Frequently Asked Questions

How is Young Women’s Leadership Academy a college preparatory school?
The expectation is that all girls who graduate from YWLA will attend a university or college and our curriculum is designed to ensure their success. Students take an accelerated curriculum that includes beginning high school classes in the 8th grade and a pre-Advanced Placement curriculum in the 9th grade. Starting in the 6th grade and continuing yearly, students take a practice SAT exam each year to provide early exposure to the college entrance exam. In addition, students are required to complete an in-depth independent research project their senior year.

How is leadership incorporated into the program?
Students are taught the tenets of good leadership and are given a variety of opportunities to practice what they learn. The girls are encouraged to start and manage clubs that interest them and, in the 9th grade, are paired up with students in the 6th grade to serve as their mentors throughout high school. In addition, students are required to complete 100 hours of community service to graduate.

Do I have to pay for my child to attend the school?
No, YWLA is a school within SAISD. There are no tuition costs.

Where is the school located?
The Young Women’s Leadership Academy is located at 2123 W. Huisache Ave.

Will I have to provide transportation for my child?
Students are transported to YWLA from the SAISD campus that is closest to their home. Transportation to the home campus is provided to students who live within SAISD boundaries and who live two or more miles from the school or in an area with hazardous traffic conditions.

Does the school offer extracurricular activities and athletics?
The school has over 20 student-led organizations, including National Honor Society, Book Club, Math Counts and art and drama clubs. The students may also participate in volleyball,

basketball, tennis and track.

Does my child have to be a straight-A student to apply?
While YWLA does encourage strong academic performance, it is not the only factor considered during the admissions process. Prospective students do not have to have perfect grades, but it is important that they enjoy learning, have a strong desire to go to college, care about their future and want to help their community. Even if you don't have the best grades or the highest test scores, you can still excel in other areas. Your hand-written letter, first-semester report card and attendance, state assessment results and teacher recommendations also play a significant role.

How do I enroll my child?
There is an application and selection process . Applications are available through the school counselor at all SAISD middle and elementary schools. You can also
click here
to download a printable application. The deadline to apply for the 2014-15 school year is December 20, 2013; applicationas are being accepted for grades 6th- 9th.

How are applicants chosen?
Admission to YWLA is a three-phase, competitive process . Students first must submit an application, which is reviewed to ensure they meet the
eligibility criteria
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During the second phase, the remaining students are required to take a written test to determine their academic strengths. Those who qualify advance to the third phase and must participate in an interview, along with their parent or guardian, to ensure a good fit. Approximately 100 girls are selected for admission to the 6th grade.

Will my child have to wear a uniform?
Yes, uniforms are required at all SAISD schools.

What time does the school day begin and end?
The regular school day begins at 8:30a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m.

What grades will be offered during the 2014-15 school year?
The 6th-12th grades will be available during the 2014-15 school year. The school opened in 2008-09 with the 6th and 7th grades and has added a grade each year.

What kinds of electives are offered?
A variety of electives is offered, including technology applications, engineering, robotics, dance, art, choir and athletics.

How many hours of homework per night can be expected?
The estimated number of hours per night will range from two to four hours. Students will have homework during the summer, including a reading list.

Is tutoring available for students?
Tutoring will be available. Teachers designate the days and times that they are available for tutoring, typically every day before and after school.

Do students have to take the STAAR test?
All public school students in Texas must take STAAR.

How can I, as a parent/guardian/caretaker/mentor, volunteer at the school?
Those wishing to volunteer must complete the proper SAISD paperwork, which can be obtained at our main office. Numerous volunteer opportunities exist, including chaperoning on field trips, aiding classroom teachers with tasks and volunteering at school events.