

HOW DO I APPLY?

Current Juniors and Seniors are admitted on a space-available basis. Talk to your counselor and let them know you're interested in the program.

Upcoming Freshmen and Sophomores can apply through the lottery system. Go to lotapp.asdk12.org for more information. The lottery generally opens in January each year and closes the Monday after Spring break for each upcoming school year.



World Discovery Seminar uses the Socratic discussion method style of teaching, founded from the Paideia model.

We believe in rigor, making learning relevant to students' lives, and high levels of scholarship.

What sets us apart?
Socratic Seminars,
Coaching (lots of reading),
Writing (lots of opportunities to write in different ways),
and tons of project-based learning.

WHAT WILL MY SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?

Your freshman year, you will take:
WDS English I, Genre Studies, full year
WDS Ancient Civilizations or Freshman Career Exploration, 1 semester
WDS Alaska Studies, 1 semester,
And WDS Biology, full year
The rest of your schedule will be your choice of core classes and electives.

Your sophomore year, you will take:
WDS English II, World Literature, full year, and
WDS World History, full year,
and your choice of core classes and electives.

Your junior and senior year, you may take:
WDS English III, American Literature
WDS English IV,
WDS American History,
WDS Government, 1 semester,
and WDS Economics 1 semester,
as well as your choice of core classes and electives.

If you'd like to take AP English or Social studies during your Junior and Senior years, you will be prepared in a similar way that taking honors will prepare you for those courses. Your WDS teachers will know you well and be able to help you decide if you'll be successful in an Advanced Placement Course. Most students who are in WDS and want to pursue AP will stay in either one of the WDS English or Social Studies courses and take AP for the other, so they stay a part of the program, while still trying the rigor and experience of AP courses.

Current WDS Teachers include:
Karis Sena, English
Mackenna Handeland, English
Alyssa Logan, Social Studies
Dallan Petersen, Social Studies
and Brian Mason, Biology

Follow us on Instagram
[@chugiakwds](https://www.instagram.com/chugiakwds)
www.chugiakwds.com

Chugiak High WORLD DISCOVERY SEMINAR program



A School-Within-A-School Program

WDS is a small school feel inside a larger school. It consists of about 125 students who are connected through a love of learning from each other and world-class teacher-facilitators.

Why should you be part of the WDS community?

- 1. BECAUSE WE'RE A FAMILY!** Having the same group of teachers and classmates for four years creates a community of learners with diverse perspectives, but often shared values. We look out for each other and tend to know more quickly when someone is struggling, and when they are thriving. We respect the struggles and celebrate the wins together.
- 2. BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE TEACHER ISN'T ALWAYS RIGHT.** WDS teachers are specially trained facilitators who will teach you to question norms, ask the hard questions, and push yourself to be the best version of yourself. With your teacher as a guide and your classmates as partners, you will learn to think critically and analyze a concept from all the angles.
- 3. BECAUSE YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM HISTORY.** Our learning framework is a Socratic model designed by the Paideia Institute. We study historic documents and thinkers to apply age-old philosophies and lessons to our modern world.
- 4. BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE COLLEGE-READY, WHILE STILL ENJOYING BEING A TEENAGER.** The WDS program is a happy medium for students who want to do more than the traditional courses but may need more flexibility in their schedule. We build our programs around your passions and work with students who excel in extracurriculars. Colleges look at the WDS designation on a transcript in a similar way to other advanced courses.

What makes a WDS student different?

Bottom line, WDS Students tend to be students who value relationships and learning from each person they encounter. WDS students get to know their teachers and cohort members during a four-year journey and understand that their educational experience is unique because of the diverse people and perspectives with whom they share their everyday lives.



ANNUAL EVENTS

Welcome Back Breakfast + Convocation

A "welcome back" at the start of the year with team-building and goal-setting for the school year, including a sorting ceremony for new students to find their WDS families.

Fall Field Day

A trip to local Eagle River spaces for outdoor fun and whole-group activities, for helping facilitate connections between under and upperclassmen, with seminars led by WDS Seniors.

Quarterly Cross-Seminars

Cohorts and whole-program seminars are held quarterly to share cross-content and cross-cultural connections between different subjects and age groups.

Feast or Famine

Held each November, this event raises funds and awareness for global hunger issues. A cross-seminar on gratitude or loss usually accompanies this school-wide feast!

Winter Giving

WDS gathers resources in the winter season to help families in the Chugiak area celebrate the holidays with more needs met.

Day of Caring

A spring tradition, the WDS family takes one day out of instruction to give back to the CHS community, both inside the school and outside our walls. Past partnerships have included Covenant House, ER Food Bank, and Chugiak/Eagle River Senior Center.

WDS Graduation

A special graduation ceremony for WDS seniors is held each spring to celebrate their journey through education within the WDS program.

Student Council

Representatives from all four grade levels are elected each year to represent their classes in the WDS Council, which helps plan and communicate events, which market and represent the program in the community.

WDS Culture Nights

Culture nights are evening field trips that are optional and usually cost about \$75. Students can invite their friends, parents, and siblings to join us for a cultural activity, such as a visit to the planetarium or a historic walking tour of downtown, followed by dinner and free time at the 5th avenue mall, and then a show at the performing arts center.

WDS Family Nights

Bi-annual family nights are free to attend and include dinner together, followed by a movie night for students and a parents-only seminar, or a family-style seminar with everyone learning together.