



PINNACLES PREP

Small School. Big Difference

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Overview

Tell me about Pinnacles Prep.

Pinnacles Prep is the only high quality, tuition-free middle school and high school charter option in the Wenatchee Valley. Pinnacles Prep is a 6th -12th grade charter public school open to any student regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religious affiliation, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social or economic status, and/or special needs. All enrolled students regardless of background are afforded the same rights, privileges, programs, and activities available to all students.

We know that families have options, from traditional school districts to private schools and also public charter schools. Enrollment at Pinnacles Prep is free and no financial responsibilities are expected of families.

Pinnacles Prep provides support services in order to meet the needs of all students. They include special education, 504 plans, and English Language Learner programs.

Here, education looks different because we believe that there's more to school than lectures and tests. Our personalized approach allows students to contextualize their learning through hands-on projects using our community as their classroom. We focus on making learning relevant, enabling students to think critically, build relationships, and navigate systems to make positive contributions to our world. Upon graduation, Pinnacles Prep students will have more than a diploma. They will be college, career, and community ready, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mindsets needed to become leaders in our Valley and beyond.

What makes Pinnacles Prep different?

- We focus on relationships
- We offer relevant, personalized education
- We ensure more than just a diploma
- We are intentionally diverse
- We are a charter school

How many students per grade?

60 students for each grade- Grades 6 - 12

How many grade levels?

Currently, we serve grades 6 - 11. Starting in the 26-27 school year we will serve grades 6 - 12.

How much is the tuition?

Pinnacles Prep Charter School is a **free** public school open to all students just like a public school.



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Can any student come to pinnacles prep?

Anyone can attend a charter school. While there is an application to attend Pinnacles Prep, we do not have special eligibility or entrance requirements. If more students want to attend than we have space available, enrollment will be determined by a lottery.

I have a child with an IEP, can she attend?

Of course! Washington charter schools are designed to meet the needs of all students regardless of students' academics, background, and needs. Pinnacles will ensure that all aspects of a student's IEP are met.

Curriculum and Programming

Tell me about your mentorship program. Who are the mentors?

A faculty mentor will meet with every Pinnacles Prep student every day.

Mentors serve as guides and thought partners for the educational journey, helping students set goals for the future and serving as advocates for their personal and academic success.

Mentors will also connect with families through introductory family visits and weekly check-ins to ensure that students are on track to meet their goals and that families are receiving the support they need.

Pinnacles Prep science-focused/STEM school right?

We plan to offer students a comprehensive STEM and place based education, and also strongly believe in the power and importance of the arts- Arts and humanities will drive our Place-based curriculum.

What electives do you offer?

Electives are modified each year depending on the students' interest. The following are the elective choices for the 25-26 school year:

Theater

Art

Scholar Advisory Committee

Forensic Science

Lifestyle Sports

Health and Fitness

I read that your program is Place-based. What does that mean?

We believe that our community is a classroom and that education should prepare students for life beyond our walls. If we want students to become engaged citizens, we must dismantle the traditional classroom and provide opportunities to develop community connections, navigate systems, and make



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change. Pinnacles Prep students will lead authentic projects with community partners. These experiences help students to apply their learning to real world problems, engage in critical thinking, gain confidence, and build social capital.

Placed Based Education seeks to help students and school staff in solving community problems. PBE differs from conventional schools in the sense that it understands students' local community as one of the primary resources for learning.

Daily Placed-Based Education blocks give students voice and choice based on their curiosities and passions and are able to apply interdisciplinary skills to solve complex community challenges. In high school students gain more opportunities for exploration and connection through authentic internships, job shadowing, and community partnerships during the Impact Lab block.

I heard that you are going to offer “looping” in middle school. Tell me about that!

Foundational teachers will advance grade-level instruction with the same students until grade 8 in order to foster and strengthen relationships, relieve time needed to teach new routines to new students, and foster stronger vertical alignment of standards and competencies within the same group of students. There is also increased communication with parents, students enjoy school more, have fewer absences, have fewer discipline problems, and are less likely to drop out of school.

Will this be a bilingual school?

Pinnacles Prep loves our bilingual and bicultural community. We will support all students to become proficient in the English Language. However, at this time we will not have a formal bilingual program of study. We offer world Languages in high school, and middle school students can study a world language as part of our Impact Lab projects.

Transportation

Where is the school located?

We are located at 504 S Chelan Ave.

We live 3 miles from the school. Will you provide transportation?

We currently offer transportation in the Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Malaga areas. We have 2 routes to serve our families.

Other

Do students wear uniforms?

No, we do not have uniforms.



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Will you have sports?

Pinnacles Prep does not currently have an official sports program. Students can play sports at the district middle school in which they reside.

I have a 9th grade student and we are looking for something different. Can they attend your school?

Yes. We currently serve grades 6 - 11.

Will you offer summer school?

We have offered summer school in previous years. Each year we analyze for the need and make the decision based on scholar need.

What does your after school program look like?

Pinnacles Prep does not currently have an afterschool program.

General Charter School Information

You are a charter school? Charters schools are for profit right?

No, Washington State requires all charter schools to be non-profit organizations. And, like any public school, charter public schools depend on a mix of federal and state funding. However, unlike local public schools, charter schools do not receive support from local levies.

Charter schools are publicly-funded, tuition-free schools that are open to all students. Charter schools exist to ensure that every student has access to a high quality education that meets their unique needs.

Charter schools are held accountable to state and national standards. Public charter schools must meet the same academic standards as all other public schools in Washington. In addition, teachers have to meet the same certification requirements, and students have to take the same standardized tests.

How can students with disabilities benefit from charters in Washington?

Washington's charter schools are designed to meet the needs of ALL students, regardless of background or ability.

A 2018 study by the University of Washington's Center for Reinventing Public Education showed that 8 out of 10 charter public schools enrolled students with disabilities at a rate at or above the local district rate. Additionally, the same study showed that Washington's charter schools provide a more inclusive educational environment for students, meaning that students with disabilities in charter schools are educated with their peers without disabilities at a much higher rate than the state average.



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Who teaches at Charter Public Schools?

Charter public school teachers are similar to teachers at other public schools in many ways:

- Like all public school teachers, charter public school teachers must be certified
- Charter public school teachers have the right to organize and collectively bargain for pay, benefits, and working conditions
- Teachers at charter public schools earn salaries competitive with traditional public schools and receive state employee benefits

Charter public schools in Washington have more teachers who reflect the demographics of the students they serve: 34 percent of Washington's charter teachers identify as people of color, as compared to just 12 percent statewide.

What does an “Authorizer” and “Charter” really mean?

Charter public schools are approved by and accountable to their authorizers. The word “authorizer” refers to the state entity or institution that has the legal right to issue charters to those who want to open charter public schools. An authorizer is also responsible for oversight of these schools.

The word “charter” is the same as a “contract.” A “charter” is granted to a new charter public school and outlines the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, performance expectations, and ways to measure student success. Washington's charter school law requires strict oversight and accountability. Charter schools are subject to annual performance reviews as well as ongoing oversight by the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to measure their success in improving student outcomes.

What is the role of the parents in charter schools?

There are a number of ways that parents can be involved and make a difference.

- Connect with the school's Family and Community Engagement staff, who can provide you with additional opportunities to be involved at your school.
- Serve on a parent advisory committee!
- Volunteer your time

What makes charter schools different from public schools?

Charter public schools are free from many rules and regulations that apply to traditional public schools, so they have more flexibility to set curriculum and budgets, select teachers and staff, and offer more customized learning experiences for students. This means that teachers and principals have more flexibility at the school level to meet the needs of their students and help them succeed. It also means that parents have more options within the public school system to find the best learning environment for their children.

In exchange for this flexibility, charter schools are held more accountable for showing improved student achievement. Charter public schools must meet the same state and federal academic standards as other public schools, but they are subject to additional rigorous academic, financial, and managerial requirements as specified in their charter contract—and to ongoing monitoring to evaluate their success in improving student outcomes.



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