



CHATSWORTH HILLS

A C A D E M Y

Together We Learn, Grow, and Discover.



Welcome to CHATSWORTH HILLS ACADEMY!



A

As you read through this view book, we hope that you will begin to sense a school community where, under the direction of a supportive faculty and the engagement of involved parents, together, we learn, grow, and discover. Our extraordinary campus creates an environment:

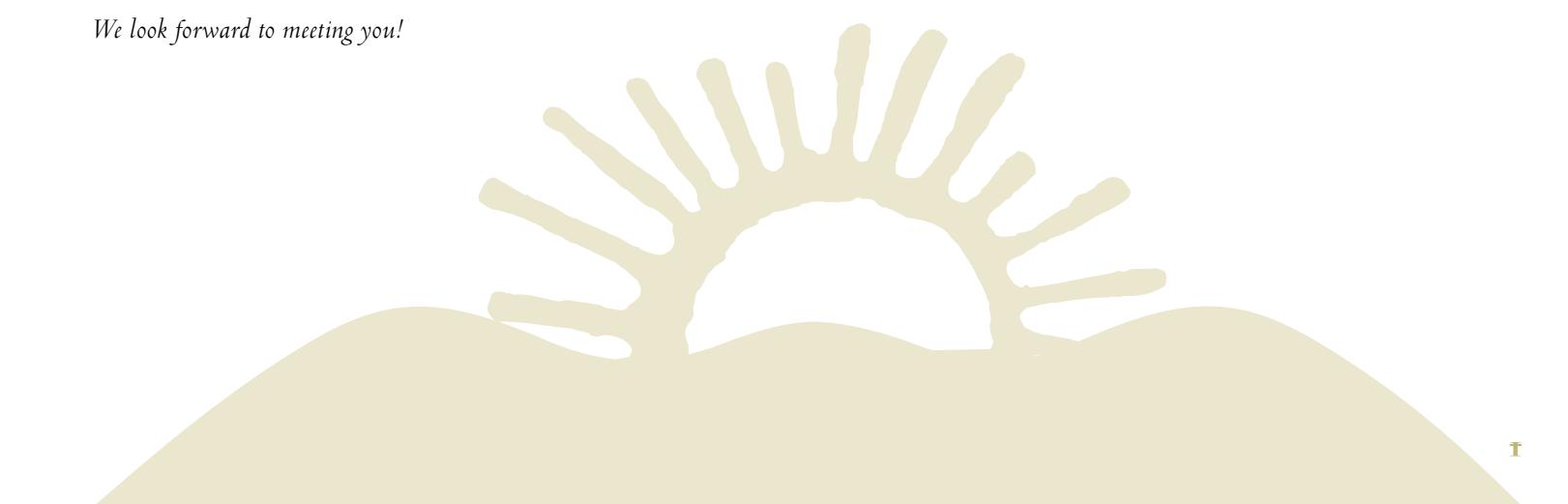
- Where students learn the intrinsic rewards of traditional scholarship
- Where they grow beyond their individual horizons
- Where students discover a true love of learning

CHA students are surrounded by the support of their devoted and experienced teachers who create an environment for active learners that combines both an understanding of the basics as well as forward-thinking applications for the future. Students are challenged to go beyond memorization, to become active learners, and to value hard work and excellent citizenship.

Our students truly love their school, developing warm friendships with those in their own grades and beyond. As a small, college preparatory preschool through grade 8 school, our students build confidence and experience success in the classroom, on the playing field, and in the fine and performing arts. CHA students of all ages walk the same paths, attend assemblies together, share many of the same facilities, and enjoy some of the same teachers. Our diverse student body joins together as one community of similar expectations and of common values. Each student is very much an individual and yet also a highly valued member of the CHA family. Our Preschool through Grade 8 community provides numerous opportunities where the oldest students may reflect upon their childhood while the very youngest may look ahead to their time as school leaders. CHA is a remarkable place where all students may be themselves, relying on the support of one another while making relationships that continue beyond graduation.

Yet, providing written descriptions can never replace a personal visit. Meeting our students and viewing our faculty in their classrooms are the very best ways for you to learn for yourself the wonderful gifts of Chatsworth Hills Academy. We invite you to visit our very special school that provides an educational program of the highest standards within a safe, secure, and beautiful campus.

We look forward to meeting you!





As you enter Chatsworth Hills Academy's campus, the first thing you are likely to notice is that your surroundings have changed dramatically. In the span of a few hundred feet, you have been transported into a peaceful, natural setting nestled in the hills above Chatsworth. It is in this tranquil setting that a love of learning is being awakened every day. This is Chatsworth Hills Academy, a place where together, we learn, grow, and discover.

At Chatsworth Hills Academy, we recognize that each child is unique and may learn, grow, and discover in many ways. Because of this, we have created a secure and caring environment with small classes that foster a high degree of teacher and student interaction. Our teachers gain a deep understanding of each student's unique talents, strengths, and challenges. Likewise, our students come to appreciate their teachers and form strong bonds with their fellow classmates. This is a place where special, close relationships are formed as a unique, educational journey unfolds.

Chatsworth Hills Academy (CHA) is a preschool through grade 8, co-educational, independent school. We are accredited and monitored by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). CHA embraces diversity as an essential part of its educational philosophy, accepting students of many ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. CHA graduates consistently go on to many of the finest secondary schools (see page XX). Our program is widely recognized for both its academic excellence and its unique ability to focus on the individual social, emotional, and educational needs of each child. Our faculty is made up of master teachers whose diversity reflects that of the student population. CHA offers its faculty ongoing opportunities for professional development by supporting the attendance of regional and national seminars as well as continuing education at local universities. CHA also prides itself on the closely-knit sense of community that is engendered among all who are involved in campus life. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in the life of the school through the Parent Teacher Organization. As a result, while the years pass and friendships form, parents invariably become very involved members of the CHA community. This sense of community, combined with small classes, a first-rate faculty, excellent facilities, and a beautiful pastoral setting, will give your child an unparalleled educational experience.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN



In addition to your child's cognitive growth, your child's social growth is of great importance to us. We learn about treating others as we would like to be treated. We learn what is appropriate behavior in the classroom, on the playground, or in the library. Throughout your child's CHA journey, the core values of truthfulness, fair play, and respect for self and others, along with the responsibilities of citizenship are taught, modeled, and rewarded.



We also recognize that children at this age have a lot of energy to burn. For that reason, we ensure that your child will have plenty of unstructured time during the day to have fun and be creative. In these early years, as throughout a CHA education, your child's uniqueness will be appreciated while growing as a young learner. It is an important part of our philosophy to include enough flexibility into a CHA education to help each child realize his or her maximum potential.

D

During his or her first years of school, your child will be absorbing information at an amazing rate. Vocabulary is being learned, colors and shapes are being identified, numbers, letters, words, and sentences are all introduced. This is a time when your child yearns for a rich, stimulating, safe environment in which to discover his or her world. At CHA, our Preschool curriculum includes a wide variety of experiences, which introduce the exciting world of learning. Your child will develop communication skills by speaking, listening, observing, and creating as he or she discovers the world through teacher-designed experiences.



LOWER SCHOOL



Reading readiness, begun in the Preschool program, expands in Kindergarten through enriched activities that strengthen visual and auditory discrimination, figure-ground perception, and left-to-right progression. As your child becomes comfortable with sound-letter relationships, he or she will begin blending sounds leading to the decoding of the printed word. As your child begins to experience success in an emerging world of literature and writing, momentum begins to build as he or she strives to become a better and more confident reader.

In Kindergarten, the foundations of mathematical thinking are formed as children recognize and extend patterns, develop number sense, and learn how math is used in everyday activities. Your child will use manipulatives to understand basic shapes and quantities. The concepts of more or less, larger and smaller, and the basis for addition and subtraction are explored and learned. It is also in Kindergarten that your child will have his or her introduction to a wider array of subjects including art, music, science, social studies, computer literacy, Spanish, and physical education.



Lower School begins in Kindergarten and builds upon the foundational concepts introduced in Preschool. Of paramount importance in these early years, is giving your child the most positive learning experience possible in order to inspire a lifelong love of learning. We provide an enriched curriculum in a nurturing environment that encourages self confidence and experimentation. In the beginning, your child will encounter concrete learning activities that will eventually progress towards abstract thinking. A variety of teaching methods are used including whole class, small groups, cooperative learning, and individual instruction.

In Grades 1 and 2, your child's literacy skills will grow to include ever increasing length and complexity of stories and nonfiction reading. Everyday your child will be read to and, in turn, will read individually with the teacher. The writing process continues with frequent writings in a variety of genres. Book reports, plays, poetry, and folklore all come alive in the classroom and on stage as your child experiences the unique features of each variety of writing. The math program progresses in a cyclical fashion to review and refresh previous concepts. New skills that extend numeric understanding are introduced along with story

LOWER SCHOOL



problems and real-life examples. Computer technology is also integrated into the learning process in many disciplines with an emphasis on its utility in your child's education. We make a point of respecting each child's interests and encouraging original and critical thinking. Of course, repetition and review will be necessary in order for your child to achieve competence in the required subjects. Ample time is provided to ensure individual success. Your child will be given a solid foundation in preparation for the learning challenges ahead.

As your child progresses through grades 3 and 4, he or she will take on more and more responsibility as a partner in his or her own education. We encourage the development of self-discipline and focus on the mastering of concepts. Hands-on activities within small-group or individual settings allow our skilled teachers to closely monitor individual



learning. This allows teachers to make needed adjustments to ensure your child is meeting developmental milestones, while continuing to enjoy the learning process. Explorations through simulations, inquiries, discussions, drama, and speech enhance interest in the world, past and present. Specialists in music, art, physical education, technology, Spanish, and library work cooperatively with the classroom teaching team to integrate learning and to help your child make connections within the curriculum. Off-campus activities enhance your child's classroom experiences with field trips to local museums and concerts that widen your child's horizons and pique his or her curiosity for further learning.



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Middle School is a time of rapid change in virtually every aspect of your child's life. As adolescence approaches, your child is faced with important decisions requiring judgement, character, and independent thinking. This is also when we will encourage your son or daughter to shoulder more responsibility for his or her own education. Although a time of many challenges, it is also a time of great opportunity.

At CHA we offer your child a stimulating course of study, in small classes, taught by dedicated teachers. Beyond the classroom your child will have the opportunity to participate in teacher-led discussions that seek to find positive solutions for the many



difficult decisions and dilemmas faced by today's adolescents. Our overall goal is to give your child the very best possible foundation for high school and college while encouraging the development of strong, character in a setting that nurtures individuality.

The CHA Middle School program begins in grade five. During this transitional year, your child will be assigned a personal locker and begin attending individual classes based on subject matter. It is also in the 5th grade that your child will begin to be personally mentored by a faculty advisor and be given the opportunity to choose elective classes. This important year provides closer supervision than in subsequent Middle School years in order to allow your child to slowly begin to expand his or her educational experience. By the end of the 5th grade, your child will be well prepared for the college-preparatory program presented in grades 6 through 8.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



While in Middle School, your child will be exposed to a rigorous academic curriculum, which includes three years of science, advanced math classes (through Algebra I), Spanish (through Spanish II), and a language arts program establishing critical reading and writing skills. Your child will be given numerous opportunities to demonstrate his or her developing skills with projects, research topics, and group presentations. At every level, your child will know the clear expectations and be given the support necessary to meet or exceed those expectations.

As in Lower School, classes are very small and employ a variety of settings including traditional class, small group, and individual instruction. In this intimate school environment, you and your child will develop close relationships with his or her teachers. Teachers will also guide both your child's academic growth and social growth. This is accomplished by providing students with numerous activities that foster social and interpersonal development. In addition, your child will learn the steps of leadership through an ongoing process of planning and executing school-wide or grade-level events and activities.

As a supplement to the classroom experiences, middle schoolers widen their perspectives by taking excursions to such places as The Los Angeles Music Center, The Skirball Cultural Center and Museum, The Getty Museum, The Norton Simon Museum, The Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Plaza, The Long Beach Aquarium, The California Science Center, and the nearby Ronald Reagan Library. In addition, each Middle School class takes a major overnight trip to such places as Sea World Science Camp, Yosemite National Park, The Catalina Environmental Leadership Program, and Washington, DC. Your child will also participate in community service programs such as food banks and homeless shelters. Finally, your child will have ample opportunity to participate in competitive athletics at CHA. Beginning in grade 4 and continuing through Middle School, all girls and boys can participate in a variety of interscholastic sports including basketball, flag football, volleyball, and soccer.





CHA at a glance

Founded: 1977

Grades: Preschool (Ages 2 1/2 - 4 years) through 8

Accreditation: The California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Number of students: 250 approximately 50% of each gender.

Student/Teacher Ratio: 8:1

Campus Size: 16 acres

Before School Care: Drop off at 7:00 AM

After School Care: Until 6:00 PM (a variety of optional elective offerings including fencing, dance, chess)

Diversity: 25% students of color

Lunch: Hot Lunch available for purchase daily

Preschool Minimum Age: 2 1/2 by September 1

Athletics and Sports: Boys and Girls Volleyball, Flag Football, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Soccer

Schools Attended by Graduates: Campbell Hall, Harvard Westlake, Oakwood, Viewpoint, Wildwood, Chaminade, Crespi, Louisville, New Community Jewish High School, Notre Dame, Oaks Christian, Sierra Canyon High School, and Buckley

Medical Aid: Emergency Medical Technician on staff.
All faculty have first aid and CPR training

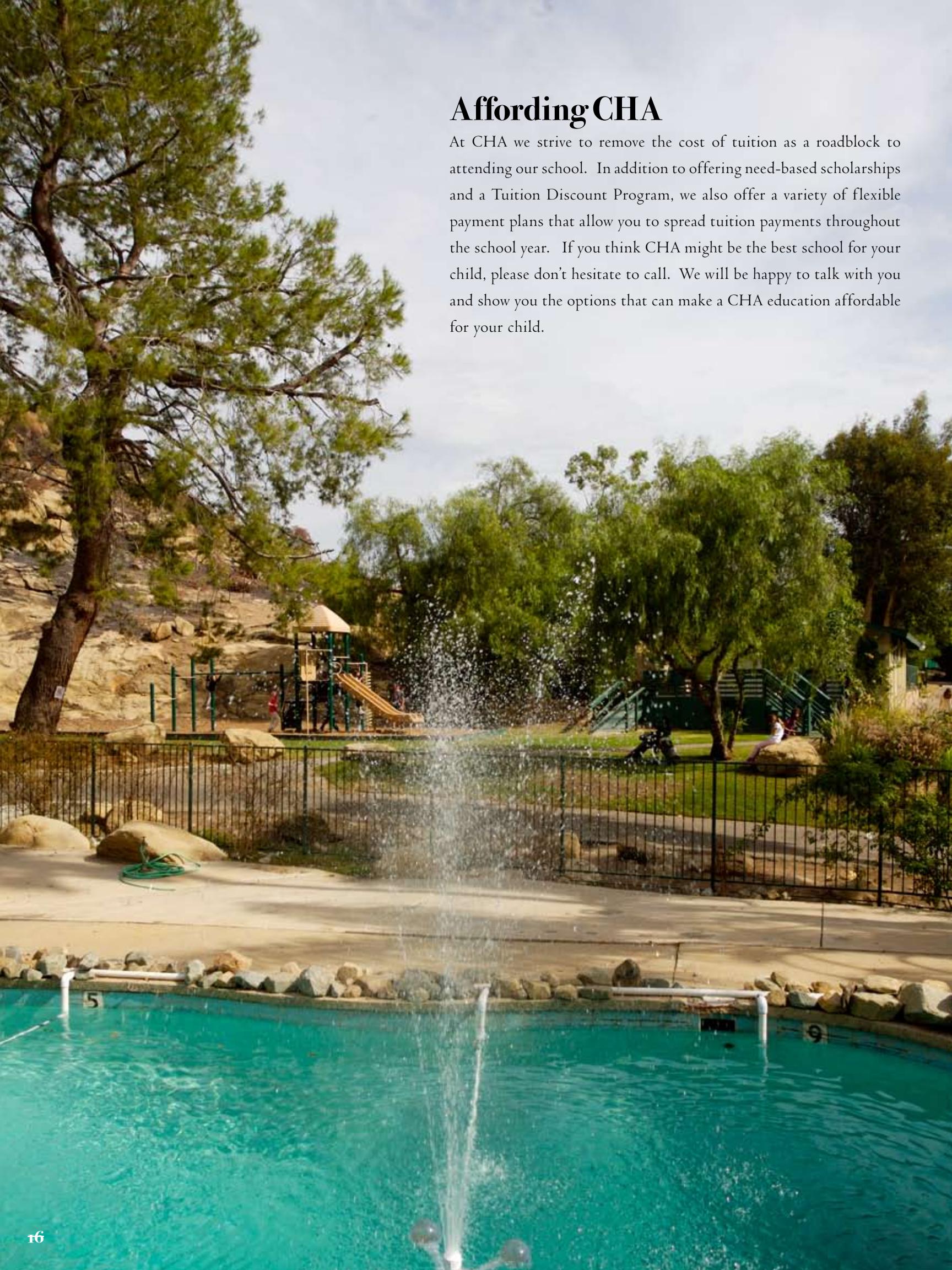


Admission

We encourage you to give us a call to make an appointment to see our beautiful campus. It is really impossible to convey in words the wonderful mixture of warmth, security, and excitement for learning that exists every day at CHA. We invite you to see CHA in action -- where inspired students and teachers work together in a wonderful learning environment. Please call 818.998.4037 or email us at info@chaschool.org to schedule a visit or to attend an open house so that you can experience for yourself our truly remarkable school. We look forward to meeting you.

Affording CHA

At CHA we strive to remove the cost of tuition as a roadblock to attending our school. In addition to offering need-based scholarships and a Tuition Discount Program, we also offer a variety of flexible payment plans that allow you to spread tuition payments throughout the school year. If you think CHA might be the best school for your child, please don't hesitate to call. We will be happy to talk with you and show you the options that can make a CHA education affordable for your child.





OUR MISSION ...

Chatsworth Hills Academy's mission is to fulfill each child's intellectual, social and physical potential in a positive, supportive environment. The academic, college-preparatory curriculum promotes critical thinking, decision making, and problem solving skills. With an emphasis on character building, Chatsworth Hills Academy prepares its students to be responsible and contributing members of a global society.

For more information or to set up an appointment:

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