



The Hamlin Journey

**K-8 Curriculum & Student
Experience Guide**



MEET OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Wanda M. Holland Greene
Head of School

"I often quip that the Hamlin journey is an immunization shot against the viral sexism and lack of representation that is, unfortunately, a part of American history and culture. Hamlin girls learn pretty quickly that being a girl is an asset, not a liability, and their job is to become equity-minded, empathetic, and courageous leaders who transform the world."



Katie Blaesing
Director of Community Well-being

"The Hamlin journey helps each student develop a strong sense of self, a deep connection to community, and the confidence and compassion to navigate the world with purpose."



Yvette Bonaparte
Director of Admission & Financial Assistance

"As a proud product of a girls' school education, like my mother before me, I recognize that same experience in how every Hamlin girl is seen, heard, and supported."



Beth Hall P'26
Lower School Division Head

"Hamlin thrives on powerful teamwork—no journey is traversed alone. As an educator, leader, and parent to a Class of 2026 graduate, witnessing my daughter lead and support her own teams and classmates has been my greatest reward."



Mark Picketts P'22
Director of Program & Professional Development

"There is tremendous joy in helping great teachers continue to grow. I have the privilege of working alongside our faculty as we reflect on our practice, imagine what is possible, and design meaningful learning experiences for our students."



Andy Taylor-Fabe
Middle School Division Head

"The joy and privilege of this work is watching girls become the authors of their own stories."



Lauren Thornhill P'27
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

"The Hamlin journey lasts well beyond the K-8 years. Hamlin graduates join an extraordinary alumni community that continues to support, connect, and inspire them for a lifetime."



Peter Westley P'13, P'15
Chief Financial & Operations Officer

"Hamlin had a profoundly positive impact on the lives of my daughters, and I'm delighted to be a part of bringing that transformational experience to our current and future students."

OUR MISSION

The Hamlin School educates girls to meet the challenges of their time and inspires them to become extraordinary thinkers and innovators, courageous leaders, and individuals of integrity.

OUR CREED

Compassion - Courage - Honesty - Respect - Responsibility

WHY ALL-GIRLS EDUCATION?

Attending an all-girls school is a powerful opportunity. Girls understand on a daily basis that they can play all roles in a school—captain of every team, president of every club, best student in every class, creator of new initiatives, editors and entrepreneurs, and builders and advocates. They also learn that their value is derived not only from their academic success, but through their leadership abilities, their service to others, and their contributions to the world around them. Research confirms that graduates of girls' schools develop lifelong friends and achieve greater success both in the academic and professional worlds.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Our K-8 educational program, rooted in a deep commitment to wellness and belonging, aims to develop the intellect, moral fiber, confidence, resilience, and leadership skills in each student. Passionate educators conceive and design units of inquiry and study that inspire our students to be innovative thinkers, collaborators, and courageous leaders. Through purposeful partnerships and community connections, students also learn in inspiring spaces throughout the Bay Area: national parks; local museums; technology companies; theaters; and various non-profits.

Our program is a mission-driven, values-laden set of learning experiences intentionally designed by outstanding educators and leaders. It is grounded in the belief that success in life will require critical thinking and problem solving, effective oral and written communication, collaboration, self-regulation, self-care, and an active imagination. Over the course of their years at Hamlin, students build a strong foundation for high school and beyond by engaging in an intellectually demanding and stimulating academic program that is balanced by a steadfast commitment to mental health and wellness. Our program, mission, and Creed are at the core of all that we do.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



Our K-8 English program is central to Hamlin's mission of educating girls to meet the challenges of their time. Through a cohesive, developmental approach, we nurture students from foundational literacy to complex literary analysis. Students engage with diverse voices and genres—from imaginative creative pieces to evidence-based analytical and argumentative writing—learning to examine texts through multiple perspectives, interpret the world around them, and express their own ideas with clarity, confidence, and purpose. Lower School students build a strong foundation through the science of reading, MegaWords, UFLI Foundations, The Writing Revolution, and Units of Study. In Middle School, students engage with powerful texts like *Maus*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Giver*, fostering a lifelong love of literature.

Grounded in student-centered, best-practice teaching, our curriculum meets learners where they are, providing appropriate support while revisiting and deepening key concepts over time. By fostering interdisciplinary learning and viewing literacy as an iterative process, we cultivate empathetic, global thinkers who embrace feedback, listen with curiosity, speak thoughtfully, and collaborate effectively. Ultimately, we inspire our students to take ownership of their learning and become confident readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers who advocate for themselves and contribute to their communities.

KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten, students discover the joy and power of language. Through read-alouds, storytelling, and conversation, children build foundational skills for a lifetime of reading and writing. As they develop phonemic awareness and early writing skills, they begin expressing ideas with confidence. They learn to listen thoughtfully and share stories, developing the enthusiasm that defines confident young learners.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 is a year of tremendous growth as students become increasingly independent learners. Through engaging literature, they strengthen reading fluency and comprehension. As writers, they learn to plan, draft, and share their work across various genres, expressing ideas with confidence. Rich classroom conversations and collaborative learning help students develop vital communication skills, laying a joyful foundation for future success.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students build stamina and confidence as independent readers and writers. Exploring complex texts, they apply comprehension strategies and expand their vocabulary across genres. Students craft narratives, poetry, and persuasive pieces with growing organization and voice. By reading, speaking, and listening with purpose, they become thoughtful communicators who connect literature to their own lives and our broader community.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 marks an exciting transition as students begin reading to learn. Encountering richer texts, they analyze characters and plot while supporting their thinking with evidence. Writing becomes more structured as they organize ideas into clear paragraphs across various genres. Through collaborative discussion, students gain the confidence to share perspectives, recognizing that strong communicators continually refine their ideas.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 students deepen their analytical thinking and writing sophistication. They examine themes, figurative language, and authorial craft, making meaningful connections across texts. Writing emphasizes organization and purpose as students construct well-developed paragraphs in multiple genres. Engaging in thoughtful discussions and ongoing revision, they become independent learners who approach literacy with curiosity and a growing appreciation for the power of language.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students refine their habits as skilled readers and thoughtful writers, engaging with sophisticated texts. They analyze themes and character development, supporting interpretations with evidence. Through purposeful writing, they compose narratives, poetry, and opinion pieces with clarity and voice. Students learn to approach literature confidently, communicate ideas precisely, and recognize the power of writing to inspire.

GRADE 6

Grade 6 English inspires students to take ownership of their learning through complex texts. Exploring novels and poetry, they examine symbolism and themes, supporting interpretations with evidence. Writing expands to include literary analysis and personal narratives, encouraging critical reflection. By strengthening discussion skills and vocabulary, students develop confidence as collaborative learners.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 students engage deeply with literature, exploring how authors use language and craft to shape meaning. They develop sophisticated analytical writing skills, constructing strong thesis statements supported by evidence. With focused instruction in vocabulary and revision, students strengthen communication and critical thinking. Through collaborative inquiry, they grow into articulate scholars who express ideas with clarity, empathy, and intellectual confidence.

GRADE 8

Our Grade 8 English experience equips students to use language for leadership and advocacy. Analyzing novels, plays, and historical texts independently, they evaluate themes and authorial choices. Students compose analytical essays and creative pieces reflecting a mature command of voice. They leave Middle School as confident, purposeful communicators, fully prepared for high school and ready to engage thoughtfully with the world.

SCIENCE



Cultivating joyful, curious, and confident scientific thinkers is the heart of Hamlin's K-8 science curriculum. Grounded in the belief that every girl is a scientist, our program emphasizes inquiry, discovery, and hands-on application. Throughout the K-8 journey, students deepen their understanding of scientific concepts while developing essential skills in experimentation, scientific literacy, and engineering design. By connecting classroom learning to the local world and broader universe—and examining science in both historical and societal contexts—we help students understand their impact on the world. As they progress, students build the critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills necessary to embrace and leverage science.

Our science curriculum is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and enriched by partnerships with Smithsonian Science for the Classroom and the Lab Safety Institute.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten scientists explore the world through observation, wonder, and discovery. Investigating ecosystems, the human body, and the senses, they learn that asking questions is the foundation of scientific thinking. Through hands-on experiences and collaborative inquiry, students recognize patterns in nature and develop a deep curiosity. They leave Kindergarten seeing themselves as capable scientists who observe carefully and care deeply about the world around them.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students expand their understanding of the natural world by investigating one of Earth's most essential resources: water. Studying the water cycle, local watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems, they explore the interconnectedness of living systems. Authentic experiences, like caring for living organisms in our classrooms, encourage students to make observations, ask thoughtful questions, and develop a deep appreciation for the role water plays in sustaining life.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students discover how plants, soil, and energy support healthy ecosystems and communities. Through seasonal planting and investigations into plant evolution and soil science, they deepen their understanding of relationships between living things and their environments. Hands-on learning encourages students to think like scientists, observing changes over time, collecting evidence, and recognizing the vital connections between science and our everyday lives.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 introduces the practices of scientific inquiry through exciting experimentation. Students learn to design experiments and explore how plants grow, comparing traditional ecological knowledge with Western scientific practices. As they investigate human development and the natural world, students discover that science is strengthened by multiple ways of knowing, fostering a broad and inclusive understanding of our world.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 students become confident problem-solvers, exploring engineering design, climate science, biomimicry, and the complexity of the human brain. By designing, building, and refining solutions, they discover how science and engineering address real-world challenges. Connecting natural systems to human innovation, students develop creativity and resilience, learning to work together as collaborative thinkers ready to make a positive impact.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students broaden their understanding of life by exploring Earth's incredible diversity of organisms. From bacteria to animals, they investigate how living things are classified, interact, and evolve. By examining the history of life and relationships among organisms, students deepen their appreciation for biodiversity. Along the way, they strengthen their skills as keen scientific observers, thoughtful researchers, and effective communicators.

GRADE 6

Grade 6 students investigate the dynamic systems shaping our planet. Through the study of chemistry, Earth's structure, plate tectonics, and climate, they develop an understanding of how physical processes create our ever-changing environment. Engaging laboratory investigations and evidence-based reasoning help students connect complex scientific concepts to the natural phenomena they observe every day in the world around them.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 takes students inside the building blocks of life, exploring ecology, genetics, and bioengineering. They examine how organisms function and interact within ecosystems, while thoughtfully considering the ethical implications of emerging discoveries. Through inquiry and lively scientific discussion, students develop a deeper understanding of living systems and humanity's vital role in shaping the future of science.

GRADE 8

Our Grade 8 science experience culminates in an exploration of chemistry, climate systems, and foundational physics. Students investigate chemical reactions, energy, and Earth's changing climate, applying scientific thinking to complex questions. Through hands-on laboratory investigations and collaborative problem-solving, students leave Middle School fully prepared for advanced study, equipped with the curiosity and critical thinking skills to meet future challenges.

MATH +



Centered on the idea that every girl is a mathematician, Hamlin's K-8 math program fosters curiosity and confidence. We are committed to developing resilient, thoughtful problem-solvers who build strong conceptual foundations, communicate their reasoning effectively, and connect ideas across topics. Through research-based, student-centered instruction, our students learn to work both independently and collaboratively, evaluate multiple strategies, and apply their mathematical understanding to meaningful real-world situations. Our math program is differentiated from day one, recognizing that every child enters the classroom with a unique mathematical foundation and learns at their own pace.

Our math curriculum features Bridges (K-5) and Context for Learning Mathematics in Lower School and Illustrative Math for Middle School, along with interactive tools from Amplify and Desmos.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten mathematicians make sense of the world through patterns, numbers, shapes, and joyful play. Through hands-on investigations and meaningful conversations, they develop early number sense by counting, sorting, and measuring. Students learn that mathematics is about asking questions and finding multiple ways to solve problems. Building confidence alongside foundational skills, they develop the curiosity and perseverance that will support their mathematical journey.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 builds a strong foundation in number sense, deepening students' understanding of place value, addition, and geometric thinking. Through engaging games and collaborative problem-solving, they learn there are many strategies for approaching mathematical challenges. By explaining their thinking and listening to others, students develop confidence in their reasoning, discovering that mathematics is a highly creative and meaningful topic of study.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 strengthens fluency while encouraging flexible mathematical thinking. Students explore larger numbers, early multiplication, and algebraic concepts through real-world investigations that promote curiosity and persistence. By comparing strategies, justifying solutions, and solving complex problems together, students develop independence and begin recognizing the beautiful connections that exist across all mathematical concepts.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 students take an exciting step into multiplicative thinking, developing fluency with multiplication and exploring fractions, area, and division. Through inquiry-based investigations and hands-on models, they discover how mathematical ideas build upon one another. Students learn to communicate their reasoning with precision, recognize patterns, and approach new challenges with confidence and resilience.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 expands mathematical understanding as students work with multi-digit operations, decimals, geometry, and number theory. Through rich investigations and collaborative problem-solving, they deepen conceptual understanding while developing accuracy. Students strengthen their ability to explain their thinking, evaluate different strategies, and joyfully apply their knowledge to meaningful, real-world situations.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students synthesize the mathematical ideas developed in Lower School, working with fractions, decimals, graphing, and geometric measurement. Challenged to think critically and solve sophisticated problems using multiple strategies, they make connections across concepts. By communicating reasoning clearly and supporting solutions with evidence, students build the confidence and perseverance needed for our accelerated Middle School mathematics program.

GRADE 6

Grade 6 mathematics challenges students to think abstractly while strengthening conceptual foundations for advanced study. Students investigate proportional reasoning, rational numbers, and algebraic relationships through rich tasks that encourage inquiry and discussion. By justifying solutions and analyzing multiple approaches collaboratively, they become increasingly independent mathematical thinkers, fully prepared for accelerated coursework.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 students deepen their understanding of algebraic reasoning, exploring complex relationships among numbers, variables, and functions. Through collaborative investigations and real-world applications, they strengthen their ability to model situations mathematically and communicate precise arguments. Our emphasis on reasoning, perseverance, and conceptual understanding prepares students to tackle challenging mathematical ideas with confidence.

GRADE 8

Our Grade 8 mathematics experience culminates in a rigorous study of Algebra, with some advancing into Integrated Geometry. Students apply years of conceptual learning to analyze functions, solve complex equations, and model real-world situations. Through collaborative inquiry and thoughtful problem-solving, students leave Middle School prepared for advanced high school mathematics, equipped with the confidence to approach unfamiliar challenges with curiosity and resilience.

SOCIAL STUDIES



Sparking curiosity and preparing students for the responsibilities of global citizenship define our social studies program. By integrating history, geography, civics, and current events, we guide students to analyze how societies evolve and interact over time. Students dive deeply into primary and secondary sources, engaging with diverse voices to identify historical patterns and make meaningful connections. We cultivate a classroom environment that encourages the consideration of multiple perspectives and the recognition of bias, fostering a genuine appreciation for the rich tapestry and complexity of human experience. Committed to intellectual integrity, our educators facilitate balanced, open-minded discussions, teaching students *how* to think critically rather than *what* to think. Through these explorations, students develop the skills needed to think critically, challenge assumptions, and evaluate evidence with nuance and confidence, nurturing their understanding of their own place in our increasingly interconnected world and inspiring them to act as purposeful changemakers.

Our social studies curriculum is supported by Teachers' Curriculum Institute, the Gilder Lehrman Foundation, Digital Inquiry Group, and Facing History and Ourselves.

KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten, students begin their journey as young historians and community members, exploring identity, belonging, and citizenship. Through stories and hands-on experiences, they learn about themselves and our shared communities. By discovering diverse experiences that shape our country, they realize every person has a story and that even the youngest learners can make a positive difference in the world.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students explore how individuals and communities create positive change. Through studying identity and civic responsibility, they examine how people collaborate to solve problems and improve their neighborhoods. By asking questions and participating in meaningful classroom experiences, students discover that their voices and actions are vital to building stronger, more connected communities.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students discover history all around them by exploring the rich story of San Francisco. Through studying the city's geography, government, and people, they investigate how communities evolve and how place shapes culture. By examining maps and local landmarks, students strengthen their understanding of citizenship and develop a deeper appreciation for the vibrant community we call home. The curriculum is complemented by an annual day-long visit to San Francisco City Hall.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 broadens perspectives as students explore California's history and geography. They examine the experiences of the state's first inhabitants, the impact of immigration, and the diverse cultures shaping our identity. Through maps and historical inquiry, students learn to embrace multiple viewpoints, fostering a deep appreciation for California's rich cultural and geographic diversity.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 students deepen their understanding of the United States by exploring the geography, history, and civic institutions shaping our nation. Through studying regions, government, and influential figures—including our signature Jan Micha Influential Women in History Program—students discover how leadership and civic engagement forge America's identity. They develop an appreciation for democratic ideals, preparing to be informed, engaged citizens. The curriculum is complemented by an annual day-long visit to the state capitol in Sacramento.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students examine the ancient world through the lens of connection and exchange. Investigating civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India, and Greece, they explore how geography, trade, and innovation shaped human history. By comparing cultures and analyzing sources, students build essential historical thinking skills while recognizing the shared experiences and unique contributions of ancient societies.

GRADE 6

Grade 6 students explore the interconnected medieval world, examining civilizations across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Investigating the Roman Empire, Imperial China, and the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, they discover how history is shaped by the movement of people, ideas, and trade. Through inquiry and discussion, students appreciate the rich tapestry of cultures that span our globe.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 brings an in-depth study of the United States' creation. Students investigate colonization, the American Revolution, and the founding of our nation, examining multiple perspectives and the complex realities of early history. Through primary source analysis and thoughtful debate, they develop a nuanced understanding of the ideals and enduring questions that continue to shape our democracy. Students further their studies of government and democracy during an annual week-long visit to Washington D.C.

GRADE 8

Grade 8 students explore the transformation of the United States from Reconstruction to the modern era. Examining immigration, civil rights, and the pursuit of equality, they consider how the past informs today's challenges. By engaging deeply with multiple perspectives, students leave Middle School prepared to participate thoughtfully and responsibly as informed global citizens.

VISUAL ARTS 🎨



Our K-8 Visual Arts program is rooted in the study of artists and art history, and invites students to embrace the process of art creation with intentional experimentation and communication through a wide range of artistic and design practices. Students work in many media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, interior design, digital arts, and maker-based projects. Across their Hamlin journey, students build fluency with art vocabulary and concepts, craftsmanship, and creative problem-solving.

Our program is grounded in the belief that art is an essential part of a child's education. Through challenging and relevant projects, students develop observation, resilience, design thinking, imagination, and personal expression. Together, these experiences help students see themselves as artists, designers, art historians, and creative thinkers whose ideas can take meaningful visual form.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten artists discover that creativity starts with curiosity. Through drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and mixed-media exploration, students observe the world closely while experimenting with color, shape, texture, and lines. They develop fine motor skills, practice using art materials safely, and gain confidence expressing ideas through visual storytelling. Students learn that every artist grows through exploration, imagination, and a willingness to try something new.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students build upon their early artistic experiences by developing greater control, craftsmanship, and creative confidence. Exploring drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and paper arts, students expand their artistic vocabulary while learning to describe, interpret, and appreciate artwork. Through studying contemporary artists and purposeful studio practice, students recognize that art is a form of personal expression and a way of communicating ideas.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students deepen their artistic skills while learning to see the world with an artist's eye. Through sketchbooks, ceramics, drawing, painting, and digital media, students experiment with value, proportion, texture, and form while refining their technical abilities. Encouraged to take creative risks, explore multiple solutions, and view mistakes as part of the artistic process, students develop artistic independence and creative resilience.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 students broaden their artistic perspective by exploring the work of artists, designers, and cultures from around the world. Through photography, graphic design, sculpture, and traditional studio media, students learn how artists communicate ideas, solve problems, and shape the world. Engaging in the design process—planning, prototyping, revising, and creating—they discover that creativity is strengthened through thoughtful experimentation and reflection.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 challenges students to combine technical skill with intentional design. Through observational drawing, photography, graphic design, sculpture, and mixed-media projects, students refine their understanding of composition, proportion, and visual storytelling. They learn to think like artists and designers, making purposeful choices that communicate meaning while recognizing the connections between art, culture, innovation, and everyday life.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students strengthen their artistic voice and technical proficiency through an in-depth exploration of two-dimensional studio art. Students investigate the elements and principles of design while refining drawing, painting, color theory, and digital art techniques. Through observation, experimentation, and thoughtful critique, they make intentional artistic decisions that communicate mood, meaning, and personal perspective, demonstrating increasing confidence as creative thinkers and visual communicators.

GRADE 6

In Grade 6, students transition into three-dimensional design, exploring sculpture, form, materials, and construction techniques. Through hands-on studio experiences, they investigate how artists solve structural challenges while transforming ideas into meaningful artworks. Students experiment with abstract and representational forms, discovering how artistic choices communicate emotion, identity, and personal voice. Collaboration, reflection, and revision become essential parts of the creative process.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 students expand their creative practice through digital arts, maker experiences, and interdisciplinary design projects. Students combine traditional artistic techniques with emerging technologies as they prototype, fabricate, and refine original works responding to authentic design challenges. Through collaboration, experimentation, and artistic critique, they develop confidence in their creative process and their ability to transform ideas into innovative visual solutions.

GRADE 8

The Grade 8 visual arts experience celebrates students as independent artists, designers, and creative problem-solvers. Through advanced studio work, digital fabrication, theater production design, and applied arts, students bring together the skills developed throughout their journey. They compose artist statements, participate in critiques, and create original works reflecting technical proficiency and personal vision, leaving Middle School prepared to approach future artistic opportunities with confidence and creativity.

SPANISH



Our K-8 Spanish program prepares students to become empathetic leaders in a multicultural, interconnected world. Through authentic communication and a student-centered approach, we cultivate proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing from Kindergarten onward. By fostering collaboration and purposeful interaction, students are able to express their ideas confidently and build strong, meaningful connections within our community.

Beyond language acquisition, students explore the diverse traditions and perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world with native-speaking educators. Through immersive experiences—from music and celebrations to current events—and analysis of diverse viewpoints, students develop deep intercultural competence. We also offer differentiated Spanish classes for fluent and native speakers.

Our Spanish curriculum utilizes resources like Descubre, Listos, and Vista Higher Learning, and focuses on fostering communicative proficiency and a deep appreciation for the Spanish-speaking world.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students begin their Spanish journey through joyful, immersive experiences that make language learning natural and engaging. Through songs, stories, games, and conversation, students build confidence using everyday vocabulary while developing listening and speaking skills.

Exploring the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, they discover that learning a new language is an opportunity to appreciate new perspectives, celebrate diversity, and connect with others.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students expand their ability to communicate in Spanish by asking and answering simple questions, describing their world, and expressing ideas in short sentences. Through authentic conversations, role-playing, music, and cultural exploration, students develop confidence using Spanish in meaningful contexts. By learning about the traditions of Spanish-speaking communities, they begin to recognize language as a bridge to understanding people and cultures.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students become increasingly comfortable communicating in Spanish as they describe their homes, communities, and daily routines. Combining new vocabulary with foundational grammar, students strengthen their ability to express ideas through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Cultural explorations encourage students to compare traditions and customs, developing curiosity, empathy, and an appreciation for the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 students use Spanish to navigate familiar situations while expanding their understanding of the people and places where the language is spoken. Through conversations about neighborhoods, transportation, and community life, students strengthen communication skills and build confidence using complete sentences. Interactive activities and cultural investigations help students see language as a meaningful tool for exploring the world beyond their own experiences.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 encourages students to communicate with greater independence and purpose. Discussing everyday experiences, describing people and places, and expressing opinions, students develop fluency while strengthening their understanding of grammar and sentence structure. Through authentic cultural experiences and collaborative learning, students gain confidence as language learners while continuing to deepen their appreciation for the rich array of Spanish-speaking cultures.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students build greater confidence using Spanish to communicate about school, family, interests, and everyday life. Students expand their vocabulary, strengthen grammatical accuracy, and engage in conversations requiring detailed responses. Through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, they develop skills to express themselves with clarity while exploring the traditions, perspectives, and histories of Spanish-speaking communities around the world.

GRADE 6

Grade 6 Spanish challenges students to communicate with increasing fluency as they discuss travel, weather, leisure activities, shopping, dining, and daily routines. Students strengthen their understanding of grammatical structures while applying language skills in authentic conversations, short readings, and written responses. Cultural exploration remains central, encouraging students to connect language learning with an appreciation for the traditions and perspectives of Latin America and Spain.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 students expand their confidence and independence as Spanish speakers by engaging in increasingly complex conversations and written communication. Students describe experiences, express opinions, discuss future plans, and apply advanced grammatical structures while developing greater fluency across all language domains. Through authentic cultural connections and collaborative learning, students discover that language opens doors to meaningful relationships and global understanding.

GRADE 8

Our Grade 8 Spanish experience prepares students to communicate with confidence in an interconnected world. Students use present, past, and future tenses to tell stories, express ideas, and discuss topics like technology, travel, and community life. Exploring authentic cultural texts and engaging in meaningful conversations, students develop the linguistic proficiency, cultural competence, and global perspective that support continued language study and intercultural understanding.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Our Physical Education department is designed to cultivate an inclusive, supportive learning environment where students feel valued and motivated to participate. By intentionally teaching core values like teamwork, resilience, and respect, our curriculum goes beyond physical skills to foster social-emotional learning. Ultimately, our goal is to instill students with the confidence, knowledge, and habits necessary to lead active, healthy, and happy lives long beyond their years at Hamlin.

In Lower School, our P.E. program is brought to life through movement exploration, group games, and an introduction to team sports. Students build fitness skills through individual, partner, and team activities, and learn how to work together through compromise, collaboration, and communication. In Middle School, students continue to build on these skills with a dynamic rotation of competitive sports, dance, rock climbing, and more. Through this K-8 progression, students learn to appreciate their body mechanics while building the vital interpersonal strategies needed for lifelong fitness.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students discover the joy of movement through exploration, play, and teamwork. Developing fundamental motor skills through games, fitness activities, and movement challenges, students begin to understand how their bodies move and work together. They learn to take turns, encourage classmates, and build confidence while developing healthy habits that support lifelong physical activity.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students continue building confidence through movement as they strengthen ball skills, coordination, and overall fitness. Cooperative games encourage students to communicate, solve problems together, and celebrate one another's successes while learning respect and sportsmanship. Through active participation, students begin to recognize that physical education is about developing athletic skills as well as becoming thoughtful teammates and resilient learners.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students expand their physical abilities while developing greater independence and responsibility as active learners. Through life sports, fitness challenges, and cooperative activities, students improve coordination, balance, and endurance while learning strategies for healthy decision-making. They discover that persistence, practice, and a positive attitude help them overcome challenges both on and off the court.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 students apply their growing skills through team-building experiences and modified sports that emphasize cooperation, communication, and strategy. Learning the rules and techniques of various activities, students appreciate the value of teamwork, fair play, and respectful competition. P.E. becomes an opportunity to challenge themselves, support others, and develop confidence through shared experiences.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 encourages students to refine athletic skills while becoming increasingly thoughtful teammates and leaders. Through team sports and fitness activities, students strengthen coordination, decision-making, and game strategy while learning to communicate effectively and resolve challenges collaboratively. They come to understand that leadership, perseverance, and integrity are just as important as physical ability.

GRADE 5

Grade 5 students develop greater confidence as athletes through team sports, climbing, fitness, dance, and skill development. Students build strength, endurance, and agility while practicing collaboration, resilience, and sportsmanship. They are encouraged to set personal goals, celebrate growth, and recognize that physical wellness supports success in every aspect of life.

GRADE 6

Grade 6 P.E. challenges students to build physical skills and personal responsibility through team sports, climbing, fitness, dance, and recreational activities. Students learn to evaluate their progress, support teammates, and embrace new challenges with confidence. Refining movement skills and strengthening healthy habits, they continue to develop resilience and self-awareness.

GRADE 7

Grade 7 students expand their climbing and athletic abilities while taking greater ownership of their personal wellness. Through competitive and cooperative activities, students refine sport-specific skills, develop strategic thinking, and strengthen teamwork and leadership. They are encouraged to challenge themselves, demonstrate perseverance, and recognize the important role physical activity plays in maintaining a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

GRADE 8

Our Grade 8 P.E. experience prepares students to lead active, healthy lives. Through a dynamic program of sports, climbing, fitness, and collaborative challenges, students demonstrate leadership, resilience, and respect while supporting their peers' success. By the end of Middle School, students understand that wellness extends beyond physical fitness—it is built through perseverance, teamwork, self-confidence, and a lifelong commitment to physical and mental wellness.

PERFORMING ARTS

At Hamlin, the performing arts are more than just a subject—they are a vibrant and robust tradition woven into the fabric of our school.

LOWER SCHOOL

In Grades K-4, students attend music classes weekly to learn more about songs and movements, rehearsal and performance skills, musical instruments, vocal technique, and music theory. They participate in curricular projects, presentations, and performances that integrate music, dance, and theater throughout their Lower School years, such as plays, assembly performances, and our Grade 4 VIP public speaking program.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC

From Grades 5-8, the music program builds a strong foundation in musical language, literacy, and theory, progressing into performance, composition, and creative expression. Students engage in hands-on experiences with instruments and singing, developing analytical thinking and fluency. The curriculum culminates in public performances and an exploration of diverse musical genres, fostering confident, expressive musicians who appreciate the historical and cultural influences shaping music worldwide. We also offer a thriving Red & Gold Chorus program.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

Our Grade 5-8 dance program progresses from fundamental movement concepts and Language of Dance (LOD) symbols to advanced, student-led choreography. Students develop technique, explore Laban efforts, and collaborate on meaningful themes for group performances. The curriculum emphasizes creative expression, teamwork, and stage presence, culminating in immersive, multi-semester rehearsal cycles and public showings that foster artistic growth and performance mastery.

MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATER

The theater program develops foundational performance skills, storytelling, and collaboration, progressing from ensemble games to individual monologue work and full-scale productions. Students explore theater vocabulary, character development, script analysis, and blocking. By Grade 8, they take complete ownership of an intensive musical production, experiencing the entire lifecycle from auditions to capstone performances, fostering artistic mastery, leadership, and personal expression.





EQUITY & BELONGING

Preparing girls to meet the challenges of their time starts with building a strong, inclusive community. We believe that diversity of thought, identity, and background is the bedrock of nurturing courageous leaders and individuals of integrity. Every student and family brings a story that matters, and we are dedicated to ensuring those stories are seen, heard, and celebrated.

Our commitment to equity and belonging is woven into every aspect of our K-8 experience—from our robust, well-rounded curriculum to our vibrant affinity groups and parent-led cultural celebrations. We actively invest in rigorous professional development for our faculty to cultivate cultural competency and prioritize mental health and wellness through a whole-community approach. Guided by the Hamlin Creed, we are proactive and reflective in our work, fostering an environment where every child feels inspired to contribute to the school community with respect, kindness, and care.

PERSONAL WELL-BEING & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Academic excellence is inseparable from personal well-being, and our holistic health and wellness program ensures girls are happy, healthy, and equipped to become engaged, empathetic community members. By weaving social-emotional learning (SEL) throughout our curriculum and daily life, we cultivate essential skills like resilience, self-awareness, and empathy.

In Lower School, our counselor partners closely with teachers, utilizing the Responsive Classroom approach to support each student's unique growth. In Middle School, our SEL curriculum deepens through additional counselor support, advisory groups, and weekly seminar classes—informed by IFSEL and Project School Wellness—providing a safe space to hone relationship-building and decision-making skills. Additionally, our partnership with Common Sense Media ensures students navigate the digital landscape with balance and literacy. At Hamlin, we nurture the whole child, inspiring every girl to lead with kindness, confidence, and integrity.



CULINARY SERVICES

Shared meals serve as the anchor of our vibrant community. Our in-house Culinary Services team prepares nutritious daily snacks and lunches—all included in tuition—which students enjoy together in our sunlit dining room overlooking the Bay. Our diverse, inclusive menu caters to all allergies and dietary needs (**we are a nut-aware campus*), featuring a hot food line, a seasonally-driven organic salad bar, homemade soups, fresh fruit, and Friday treats. Parents and guardians also play a meaningful role as lunch volunteers.

Beyond providing delicious meals, Culinary Director Abigael Birrell partners with faculty to lead nutrition education, teaching students to listen to their bodies and make healthy, sustainable choices. Deeply committed to environmental stewardship, we prioritize ethical sourcing, partnering with local, sustainable vendors, and actively working to reduce food waste. At Hamlin, we nurture not just the student, but the whole person, fostering healthy habits and a mindful connection to our planet.



TECHNOLOGY & STEM

Technology innovation is foundational at Hamlin, redefining teaching rather than simply replacing traditional tools. Guided by the Maker Movement and Design Thinking, we cultivate empathic creators who develop practical, creative solutions to real-world problems. Our curriculum—integrating science, robotics, computer science, maker art, and digital projects—challenges students to ask how technology can serve a larger purpose, inspiring them to tackle local and global issues. By fostering this mindset, we fully realize our mission to prepare girls to meet the challenges of their time.

In addition, we are proactively taking action to close the global STEM gender gap right here at our school. Through our annual STEM the Gender Gap program, students across all grades engage with industry leaders, visiting technology-focused companies to connect with women entrepreneurs and CEOs. We ensure that our students are not only savvy consumers of technology, but extraordinary thinkers and innovators ready to change the world.



CLIMBING WALL CLASSROOM

Imagine scaling a 34-foot indoor wall to reach new heights. Hamlin's rock climbing program—one of the first K-8 programs in the U.S. when it launched in 1997—offers a unique, inspiring way for students to build resilience and confidence. Our 1,000-square-foot indoor climbing wall and dedicated bouldering area allow students to train year-round, rain or shine.

Embedded within the Physical Education curriculum for Grades 5-8 and our Grade 6 Outdoor Education trip to Pinnacles National Park, the program offers challenges for every ability level. Students master essential techniques including top rope climbing, belaying, and mock lead climbing. Beyond physical mastery, the curriculum emphasizes trust, patience, and collaborative problem-solving. Whether bouldering or scaling the main wall, our students develop the grit and teamwork skills needed to be effective teammates, leaving Hamlin as confident problem-solvers ready to tackle any challenge, both on the wall and in life.

ATHLETICS

Our Middle School Athletics program provides an inclusive, robust environment that champions integrity, hard work, and healthy competition. We view athletics as a vital arena for students to build confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills while mastering the art of teamwork and sportsmanship.

We teach our athletes that mistakes are an inevitable and important part of the learning process. True success is defined by resilience—the ability to rebound from disappointment with renewed determination. We encourage our girls to embrace the excellence required to challenge competitive opponents, fostering a mindset of "playing to win with class and losing with pride."

Hamlin Lions are uplifted by coaches, peers, and families, ensuring they feel valued regardless of the outcome. Offering soccer, volleyball, basketball, cross country, track and field, and running club, we celebrate athletes who play with heart, intensity, and honor, equipping them with the character and courage to succeed on and off the court.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Hamlin's Outdoor Education program extends learning beyond the classroom, cultivating global citizens who understand their role in environmental stewardship. Through experiences that embody the Hamlin Creed—Courage, Responsibility, and Respect—students build self-reliance, leadership, and a lifelong, harmonious relationship with the natural world. By blending outdoor adventure with classroom curriculum, we equip students to apply academic concepts in real-world environments while deepening their connection to one another.

Lower School (K-4)

In our Lower School, nature serves as a primary teacher. Through “nature sits,” journaling, and exploration of local ecosystems, students sharpen their observation skills and curiosity. Outdoor learning is woven into daily life—from field trips to the Presidio to lessons on our science terrace—culminating in Grade 4, when students embark on a two-night adventure in the Marin Headlands to explore the natural beauty of the Bay Area.

Middle School (5-8)

Our Middle School program offers progressive, multi-day excursions that challenge students to grow in confidence and community:

- Grade 5: 3-day camping, hiking, and kayaking at China Camp State Park
- Grade 6: 4-day camping, hiking, and rock climbing in Pinnacles National Park
- Grade 7: 4-day backpacking at Point Reyes National Seashore
- Grade 8: 5-day hiking adventure in Yosemite





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In order to cultivate courageous leaders who are inspired to take action, we view community service as more than just an activity; it is an essential part of our students' development as they explore local and global issues to make a positive impact. Our parent-led Lend-a-Hand program provides developmentally appropriate, hands-on service learning for every grade level, connecting directly to their classroom studies.

We also pride ourselves on creating meaningful connections to our broader San Francisco community, whether it's riding Muni on field trips to local theaters, parks, or libraries, or volunteering with impactful organizations like Hamilton Families and SF Food Bank. Through these experiences, Hamlin girls move beyond the classroom to become empathetic neighbors, to strengthen our San Francisco community, and to learn that they possess the power to create lasting, positive change in the world around them.

EXTENDED DAY

Our Extended Day program provides a warm, engaging community that supports the rhythms of our families' busy lives. It offers a seamless balance of structured projects and independent play, ensuring every student feels welcomed, fed, and inspired all the way from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

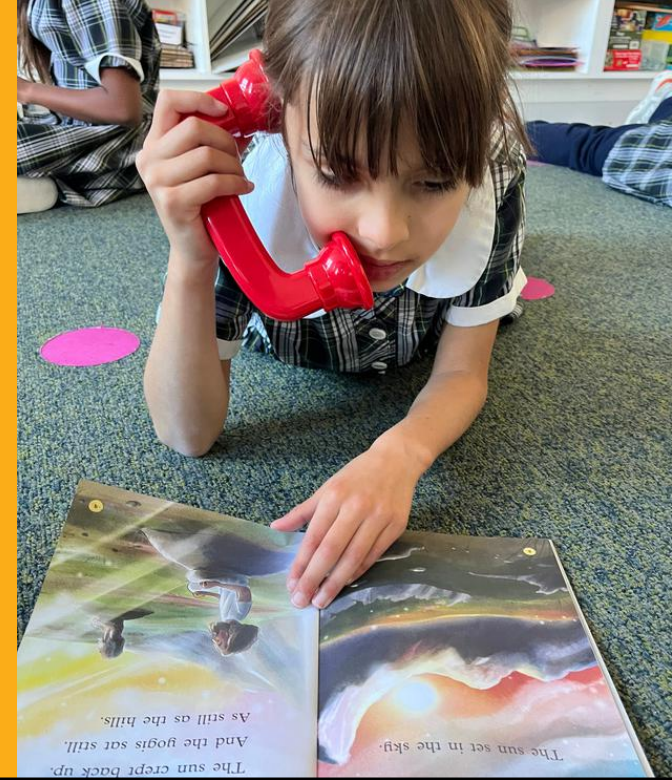
- **Morning Care (K-8):** A pleasant start to the day with games, art, and friends from 7:00-7:50 a.m. Morning Care is offered at no cost to Hamlin families.
- **Hub (Lower School):** A vibrant center for creativity and connection where girls unwind, complete homework, and enjoy time with friends
- **After 3 (Middle School):** An inclusive space for students to relax, snack, create, do homework, and collaborate after the school day
- **Music Academy (1-8):** Individual instruction in flute, guitar, piano, and violin
- **After School Academy:** Enrichment classes across technology, movement, and the arts, fostering new skills and friendships
- **Vacation & Summer Camps:** Engaging day camps for Lower School students during some school breaks, and a robust summer program available across all grades and to the wider community



LIBRARY

The Hamlin library is the vibrant heart of our reading community! For students in Kindergarten through Grade 4, weekly library classes cultivate a lifelong love of reading. Through engaging read-alouds by our librarian, teachers, and parent volunteers, paired with creative extensions—such as art or STEM projects—students explore stories that serve as both mirrors reflecting their own lives and windows into the experiences of others, all while developing essential research and literacy skills.

In Middle School, students enjoy greater independence, utilizing the library for pleasure reading and research. They are invited to join the Library Council and participate in spirited annual reading challenges. The library also serves as the center for digital citizenship, where students learn to navigate the technological landscape with confidence. By prioritizing online safety, media literacy, and responsible AI use, we prepare our students to be thoughtful, informed, and ethical participants in an increasingly complex digital world.



HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

The high school counseling process is a culminating milestone of the Hamlin K-8 journey, designed to help each student develop deep self-awareness regarding her strengths and potential. We view the search for a student's next academic home as a personal, transformative experience filled with discovery and reflection.

Our counseling team brings nearly 30 years of combined expertise across education, admissions, and high school placement. Because we believe the admission process is uniquely personal, we are committed to knowing your child—and your family—as individuals. This allows us to provide personalized, one-on-one advocacy and support, including guidance on time management, navigating the diverse landscape of day and boarding schools, and making informed decisions. Throughout Grade 8, we emphasize the excitement of exploring new opportunities, the value of meaningful self-reflection, and the joy of celebrating our students' final year at Hamlin together.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE MATRICULATION



Hamlin graduates attend a wide range of public, independent, boarding, and parochial schools across the country. The high schools and universities with the highest number of Hamlin graduate attendees over the last four years include:

High Schools

The Branson School
The College Preparatory School
Convent of the Sacred Heart High School
Lick-Wilmerding High School
Marin Academy
Saint Ignatius College Preparatory School
San Francisco University High School
The Urban School of San Francisco

Universities

Colgate University
Columbia University
Princeton University
Stanford University
University of Southern California
University of California Berkeley
Wake Forest University
Yale University

HAMLIN AT-A-GLANCE

OUR MISSION

The Hamlin School educates girls to meet the challenges of their time and inspires them to become extraordinary thinkers and innovators, courageous leaders, and individuals of integrity.

OUR CREED

Compassion - Courage - Honesty - Respect - Responsibility

ACCREDITATION

California Association of Independent School (CAIS)
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

AFFILIATION & ORGANIZATION TYPE

Non-sectarian, non-profit independent school

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- Apple Distinguished School
- California Teacher Development Collaborative (CATDC)
- Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education (CSEE)
- Common Sense Media
- Institute for Social and Emotional Learning (IFSEL)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS)
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

CAMPUS FOOTPRINT

77,275 square feet



ENROLLMENT

440 girls

HEAD OF SCHOOL & TENURE

Wanda Marie Holland Greene
Began year 19 in July 2026

ENDOWMENT & SIMILAR FUNDS

\$42,010,000 (as of July 2026)

OPERATING BUDGET (2026-27)

\$28,390,000

ZIP CODES REPRESENTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

40



2120 Broadway
San Francisco, CA 94115



admission@hamlin.org



415-922-0300



THE HAMLIN SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR GIRLS



@thehamlinschool



/thehamlinschool