practical life, language acquisition, and development of coordinated movement.

Children are drawn to the daily practical life work, which falls into three main categories: Care of Self, Care of the Environment, and Grace and Courtesy.

The children enjoy singing together, listening to books, and reciting short poems. They develop a wide range of motor control and hand-eye coordination through the use of well-crafted, child-proportioned materials.

Primary
Our Montessori Primary curriculum includes a wide range of interconnected, age-appropriate learning materials, in the areas of Practical Life, Language, Handwriting, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Culture, and the Arts.

Curriculum lessons are given individually or in small group settings. Each lesson is designed to isolate a particular concept and facilitate the skills of order, concentration, coordination, and independence.

Special attention is given to navigating social interactions, developing respect for others and care of one's emotional self, and support in navigating effective problem-solving strategies and practices. The Primary years prepare students for our Elementary Montessori program, and lay a solid foundation for a lifelong love of learning, optimism, and positive personal growth.

BEYOND ACADEMICS IN OUR YOUNG CHILDREN’S COMMUNITY & PRIMARY PROGRAMS

Primary students have daily outdoor time. We use games and activities in small groups to help further integrate the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive aspects of the young child. Students practice mindfulness, learn to express feelings, build coping skills, and practice functioning in a group.

We place a deep emphasis on art and creative expression. Art is a way for children to communicate their feelings as well as develop their fine motor skills. In the Montessori environment, open-ended art activities are provided to help children explore and use their creativity.

Music is naturally woven into the school day. We sing songs to announce transitions like clean-up and leaving for the day, as well as during circle times. We also use instruments such as guitar or bells, and sometimes, we even have parades with different instruments from the percussion family. Songs at circle time range from fun songs to songs that teach important lessons around social and emotional growth.

Why We Call Our Teachers Guides

Across all three campuses, our educators are called Guides. Our lower school Montessori program is designed with the knowledge that children entering these stages of development are increasingly capable people who are eager for new, broader learning opportunities and social explorations. We believe that every child deserves to have an exceptionally planned and well-prepared learning environment.

The role of each educator is to prepare the learning environment and to act as personal guides to each and every student: to recognize readiness, to follow personal interests, and to illuminate the way on the child’s journey through active discovery. The Montessori Guide is first an observer and then a facilitator, guiding the child toward ever-expanding concepts of interest and ability.

“If we try to think back to the dim and distant past... what is it that helps us reconstruct those times, and to picture the lives of those who lived in them? It is their art... It is thanks to the hand, the companion of the mind, that civilization has arisen.” – Dr. Maria Montessori

GATES OF LIFE

At the end of each school year, students participate in a graduation ceremony to celebrate those students who are moving to a new class the following year. “An ending is but another beginning. Rejoice all ye who pass through these gates...”
At Headwaters Elementary, we help students grow into academically curious, emotionally intelligent, and collaborative members of a learning community. Our Montessori curriculum provides both depth of academic inquiry as well as the opportunity to learn to manage projects and cultivate executive function skills. The spacious 4-acre campus provides ample outdoor learning opportunities, and our Peace Education commitment creates a culture of curiosity, respect, and kindness.

**Elementary Program**
*Kindergarten to 5th Grade*

**ACADEMICS**

Our Montessori Elementary program builds upon our Primary program to continue developing each child’s innate curiosity about the world and encourage independent and collaborative projects within and outside of the carefully prepared classroom. Through a combination of group and individual lessons, hands-on materials, and inquiry, we guide children to explore different areas of the curriculum and topics of interest.

Children move from one level of mastery to another as they navigate the materials and curricula. They are able to advance at their own pace. A child may quickly master one concept and need to spend a longer amount of time on another.

We document the children’s progression through the curriculum with a combination of student recordkeeping and portfolio creation as well as teacher observation, feedback, and evaluation to ensure all academic goals are met.

Special attention is given to navigating social interactions, as well as implementing effective problem-solving strategies and practices.

Each classroom regularly visits our campus library for research and for recreational reading. Special classes each week include Spanish, Music, Art, Gardening, and Health & Wellness. Elementary classrooms are equipped with technology resources used to introduce digital literacy in developmentally appropriate ways.

**BEYOND ACADEMICS IN OUR ELEMENTARY PROGRAM**

In our Elementary Health & Wellness program, our goal is to guide each child to possess the healthiest body, spirit, and mind possible. Elementary students have PE classes two times a week, and learn cooperative and team-building games, as well as basic individual skills that involve gross motor movement, ball handling, and hand-eye coordination. Elementary students also have daily recess.

Our weekly art classes encompass the elements of art, principles of design, art history, and an introduction to various materials, techniques, and processes. Each year the children experience working with a wide variety of media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, clay, sculpture, and crafts. All lessons incorporate critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while fostering individual creativity. There is an open studio at the end of each school year to showcase the children’s artwork.

Our weekly music classes follow the Orff teaching philosophy. This philosophy presents lessons with an element of play to allow children to explore singing and playing instruments incorporated with movement and dance in nearly every class. Through imitation, then exploration, the class “orchestra” moves towards musical experiences where multisensory learning and high engagement can be readily observed.

Several of our classes perform annual theater productions that the children write, design, and organize. We also have an after-school theatre club where students write scripts, develop plots, create sets, and act in their own productions.

**SINGING SONGS GATHERINGS**

Singing Songs gatherings happen each semester on our Early Childhood and Elementary School campuses. Parents and children from each program gather together to sing songs that the children have learned. In the fall semester, the theme is Halloween, and in the spring semester, the theme is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy.
At the foundation of our cultural structure in the Middle and High School is our Advisory curriculum, which creates a small-scale support structure for academic and personal success. Each student in our Middle and High School is a member of a peer Advisory group with 12-16 other students. The Advisor serves as a first point of communication between a child’s teachers and their family.

During Project Week each spring, each Middle and High School student creates a project of their choice from conception to completion. Students are supported in finding a topic of interest to study independently or in a small group, and are then allotted an entire week to execute the project of their choice. The week culminates in students presenting their work to the community. Past projects have included internships, community service, global travel experiences, filmmaking, in-depth research, and more.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMICS

At Headwaters Middle School, our students learn who they are, who they want to become, and what impact they want to have on the world. Students have voice and choice within their educational experience. Small class sizes and a supportive Advisory program create an environment where students can be curious and take risks. Our academics prioritize depth over breadth, and require our students to develop collaboration skills as well as conduct independent work.

Middle School students study English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, World Languages, Study Skills, Movement, and the Arts. Classes like Middle School Orientation help students develop study skills and organizational habits early as we encourage students to have a healthy school/life balance. See all courses at headwaters.org/catalog.

We have several student leadership opportunities in the Middle School, including Admissions Council and Community Leader programs.

BEYOND ACADEMICS IN OUR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Headwaters offers novice to advanced classes in studio art (painting, drawing, and printmaking), filmmaking, and digital photography. The purpose of the Arts programs at Headwaters School is to provide opportunities for our students to develop skills in creative problem solving; to practice a craft with dedication; and to express thoughts, ideas, and feelings about the world. In the Middle School we offer semester-long introductory classes so that students can try a variety of modalities. In the High School, many courses are year-long and evolve into advanced skills. We recognize the importance of creative thinking in life and in all professional positions, and therefore require students to study in the Arts every year. Headwaters film students have received local and statewide recognition for their work.

All students have the opportunity to participate in our sports program. Our teams compete in a league with other schools in the Austin Private School Association and other local leagues. We offer flag football, volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Middle School students take a daily PACTivity class in which they engage in our school values through movement, wellness, and social-emotional learning. High School students independently complete a Physical Education credit each year, including any team sports in which they compete.

Our High School Outdoor Leadership program focuses on leadership, environmental awareness, and specialized outdoor skills. Outdoor Leadership provides opportunities for students to discover their innate leadership ability and build self-confidence and a sense of connection to people and nature. Specialized skills taught through this program include a level of expertise in at least one area, including minimal-impact camping, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, caving, rock climbing, and nature appreciation (botany, bird watching, etc.), where students learn their own trips in their area of specialty. Students also master wilderness first aid and CPR.

Our Middle School music program includes woodwinds, percussion, and brass. Our students learn improvisation, musical notation, instrument fundamentals, and independent musical reading skills. The intention of the program is for students to engage with music, be creative, and learn to express themselves through their instrument. Our High School music students further their exploration of music through fundamentals like reading, music theory, instrumental practice, improvisation, and public performance.
Past projects have included internships, presenting their work to the community. The week culminates in students selecting a topic of interest to study independently or in a small group, and are then allotted an entire week to execute the project of their choice. The week provides opportunities for students to discover their innate leadership ability and grow their personal agency and voice to have a positive impact on the world. 

At Headwaters High School, students learn to know themselves deeply and grow their personal agency and voice to have a positive impact on the world. Our teachers are guides, pointing students in the right direction and giving them the resources to find their way while being careful not to limit their pursuits and interests. The lessons of self-sufficiency and self-advocacy learned in ninth and tenth grades coalesce in our International Baccalaureate (IB) program for juniors and seniors, which features depth over breadth and a mastery of writing across the curriculum.

High School students take four years of study in English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, World Language, and the Arts. All 11th and 12th grade students can choose from a variety of International Baccalaureate course offerings. See all courses at headwaters.org/catalog.

During students’ Junior and Senior years, our college counselor guides families through the college application process. The goal of our highly personalized college counseling program is to support both students and parents in addressing college admissions with a manageable, student-centered method. Parents are supported with private counseling meetings to address specific needs of each family as well as through several group meetings targeting admissions testing, FAFSA, and parents’ responsibilities.

**Credits Required for Graduation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Minimum Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3-4 years (through IB II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4 years (through IB II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4 years (through IB II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>4 years (through IB II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>3 years (through IB II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory of Knowledge</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness and Life Skills</td>
<td>1 semester (in 9th Grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>1.5 years (9th and 10th Grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Planning</td>
<td>Required in 11th &amp; 12th Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearly Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity</td>
<td>1 credit for 9th/10th Grade; 1 credit for 11th/12th Grade (earned as either required IB Creativity-Activity-Service hours or optional Athletics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
<td>25 hours per year for 9th and 10th Grade; 25 hours per year for 11th and 12th Grade (as part of IB Creativity-Activity-Service hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Program**

We are an International Baccalaureate® World School offering the IB Diploma Programme. The International Baccalaureate® is an academically challenging and balanced program that prepares students for success at university and beyond. It has been designed to address the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being of students. Students can participate either as full IB diploma candidates or as individual course certificate candidates. Like us, the International Baccalaureate® values character development as its core purpose. The IB Learner Profile is very much in line with our own Purpose, Promise, and PACT.

The Diploma Programme ensures that students make connections across traditional academic disciplines and explore the nature of knowledge through the unique Theory of Knowledge course; undertake in-depth research into an area of interest through the lens of one or more academic disciplines in the Senior Thesis; and enhance their personal and interpersonal development through Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS) hours. See all the details about Headwaters and the IB at headwaters.org/ib.

**Accreditation**

Headwaters School is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and by the Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools (TAAPS). TAAPS is a member of TEPSAC, the State governing body of private school accreditation associations.

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**Headwaters School**

Our River Campus (Middle and High School) is located blocks from the State Capitol, City Hall, The University of Texas, Austin Central Library, Shoal Creek, Waller Creek, Lake Austin, the Blanton Art Museum, and the business district. We view this location as an incredible asset to our programs today and in the future. Our vision for the River Campus is an upper school program that is deeply integrated with civic, tech, environmental, and service opportunities for our students beyond the walls of our school. We believe this creates a unique opportunity for our students and sets Headwaters apart.

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**Middle and High School Student**

Middle and High School student creates a child’s teachers and their family. As a first point of communication between the student and the family, the Advisory program creates an environment where students and staff members share their talents with the group, are some of the most memorable events of the year.

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**Advisory Groups**

Advisory groups provide opportunities for students to discover their innate leadership ability and grow their personal agency and voice to have a positive impact on the world. Students who they are, who they want to become, and what impact they want to have on the world. Students who they are, who they want to become, and what impact they want to have on the world. Students who they are, who they want to become, and what impact they want to have on the world.
Life Beyond Headwaters

Our graduates have been accepted to the following colleges and universities, and have matriculated to the schools indicated with an asterisk.

Ablen...