Webb Schools FAQ

GENERAL

What are The Webb Schools?

Who attends Webb?
The roughly 400 students represent an incredible diversity of backgrounds and interests. About half the students attend Vivian Webb School and half attend Webb School of California. About 250 students board at Webb; about 150 are day students who live less than 15 miles from Webb’s Claremont campus.

Where do Webb’s boarding students come from?
Webb’s boarding students currently hail from California, Georgia, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington, as well as from Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, Ukraine and Vietnam.

What’s the difference between Webb School of California and Vivian Webb School?
Webb School of California was created in 1922 as a school for boys. Vivian Webb School opened as a day school for girls in 1981 on the Webb campus. Students shared access to facilities and faculty but attended single-gender classes. The program evolved into single-gender courses for core subjects during freshman and sophomore years. This “coordinate model” allowed for pedagogical approaches based on the latest research on gender-based education. Today, students from both schools board on campus and participate together in electives, activities and sports.

What is Unbounded education?
The concept of an education without limits stems from Webb’s very beginning. The schools seek to inspire students to boldly reach for a greater sense of who they are and what they can achieve. Through immersive, collaborative, relevant and deeply engaging journeys that connect the classroom and the broader world, students expand their understanding of what it means to think, create and reflect. They learn that their possibilities and their minds are truly unbounded. The concept was embodied by science teacher and museum founder Ray Alf, who would take students on fossil-hunting trips across the U.S. Today, Webb’s focus on hands-on instruction is known as the Alf Method.
What is the Alf Method?
Ray Alf became internationally renowned for engaging students in real science through paleontology. His passion led to development of the only accredited museum of paleontology on a high school campus. Today, his devotion to learning by doing is reflected in every academic department, afternoon activity, field study and academic partnership. Webb’s humanities program, for example, meshes history and English studies with relevant social issues, while Webb’s advanced studies program offers in-depth, college-level exploration in all disciplines. Courses tap into the specialized skills, knowledge and personal passions of Webb’s master teachers, injecting a higher level of potency into the academic experience.

Where do Webb’s students go to college?
A complete list of colleges that have accepted students from our most recent class is available on our website, in addition to the top 40 colleges and universities to accept Webb students over the last five years. The list includes not only Ivy League schools, but also many schools known for specific academic programs.

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

What is the Centennial Campaign?
Webb’s ambitious $200 million-plus Centennial Campaign looks to prepare the schools for the Next 100 years. The campaign targets three priorities: opening Webb to the world; fostering academic innovation through unbounded thinking and academic partnerships; transforming our campus home. So far, the campaign has generated more than $170 million in donations, including an historic estate gift of at least $100 million. The campaign was launched in 2017 and runs through 2025. Read more at webb100.org.

What is the $100 million gift?
A Webb alumnus, who wishes to remain anonymous, has committed a planned estate gift of at least $100 million. As an estate gift, the funds will not be received until the alumnus passes.

How will Webb use the money?
The gift of at least $100 million will expand Webb’s innovative academic programs, expand Webb’s already generous scholarship program and ensure Webb can attract and retain the nation’s best teachers in all areas of instruction.

As a whole, the Centennial Campaign will boost student aid; expand Webb’s Unbounded curriculum, partnerships with cultural organizations and institutions of higher learning; and construct, upgrade and preserve facilities to support the evolving needs to student instruction.