



**WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Washington, DC**  
**[www.wilsonhs.org](http://www.wilsonhs.org)**

*A School of Excellence Celebrating Diversity*

“Woodrow Wilson High School is Washington, DC. Wilson Tigers stand tall, we stand together.” explains Jacqueline Williams, Wilson’s Interim Principal since 2007. Woodrow Wilson High School, Washington, D.C.’s largest comprehensive public high school, is known for its academic excellence and for its geographic, ethnic and economic diversity.

Founded in 1935 and drawing students from all over the city to its northwest Washington campus, Wilson is home to the most diverse student body in the city. This academic year, incoming students to Wilson come from 70 different public, charter, private and parochial schools. Wilson’s 1,550 students, in grades 9-12, represent more than 85 countries. The student body has large English Language Learners (ELL) and Special Education communities. Wilson hosts the DCPS Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired and EMR programs. There are nearly 120 cadets enrolled in JROTC and an equal number of students enrolled in Wilson’s Peaceable Schools curriculum.

The school’s mission is to guarantee that every graduate is college ready. We aim to provide a wide variety of opportunities for each student to discover and fully develop his/her potential. The entire Wilson community of faculty, students, parents and staff is committed to fostering academic excellence, cultural understanding and social development that will enable its graduates to become productive and responsible citizens of the world.

**Facts About Wilson**

***Demographics***

- Approximately 1,550 students
- School boundaries encompass everything west of 16th Street, NW, all of southwest Washington north of the Anacostia River, and parts of Capitol Hill southeast
- Over 30 percent of the student body live outside the school’s boundaries
- Ethnic mix: 50% African American, 25% European American, 16% Latin American, 9% Asian American
- Nearly 40 percent of the students receive free and reduced lunch benefits

## Academics

- Wilson has five smaller learning communities called academies. Numerous academic reforms and innovations are taking place through these academies. Brief descriptions of these academies follow.
  - *The **Wilson International Studies Program (WISP)**, with 235 students, was begun in 1983. Designed for students interested in pursuing advanced studies toward careers in international affairs, WISP offers training in social science and foreign language, work/study internships and foreign travel.*
  - *The **Science, Math and Technology (SciMaTech) Academy**, is open to 9th – 12th graders and currently has 135 academy scholars. It was begun in 1997. SciMaTech has three career pathways: Information Technology (NAF Certified), Health, and Engineering (Project Lead the Way). All students in good standing have internships by the end of their senior year. Valued community partners include the National Institutes of Health - National Library of Medicine, CIT, NIAMS and NIDCR, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and Howard and American Universities. These partners provide shadowing, mentoring and internship opportunities for students and externships for faculty.*
  - *The **Academy of Finance**- a DCPS designated Stellar Program - was begun in Fall of 1997 and was certified in the fall of 1998 by the National Academy Foundation. It currently has 70 9th-12th graders enrolled. The academy has an influential and committed advisory board including representatives from the U.S. Mint, representing the Department of the Treasury, Sallie Mae Foundation, Wachovia Bank and other financial institutions. Academy course work gives students an introduction to the world of business and finance, and the program provides placements in internships and summer jobs.*
  - *In the Fall of 2000, Wilson High School inaugurated the **Humanities, Arts and Media (HAM) Academy**. There are currently more than 290 freshman through seniors enrolled in the academy. It is designed for students interested in experiential education opportunities in philosophy, arts, dance, theater, television, radio or movie production. The city of Washington will be this academy's laboratory.*
  - *The **Academic Athletic Achievement (AAA) Academy** was piloted in 2004 as an initiative for students who are interested in careers in health, fitness, athletics, sports management, nutrition, coaching and training. Graduates from this academy will be assured success both in the classroom and in their athletic related extracurricular and career interests. The 115 students involved in AAA must maintain a 2.5 GPA and complete a sequence of courses related to their career interest. Seniors will be offered internships with community partners in their field.*
- This year we welcome Wilson's largest ever ninth grade class of more than 360 students. This is a result of DCPS transitioning to a system-wide middle school-high school model. We enthusiastically welcome the Class of 2011 and are excited to educate them for their full four years of high school. All members of the Class of 2011 belong to the "Freshman Academy" which is housed in the Library & Gym wing of Wilson. The students within this "school within a school" are randomly assigned to one of three teams, each with five core faculty sharing a common planning period. The goal is to provide each freshman with a supportive, successful and structured transition to high school, rigorous coursework and a core group of adult advocates.
- About 90 percent of Wilson students continue their education beyond high school, with 298 of 330 graduates attending four-year or two year colleges or universities. The Class of 2006 received at least 556 acceptances to 208 universities in 41 states, Canada and the Czech Republic. The Class of 2005 achieved 597 acceptances to 220 colleges/universities and branches of the military in 40 states and 5 countries. The Class of 2004 achieved 571 acceptances to 184 colleges/universities and branches of the military.
- Wilson was the first school in the metropolitan area to adopt and implement a four course a day, alternating day 1-day 2, modular schedule. Classes are 90 minutes long.
- The student to faculty ratio is 25 to 1.
- In 2007, Wilson graduates received more than \$10 million in grants, scholarships and awards.

- Advance Placement courses are offered in:

U.S. History	U.S. Government and Politics
Comparative Government	Statistics
Calculus AB	Calculus BC
Computer Science	Biology
Physics C:E/M	Latin Virgil
English Language	English Literature
Spanish Language	Spanish Literature
French Language	French Literature
Studio Art	Art History
Chemistry	Environmental Science
Human Geography	Latin: Literature
European History	Studio Art - 3D
Micro Economics	Macro Economics
Probability & Statistics	

- Intensive courses are offered in English, Algebra, Biology, Elementary Functions and Computer Science. Innovative courses offered as electives by core and adjunct Wilson Faculty have included - Chinese, Model United Nations, Computer Graphics, Alternatives to Violence, World Problems, Comparative Religions, Psychology, the Beacon Student Paper, Radio Production, Public Speaking, Debate, Yearbook, Humanities III and IV, World History from a Science Perspective, Film History, Ancient & Medieval History, Constitutional Law and Street Law, African, Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern Studies, Peer Mediation, Mathematics Review, Developmental Reading, Probability and Statistics, Medical Terminology, Pre-Engineering, Body Conditioning/Fitness, Tae Kwon Do, Music History, Music Theory, Jazz Ensemble, Web Page Design, CISCO Networking I, II, III & IV. World languages offered include Latin, Spanish, French, American Sign Language, Italian & Mandarin Chinese.
- Wilson participates in a host of scholarship programs, including the PSAT/NMSQT National Merit, National Achievement, National Hispanic and Presidential Scholarship programs. The Class of 2005-2006 included:
  - 1 Presidential Scholar Semi-finalist (2006)
  - 6 Presidential Scholar Nominees (2006)
  - 20 National Merit Semi-Finalists and Commended Scholars (2007)
  - 1 National Achievement Finalist (2006)
  - 5 National Achievement Scholar Nominees (2007)
  - 2 National Achievement winners (2003)
  - 89 AP Scholars – 1 National Scholar, 1 State Scholar, 17 with Distinction, 14 with Honor (2006)
  - Since 1990 four Wilson students have been named as Presidential Scholars, the highest national academic honor a high school student can receive
- Wilson participates in the High School/College Internship Program (HI/SCIP), which enables academically talented seniors to enroll without tuition cost in freshman courses at local institutions of higher education and earn college credits while still in high school. Participating universities are American, University of the District of Columbia, George Washington, Georgetown, Howard, Maryland at College Park, Southeastern and Trinity. Admissions criteria are set by the individual colleges.

### ***Extra-curricular Life***

Wilson offers a large range of extracurricular activities. These include:

- 26 interscholastic sports for men and women. Among them are baseball, basketball, cheerleading, crew, cross country, football, golf, indoor track, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball and wrestling.

- More than 50 clubs and activities such as the art, bridge, chess, French, photography, ski and Wilson web page clubs, diversity workshops, It's Academic, peer mediation, National Forensic League, the Wilson Players drama group, the Jazz Ensemble, Future Business Leaders of America, the marching band and the National Honor Society.

### ***Wilson Honors & Achievements***

- In April, 2006, Wilson Senior High School was designated as an EXCEerator school by the College Board. EXCEerator is a comprehensive college readiness program employing a menu of programs and practices to prepare all students for success in college. Wilson is one of eleven high schools in the nation to receive this recognition in EXCEerator's pilot year.
- Wilson was designated one of the 500 best schools in America by Newsweek Magazine (2003) and the Washington Post Challenge Index (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006). There are six in the region so honored, three of which are DC Public Schools.
- Wilson is the highest ranked DC high school and ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 174 DC metro area high schools in the 2005 Washington Post Challenge Index.
- In 2004, the Washington Post recognized the rigor of the academic program at Wilson Senior High School. They reported, "As it did last year, Wilson Senior High School in Northwest showed the greatest improvement in AP test participation. It ... (was) high enough to put it in the top 3% of all schools nationwide."
- In 2007, 418 Wilson Tigers took a record number of 993 AP exams. In 2006 350 students took 713 AP exams. In 2005, 332 students took a record number of 771 AP exams. In 2004, 311 Wilson students took a record number of 682 AP exams. This is compared to 262 students taking 578 AP exams in 2003.
- In 2006, 89 students were identified as AP scholars by The College Board. In 2005, 91 Wilson students were identified as AP scholars, in 2004 there were 78 AP Scholars and in 2003 there were 55 AP scholars. Over one third of Wilson faculty are AP trained and/or certified in their field.
- In 2007, Wilson received the national Siemens Award for Excellence in the Teaching of AP Science, Mathematics & Computer Science.
- Wilson faculty and administrators, from a variety of fields, have been recipients of national recognition. These include: 2007 World Affairs Council Teacher of The Year, 2007 Mayor's Award for Teacher of the Year in the Arts, MetLife New Teacher of the Year Award-2005, the President's Award from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and National Board Certification for Wilson Teachers of Art and World Languages, Teacher of the Year from the National Institute for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NIFTE) in 1999.
- The Diversity Workshop/Peer Mediation Programs have been recognized by the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution for their efforts to create a climate of respect and collaborative problem solving.
- Wilson was one of five schools nationwide selected in 1996 as a School of Merit for Hispanic Students by Hispanic Magazine.

***For more information, please contact:  
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