

BRIGHAM HILL
CONSULTANCY



HEAD OF SCHOOL

Introduction

Charles Wright Academy (CWA), located on a beautiful, wooded 100-acre campus, serves 654 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. The only coeducational independent PK-12 school in Tacoma, Washington, CWA provides challenging, college preparatory academics that prepare students to thrive in college and in life. Equally important is the school's wide array of experiential and outdoor education, artistic, athletic, and service opportunities that promote students' social-emotional development and provide avenues by which they discover and pursue their passions. Close, respectful, and trusting relationships between faculty and students result in an environment in which all community members embrace both the hard work and the joy inherent in the journey of intellectual and personal growth.



Mission Statement

Charles Wright Academy provides a rigorous liberal arts program guided by an ethos of excellence and compassion. Within a diverse learning community, we foster self-reliance, integrity, social responsibility, and humor, empowering our students to achieve their personal best in mind, body, and spirit.



Excellence Since 1957

Charles Wright Academy's roots date back to the middle of the 20th century. At the time, Tacoma's only independent school was Annie Wright School, then an all-girls institution, and a small group of parents sought a similar high-quality educational experience for boys. Founders Sam and Nathalie Brown, along with others, purchased 127 acres of land in rural Pierce County that included a defunct peach orchard, a restaurant, and a cottage, among other things. Charles Wright Academy opened its doors in 1957 as an Episcopal day school with 40 boys and five teachers. The first class graduated in 1964, and in 1970 the school became fully coeducational. Although CWA values its historical ties to the Episcopal Church, it no longer has any official religious affiliation and welcomes families of all faiths as well as those with no religious traditions.



Today Charles Wright Academy continues to be a thriving and diverse educational community with an ethos of growth and mutual respect among students, faculty, staff, and families. Founder Sam Brown's good cheer and sense of humor have left their

mark on CWA, and as the school mission statement's reference to "humor" implies, a sense of fun and excitement about life and learning pervades the school community. Faculty and staff often point out, "We take what we do very seriously, but we don't take ourselves too seriously." Trusting, close-knit relationships - whether between student and teacher, student and peer, or any other members of the school - are at the core of CWA's approach to education. The school recognizes that in order for real progress to take place, people must first feel safe and valued. Families and teachers work together in preparing students for life beyond Charles Wright not only by tending to their academic growth but also by providing experiences that cultivate interpersonal and decision-making skills, resilience, confidence, self-knowledge, and self-advocacy. CWA does not subscribe to any singular, narrow definition of "success" but instead celebrates accomplishments in a wide variety of areas. Accordingly, students are encouraged to seek out that which ignites their passions, to forge their own unique pathways, and to work hard toward achieving personal excellence in their endeavors.



Faculty Commitments to Students

THE CHARLES WRIGHT COMMITMENT TO YOU, THE STUDENT, IS TO:

1. Stimulate your intellectual curiosity and develop your critical thinking, preparing you for success in college and for learning throughout life;
2. Open your eyes to the world so that you grow to be a responsible, generous, and compassionate global citizen;
3. Nurture in you the values of hard work, accountability, resilience, perseverance, and self-management;
4. Encourage you to discover your talents so that art, music, and creative expression become a part of who you are;
5. Motivate you to be your competitive best while developing teamwork, leadership, and healthy habits for a lifetime of fitness;
6. Teach you the value of integrity so that it guides you in your relationships with others and yourself;
7. Develop in you a discerning and generous respect for others' work and the gracious acceptance of others' assessments of your own;
8. Provide you opportunities to discover the beauty and wonder of nature;
9. Inspire you to build strong interpersonal relationships that adapt and grow stronger as you experience life's difficulties;
10. Laugh with you often and encourage you to use humor to make learning and life joyous; and
11. Deepen your awareness of spirituality as you pursue your life's meaning, purpose, and direction.





Academics and Programs

When asked what sets CWA apart from other schools, students and parents agree without hesitation: its teachers. Charles Wright's 66 faculty members, 52% of whom hold advanced degrees, regularly participate in on- and off-campus professional development in order to stay on the cutting edge of education. Perhaps more importantly, teachers cultivate a challenging and safe intellectual environment in which students feel free to explore ideas and express opinions. The school serves students with a broad range of abilities, and those who typically do well at CWA exhibit a willingness to engage as thoughtful citizens and a desire to be a member of an active learning community. Charles Wright values and supports all types of learners. Students with learning difficulties find support and accommodation provided by learning specialists and classroom teachers; similarly, the school offers additional opportunities to support advanced students needing further challenge. The traditional liberal arts curriculum is enriched by numerous extracurricular and experiential education offerings, which are not simply "add-ons" but rather are fully integrated into the complete Charles Wright experience. Faculty flexibility and support make these hands-on learning opportunities possible, and teachers welcome the chance to engage with children and adolescents outside the classroom and to connect with them not only as students but as individuals. Indeed, teachers' interest in students extends beyond the requirements of the profession, and faculty and staff can often be seen cheering on the sidelines, clapping in the audience, and otherwise encouraging students to reach their personal best in their varied pursuits. This authentic concern and involvement allows teachers to get to know students as whole people and results in lasting, positive relationships.

CWA at a glance

Founded: 1957

Enrollment: 654

Student Body:

44% students of color

18% international

Campus: 100 acres in Tacoma, WA

Faculty:

66 full-time faculty

111 total full-time faculty & staff

Average Class Size: 16

Student-to-Teacher Ratio: 8 to 1

Tuition: \$17,450 - \$23,530

Financial Aid: \$2.2 million

Budget: \$16 million

Endowment: \$25 million

Annual Giving: \$500,000



Lower School

Charles Wright's Lower School enrolls approximately 200 students in junior kindergarten through fifth grade. Children receive a high degree of attention and differentiated instruction. A counselor and learning specialist often work with classes and one-on-one with students to provide additional support. Student management builds from a place of trust and is based on dignity and respect. Core academic skills are developed within an encouraging and engaging atmosphere that takes advantage of children's natural curiosity about the world. Everyday Math serves as the backbone of the Lower School math program and is supplemented with teacher-developed activities that foster strong mathematical thinking skills. Language Arts instruction is grounded in Bonnie Campbell Hill's developmental reading and writing continuums. Additionally, upper elementary teachers apply the Lucy Calkins workshop approach involving students in both creative and research writing and exposing them to a wide range of literature while encouraging independent reading. Other key elements of the curriculum include fitness, lab science, music, Spanish, technology, and visual arts. An impressive number of field trips ranging from local museums and Puget Sound nature excursions to a visit to the Historic Triangle and Washington D.C. in the fifth grade enrich the Lower School program by helping students make connections between their classroom learning and real-world experiences.



Middle School

In the Middle School, which serves nearly 160 students in sixth through eighth grade, teachers tend to the unique needs of young adolescents by being kind and firm, generous and truthful, and always available. As students delve deeper into their studies in English, history, math, science, and world languages including Japanese, Spanish, and French, teachers focus on the types of skills that will be crucial for success as children become increasingly academically independent. Students go beyond content knowledge by learning to inquire, to think critically, to write analytically, and to make and defend an argument, with the result that they are prepared for the challenges of advanced studies in Upper School and in college. With spring "Middle School Days," students try new experiences outside the curriculum through more than 20 different programs such as archery, a Seattle photo scavenger hunt, mountain biking, kayaking, and cooking classes.



Upper School

Upper School, with nearly 300 students in ninth through twelfth grade, is designed to create well-rounded, passionate, versatile, and serious scholars capable of effective communication, sustained work, independent thought, and original expression. A rigorous curriculum that includes 12 Advanced Placement courses, 10 math courses, and a variety of options in social studies, world languages, and science not only prepares students academically but provides multiple avenues through which they can follow their individual interests. Insofar as test scores measure academic accomplishment, CWA students have an impressive record. The Class of 2014 took a total of 321 AP exams, with 84% scoring 3 or higher, and the school has had 8 National Merit Semifinalists and 36 National Merit Commended students in the past five years.

Winterim

One of the Upper School's most celebrated and anticipated traditions, Winterim is a five- to ten-day experiential program, depending on the course, that encourages students to explore opportunities beyond the academic curriculum. Students participate in a variety of programs that range from community service opportunities, to international or domestic trips, to developing new skills, to artistic endeavors. Winterim allows students to develop a range of interests, immerse themselves in different cultures, build intellectual flexibility, and foster social and personal confidence. Courses vary from year to year, and some recent Winterim courses have included trips to Japan, Turkey and Peru; backpacking in the Dark Canyons of Utah; a Northeast college trip; courses on glassblowing, painting and ceramics; working alongside Lower School teachers to mentor younger students; and working with local community service organizations.

Winterim 2015, Peru





Athletics

Athletics and other fitness activities are an integral part of the CWA experience, and participation teaches students how to extend beyond their perceived limits; fosters teamwork, sportsmanship, understanding of commitment, and an ethical approach to competition; and helps to develop both physical skills and lifelong healthy habits. Moreover, involvement strengthens the connections between students, teachers, and coaches. In the Lower School, students partake in physical education classes three to four times per week and have recess twice each day, and additional sports activities are available after school. By sixth grade, students have the opportunity to engage in competitive athletics, and every student participates in four seasons of sports or fitness activities. Interscholastic sports include football, volleyball, cross-country, soccer, basketball, baseball, and track and field, and other noncompetitive offerings include dance, golf, tennis, weight training, hiking, and orienteering. More than 80% of Upper School students participate in competitive athletics through nine different sports, and Charles Wright has won state championships in boys' basketball, cross-country, golf, tennis, and soccer and in girls' cross-country and tennis.



The Arts

Charles Wright believes the arts open minds, give children and adolescents a critical path for creative self-expression, build confidence, and improve overall academic performance. Lower Schoolers begin by learning about the process of art through working with various materials, identifying patterns, and using what one teacher calls their "art eyes" to see the world in a unique way. First through fifth graders attend visual arts class once a week and music twice a week, with fourth and fifth graders participating in an additional choir class. Middle Schoolers take full-year classes in both visual and performing arts for all three years. Seventh and eighth graders produce a Middle School musical each semester, play in the Middle School band, and join the Upper Schoolers in the string orchestra. Both the sixth and eighth grade visual arts courses give students broad experience with a variety of media, and the seventh grade visual arts course focuses on wood working and glass. The seventh grade trip



to the Oregon Shakespeare festival is not only an integral part of the art program but also an important rite of passage at Charles Wright, as it is the first trip during which students are given significant freedom to choose their activities and plan a portion of their own time. In the Upper School, over 20 arts offerings - such as printmaking, digital media, ceramics, theater, and jazz ensemble, to name only a few - allow Upper School students to perform and to exhibit their work throughout the year.



Outdoor Education

Outdoor education has been a hallmark of Charles Wright Academy for decades. The carefully designed program exposes students to the beauty and awe of nature while developing their self-reliance, sound judgment, safety skills, and strategies for minimal impact living in the outdoors. Outdoor experiences also cultivate students' cooperation skills and ability to work effectively as a group, and by facing new and challenging situations and devising solutions, students build profound relationships with classmates and teachers. Lower School field trips expose students to nature from an early age. For example, third graders' year-long study of the Nisqually watershed culminates with a three-day trip to the Mount Rainier Institute, and fourth graders spend three days and two nights at Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park. The Middle School builds on the Lower School's tradition of field trips with a number of experiential education opportunities. Sixth graders canoe at Sea to Sky Outdoor School in Howe Sound, Canada's southern-most fjord, and learn about conservation and sustainability, and eighth graders participate in a four-



day, 26-mile backpacking trip along the Washington coastline through Olympic National Park. In the Upper School, students have numerous opportunities for outdoor education through both the Outdoor Club and Winterim, and all tenth grade students take part in a four-day hiking or kayaking trip.



Community Service

A strong commitment to helping others pervades the Charles Wright culture. Service learning is incorporated throughout the school and develops students' potential for moral conduct and responsible citizenship by providing avenues through which they can give back to their school and the broader community. Lower Schoolers begin learning about the needs of others as they prepare meals for local public elementary school students who need weekend nutritional support. Once a month fourth graders visit L'Arche Farms and Gardens and work side by side with adults who have developmental disabilities - an experience that helps students become more comfortable with difference and learn to celebrate each person's individual abilities. Middle School students build furniture at NW Furniture Bank, repack food for Emergency Food Network, and remove invasive species for Pierce County at Chambers Bay, among other service projects. Upper School students have partnered with Boys and Girls Club, Family Housing Network of the Catholic Community Services, Cascade Regional Blood Services, and numerous other local agencies, and they also play a significant leadership role in assisting with on-campus, school-related activities and events throughout the year.

Spiritual Development and the Chaplaincy

Although the formal relationship between Charles Wright Academy and the Episcopal Church ended in the late 1960s, the school's belief that a well-rounded education includes the cultivation of a healthy spirit persists to this day. CWA recognizes that, as an independent school, it is uniquely positioned to support students' personal journeys by exposing them to faiths and religious texts from across the world, by providing an inclusive and understanding environment in which to celebrate various faith traditions and explore spiritual questions, and by cultivating values that help students grow as kind, empathetic, and ethical citizens. The Lower School's chapel program, which is an interfaith offering based on core values, the Middle School reflection, and the ninth grade seminar all promote an understanding of the world's religions and provide a space in which students can consider their own and others' beliefs. While all faculty and staff support this element of the mission, a full-time chaplain tends specifically to the role of spirituality in the educational program and in the community.



College Placement

The ultimate goal of a Charles Wright education is to develop capable, resilient, and compassionate young adults who know how to find fulfillment throughout their lives. As part of that mission, the school prepares its graduates for success in college. The variety of colleges and universities attended by Charles Wright alumni are as diverse as the students themselves and include private research and flagship public universities, institutes of technology and art, and private liberal arts colleges. Nearly 100% of CWA graduates enroll at a four-year college or university, and more than 70% go to schools with a national reputation. Impressively, one in four choose institutions on Barron's Most Competitive list. A map and list of recent matriculations are available online [here](#).

Diversity



Charles Wright is an inclusive community that cultivates respect for all and understanding of different perspectives. The school attracts a diverse student body that is representative of the local community and draws students from a radius of roughly 30 miles. People of color comprise 44% of the student body, and financial aid is used strategically to enroll students from traditionally underrepresented groups. Throughout the JrK-12 curriculum, students are exposed to many local and world cultures and explore both their own identity and the unique viewpoints of others. Upper Schoolers tackle social justice issues, celebrate multiculturalism, and educate their peers about diversity through clubs and special events. The Charles Wright Academy Global Teen Summit is a dynamic ten-day youth conference held every October that brings together teens from China, Colombia, Poland, the United Kingdom, Germany, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates to the CWA campus to discuss contemporary global, regional, and local human rights issues. The presence of international students in the Upper School further allows for ongoing cultural exchange and dialogue. In addition, faculty members participate in regular professional development on topics such as spirituality, gender, sexual orientation, race, and ethnicity.



Finances and Facilities

Charles Wright Academy is in strong financial health, with a \$16 million budget, an endowment of \$25 million, and no external debt. In addition, the Annual Fund raises approximately \$500,000 each year, and \$750,000 was recently raised for new science labs. The most recent major capital campaign began in 2007 and ultimately garnered \$8 million to help fund the building of a new Language and Performing Arts Center. The campaign concluded early due to the economic downturn, and to provide the additional funding for the construction project, the school borrowed from its endowment \$3.5 million, which it has been repaying. Although enrollment has yet to reach its pre-recession level of 720, it has been fairly steady for the past several years, thus allowing the school to maintain its business model with minimal adjustments in staffing and workloads.



Over the past 20 years, Charles Wright Academy has built a new Middle School, a new Lower School, a new Visual Arts Center, and the new Language and Performing Arts Center in addition to renovating the gym, the track, and the Upper School science wing. Accordingly, CWA benefits from a state-of-the-art campus that not only is visually appealing but also provides exceptional support for the school's programs.

Governance and Accreditation

Charles Wright Academy is governed by a Board of Trustees that consists of 21 members, most of whom are current or former parents or alumni. The Board may be expanded to as many as 31 members according to the bylaws, and Trustees serve up to three consecutive three-year terms. There are eight standing committees of the Board, including the Executive, Finance, Advancement, Audit Committee, Head of School Support, Head of School Evaluation and Compensation, and Endowment Committees, as well as the Committee on Trustees. Biographies of current Board members are available online [here](#).

CWA is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS).



The Opportunity

Rob Camner, Head of Charles Wright Academy since 1996, has announced his plans to retire in July 2016. His outstanding legacy includes enhancing the school's curriculum and programs, hiring exceptional teachers, improving the campus with the numerous construction and renovation projects listed above, and keeping the school financially healthy during difficult economic times. Mr. Camner will be leaving a flourishing institution with a clear sense of identity and purpose, and the school is excited to reflect on its strengths and the opportunities for further growth that lie ahead. Considerations in the coming years include the following:

Institutional and Programmatic Vision Charles Wright takes pride in its ability to blend a traditional liberal arts curriculum with innovative approaches to teaching and learning and with experiential programs through which students learn from the world outside of school. As CWA looks toward the future, it seeks to stay on the leading edge of education while resisting faddish trends and keeping the needs of students at the center of curriculum and program design. Continued faculty professional development, increased cross-grade and cross-division collaboration, innovative courses, and new opportunities for hands-on learning will be important elements as the school shapes its vision for the coming decade.



Marketing and Admissions Charles Wright Academy has an excellent reputation among those who know the school. However, as one of only two independent schools in Tacoma, CWA has encountered some predictable difficulty with maintaining an accurate and widely known brand within the local area. The school deals with both common misperceptions about independent schools in general, such as the beliefs that it is only accessible to those of a certain socioeconomic class and that it lacks diversity, as well as more specific misunderstandings, including the perception that the school only serves boys or is the official "brother school" of the Annie Wright Schools. As Charles Wright aims to maintain and grow enrollment, it will have to clarify and expand awareness of its brand in the South Sound region. A related goal will be to make the case for its added value, which extends beyond stellar academic preparation to include its warm and joyful culture, rich extracurricular programs,



and unique experiential learning opportunities. Another important component of enrollment management efforts will be to ensure that CWA maintains an enrollment model that is realistic based on the local market and continues its commitment to international students while not becoming overly dependent on overseas admissions. The school is in the midst of a three-part market research project that will help to inform its outreach and branding efforts.

Endowment Growth At \$25 million, Charles Wright's endowment is very healthy; nonetheless, the school must grow its financial resources to promote long-term fiscal sustainability, including providing increased financial aid for tuition and experiential education programs and supporting faculty and staff salaries and recruitment efforts. With no external debt and no immediate capital needs, the school can focus on more strategic approaches to fundraising for endowment, and it anticipates a major campaign to that end within the next five years.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion CWA celebrates the diversity of its community and strives to cultivate a thoughtful and compassionate environment in which all people are respected. In addition to increasing the diversity of both students and faculty, Charles Wright wishes to enhance the levels of equity and inclusion within the community through candid conversations, targeted programming for students, faculty and staff professional development, and the continued incorporation of multiculturalism throughout the curriculum.





Responsibilities

The Head of School will report to the Board of Trustees and will be responsible for the overall health and success of Charles Wright Academy. He or she will champion the school's mission; ensure that academics and programs continue to thrive; foster a culture of excellence, warmth, and support; sustain the bonds of community; and maintain the financial health of the institution. Specific responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with the Board of Trustees in evaluating institutional needs, establishing priorities, and developing and executing strategic plans that will ensure CWA meets both long- and short-term goals.
- Acting as the school's liaison to the greater Tacoma community, including speaking compellingly about CWA and its mission, offerings, and value to local business, organizations, and prospective families in order to increase awareness of the school, clarify its brand, and promote enrollment growth.
- Fostering and preserving an inclusive culture that values humility, humor, fun, and hard work in which all people feel respected and supported.
- Participating in the daily life of the school, including being visible on campus; attending games, performances, and other special events; and cultivating relationships with faculty, staff, parents, students, and alumni.
- Recruiting, hiring, retaining, and supporting excellent faculty and staff members who are passionate about their professional areas and aligned with the mission and culture of CWA.
- Being active in fundraising activities by "telling the story" of Charles Wright Academy and collaborating with the Advancement Office and the Board to grow the culture of philanthropy and to solicit donors for annual giving and major gift campaigns.
- Fostering CWA's financial stability through collaboration with the Chief Financial Officer that results in prudent budgeting, financial planning, and resource management.
- Promoting collaboration and communication between and among academic and administrative departments.
- Strengthening the school's commitment to diversity, including devising new approaches to attract families, faculty, and staff from a wide range of backgrounds and leading conversations and initiatives that promote equity and inclusion.



- Leading the ongoing refinement of curricula and programs, including appropriately integrating new technology, current thinking in child and adolescent development, and best practices in teaching and learning.
- Participating in the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS), as well as other local and regional organizations, in order to develop relationships with other school leaders, to ensure Charles Wright is well-known among its peer institutions, to maintain awareness of current happenings in the region, and to stay abreast of current thinking in educational leadership and management.

Candidate Qualities

Leadership

- An engaging and dynamic leader whose egalitarian outlook and genuine interest in others engender trust and support from a variety of internal and external constituents.
- A strategic visionary whose willingness to challenge the status quo and to think creatively about the future of education inspires others.
- A team-builder who empowers faculty and staff, promotes collaboration, manages through delegation, and has high expectations for both himself or herself and others.

Experience

- At least seven years as a head of school or senior administrator in independent schools.
- Expertise in strategic planning, working effectively with trustees, and budgeting.
- A successful track record of identifying, recruiting, hiring, developing, and retaining faculty and staff who not only possess the requisite knowledge and skills but also display a passion for their subject areas and excitement about shaping the lives of young people.
- A history of continually refining curricula and programs consistent with a school's philosophy.
- Ideally, experience articulating the mission and value proposition of a school to current parents and local community members.



Skills and Knowledge

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills that allow one to understand people and their motivations, to develop meaningful relationships with students and adults of all ages from varied backgrounds, and to make a compelling case on behalf of an institution.
- Knowledge of child and adolescent development, strategies to serve different learning styles, experiential and global education, current thinking regarding best practices in pedagogy, and new advances in educational technology, along with the ability to guide teachers and administrators in making incremental changes that will keep Charles Wright Academy at the forefront of education.
- The ability to work successfully with a board of trustees, including negotiating the dynamic balance between leading and being led.
- Strong strategic thinking abilities that allow one to anticipate needs and opportunities and to develop and implement plans that uphold an organization's philosophy while nonetheless continually evolving its programs and approaches.
- Skilled in forming relationships and partnerships with local business leaders and organizations in order to promote awareness of CWA in the South Sound region for admissions and development purposes.
- An understanding of the importance of experiential education, athletics, the arts, service, and spiritual inquiry in the holistic development of children.
- Strong business acumen that allows one to manage the short- and long-term financial goals of the school successfully.
- Adept at fostering a warm, welcoming, and inclusive culture in which hard work and high expectations blend seamlessly with joy and good humor.
- Awareness of the varied experiences and concerns of people from different backgrounds and an understanding of how a school can best serve a broad range of constituents and build a genuinely inclusive environment.



Personal Attributes

- An open, approachable, and accessible person who interacts easily with others.
- A compassionate and humble leader who values the contributions of all community members, treats people fairly, and takes children and adolescents seriously.
- A person with a good sense of humor and playful spirit who enjoys working with children, teachers, and families.
- A creative and forward-thinking individual with strong intellectual curiosity and a willingness to consider and try new ideas and approaches.
- A shrewd and proactive problem solver who balances a genuine desire for transparency and input with a willingness to make difficult decisions in a timely way.
- An educator with a holistic philosophy that values not only rigorous academics but also experiential education, arts, athletics, and service.
- One who is excited about the unique offerings in the Pacific Northwest generally and the South Sound specifically.

Other Considerations

Compensation:

Competitive with comparable schools in the region.

Travel: Minimal.

Education:

Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree(s) strongly preferred.

Website: www.charleswright.org

Candidates May Now Be:

A head of an independent school that provides a rigorous liberal arts curriculum.

An assistant head, division head, or other senior administrator of an independent school who has responsibilities comparable to those required of the position.



About Tacoma

Located nearly halfway between Seattle and the state capital of Olympia, Tacoma is the third largest city in Washington and the heart of Pierce County. The city provides the cultural, educational, and economic amenity of a highly urban area with the quality of life, cost of living, and sense of community typically associated with a smaller city. Known as the “City of Destiny” because of its role as the original western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Tacoma continues to serve as an important center of international trade and is the state’s largest port. The presence of Pacific Lutheran University, the University of Puget Sound, and the Tacoma campus of the University of Washington adds a robust and youthful energy to the historic city. A revitalization of downtown over the past 20 years—which included the opening of the Museum of Glass, with works by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly, the Tacoma Art Museum, and the Washington State History Museum, to name only a few institutions – along with the development of the city’s waterfront with new restaurants, shops, and living spaces have only added to Tacoma’s appeal. The 700-acre Point Defiance Park, one of the nation’s largest urban parks, provides access to stunning hiking and walking trails, picnic areas, and a beach right within the city limits and is also home to the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. The city has recently gained national attention with the 2015 U.S. Open golf tournament at Chambers Bay, less than a mile and half from Charles Wright Academy. Beyond Tacoma, the natural beauty of the South Sound offers countless opportunities for outdoor recreation.

For more details about Tacoma and the surrounding area, please visit the following websites:

[Tacoma Chamber of Commerce](#)

[City of Tacoma](#)

[Travel Tacoma](#)

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