

Chartwell School
LEED® Platinum
Q&A

What is significant about Chartwell School being awarded LEED Platinum?

Chartwell School has become the first complete educational campus ever to be awarded LEED Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Chartwell School was engineered for success to achieve LEED Platinum Certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies.

What is LEED?

LEED is the USGBC's leading-edge system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, energy efficient, high performing buildings. To accomplish these goals, industry leader EHDD Architecture and general contractor Ausonio, Inc. designed and built a number of innovative features, including a 32 kilowatt solar array from Blueline Power. LEED verifies environmental performance, occupant health and financial return, and was established for market leaders to design and construct buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense.

The LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary third party rating system where credits are earned for satisfying specified green building criteria. Projects are evaluated within six environmental categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality. Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of green building certification are awarded based on the total credits earned. The LEED standard has been adopted nationwide by federal agencies, state and local governments, and interested private companies as the industry standard of measurement for green building.

What is USGBC?

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit community of leaders working to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated. USGBC envisions an environmentally responsible, healthy, and prosperous built environment that improves the quality of life. Founded in 1993, the Council now comprises more than 9,500 member organizations representing every sector of the building industry; a 90-person professional staff; and a network of over 70 local chapters, affiliates and organizing groups. USGBC offers a broad portfolio of LEED® green building products and services; professional education programs; and the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo. Visit www.usgbc.org to learn more.

What are the innovative features of the Chartwell campus?

LEED Platinum Certification of Chartwell School was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. These features include:

- Net Zero Electricity Design — Chartwell School has a 32 kilowatt photovoltaic system, estimated to produce more than 53 million watt hours annually and offset the production of 54,000 lbs. of CO₂ annually
- Water saving — Simple choices like waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and an 8,700 gallon rainwater cistern reduced campus water usage by 60%
- Sustainable framing — building 24 inches on center rather than 16 inches used 30% less wood while maintaining high construction standards, and the majority of the new wood used in the

Chartwell School
LEED® Platinum
Q&A

project was Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified to verify that the wood originated from sustainable sources

- Design for Disassembly — Chartwell School received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and implement new ways of designing buildings for disassembly to allow for classroom relocation and further campus building phases. For example, wood siding was fastened with clips screwed into the backing for ease of disassembly
- Slag Concrete — adding slag, a waste byproduct from iron-ore production, to the concrete mix achieved a high-quality product that is stronger, lighter in color, and reduces CO₂ emissions by 70% compared to conventional concrete
- Daylighting and lighting controls — skylights and windows were sized and placed to take advantage of the sun. Natural lighting saves electricity, radically down scales the HVAC system requirements, and has been shown to enhance student learning in language arts and mathematics by 20% or more
- Low VOC installations — Chartwell School intentionally selected furnishings, finishes, materials and equipment specifically designed to eliminate pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and other sources, reducing the likelihood of irritating or toxic fumes. CO₂ sensors in rooms monitor and adjust natural ventilation as needed
- Reuse and Recycle — 82% of the 2,570 tons of debris generated during the construction was diverted away from the landfills and was recycled

Why is Chartwell School unique?

Forty percent of all children will find learning to read the hardest academic task during their school experience. This common struggle with learning cuts across gender lines and often runs in families. There are no magic bullet cures for learning variations, and success or failure in coming to grips with this condition will often determine the outcome of the rest of a child's life. Since 1983, Chartwell School has been dedicated to reversing this trend by providing children through grade eight with the learning skills and self-esteem necessary to succeed and return to mainstream education.

What is Chartwell School's student profile and service area?

Chartwell has grown steadily, from 8 students at its founding, to 123 students today, and serves boys and girls ages 6 to 14 in grades 2 through 8, from as far south as King City in the Salinas Valley to Morgan Hill in San Benito County. About one-third of students are from the Monterey Peninsula, one-third from the Salinas Valley, and one-third from Santa Cruz County and nearby San Benito communities.

Is Chartwell School accredited?

In May 2006, Chartwell received the highest possible level of formal accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Chartwell offers a full curriculum that meets or exceeds all California state standards. Even though Chartwell students are often behind their peers in academic performance when they first enroll, Chartwell maintains high standards and expectations for them. Here, with small classes, ample access to technology, and a rich variety of learning experiences, students can begin to believe in themselves once again. With opportunities for project-based, hands-on learning, many students discover they are very capable in art,

Chartwell School
LEED® Platinum
Q&A

mathematics, science, visual-spatial thinking, and outside-the-box conceptual thinking and problem solving.

What is Chartwell’s educational curriculum?

Students attend six classes each day, two of which focus exclusively on improving reading, spelling and written composition skills. Language training and language arts are sequenced during consecutive periods with the same teacher. Students also attend a humanities/social studies and math class each day, and alternate between computer, science, art, music, health and fitness, and social skills for the remaining two classes per day. Certified speech and language therapists are available for those students requiring additional work in receptive and expressive language development. An occupational therapist assists students who have difficulties with visual-motor coordination. We teach all students explicit organizational skills for homework and time management. Because the same difficulties with visual and auditory processing that make academic work more challenging can also make it hard to respond quickly and accurately in social situations, Chartwell teaches a course in Social and Emotional Leadership Foundations (SELF). This builds self-awareness, social skills and teambuilding that will be useful throughout life.

Chartwell’s successful educational program rests on:

- Use of the latest scientific research on learning,
- Highly structured, systematic, and individualized instruction in small classes,
- Frequent skill and performance assessments to monitor learning and detect patterns of error,
- Educational plans with detailed student skill and performance expectations,
- A variety of hands-on, multi-sensory learning approaches,
- Coordinated, supportive efforts among all members of the academic staff,
- Close, positive, cooperative communication with parents and family members,
- An equal emphasis on character development and learning skills.

What happens to students after they leave Chartwell?

After two to four years at Chartwell, a typical student can return to his or her school of choice as a lifelong learner. Over 75% of Chartwell students return to local public schools; the rest choose independent schools. An estimated 90% graduate from high school and over 70% go on to college and graduate level education. These numbers compare favorably with the national average 30.5% of students with learning difficulties who graduate high school and 71% who graduate without the disadvantages brought about by a learning variation.

Does Chartwell School provide access to a diverse student body?

Because few families ever anticipate sending a child to a private school of this type, Chartwell makes extra efforts to offer financial aid. This is especially vital to reclaim the potential of students who could not otherwise obtain an appropriate education.

Chartwell’s commitment to inclusion will provide financial aid for 30 students this fall, who would otherwise be unable to attend. All students who apply to Chartwell are tested to determine their ability to benefit from the type of education we provide. Those admitted have both the potential and the expectation to achieve academic success, including college. Tuition at Chartwell is

Chartwell School
LEED® Platinum
Q&A

currently \$25,000. Though not inexpensive in the short term, a Chartwell education saves students, families, school districts, and society many times its costs over time. It is much more expensive to meet the lifetime needs of children who grow up unable to learn successfully.

Families begin applying for Financial Aid in March. Applications are accepted continuously if needs change. After our Business Office screens forms for completeness, they go to an independent Financial Aid Committee of qualified community representatives for final decisions. Chartwell also offers a flexible payment plan. Our goal is that no student be turned away because of unmet financial need.

How does Chartwell evaluate student's academic progress?

Student outcomes are measured continuously through diagnostic assessment. Weekly faculty meetings highlight areas of concern for particular students in need of additional encouragement or other support. Formal testing conducted in September and May benchmarks student progress through assessment of word identification, word attack, vocabulary, spelling, reading comprehension, math calculation, math applications, and math concepts. A recent five-year review of past test results showed that on average, students advance more than one full year in grade equivalence during each year at Chartwell. Many students advance two or more years. Faculty members record progress in other subjects by assessing the quality of completed projects, assignments and written work, class participation, and tests of knowledge of the subject.

The desired long-term result of a Chartwell education is to allow each child to more fully realize his or her potential for learning and success throughout life. The intermediate term goal is to return each student to a mainstream classroom as a competent learner. Chartwell students who are ready to transition to mainstream education participate in a formal transitioning program in their last semester, which includes skills for effective self-advocacy.

Head of School Nora Lee and other faculty and staff remain available to students, family and teachers at their new schools for additional information, advice, and referrals throughout their academic careers. Many alumni remain in close contact with the school.

Contact:

Douglas Atkins
Executive Director
Chartwell School
2511 Numa Watson Road
Seaside, CA 93955
831.394.3468, Ext. 1022
datkins@chartwell.org