



**WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?**

# WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

## DO YOU SUSPECT THERE MIGHT BE A BETTER WAY FOR YOUR CHILD TO LEARN?

We agree! And Headwaters is redefining what school should be.



A foundational pillar of Headwaters is its dedication to promoting self-generated learning.” - **GRADUATE**

At Headwaters School, we believe in the power of young people to solve challenges great and small.

That's why we've built our culture around student-led exploration and creativity. Our approach to excellence is defined by challenge and growth.

Because we know when students are propelled by curiosity and grounded in empathy, they are ready for any opportunity life brings their way.

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Headwaters is the school for kids who are passionate about something, and when they get to Headwaters, it just ignites. ”

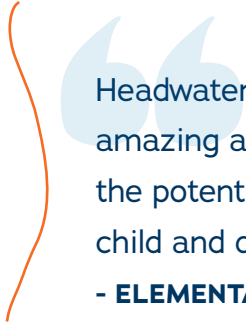
- MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT

# WHAT DO YOU VALUE?

## SHARED VALUES DEFINE OUR CULTURE AND HELP OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS DO THEIR BEST WORK EVERY DAY.

### ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY

We embrace learning as a mindset. We uplift curiosity in all forms – across topics, about each other, and especially about how our world can and should work.



Headwaters has an amazing ability to see the potential in each child and draw it out.”


**- ELEMENTARY PARENT**

### PURSUE MEANING

Our approach to academic excellence is defined by challenge and growth, not competition. Our human-centric environments are designed to drive deeper exploration and learning. Here, understanding matters more than a score, and thoughtful questions push us further than memorized answers.

### LET STUDENTS LEAD

We believe education is done with students, not to them. Here, guides and students are equal participants, and students have voice and choice in their experience.





## FOSTER BELONGING

We are a welcoming community that cultivates belonging and purpose and we create space to build bridges among diverse people and perspectives. We encourage a culture where all members can exercise their agency as we co-create powerful, positive change.

## LIVE THE PACT

We challenge our students, guides, staff, parents, and trustees to be Peacemakers, Advocates, Creators, and Thinkers. The PACT reflects both the learning outcomes we aspire to and the world we hope to create.

Students develop their own voices through writing, presentation, and advocacy, while listening and learning that other people can also be right.



# WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

## EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PROPELLED BY CURIOSITY

At Headwaters, we tap students' intrinsic motivation to learn, creating a joyful and challenging environment from Early Childhood through High School.

Starting in second grade they're doing research projects by themselves, which is what I would expect in a college experience — becoming a person who can think, research, and present.”

**- ELEMENTARY PARENT**

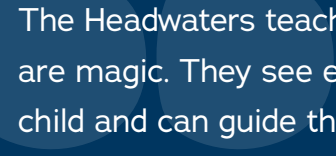


Curiosity, exploration, and research are part of the experience in every grade level and prime students for lifelong growth.

## WHY DO WE CALL OUR TEACHERS “GUIDES?”

Our educators are called guides, a term that comes from our Montessori roots. Headwaters guides are observers and facilitators, encouraging children toward ever-expanding concepts of interest and ability.

Each student actively engages with the questions that interest them most. Guides lend structure and mentorship, empowering students to push the traditional boundaries of learning.



The Headwaters teachers are magic. They see each child and can guide them to where they need to stretch and be challenged.”

- **ELEMENTARY PARENT**

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## EMPATHY & RESPECT: PEACE EDUCATION

At Headwaters, students realize and practice their own power to solve conflict peacefully because Peace Education at every age is central to our culture. Young children learn the importance of being in community and how to resolve their interpersonal conflicts. Older children practice embracing difference and leading with curiosity and an open mind.

# FREEDOM & EMPOWERMENT: MONTESSORI APPROACH

At Headwaters, students continuously question, explore, and make connections in order to grow into confident, enthusiastic, and self-directed learners and community members. Montessori education is the curricular foundation at Headwaters from Early Childhood through 5th grade. Montessori classrooms are immediately recognizable for their beautifully prepared environments, deep engagement, student-led learning, and caring guides.





# CHALLENGE & EXPRESSION: INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The capstone of a Headwaters education is the renowned International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

In their junior and senior years, students hone their skills in critical thinking, research, writing, and creative expression through the integrated IB framework. Completion of the program gives students a high school credential recognized around the world and valued by universities as a marker of college readiness that transcends grades and standardized scores.



With International Baccalaureate, there's this underlying quality that makes you want to have a global perspective within all of your classes—from history to mathematics.”

- HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

# HOW DO STUDENTS GROW?

**ACROSS THREE AUSTIN CAMPUSES,  
WE CREATE A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY  
AND GROWTH FOR STUDENTS FROM  
18 MONTHS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.**

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Montessori-based education where we cultivate independence and love of learning, establishing a foundation for success in school and life.

Headwaters helps my kids develop their own map for their future.”

**- EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PARENT**

## **ELEMENTARY**

Montessori-based, academically rich environment where students develop the intellectual nimbleness, spirit, and resilience to thrive in adolescence and in the world in which they live.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Students explore their passions with increased independence, cultivate their sense of self and their role in the larger community, and boost critical thinking skills to lay the groundwork for success in the high school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme curriculum provides the challenging capstone of the Headwaters education, as students develop their own scholarship, voice, and agency in a supportive and creative environment.

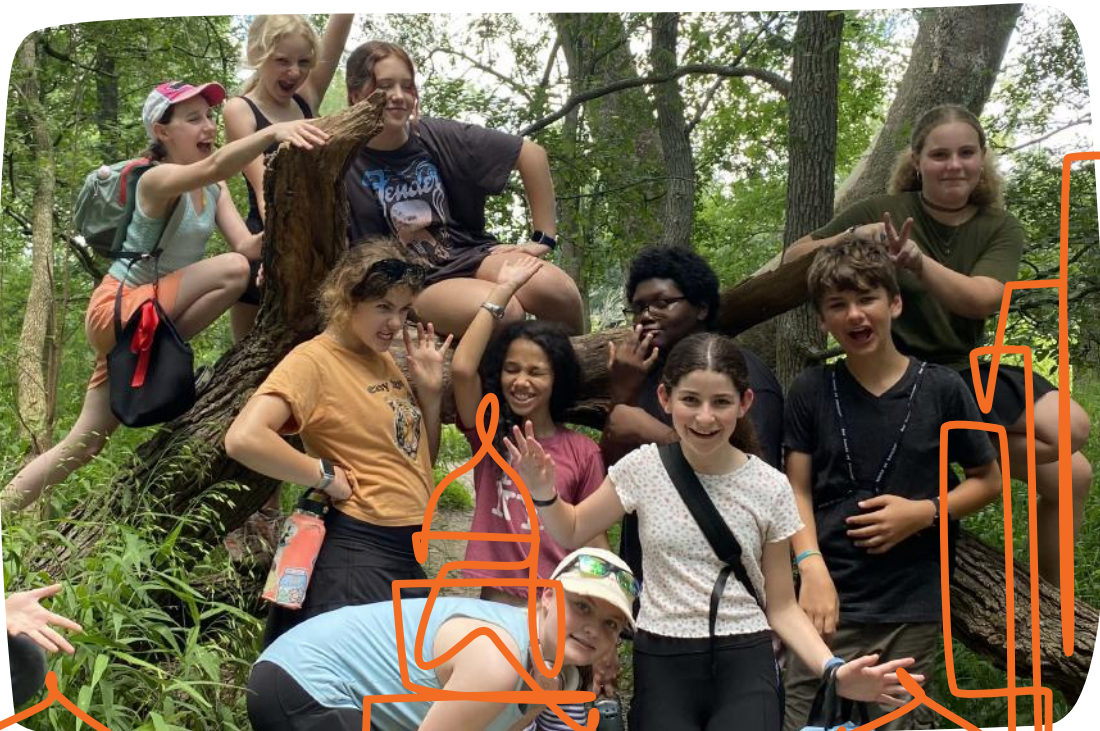
## CITY AS CLASSROOM

One of the advantages of our urban location is that students learn to be citizens of the city, engaging all the resources and challenges of Austin to enrich their on-campus lessons.

At the downtown campus of Headwaters, middle and high school students learn to use public transportation, engage with local businesses and nonprofits, observe government functioning, and navigate to museums, libraries, and parks. Students who experience this level of autonomy build self-reliance, problem-solving skills, and confidence.

The Headwaters experience aligns with who she is and what she's doing. There aren't many options for an insanely amazing middle school."

**- MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT**



# READY TO GET STARTED?

Headwaters is a uniquely Austin school where curiosity leads us to excellence.

If Headwaters School sounds like a place that would inspire you and your family, why not join us and be part of our community?



Learn with us



Become a supporter

I mean, honestly, at the root of it, I think when kids feel valued, they're motivated." - **MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT**

HEADWATERS.ORG