

# Making Waves Academy

## Mission

Making Waves Academy (MWA) commits to rigorously and holistically preparing students to gain acceptance to and graduate from college, to ultimately become valuable contributors to the workforce and their communities.

## Vision

MWA works to address the disparity in educational opportunity that exists between suburban and urban youth and help students graduate from college with minimal debt.

## About Making Waves Academy

Making Waves Academy opened its doors in 2007 serving 100 Wave-Makers in 5th grade in Richmond, California. Since that time, we have grown to serve 950 students in grades 5-12. MWA helps students not merely enter, but to graduate from college with as little debt as possible, and helps them achieve this outcome by providing financial resources, social-emotional training, and coaching throughout their affiliation with the organization.

## Values

- **Community:** We combine our intellect and critical thinking skills to support each other and make healthy choices for ourselves and positive changes in our community.
- **Resilience:** We are agents of change, who, through hard work and perseverance, have the power to define ourselves and to control our destiny.
- **Respect:** We believe each person is valuable and we demonstrate respect by following our community norms.
- **Responsibility:** We have integrity; we are accountable for our decisions and actions and their impact on ourselves and our community.
- **Scholarship:** We are life-long learners who aspire to and achieve academic excellence.



## Academic Performance



MWA has graduated four classes of high school seniors as of June 2018 – a total of **286 graduates**.



The class of 2018 had a graduation rate of about **96%**.



MWA's high school graduation requirements are aligned with the required course of study California's **"A-G"** college admission prerequisites.



More than **95%** of MWA Upper School graduates are enrolled in post-secondary schools.

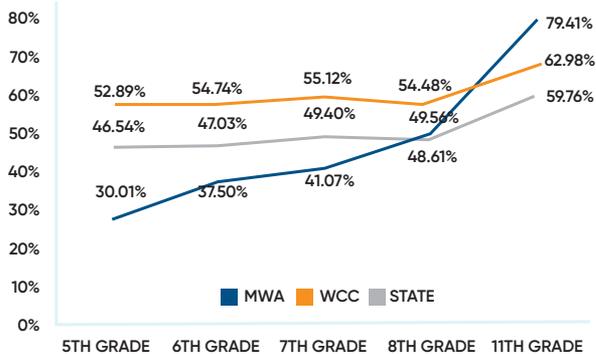


About **70%** attend four-year colleges and universities, and about **25%** attend two-year colleges.

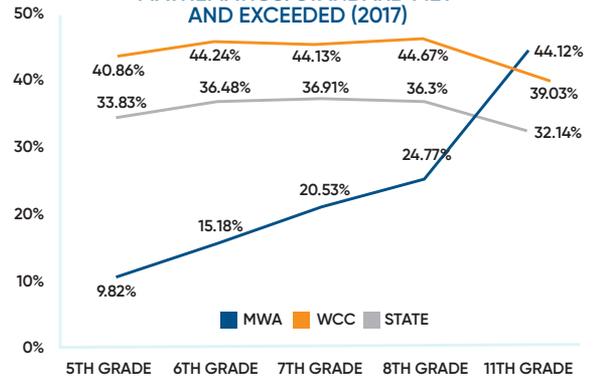
## Academic Program

- MWA provides intensive, academic support to all students, in small group settings, based on student academic need.
- Our teachers meet 1-on-1 with struggling learners to provide intervention and/or remediation services, and they meet 1-on-1 with advanced learners to provide extension learning and review.
- MWA English Language Development Coordinators meet individually with students to provide comprehensive support to our English language learners.
- Extended Day, Saturday, and Summer Academies provide holistic learning opportunities for our students between school sessions.

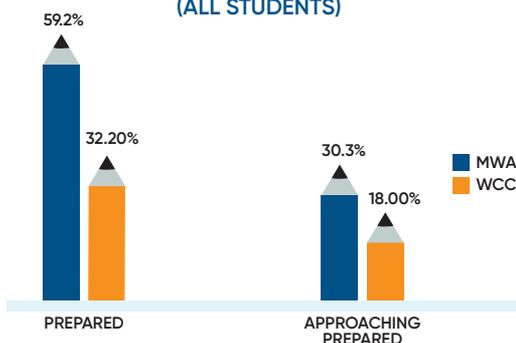
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: STANDARD MET AND EXCEEDED (2017)



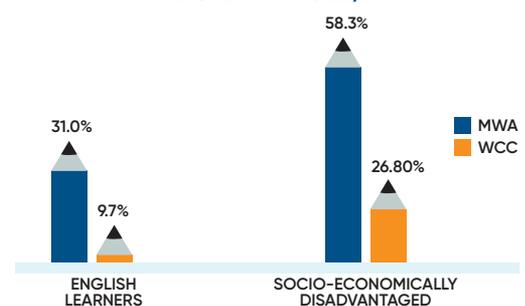
MATHEMATICS: STANDARD MET AND EXCEEDED (2017)



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (ALL STUDENTS)



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (ENGLISH LEARNERS & SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED)





# MAKING WAVES ACADEMY GENERAL FAQs

*This document addresses questions prospective parents may have about sending their children to Making Waves Academy. If you have a question that is not addressed here, please email [info@mwacademy.org](mailto:info@mwacademy.org).*

## 1. Is Making Waves Academy a public school?

Yes, MWA is a tuition-free, non-profit public charter school.

## 2. How do students enroll in Making Waves Academy?

Students enroll in MWA through a lottery system. The lottery application is available online at [www.enrollwcc.schoolmint.net](http://www.enrollwcc.schoolmint.net). At the "Enroll WCC" website, you can apply to MWA and to a number of other West Contra Costa charter schools. Please make sure to check the box for "Making Waves Academy" on the appropriate page.

## 3. What communities does Making Waves Academy serve?

Students attending MWA in Richmond are from communities in Richmond and surrounding areas. Students who live in the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) are given priority in the lottery.

## 4. How is Making Waves Academy different from other charter schools in Richmond?

MWA's approach is centered on rigorous college preparation and attention to holistic social-emotional development. In June 2018, 100% of students who graduated from MWA were college-bound. All graduates of MWA are automatically enrolled in CAP, which deploys coaching, financial literacy training, and scholarships to help students graduate from college on time and with minimal debt. 86% of CAP students are on pace to earn their college degree in six years, and they graduate with 93% less loan debt than the national average.

## 5. Where does Making Waves Academy get funding from?

As a public charter school, we receive a mix of federal, state, and local funds based on the number of students enrolled. Like other public schools, charter schools receive funding based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). The Academy is a federally and state recognized not-for-profit, allowing people to contribute money and in-kind services while receiving a tax exemption for their gifts. While a significant portion of MWA's funding comes from public funding, another significant portion comes from charitable contributions, and public and private grants.

## 6. Why is the Making Waves Academy campus in Richmond being expanded?

The MWA Richmond campus is growing to provide more seats for students from the Richmond community. By 2025, MWA expects to educate 1,300 students annually, up from 800 during the 2017-2018 school year.

## 7. How will the Making Waves Academy Richmond campus change?

Through the expansion, MWA is gaining an additional 14 acres and five buildings with 250,000 square feet of teaching space. New features include open learning areas, a parent resource center, restorative justice space, Middle and Upper School gymnasiums, and a performance art space.

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# MAKING WAVES ACADEMY GENERAL FAQs

## 8. How is the expansion project being funded?

The expansion project is being funded through philanthropic funds. No public funds will be used to build the expanded campus.

## 9. Does Making Waves Academy offer transportation to and from school for my child?

Yes, MWA does offer bus transportation for students to various locations throughout West Contra Costa County. Seats are limited, and priority will be given to 5th graders and their siblings.

## 10. Who are the teachers that will be teaching my child?

Making Waves Academy is comprised of hard working and dedicated teachers all of whom are properly credentialed and certificated. We work with faculty to ensure all MWA teachers meet the standard of a “highly qualified” teacher.

## 11. What is a typical day for students at Making Waves Academy?

The school day begins at 8:05 am and ends at 3:30 pm. Middle School students start the day in homerooms for morning meetings. Then students cycle through core day instruction, including classes like History, Math, English, and Science. All grades have health and wellness which includes Physical Education and health. In addition, students are offered electives to further their creativity. 5th and 6th grades are offered a Technology and Art course, taking one of these courses per semester. 7th-grade students are offered music and 8th-grade students have a second Art course. The course of study for all Upper School students is aligned to fulfill A–G Requirements for admission-eligibility to University of California and California State University, with the opportunity for students to pursue Advanced Placement and Career Technical Education courses. Time for academic intervention is embedded into the core day, Academy-wide, and allows for differentiated intervention, remediation, and enrichment for all students.

## 12. Does Making Waves Academy offer an after-school program? And is it free?

Yes, MWA does offer a free after school program for students in the 5th through 8th grade, however there is no school sponsored transportation. Parents will have to arrange transportation for their students.

## 13. Does Making Waves Academy offer summer school and is it free?

Yes, summer school is free and available for grades 6th through 12th. Upper School students may use summer school for credit recovery, however Middle School students cannot.

## 14. Does Making Waves Academy offer sports programs for their students?

Yes, Making Waves Academy does offer sports for their students, 11 in the Middle School including ultimate frisbee, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. For the Upper School we offer a variety of sports including volleyball, cheer, soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, and cross country & track and field.