

WHITFIELD SCHOOL

Whitfield School, located on a beautiful, 25-acre campus at the intersection of South Mason and Ladue Roads, is the latest participant in the Chamber's Best Schools Initiative. Founded in 1952, Whitfield School is an independent, coeducational college preparatory day school for grades six through twelve. Whitfield boasts an average class size of 12, a modest school size of 470, a demanding academic program and a world-class faculty. For these reasons and many more, Chamber members who participated in a recent tour of the school, came away with much to say about this remarkable jewel in West St. Louis County.

Visitors may find themselves welcomed, as we did, by the school's unofficial greeter, Rascal, a golden retriever who takes great joy in his duties. "Open and friendly", "very fresh and colorful", "comfortable and inviting" were words used by our tour group participants to describe Whitfield School.

The student artwork at Whitfield School is impressive – and it is everywhere. The work of student photographers was being arranged in a display on a wall near the dining room as we toured through the area. In another part of the building a giant 6' x 8' rendering of a cat may be found on one of the school walls. In fact the art area, itself, seems to inspire an unusual sense of creativity, with its open and angular floor plan which allows a view from innumerable perspectives.

A sense of community, a code of honor, and mutual trust is palpable throughout the school. Students comfortably leave their book bags in the hallways, unattended, to be picked up again after class. Paper mache busts of every graduating senior, created by students of the 7th grade class, line the tops of the school lockers (which, incidentally, were not locked). Indeed, a sense of community, camaraderie, and belonging was pervasive as we toured the halls and classrooms at Whitfield School.

The school brochure describes some of the ways in which Whitfield strives to develop and maintain a community of families that values mutual respect and personal responsibility. And as one might expect, Whitfield students are not only well rounded, but 100% of graduating seniors are admitted to four-year colleges and universities. Whitfield's demanding academic program, coupled with the support of a dedicated faculty and staff, prepares graduates well for both the college experience and life beyond.

In addition to pursuing a rigorous academic curriculum, Whitfield students are encouraged to become involved in the school and the community by participating in the clubs and activities available on campus. The list is extensive and includes 22 athletic teams, 20 clubs and organizations and a plethora of community service opportunities.

Whitfield School is rightly considered among the Chamber's Best Schools. If you would like to experience Whitfield School for yourself, you may arrange a tour by contacting Emily Chrysler at (314) 415-1270 or emily.chrysler@whitfieldschool.org.