



# Reimagining & School



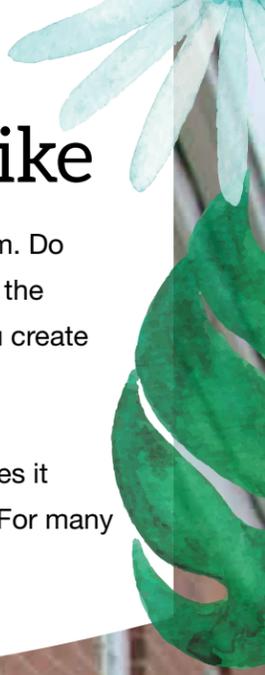
[lawrenceschool.org](http://lawrenceschool.org)



# Great Minds Don't Think Alike

Imagine a once robust, radiant flower that suddenly wilts and fails to bloom. Do you blame the flower and banish it to the compost bin? Or do you change the environment: adjusting the soil, water level and sunlight exposure until you create the perfect conditions that the flower needs to thrive?

It's the same with our kids. Not everyone blooms where planted. Sometimes it takes a change — a different environment to reveal a child's full potential. For many children with learning differences, that environment is Lawrence School.





## Removing Barriers, Unleashing Potential

What casts a shadow on your child's light? At Lawrence, we're experts at removing barriers and then nurturing the conditions for phenomenal growth. It starts with our compassionate community, where everyone — from classmates to teachers to administrators — truly understands and appreciates your child's strengths and challenges. Your son or daughter will finally be able to let go of stress, anxiety and damaging self-beliefs. As a child's courage and confidence grows, so will their competence. That's when academic and personal growth accelerates.

Our research-based, multisensory and personalized program feeds that growth. With help from our skilled faculty, your child will discover the tools and strategies that will allow him or her to learn more than ever before. Are you ready for a transformation?

# Assistive Technology

If your child was near-sighted, would you deny him the glasses he needed to see clearly? For kids with learning differences, technology can enhance learning and level the playing field. That's why Lawrence trains students and teachers on a variety of innovative devices, software and other tech tools to help our kids learn through multiple avenues. Lawrence thoughtfully implements assistive technology tools across both campuses for seamless K-12 integration, allowing students to capitalize on their strengths while compensating for academic challenges.

Using web cams, students can record themselves through programs such as FlipGrid to submit oral answers to teachers' questions. This is especially helpful for students with written expression issues or those studying American Sign Language or Spanish.



Headphones with a microphone allow students to write using dictation or voice typing. This helps students with written expression or working memory issues get their ideas on the page quickly and efficiently.

Laptops are essential for students who do better when reading text in digital formats or who struggle with handwriting. Laptops and programs such as Google Docs and OneNote support executive function tasks because these programs use auto-save and make it easier for students to find and organize documents through search functions.

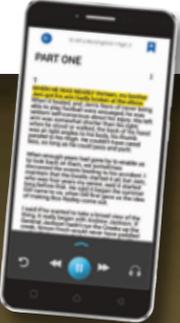


Earbuds enable students to listen to text versions of documents, textbooks and literature through Lawrence's own digital library, Learning Ally, or Bookshare. The difference can be dramatic: A child with dyslexia who reads printed text at 60 words a minute may jump to 300 words a minute with a device that allows her to hear text as she reads.



Touch LED boards encourage students to interact with content in the classroom.

Many Upper School students use their personal smart phones to listen to audio books on Learning Ally, manage their assignment notebook or take pictures of activities or notes on the classroom board.



A tablet digitizer pen, paired with OneNote, allows high school students to take digital handwritten notes to complete activities like math and science worksheets that are more tedious to type.



# Beyond Teaching Students, Reaching Students

For our teachers, Lawrence is more than a job — it's a calling. And thanks to our small class sizes (with average class sizes of 9 students at the Lower School and 13 at the Upper School), our teachers can forge powerful bonds with students and personalize instruction to meet your child's unique learning needs.

"The personal relationship is so important. I know what the students' main struggles are, so I start them off with success instead of what they're struggling with so they don't shut down emotionally. I start the class by asking what mood they're in to help them relax. A strong relationship is a tool."

— **Yelitza Nieves-Caraballo**, *Upper School Spanish teacher*



"At the beginning of the school year, the entire staff sits down and discusses student by student, and everyone shares what they know about that student's strengths and challenges. So on the first day of class, we already know their faces, their names and how they learn best."

— **Amy Erich**,  
*Lower School  
director of literacy  
development*



"Once a student understands Lawrence School, they become relaxed, more confident, happy. If you didn't know better, you'd think this was a specialized school for kids who love school. It's like you've unlocked something in them that had been locked for a long time."

— **Dave Rogers**, *Upper School math teacher*

"It's recognizing a life well-lived outside of my classroom. ... Empathy is woven into how we teach, and empathy is balanced with accountability."

— **Rama Janamanchi**,  
*Upper School English teacher*



"The kids here have more empathy. A lot of them have come from bad situations, and they're pretty open about why they're here. It helps tear down those walls. They aren't afraid to tell me what they don't understand. They trust me, and they know I have their back."

— **Brian Cook**,  
*Upper School math teacher*

"I've never worked at a place that is so introspective. We're constantly asking: Is it working or is it not working? We sometimes have classes of only six students, and the classes are fluid so students can move to another level mid-year. They're constantly getting what they need."

— **Theresa Kaska**, *Lower School teacher*



## Changing Lives, Transforming Families

We know that school struggles can put tremendous pressure on a family, and that's why one of the first things we do at Lawrence is relieve you from doing your child's homework. Educating your child is OUR job.

Forget the hours of after-school tutoring and daily homework battles, the reluctance to get out of bed on school days, the tears and tantrums. After just a few weeks at Lawrence, new parents often tell us: "We got our child back." That means more than just an increase in test scores and GPAs. It means a more peaceful home and time to simply be a family again.

"Adam was miserable and starting to lose his spark. He became this disruptive, unhappy, almost angry child, and we had to medicate him because he had such terrible anxiety around school.

Once we came to Lawrence, the difference was immediate.

We don't have to medicate him now.

Our evenings got so much quieter.

He can go outside and play with his friends, which is what he desperately wanted to do before.

I'm able to get dinner on the table quicker and spend more time with my other children because he's done with homework. Before, bedtime was always horrendous, and that changed also, because he isn't worrying about the next day, and so he rests well and is up at 6 a.m. with no complaints, dressed in a uniform and ready to go. You can finally breathe and enjoy your child again."

— *Jenifer Cornelius, parent*

# Reimagining School

This isn't your average school. We're obsessed with our mission, with constant improvement and with putting kids first. We know children learn differently, and so we teach differently — adapting the learning environment to suit the needs of our students instead of the other way around.

Our teachers, who have special training in learning differences, expertly draw on diverse strategies to help all students reach their “a-ha” moment. We prioritize social-emotional and life skills alongside academics. And instead of assigning hours of frustrating homework, we use homework to simply reinforce classroom instruction while still allowing plenty of time for after-school activities. As a result, our students and families are finally able to reimagine school as a place of opportunity rather than discouragement.



“Lawrence is different in so many ways. At my old school, I got pulled out for my dyslexia and ADHD. Teachers went into topics a little bit and then gave stacks of homework. My friends had to help me, and it got harder and harder. At Lawrence, teachers are different. They’ll help you no matter how tough it is, and they use exercises that help you learn. The kids at Lawrence respect you and your decisions. It’s safe here.”

— Henry, 5th grade



**Structure and organization.** Consistent routines, frequent check-ins and other organizational strategies help students stay focused and productive.

**Small class sizes.** Being “invisible” isn’t an option when your child is one of only a handful of students. This is how we can ensure every student feels supported and gets the one-on-one attention he or she needs.

**Teaching to mastery.** We’re not about teaching to the test or racing through as much material as possible. We move as fast as we can, but as slow as we need to so every student gets it.

**Personalized instruction.** We recognize that students learn in different ways and at different speeds. Our teachers know how to address your child’s challenges and capitalize on his or her strengths, and they’ll modify and adapt their approaches to match each student’s changing needs.

## Not Special Education, Educational Specialists

Students with learning differences are not broken. They don’t need to be fixed. They are not “learning disabled.” Lawrence students are perfectly capable of learning and learning well — they simply learn differently and therefore need to be taught differently. Here’s what makes Lawrence’s approach so distinctive — and effective.

**Research-based methodology.** Our Orton-Gillingham approach is grounded in research-based and multisensory strategies that boost student achievement. We use teaching techniques such as CodeBreakers for reading and spelling instruction, the Wilson Reading System, Framing Your Thoughts, and the Key Three Routine to enhance reading comprehension and study strategies. Plus, we’re committed to finding new and better ways to teach students with learning differences.

**Multisensory approach.** Students with learning differences process and retain information better when it’s presented using at least two modalities (visual, tactile, auditory and kinesthetic) at the same time. Frequent activity changes also keep students engaged.

# Who Are Lawrence Learners?

Lawrence students come from more than 80 communities in Northeast Ohio and beyond (some travel 90 minutes each way). They represent diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. And like 10 to 15 percent of all school-aged children, they have a diagnosed learning difference.

Lawrence specializes in teaching students who are average or above average in intelligence but who struggle with language-based learning differences and who have challenges focusing attention. That includes students with:

- learning differences in reading fluency, reading comprehension or written expression
- dyslexia
- dysgraphia
- dyscalculia
- expressive or receptive language disorders
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- processing speed challenges
- executive dysfunctions



## Harper

**Grade:** 4th

**Learning difference:** Dysgraphia and dyslexia

**Activities:** Lawrence Talent Show, Ski Club

**Pride point:** "I'm proud of how much my math and writing have improved."

**Favorite part about Lawrence:** "The staff is phenomenal. They get me. At Lawrence I feel loved."

**Lawrence transformation:** "It's changed my perspective because I got smarter and was actually learning. I didn't have friends at my old school because of my difference. The kids bullied me. Here at Lawrence, there are no bullies, and I found friends who understand me."

**Advice for other students:** "This school is different from other schools. There are good people here. If you go, you will have such a good time."

## Chandler

**Grade:** 10th

**Learning difference:** ADHD

**Activities:** Global Youth Leadership Institute, golf team, basketball team

**Pride point:** "Being able to succeed in the classroom and in athletics."

**Favorite part about Lawrence:** "The people here. They're more than teachers; they're friends. There are so many people at Lawrence willing to listen and help you work through your issues."

**Lawrence transformation:** "Lawrence has opened a lot of doors for me. At my old school I felt dumb, and I never really put in effort because I didn't see the point. But at Lawrence, I realized how smart I am, that I can do AP and honors classes. And just because I have ADHD doesn't mean I can't succeed. I don't even see it as a setback: It's more of a helpful thing, a part of my personality, that molded me into who I am today."

**Advice for other students:** "Be yourself. A lot of people hide that because they're scared that they'll be made fun of, but the kids here are so accepting. It's also important to advocate for yourself and any accommodations you need."



## Elizabeth

**Grade:** 12th

**Learning difference:** Dyslexia

**Activities:** Global Youth Leadership Institute, musicals, president of the National Honor Society, captain of cross country and swim teams

**Pride point:** "I scored a 33 (out of 36) on my English ACT. Just because I have dyslexia doesn't mean I can't read."

**Favorite part about Lawrence:** "Teachers helping me out."

**Lawrence transformation:** "Before Lawrence, I was really shy. I considered myself dumb and felt depressed. My old school asked me not to come back, and I thought, if they can't help me, who can? I think Lawrence saved my life. If I had stayed at my old school, I don't think I'd be in a situation where I'd have offers from good colleges like I do now. I would've given up on myself."

**Advice for other students:** "Don't be ashamed of who you are. Just because you have some sort of difference doesn't mean you have a disability."



## Eloise

**Grade:** 8th

**Learning difference:** ADHD and dyslexia

**Activities:** Ski Club, Band

**Pride point:** "When I was younger, I didn't think I could even get through high school. Now I know I can get through high school and college. I can actually get a job one day."

**Favorite part about Lawrence:** "The pace, and the teachers are a lot quicker to get to a student if you need help. At my old school, a

lot of times I was taken out of class, and the tutors tried their best, but they didn't understand why I was falling behind."

**Lawrence transformation:** "I couldn't even read when I got here. I could read only two to three words. I remember looking at a page and bursting into tears. A year into Lawrence, I could read an entire chapter book by myself, which was amazing."

**Advice for other students:** "Don't be stressed. It will be OK. It's a gift; not a disability. It's just part of your story."





## Closing the Gap

At Lawrence, we don't simply stop learning losses — we reverse them. Parents start noticing changes within the first few weeks, and after a year at Lawrence, our students show significant growth. It typically takes about 3.5 years to close the gap. Students learn to read, and then read to learn.

Professional development and mission-driven teachers in small group classes are the keys to our success. With average class sizes of 9 students at the Lower School and 13 at the Upper School, our teachers can pour all their energy into teaching instead of managing a large class. Teachers can offer direct, one-on-one attention to every student every day, and students feel safe to ask questions and stretch themselves further than they ever thought possible.

"My son has dyslexia and inattentive ADHD. Every day after school we went to therapy after therapy, so he had no time for things he enjoyed like hip hop dancing or playing a sport. By the time he got home, he was a wreck. Doing homework was an absolute disaster. He was really suffering from low self esteem. He'd come home and say, 'I'm dumb. I don't get what the other kids are doing.'

Within the first year at Lawrence, Charlie was reading and writing at grade level. He didn't need his Ritalin anymore because it was easier for him to stay focused in a much smaller class. More importantly, his self esteem is back.

My only regret is that we didn't come here sooner."

— **Jennifer Kaufman, parent**

# Taking Root: Lower School

At the Lower School, we group by skill level instead of age, so there's no "kindergarten" or "third grade class." And because we regularly assess students' progress, some kids are able to move to a new level while others have time to progress at their own pace.



## Consistency is key.

Our classrooms might look sparse compared with some, but that's intentional. Our teachers use consistent and predictable rules and processes, from their habit of lining up kids outside the classroom door to color-coded binders, so that students don't have to learn a whole new system every time they switch teachers.



## The Lower School

doesn't give letter grades until sixth grade, but teachers frequently measure progress — both formally and informally — and regularly use data to determine program effectiveness and share the results with parents.

## The Lower School

is laser-focused on literacy, and for good reason: You have to learn to read to read to learn. That's why our Lower School students spend the entire morning working on reading and writing. Lawrence's trademarked CodeBreakers program is systematic, hierarchical, structured and multisensory, delivering a powerful dose of intensive learning that just can't be matched by after-school tutoring or pull-out instruction at a traditional school.



## Our students aren't simply

doing letter drills out of a book. They're standing, verbalizing, sky-writing with their fingers, writing in shaving cream, moon sand or other tactile materials, until the letter formation and sounds are etched into their memories. The school day is rounded out with math, social studies, science and rotating specials: physical education, computers, art, music and library.



"The early phase is so important. They come to us with wounded wings,  
and we're trying to do some healing."

— Theresa Kaska, Lower School teacher and parent of a Lawrence middle school student



# Branching Out: Middle School

Lawrence’s middle school program for grades 7-8 bridges the gap between remediation and the more challenging courses at the high school level. Like the Lower School, it emphasizes multisensory learning and structure and routine. Students learn the organizational and time management skills they need to succeed in high school and beyond. Students are placed in differentiated instructional groupings that offer appropriate challenge levels and sufficient support in math, English, science and social studies. This allows them to get extra help in areas where they struggle, and be challenged in areas where they excel. Electives include music, art and physical education.

Every middle school student is issued his or her own Chromebook and charging station. All textbooks are digitized, which makes them accessible in multiple formats and allows teachers to annotate the texts and upload their comments to students’ Google drives instantly. Standing desks can help students with attention issues stay focused.

“The small class size is key. You go from just being able to manage a classroom to sitting down with a student and asking questions to cue their learning. I can roam around the whole room instead of standing at the front, and instead of just looking at a book, we use hands-on, interactive math tools like chips so students can touch and feel.”

— **Brian Cook,**  
**Middle School**  
**math teacher**



# Reaching for the Sun: High School

With its focus on college and career preparation, Lawrence's comprehensive high school curriculum resembles many other traditional schools, but with a much smaller student-teacher ratio and a distinctive Lawrence twist. Classes are still ability based but not tracked, so a student who struggles with reading can take English at their skill level as well as AP Physics. Every high school student receives a tablet computer, and mandatory study hall sessions and frequent teacher intervention ensure your student gets the support he or she needs. Electives include world languages (Spanish and American Sign Language), art, music, drama, psychology, forensics, video editing, speech and debate, 3-D design and more.

During the daily Advisory period, students work on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, such as time management, organizational techniques and career planning. Seniors use that time to work on their senior project, which includes exploring a career and a seven-day internship in the workplace. Students also work closely with the College and Career Planning staff beginning freshman year.

Experiential learning enriches the student experience: Our ninth graders participate in a cross-curricular World War I reenactment every spring, while our tenth graders engage in a project-based learning program about environmental sustainability.



"Our goal is more on mastery of skills than covering of material. We teach them how they learn best – the knowledge and cutting-edge technology that they can take with them after graduation – as well as how to advocate for themselves." – **Dave Rogers, High School math teacher**



Kids ages 8-18 can hit the slopes at Brandywine Ski Resort through Lawrence's popular Ski Club.

Lawrence's Upper School puts on two theatrical performances every year, and two-thirds of kids participate either on stage or behind the scenes. A student who struggles with processing and memorization can still participate in a school play by using an earpiece for line-prompting.



Cross country is one of Lawrence's 10 varsity sports. We started the Lake Effect Conference so that our teams have the opportunity to compete against other small, independent schools.

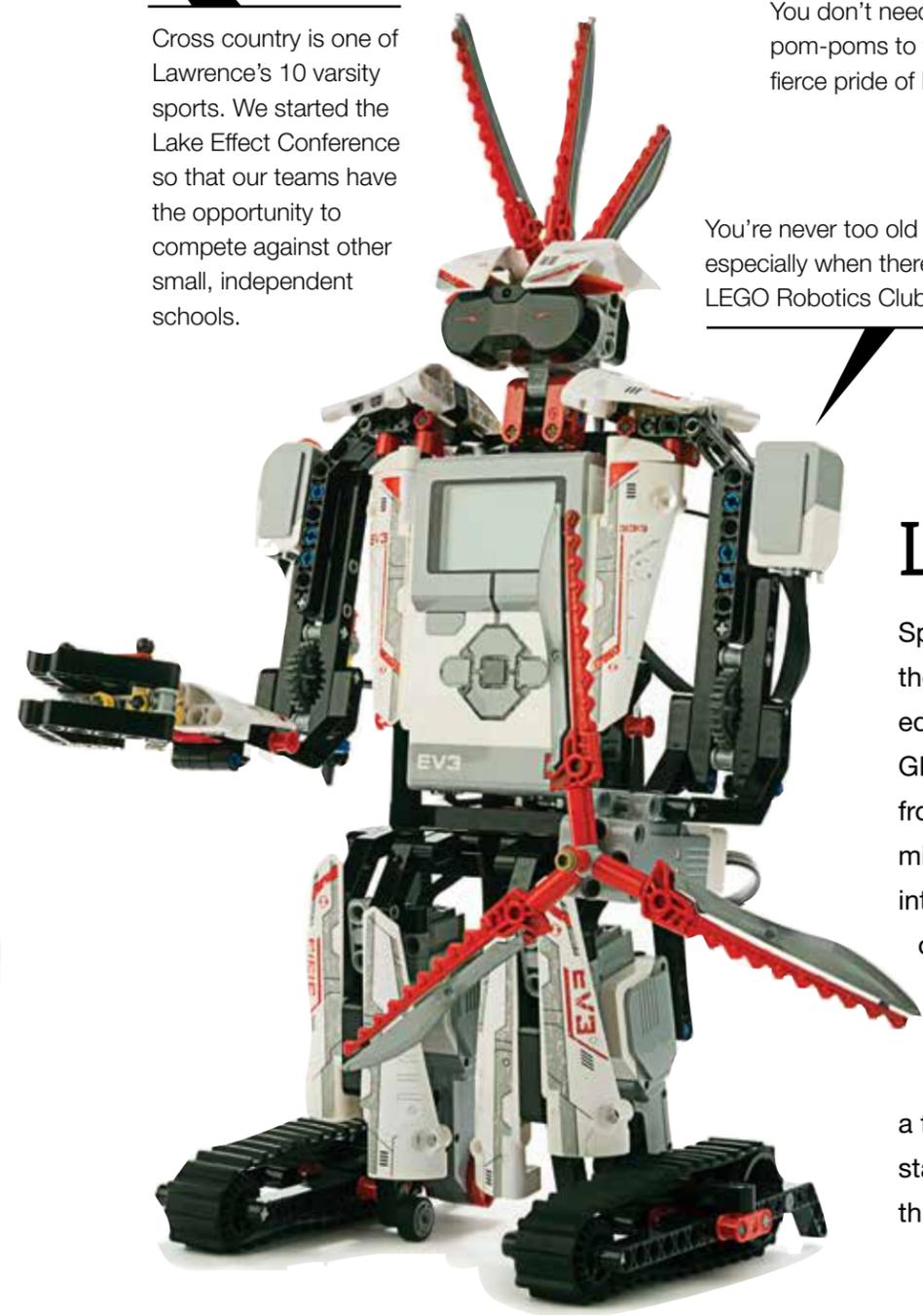


The Upper School offers everything from drumming to guitar class in the music room, where they also add a movement component to make music easier to read for kids who struggle with eye reading.

You don't need pom-poms to feel the fierce pride of Lions.



You're never too old for LEGOs, especially when there's the LEGO Robotics Club.



## Life at Lawrence

Sports. Music. Art. Theatre. They're all part of the rich tapestry that makes up a Lawrence education. At a lot of other traditional schools, GPA requirements can prevent a student from participating in sports, and students can miss art and music time because of "pull out" interventions. At Lawrence, students have the opportunity to explore their passions and make lifelong memories. Younger children are introduced to a handful of after-school clubs at the Lower School before accessing a full array of extracurriculars and athletics, starting in fifth grade and continuing on through graduation.



# Life After Lawrence

The true mark of success isn't measured by grade point average. It's what your student can do with that education afterward. And Lawrence students **SUCCEED** in a variety of ways.

Since 2005, 86 percent of Lawrence students have gone on to college, compared with just 66

**Lawrence alumni have attended the following colleges, among others:**

Kent State University  
Cleveland State University  
Notre Dame College  
Cuyahoga Community College  
The Ohio State University  
Bowling Green State University  
University of Akron  
Mercyhurst University

percent of students with IEPs nationally (Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study-2). Our students also stay in college at a higher than average rate: 79 percent of Lawrence students who go to college continue into their sophomore year, compared with the national average of 73 percent (Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center).

But college isn't for every kid, and some of our students go straight into the workforce, launch their own businesses, enter training and apprenticeships for the skilled trades, or join the military.

"I still attribute a lot of my success to Lawrence. At first it was all about learning how I learn, and then it was learning to communicate how I learn. I think that shift in emphasis to self advocacy is what prepared me for college. It's taking what you learn about yourself at Lawrence, and being able to communicate that to a professor so they know you, and they know you struggle, but they also know you work hard.

A Lawrence education works, and it's lifelong: it will benefit you for the rest of your life."

— **Matt Janack, '12 Lawrence alum, graduate of the University of Akron, current law student at the University of Toledo**

# 10 Reasons to Choose Lawrence



1

## **Personal attention.**

Small class sizes mean our teachers are able to tailor their approach and differentiate their instruction to match each child's strengths and challenges.

This allows each student to be seen, heard, understood and celebrated.

2

## **Teachers who genuinely care AND communicate.**

Our teachers reach out to parents frequently to share progress. We'll let you know if there's a concern, but we'll also let you know when your child is excelling.

3

## **Staff who are specially trained to teach kids just like yours.**

Our teachers spend two hours a week in targeted professional development, and they're constantly learning new techniques to bring out the best in YOUR child.

4

## **A built-in community.**

You no longer have to hide your child's past school struggles. You can feel at home in an open, nonjudgmental environment where everyone gets it. Students and parents gather strength from sharing stories with each other, gaining support partners and often lifelong friends.

5

## **An environment built for your child.**

Our Lower School classrooms are organized with visual references that externalize schedules and routines. Our Upper School was built for students with learning differences. In addition to way-finding signs, it features color-coded floors, tiles and walls as a visual cue.

6

## **Space to play.**

Lower School kids get 30 minutes of recess every day. At the Upper School, our 47-acre campus provides ample learning opportunities: science students test the pH level of the lake and stream, and history students slither through trenches in the woods as they reenact World War I battles.

7

## **Parent support.**

Get involved with the Parents Pride Association, use our student body map to arrange carpools, and call our parent liaison whenever you have a question or just need a listening ear.

8

## **A newfound sense of balance.**

You get to go back to being Mom and Dad instead of a tutor. Your child gets to go back to being a kid. Instead of slogging through hours of homework, your child will have time to compete on the playing fields, discover a passion for the arts, or just relax and play.

9

## **Your child's confidence will soar.**

When kids feel comfortable and supported, they start to believe in themselves and in their abilities. That can change a child's whole life trajectory.

10

## **It's more affordable than you might think.**

More than 70% of our students qualify for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship from the Ohio Department of Education (average award: \$10,000/year), and Lawrence also offers additional need-based assistance to families who qualify.



# Lawrence at a Glance



**10 VARSITY SPORTS**



**86% of graduates**  
go on to a two- or four-year college



**100% of graduates**  
leave Lawrence with  
a post-secondary plan

**300+**  
students  
in grades K-12

(Nearly)  
**50**  
years of  
success  
educating kids  
with learning  
differences

**40**  
extracurricular  
activities  
& clubs

**27%**  
students  
of color



*9 average class size at the Lower School*



*13 average class size at the Upper School*

**70% of students**  
qualify for the Ohio Department  
of Education's Jon Peterson  
Special Needs Scholarship.

Average award:

**\$10,000/year**



**30% of students**  
qualify for Lawrence's  
need-based assistance.

Average award:

**\$11,000/year**



# Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

Changing schools is a big decision, but you don't have to make this decision alone. Talk over your options with your pediatrician, academic tutor and others who know your child well, and give your son or daughter the chance to try us out with a shadow visit. A simple phone call can change your child's life, offering a fresh start and lifelong tools for success. Start your Lawrence journey today:

## Contact the Admission Office:

440.526.0717 or [admissions@lawrenceschool.org](mailto:admissions@lawrenceschool.org)

## Complete an online inquiry:

[lawrenceschool.org/discover](http://lawrenceschool.org/discover)

## Attend an open house:

Experience Lawrence firsthand during one of these special events:

[lawrenceschool.org/visit](http://lawrenceschool.org/visit)



"My daughter said one day, 'I'm one of the lucky ones. There are so many kids that are still sitting in those schools, still struggling.'"

— *Kristen Healy, parent*





[lawrenceschool.org](http://lawrenceschool.org) • 440.526.0717

The mission of Lawrence School is to  
*teach* students using diverse learning strategies,  
*ignite* their potential, and  
*inspire* academic, social and personal success.



**Lower School (K-6)**  
1551 W. Wallings Road  
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

**Upper School (7-12)**  
10036 Olde Eight Road  
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067