

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Dominican Education**

*Question:* What is a “Dominican Education?”

*Answer:* Our Lady of the Elms was founded by the Sisters of St. Dominic in 1923. A Dominican Education is a Catholic Education rooted in the Dominican tradition. Based on the four Dominican pillars of study, prayer, community, and preaching, an Elms education prepares young women to be leaders in any field.

Veritas or truth is at the center of all we do as Dominicans. We constantly seek truth in every area of life. This flows into the classroom where a dialogic model of education is practiced. Students are encouraged to engage in class discussion with peers and teachers. To ensure and encourage this dialogue and personal development we maintain a 10 to 1 student to teacher ratio.

## **Athletics**

*Question:* Do all students have the opportunity to participate in athletics?

*Answer:* We encourage all of our students to be involved in their school community and athletics are a great way to do that. Athletics will provide a foundation for healthy habits that will follow throughout life. All students at the Elms have the opportunity to participate in Varsity athletics. We encourage our student athletes to maintain a balanced academic and athletic life, emphasizing that academics are a priority.

## **College Acceptance**

*Questions:* What is your college acceptance rate?

*Answer:* Each year, 100% of our seniors are accepted at colleges and universities throughout Ohio and the nation.

A few of the recognizable names include:

Smith College  
Harvard University  
Georgetown University  
Mount Holyoke  
Cornell University  
Notre Dame  
Wittenberg University  
Miami University  
Denison University  
NEOUCOM

## **College Scholarships**

*Question:* How many students receive college scholarships?

*Answer:* Over 85% of our graduates receive college scholarship awards; the yearly total usually exceeds \$2 million.

## **AP Classes**

*Question:* What advanced placement opportunities does Our Lady of the Elms provide?

*Answer:* The Elms offers 11 AP courses. More than 80% of our students taking AP exams qualify for college credit, and many enter college with sophomore status.

## **National Awards**

*Question:* How many National Merit Scholars and Commended Students does your school produce?

*Answer:* We are quite proud of our girls’ success in this area. Typically, 10% of our graduating class is recognized by the National Merit Foundation as National Merit Scholars, finalists, semi-finalists and commended students.



Admissions Office 330.867.0918 1375 W. Exchange St. Akron, Ohio 44313  
High School & Middle School 330.867.0880 1375 W. Exchange St. Akron, Ohio 44313  
Elementary, Kindergarten & Preschool 330.864.7210 1290 W. Market St. Akron, Ohio 44313

## **Single-gender Education**

*Question:* Why provide an all-girls education? What's the advantage?

*Answer:* No gender bias. Since the Elms is an all-girls school, grades 1 – 12 (coed pre-K – K), it allows for an encouraging learning atmosphere. We go beyond the regular scope of teaching to include more critical analysis, group discussion, and one-on-one help.

Safe and secure learning environment. Every Elms girl can be a leader, a straight-A student, an athlete – or all three. Our girls can be anybody they want to be, inside the classroom and out, without the powerful adolescent distraction of what boys think.

Studies show that girls excel in a single-gender environment.

The National Coalition of Girls' Schools hired Goodman Research Associates Group, Inc. (GRG) of Cambridge, Mass., to research the opinions of young women who attended a wide spectrum of single-sex schools. Over 4,200 alumnae replied with powerful testimonies supporting the merits of attending all-girls' schools:

- 91% cite preparation for college and academic challenge as very good or excellent.
- 88% would repeat the girls' school experience today.
- 83% perceive themselves as better prepared for college than female counterparts from coeducational high schools.
- 93% agree that girls' schools provide greater leadership opportunities than coed schools – 80% have held leadership positions since graduating from high school.
- 13% of girls' school alumnae interviewed chose math or science as a college major – significantly more than females and males nationally (2% and 10% respectively).

Our alumnae tell the story. Elms alumnae include:

- a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot
- an internationally-renowned dermatologist
- a CEO of a major California hospital
- a jazz performer who lives in New Orleans
- a senior editor of a national business publication
- a Georgetown University Ph.D. candidate who is conducting research on the molecular biology of drug resistance in breast cancer
- physicians, chemists, attorneys, international bankers, entrepreneurs, board members and community volunteers

Elms graduates go on to serve their communities – making a difference in the lives of others.

## **Uniforms**

*Question:* Do your students wear uniforms?

*Answer:* Yes. High school girls can wear uniform pants, shorts, sweater vests, sweaters and a variety of colors and styles of blouses. At the elementary school the selection typically consists of jumpers, pants, a white blouse or turtleneck, sweater and shorts.

*Question:* Where do I purchase uniforms?

*Answer:* Students can purchase uniforms from Schoolbelles. You will receive uniform order information with your acceptance letter.

## **Scholarship Aid**

*Question:* Is financial assistance or scholarships available?

*Answer:* Our Lady of the Elms recognizes both academic merit and financial need in its awarding of scholarships. Most scholarship dollars at the school support high school students, although assistance is available to grades 1 – 12. We do not award scholarships in preschool or kindergarten.

New and current families are encouraged to submit their financial aid applications by late November of the year before they wish to receive aid. Scholarship aid applications must be submitted each year that aid is requested. Notification of financial aid awards begins in December and continues until all available funds are allocated.

## **Social Life**

*Question:* Where are the boys?

*Answer:* We have boys, just not in the classroom. Elms students have the best of both worlds: the benefit of a single-gender education that helps girls excel and a wealth of social activities with boys and girls from many surrounding private and public schools. The Elms hosts several dances each year and involves boys in school plays and other performing arts groups.

## **Transportation**

*Question:* How will my child get to school?

*Answer:* The following public school districts provide transportation to the Elms. If you live in one of these districts, simply call and find the time and location where your child will be picked up:

- Copley-Fairlawn Public Schools
- Coventry Public Schools
- Green Public Schools
- Hudson Public Schools
- Manchester Public Schools
- Revere Public Schools
- Stow- Munroe Falls Public Schools
- Tallmadge Public Schools
- Wadsworth Public Schools
- Woodridge Public Schools

For a fee, transportation is available from Medina County, Brunswick, Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Independence, Northfield, North Royalton, Seven Hills, and Parma.

We will also assist you in finding other families in your area that may be interested in rideshare. New routes may be expanded at any time, depending on demand.