



## Who we are

LearningWorks (LW) offers a challenging academic program to a representative group of motivated and high potential Minneapolis public middle school students, setting them on the path to college by preparing them to enter rigorous high school programs; and, draws talented high school and college students into the education field by engaging them in the art of teaching.

## Who we're looking for

LearningWorks is actively seeking sixth graders enrolled in Minneapolis Public Schools who love to learn, long to join a supportive and positive community, and who are seeking support on their path to college.

## Our commitment to you

If you're accepted into the LW Class of 2016, we commit to offer you...

- Two years of tuition-free academic enrichment, equal to 500 hours of support
- Free student transportation to and from LW during both the summer and school year program; free breakfast and lunch during the summer, and free snacks during the school year.
- The “students-teaching-students” model, meaning all of your LW teachers will be high school or college students who are also on the path to college, just like you
- Small class sizes (9-12 students)
- Fun, student-centered learning
- Respect for individual talents and learning styles
- Classes in math, science, English, social studies, arts and communications
- Activities that include theater, music, art, computer science, and athletics
- Robust alumni support to help keep you on the path to college, even after you graduate from LW – we won't consider our job done until you earn a college degree

## Your commitment to us

In order to be accepted into the class of 2016, and to successfully complete our program, you must commit to...

- Being a part of LW for **two years** – this means coming to LW every day for six weeks during the summer, and 12 Saturdays during the school year program (approximately twice each month)
- Attendance is mandatory, except in cases of illness or emergency
- Completing up to an hour-and-a-half of homework each weeknight during the summer (there is no homework assigned during the school year)
- Write an exit essay -- you'll receive support and feedback in crafting a brief essay that you can use as a template for your future high school and college applications.
- Working with LW in the spring of your eight-grade year to identify and participate in organizations committed to college-readiness that can join once you reach high school (such as College Possible and Get Ready)

Students meeting all these commitments will graduate from LearningWorks in the spring of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

## Frequently Asked Questions

What is the LearningWorks Summer 2014 schedule?

8am-3pm OR 9-4pm, Monday through Friday, June 24th – August 2nd, 2013. No classes on Friday, July 4.

What is the LearningWorks School Year 2014-2015 schedule?

Generally, 9:00am to 12:00 pm, two Saturdays per month from October through March. Dates to be determined.

### **What does “students-teaching-students” mean?**

Talented high school and college students teach all of LearningWorks’ challenging classes under the guidance of licensed Mentor Teachers. The young teachers are excited to teach, and students are excited to learn from high school and college students who make great mentors and role models. People at LearningWorks are here to learn, to challenge their mind, and to have fun.

### **Wait. So LearningWorks is free?**

LearningWorks is deeply committed to being a tuition-free program, meaning families will never be asked to make monetary contributions as a condition of enrollment. The only cost for families is their time and support; the only student cost is consistent attendance, motivation, positive attitude and hard work. Minneapolis Public Schools provides transportation and lunches, and Blake provides space for the program. Donations from individuals, foundations and corporations cover the rest.

### **Where is LearningWorks?**

LearningWorks is hosted by and at The Blake School (Minneapolis, at 511 Kenwood Parkway). The school is two blocks west of the Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden.

### **What does it mean to be part of a representative community?**

LearningWorks strives to mirror the demographics of Minneapolis Public Schools, meaning the class of 2016 will have students from 18 different MPS schools; 73% will identify with a community of color, over 25% will speak a language other than English in the home, and nearly 60% will qualify for a free or reduced lunch. Students will represent every neighborhood and story in Minneapolis; the LW community is intentionally designed to simulate a dynamic college preparatory track high school environment.

When do I find out if I’m accepted?

**Applications are due March 3rd, 2014.** Decision letters will be mailed out and acceptance phone calls will be made by March 18th, 2014. Upon acceptance, students will receive an enrollment packet and Welcome Day dates. Acceptance to LearningWorks is finalized when the enrollment packet is received and the student has attended one of the Welcome Days, which will be held at various times during the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. As we have a limited number of spaces, we cannot accept everyone who applies. All decisions are final.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEARNINGWORKS, GO TO**

[HTTP://WWW.BLAKESCHOOL.ORG/LEARNINGWORKS](http://www.blakeschool.org/learningworks) OR CALL US AT 952-988-3755.

### **What have your former students accomplished?**

- 83% of LW alumni are enrolled in or have graduated from college.
- 99% of LW alumni have graduated from high school.
- 88% of LW alumni enroll in college-preparatory high school programs.

# Hey Class of 2016! Ready to Apply?

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

You must finish these tasks before your application is complete. Keep this checklist, and mark off each box when the task is done. **You must return Parts 1 and 2 to LearningWorks directly by March 3, 2014 OR to your school's LearningWorks Coordinator by an earlier date. The teacher (and other adult) who is completing Part 3 will return the recommendation directly to LearningWorks or your school's LearningWorks Coordinator.**

Your school's LearningWorks Coordinator is \_\_\_\_\_

	Done
<b>Part 1</b> Complete Student Application (with Essay)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Part 2</b> Parent or guardian has filled out Parent/Guardian Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Part 3</b> My teacher has a Teacher Recommendation Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Part 4</b> Grades (5 <sup>th</sup> grade and 1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 6 <sup>th</sup> grade), test scores and attendance records collected (school liaison/parent may send in separately)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Questions????** Call Zer Vang, Student and Family Services Director at (952) 988-3755 or email [zvang@blakeschool.org](mailto:zvang@blakeschool.org)



“LearningWorks is a place where everyone is comfortable and secure; where a kid can be a kid; a place where we embrace our knowledge and gifts. LearningWorks is the first step to our successful futures.” -LearningWorks Student



# Application Part I: (due March 3rd, 2014)

## Student Application

**To the student: Complete this yourself. Use a pen and print neatly or type your answers.**

### Student's Personal Information (Confidential)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Preferred Name

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **MPS Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street City/State/Zip

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student email** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month/Day/Year)

**Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Current Middle School** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Languages Spoken at Home:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you related to a current LW student? Yes/No**

If yes, provide name of relative \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Statement of Understanding

I understand that LearningWorks at Blake is a two-year, year-round commitment. With the exception of Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be available to participate every weekday from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 1, 2014 approximately 9 a.m. to 3p.m. I will also participate twice a month during the school year on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If I am accepted, my family and I will not plan special events during the dates and times of the summer or school year sessions. I also understand that LearningWorks requires that I do up to 90 minutes of homework each weeknight (Monday – Thursday) during the summer. I agree to fulfill these responsibilities.

**Student signature** \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT ESSAY

On a separate piece of paper, write an essay about **ONE** of the following topics. Your essay should be about a page long and should demonstrate your best writing. It would be a good idea to write a rough draft first.

A. Describe the biggest problem facing students your age. What can you do to help solve the problem?

**OR**

B. LearningWorks is committed to preparing students for college. Why do you want to go to college? How do you think college will help you in your life?

**OR**

C. Write about one accomplishment you are most proud of. Why was this accomplishment important to you? What other accomplishments do you hope to achieve in the future?

**Student Application continued ►**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

Please answer each question using complete sentences. These must be completed in addition to your essay.

**What do you look forward to at school each day? Please provide specific examples.**

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**Tell us about a class where you learned something you weren't originally excited to learn about, but had fun doing it. What did the teacher do to make this a great learning experience? What did you have to do to get the most out of it?**

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**What do you like best about who you are? What makes you different?**

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**What are your interests outside of school (hobbies, sports, etc.)?**

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**This form is due by March 3rd, 2014.**

Please send form to LearningWorks at Blake, 511 Kenwood Parkway, Mpls, MN, 55403



# Application Part 2: (due March 3rd, 2014)

## Parent or Guardian Form

This information will be kept confidential. If you would like to complete this application in a language other than English, please feel free to.

### YOUR STUDENT'S INFORMATION

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Student's Primary Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt# City/State/Zip

Student's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Day/Year

Student Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Current Middle School \_\_\_\_\_ Student Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Languages Spoken at Home \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Is student related to a current or past LW student? \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name LW Graduation Year

### PARENT/GUARDIAN #1 INFORMATION

Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Guardian Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt# City/State/Zip

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT/GUARDIAN #2 INFORMATION

Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Guardian Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street Apt# City/State/Zip

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (please circle responses)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are: married partnered separated divorced single other \_\_\_\_\_

Student Primarily Lives With: Both/same residence Both/separate residences mother father other \_\_\_\_\_

Does your student qualify for free or reduced lunch prices? YES NO

Is this student a first-generation college student (will be the first to go to college in your immediate family)? YES NO

How does your student identify in terms of race and/or ethnicity? \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Recommendation continued ►**





**LearningWorks**  
at Blake

## Application Part 3: (due March 3rd, 2014)

# Teacher Recommendation

**Student:** Write your name on this page and give it to a Math, Language Arts, Science, or Social Studies teacher.

**Teacher:** If you would like to complete this recommendation electronically, please visit this url:  
<http://tinyurl.com/LW-REC-2013> or email Zer Vang at [zvang@blakeschool.org](mailto:zvang@blakeschool.org) to receive an email with the form.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Subject(s) Taught \_\_\_\_\_

This student is applying to LearningWorks at Blake, a tuition-free, academic enrichment program. LearningWorks consists of a six-week summer session followed by sessions twice a month during the school year. LearningWorks provides academic support and mentoring to students with high academic potential. We are seeking students who are intellectually curious, who can work well with others, and who have a "fire in the belly" to learn. We appreciate your responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please call Zer Vang, Student and Family Services Director at (952) 988-3755 or email [zvang@blakeschool.org](mailto:zvang@blakeschool.org). Thank you for your help in this process.

**Please circle the response that best suits the student, in relation to the student's peers.**

<b>Academic</b>	<b>No basis for Judgment</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
Academic motivation	N	I	2	3	4
Attitude towards homework	N	I	2	3	4
Study habits/organization	N	I	2	3	4
Writing skills	N	I	2	3	4
Reading skills	N	I	2	3	4
Math skills	N	I	2	3	4
Problem-solving skills	N	I	2	3	4
Intellectual curiosity	N	I	2	3	4
Overall academic skills/aptitude	N	I	2	3	4
<b>Personal</b>					
Willingness to try new activities	N	I	2	3	4
Ability to be a group leader	N	I	2	3	4
Willingness to volunteer in class	N	I	2	3	4
Enthusiasm for class projects	N	I	2	3	4
Ability to work independently	N	I	2	3	4
Self-confidence	N	I	2	3	4
Reaction to criticism	N	I	2	3	4
Sense of humor	N	I	2	3	4
Concern for fellow students	N	I	2	3	4
General level of maturity	N	I	2	3	4
Creativity	N	I	2	3	4
Ability to work well with adults	N	I	2	3	4
Overall personal qualities	N	I	2	3	4

**Teacher Recommendation continued ►**

What special interests, talents, or abilities could this applicant contribute to LearningWorks?

Are there any social, academic, or behavioral challenges that this student faces?

How could this student benefit from participating in LearningWorks?

Describe this student's attitude toward homework, studying, and academic achievement. How much effort does this student put into achieving his or her goals?

LearningWorks is a program for dedicated, hard-working, and motivated students who want to go to college. **I recommend this student for the LearningWorks program:**

- With great confidence  
 With some confidence (*please explain below*)  
 With confidence  
 I do not recommend this student (*please explain below*)

Keeping in mind that LearningWorks classes are taught by high school and college students (under the supervision of mentor teachers and program staff), do you have any concerns about this student's ability to behave appropriately and maturely? Do you have any concerns about this child's ability to complete the two-year commitment?

If you would like to be included on the LearningWorks mailing list, please write your contact information below (if you are filling out multiple recommendation forms, you need only write your contact information on one form):

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city zip

**This form is due by March 3rd, 2014.**

Please send form to LearningWorks at Blake, 511 Kenwood Parkway, Mpls, MN, 55403



**LearningWorks**  
at Blake

## Application Part 3: (due March 3rd, 2014)

# Personal Recommendation (optional)

**Student:** Write your name on this page and give it to an adult who is not related to you, but who knows you well.

**Personal Recommender:** If you would like to complete this recommendation electronically, please visit this url: <http://tinyurl.com/LW-PER-REC-2013> or email Zer Vang at [zvang@blakeschool.org](mailto:zvang@blakeschool.org) to receive an email with the form.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

This student is applying to LearningWorks at Blake, a tuition-free, academic enrichment program. LearningWorks consists of a six-week summer session followed by sessions twice a month during the school year. LearningWorks provides academic support and mentoring to students with high academic potential. We are seeking students who are intellectually curious, who can work well with others, and who have a “fire in the belly” to learn. We appreciate your responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please call Zer Vang, Student and Family Services Director at (952) 988-3755 or email [zvang@blakeschool.org](mailto:zvang@blakeschool.org). Thank you for your help in this process.

Please describe your experience working with this student.

What special interests, talents, or abilities could this applicant contribute to LearningWorks?

Are there any social or behavioral challenges that this student faces?

How could this student benefit from participating in LearningWorks?

**Personal Recommendation continued ►**

