

FIND YOUR WAY

here

ULS UNIVERSITY
LAKE SCHOOL



What should a school do? What should a school be?

At University Lake School, those questions are one and the same.

We believe a Preprimary through 12th grade school must fully prepare students for college and career. But getting ready for the future should not be a substitute for living today.

Your child's life doesn't begin after high school graduation – it's happening right now.

When your child is thriving emotionally and physically, as well as intellectually, their academic performance improves – today and throughout their educational journey.



Encompassing spectacular woodlands and gently rolling fields

With curiosity-enhancing classrooms and confidence-expanding performance venues, ULS is a philosophy and a feeling, an adventure and a haven. ULS is a place students want to be today, and an experience they will draw upon for the rest of their lives.

Here, ongoing interests meet newly awakened talents.
Here, mistakes large and small reveal fresh opportunities for discovery.
Here, expert teachers provide the tools and encouragement for independent and collaborative exploration.

And here,

180 acres of vibrant and varied outdoor space inspire calming contemplation, innovative experimentation, and energizing competition.



PrePRIMARY and LOWER SCHOOL ACADEMICS

*Here,
intellectual independence and personal well-being grow together*

At ULS, expert teachers, enthusiastic classmates, and dedicated family members encourage each other to dig deeper and reach higher. In student-centric classrooms and laboratories, state-of-the-art studios and performance venues – and richly varied 180-acre outdoor grounds – students find inspiration, technology, data and solace. They emerge as **original thinkers and proactive citizens**, eager to lead and contribute in college and beyond.

In our Reggio Emillio-inspired Preprimary and Lower School, children's innate curiosity drives their learning. Insightful educators guide our youngest students through purposeful play and challenging investigations so their **academic knowledge, social skills, and independent minds grow in harmony**.

Lower School culminates in the 4th grade Magnum Opus, when each student selects a topic to research throughout the semester and present to their teachers and peers. This literal "great work" prepares them for the increased intensity and complexity of Middle School.

Determined by our students' interests and curious thinking, projects vary from year to year. Consider the following recent examples...



Here

I have never seen a school as beautiful as this, where children get to do so much hands-on learning because of our surroundings. My son taught me about redwood trees, which he was able to learn about firsthand because they are right here. Students can track the growth of the great blue herons that nest here every year, and the kids help with controlled prairie burns in the spring.

- parent

Preprimary projects

Inquiring minds want to know – projects in the Preprimary vary from year to year, and are determined by the interests and curious thinking of our students.

Mushroom Mania

A simple mushroom can inspire so many ways to learn. Our SK5 students discovered some fungi on a class walk through our wooded campus – and that inspired mathematical and scientific thinking, artistic expression, communications skills and more. We sorted various types of mushrooms by attributes, studied spores, drew and sculpted mushrooms, and wrote original poems. We even did a taste test!

How do you hear sounds?

This is a big question for anyone, especially little ones, so we explored it all year. The children learned different signs, had a guest read a book in sign language, and presented in sign language on stage for an all-school assembly. The JK4 class decided to investigate the concept of sound as a vibration, studied instruments, invited a parent guitarist to play for us, and visited Hartland Music to experience more instruments and sounds.

ULS Chickens

Preprimary students have exclusive access to our VICs – very important chickens. The children find many ways to include the chickens in their daily learning, such as writing songs about chickens, creating posters to sell eggs, baking with the eggs, and tracking and analyzing egg-laying patterns.

Students love to help clean and repair the coop, feed and water the chickens, and just visit and hold our fine feathered friends.



Lower School projects

Student Council

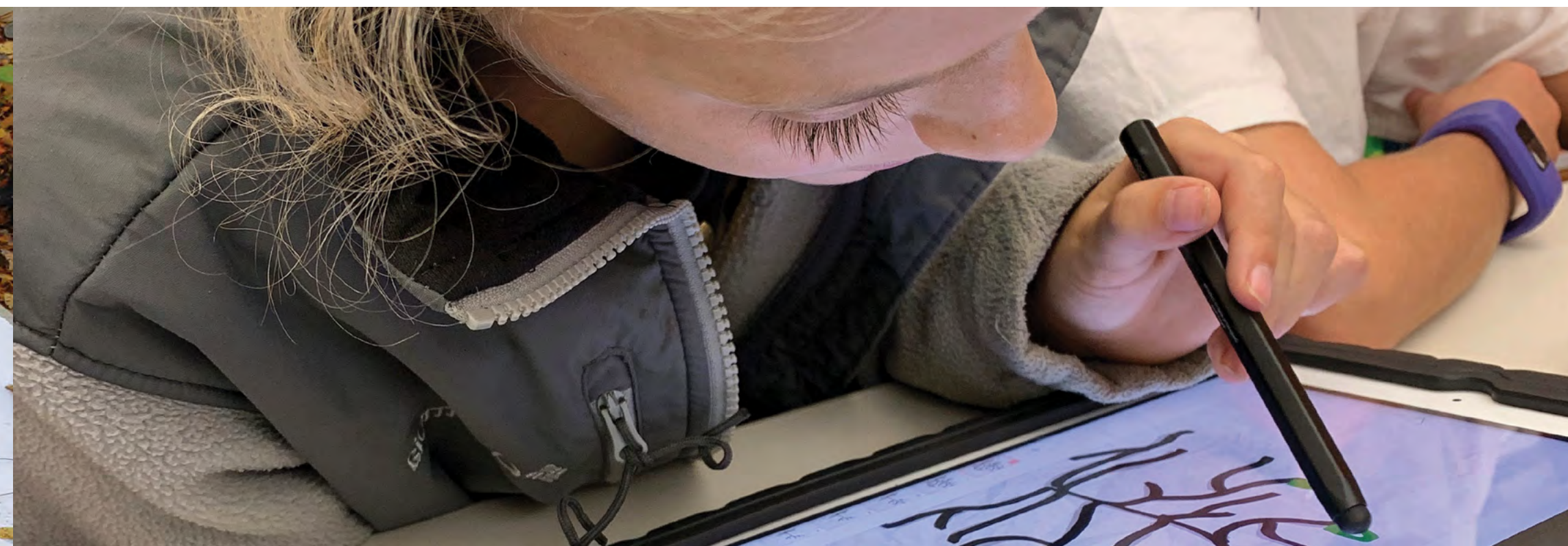
The Lower School gets a taste of democracy in the annual Student Council election. Students in 3rd and 4th grades campaign by creating posters and giving speeches to their classmates. The process gives them first-hand experience in taking a leadership role, serving their community, representing their classmates' interests, and then collaborating with their fellow council members.

Idea Studio

Problem-solving, hands-on experimentation, invention and expression – it all happens in the Idea Studio! Students have the freedom to create, build and explore with a variety of materials and equipment, including a 3-D printer, a wood-carving machine, programmable robots, sewing machines and a die-cut machine. As they transform ideas into reality, students develop new perspectives and creative confidence.

Storytellers

For this project based on the work of Native American artist Helen Cordero, 3rd graders get to show us their creativity as artists and storytellers. Students fashion clay animal “storytellers” as inspired by the tribe tales of the Cochiti Pueblo. The clay is dried, kiln fired, and then painted or glazed. The students then write an imaginative story to share and display with their thoughtful sculptures.



Middle and UPPER SCHOOL ACADEMICS

*Here,
maturity is multidimensional*

During the developmentally crucial tween years, ULS Middle Schoolers take on sophisticated challenges that deepen mastery and ignite curiosity. Through various independent, collaborative and hands-on projects, our program builds **college-preparatory research and organizational skills while expanding creativity, self-awareness, and social agility**. That's why ULS students enter our Upper School with an uncommon level of personal and intellectual maturity.

In Upper School, students prepare to apply for and thrive in college through individual counseling and an array of honors and Advanced Placement courses. Equally important, our ongoing attention to each student's social, emotional and physical wellness fully readies them for the transition to higher education and adulthood.

The capstone of the ULS journey for every student is a **self-selected Senior Project**. This independent, month-long study draws on every aspect of the student's experience and fills them with new knowledge, pride and confidence as they head to college and life beyond.

Our older students can dive into fascinating experiences like the following...



Here

I'm amazed at how willing our students are to help each other. They also come in for extra work, wanting to go above and beyond what was asked of them. It happens because we know each other, we support each other, and we have the same vision of what education is – teachers, students, and families.

- faculty member

Middle School projects

Rube Goldberg Machines

Why would you perform a simple task in an overly complicated way – on purpose? Because it's a great way to learn! Seventh grade students create their own Rube Goldberg machines by designing and constructing a series of simple, unrelated devices that trigger the next action, to eventually achieve the end goal. By combining physics, math, creativity, and a little luck, the students find a way to make their inventions work.

Amusement Park Project

Taking a huge step beyond the typical book report, ULS 6th graders create an amusement park with features that represent themes in the novel, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, by Mildred D. Taylor. Innovating and creating with cardboard, hot glue, pipe cleaners and other household items, students express main ideas, plot lines and literary concepts. They then present their symbolic masterpieces to the class.

CO2 Cars

A lot of thought and planning goes into building a race car: aerodynamics, balance, symmetry, air resistance, friction, rolling dynamics – and of course, the paint job! Students in 7th and 8th grades learn this firsthand when they design and handcraft a CO₂-powered race car made of balsa wood. When the cars are ready to roll, students race to see whose car is the fastest.



Upper School projects

Intersession

Intersession is a year-long opportunity for hands-on, experiential learning outside the classroom. Would you bring a katana to a broadsword fight? Would you select a ballista over a catapult? A study of historical weaponry revealed the use and lethality of various weapons in ancient and medieval times through World War II. The group researched arms and armor, compared archery vs. firearms, visited a blacksmith, took a lesson in sword fighting, and built a scale model of a trebuchet.

Interdisciplinary Studies

English, Spanish, music, art, theatre and social studies all came together for the interdisciplinary study, "Immigration, Integration, Identification: El Sueño Americano Detained?" Through Latin cooking, salsa dancing, graffiti, rap as poetry, immigration studies, identity exploration and more, students broadened their perspectives and knowledge of culture and society. For the culminating event, students attended the musical "In the Heights" by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Senior Projects

The senior project is a graduation requirement at ULS – which students undertake with great aplomb. In this yearlong exploration of a self-selected topic, students work with an experienced advisor, keep a daily journal, and arrange a hands-on learning experience. They write a formal academic paper and present their project to the ULS community and a review panel. Recent topics include "Electromagnetic Sound: Engineering, Designing, and Building a Speaker," and "Superheroes in Comics: What Their Evolution Tells Us."



STUDENT Life

Here,
we embrace imagination and live our values

At ULS, expert faculty and coaches draw on our extraordinary natural surroundings, carefully constructed learning spaces, and longstanding ties to the larger community to make student life exceptionally varied and invigorating.

From Lower School through 12th grade, we offer energizing programs in the **visual arts, music, theater, athletics and service learning** – inspiring students to put their imaginations, values and courage into practice.

Students **engage** in brave self-exploration and empathetic collaboration in our wonderfully equipped art studios and performance spaces. They **bond** with teammates and **build** healthy habits in our spacious gymnasiums and expansive outdoor fields. They partner with local organizations to discover real-world solutions for ending hunger and climate conservation.

Not “extra” to the curriculum, but essential; these programs promote **technical, problem-solving and collaboration skills** that serve students well in their academic subjects – and in life. As active members of many communities in and beyond our school grounds, students experience the profound satisfaction and productive challenges of working with others toward a common goal.



We teach something that other area schools don't – how to appreciate aesthetics, how to interpret your emotions, how to channel your emotions through artwork. The fact that a student can take 45 minutes out of their day to be surrounded by whatever they think is beauty is so exciting. It's what makes us human.

- faculty member

Clubs and activities

Lower School

In Lower School, leadership and creativity go hand in hand. Students can brainstorm in the Idea Studio, and starting in 3rd grade, run for and take part in Student Council. They can further stretch themselves intellectually, creatively, and physically through enrichment classes like coding, chess, basketball, volleyball, dance, weaving and writing workshops.

Middle School

Our Middle School offerings encourage students to enhance their academic accomplishments, engage in fun competition, and practice leadership. Activities such as student government and strategy games – and clubs including math, robotics and chess – help students learn real-world problem-solving skills and build courage and confidence.

Upper School

Upper School students can serve their communities through Environmental Club, Diversity Club, SAFE Club, and others. They can share their creativity through the fall play and winter musical, the literary magazine, Jazz Club and choir ensembles. They can combine art, math, and science talents in STEAM Club. Whatever they choose, we help them live their values, develop new interests, and get ready for college and beyond.



A tradition of teams: *Hawks & Eagles*

One of the most cherished ULS traditions is to assign each student and faculty member to either the Hawks or the Eagles. All family members are on the same team and, once you are on a team, it is yours for life. Throughout the school year, there are a variety of competitions between the Hawks and Eagles, including field days and fundraisers. This good-spirited and friendly competition is a great way for all ULS students to cultivate teamwork skills and positive sportsmanship.



LeAdERSHiP CURRICULUM

*Here,
we make the most of our talents for the greater good*

At ULS, “leadership” has many meanings. And that means anyone – introverts and extroverts, artists and athletes, young children and young adults – can learn to lead.

Sometimes leaders put themselves forward to inform, inspire or guide others. That’s why we teach **public speaking and performance** at all grade levels, ensuring our students can present themselves effectively and persuade others respectfully.

Yet leadership also happens in **less visible, but equally crucial ways**. Leaders contribute to causes they believe in. They take on menial tasks that no one else wants. They listen empathetically instead of talking. They offer a kind word to brighten someone’s day, and they ask for help when they need it.

ULS students learn to lead through many methods, in many circumstances. And they discover how their own particular gifts, interests, personalities and experiences can contribute to everyone’s well-being.



The kind of leadership we teach here is collaborative leadership. It requires time and thoughtfulness and awareness of yourself and of others. We spend time doing self-reflection, and in our self-discovery we figure out how to apply that understanding to what others are going through. That’s how we learn how to work with others.

- faculty member

Leadership in action

Lower School: Leadership and Service

ULS students learn early that leadership and serving your community go hand-in-hand. We begin each day with a morning meeting in which students take turns with a variety of responsibilities, including leading the meeting. At the same time, we help students take on different tasks in service of the greater community, such as bake sales to support hurricane victims; toy, hat and mitten drives; used book collections for Home Library; and pop-tab donations for Children's Hospital.



Middle School: Pine Rock Studios

A fun exercise in leadership and personal development, Pine Rock Studios is an opportunity for students to form a band, pick a song, learn instruments, and then perform in front of an audience.

The program helps students:

- Navigate complex group dynamics
- Practice good listening and communication skills
- Advocate for their opinion
- Learn to compromise

Students listen, negotiate and collaborate until they are playing their song. A final on-stage performance motivates students to come together and work through interpersonal complexities.

Upper School: Leadership Trips

Authentic experiences outside the classroom bring out natural leadership abilities. Every fall, 9th through 11th graders spend four days on outdoor expeditions to develop skills in leadership, character, communication and teamwork. Activities can include canoeing, camping, biking, hiking, ropes courses and more. The 12th graders participate in a week of servant leadership by volunteering their time in the local community.



Here,
we prepare for tomorrow as we live in the moment

It's no secret that ULS graduates enroll in the finest universities across the nation – and go on to satisfying, influential careers. They are also delightful, original, kind and courageous human beings. This combination of intellectual prowess and personal fortitude sustains and empowers our students throughout their days and years with us, and for the rest of their lives.

The world needs these young people now more than ever.

Might your child – and your family – thrive here?

For more information or to schedule a private tour,
call 262-367-6011, ext. 1455 or email
admissions@universitylake.org.



One reason our kids transition to college so successfully is that they're fearless. They have no fear in walking up to a professor to ask a question or discuss a point. Those ULS skills really carry through.

- parent





4024 Nagawicka Road,
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*I love the autonomy here. Students are given
leeway to explore and learn in many different ways.
This is a place where kids can find their way and not
be given their way to find.*

- faculty member

ULS welcomes qualified students without regard to race, ethnic origin, creed, gender, or financial need.

You are here

universitylake.org

