

Tilden Preparatory School

Parent and Student Handbook

2025 - 2026



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SCHOOL INFORMATION

Introduction

Welcome to Tilden Preparatory School's 2025-26 school year! This handbook has been prepared for all members of the Tilden Preparatory School community to provide a clear understanding of the principles, policies, and procedures that govern the daily workings of the school.

Tilden Preparatory School opened its doors in 2006 under the name School for Independent Learners, East Bay. After receiving full WASC accreditation in 2009, SIL East Bay changed its name to Tilden Preparatory School. In 2012, Tilden Preparatory School opened a second location in Walnut Creek in order to serve a wider range of the East Bay community. We are dedicated to teaching students to a mastery level in all classes, which prepares them for further work in upper-level high school and college classes. We offer 150 UC-approved courses, including 34 AP and 27 honors classes.

Mission Statement

The mission of Tilden Preparatory School is to provide an engaging, accommodating, inclusive, and individualized learning environment in which students gain confidence in themselves as learners, face challenges, and achieve success while mastering college preparatory course content.

Please note that while this handbook is fairly comprehensive, we cannot anticipate every situation or answer every question about enrollment at Tilden Preparatory School.

In addition, circumstances may require that the policies and expectations described in the handbook change from time to time; the school reserves the right to amend, supplement, or rescind any of these provisions, as it deems necessary and at its sole discretion. You will be advised of changes that occur via email and you are responsible for reading and understanding any and all revisions.

Thank you for reading this handbook thoroughly. We are looking forward to having you and your student join our school community!

Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

Tilden Preparatory School is guided in its administration and teaching by the Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs).

Upon completion of coursework at Tilden, students will be:

i. Academic Achievers who:

- Are well-prepared to continue their education and achieve postsecondary goals
- Have developed a growth mindset, enjoy success in their courses, and produce quality work to their full potential
- Use feedback and reflection to assess and improve their progress
- Feel confident about themselves as learners

ii. Effective communicators who:

- Write and speak clearly
- Are able to listen effectively and collaborate with others
- Articulate their needs in a clear and respectful manner

iii. Self-directed learners who:

- Set and work towards personal goals
- Are aware of their strengths and learning strategies that work best for them
- Identify when they need assistance, develop self-advocacy skills to seek help, and use both to succeed in and outside of the classroom
- Are able to handle challenges with resilience and ability to persevere toward their goals

iv. Responsible members of the community who:

- Show consideration and respect for others
- Participate fully and responsibly both in their classes and in outside endeavors that are meaningful to them

Administrative Contact Information

Founders and Board Chairs

Karen Hobbs, Ph.D.
KarenHobbs@tildenprep.com

Shary Nunan, Ph.D.
SharyNunan@tildenprep.com

Director

Laurie Kumar, M.S, Director
LaurieK@tildenprep.com

Albany Campus

Address: 1231 Solano Ave, Albany, CA 94706
Phone: 510-525-5506
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Albany Admin: AdminAlbany@tildenprep.com

Walnut Creek Campus

Address: 1475 N Broadway, Ste. 200 Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: 925-933-5506
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Walnut Creek Admin: AdminWC@tildenprep.com

For questions related to the following areas, please email the specific address:

	Albany	Walnut Creek
Registration	RegistrationAlbany@tildenprep.com	RegistrationWC@tildenprep.com
Absences	StudentAbsencesAlbany@tildenprep.com	StudentAbsencesWC@tildenprep.com
Billing	BillingAlbany@tildenprep.com	BillingWC@tildenprep.com
Scheduling	SchedulingAlbany@tildenprep.com	SchedulingWC@tildenprep.com
Transcripts	TranscriptsAlbany@tildenprep.com	TranscriptsWC@tildenprep.com
Books	BooksAlbany@tildenprep.com	BooksWC@tildenprep.com

COMMUNICATION

Parent-Teacher Communication

You can find teacher email addresses in Tilden's progress reporting system (page 17). Parents are welcome to meet briefly with teachers at the start or end of your student's class. We request that parents limit their email communication with teachers to absence notices and brief, occasional questions about the course.

More frequent and/or lengthier emails about a student's progress are charged at the course's regular rate. Parents may also request a paid meeting with their student's instructor(s) at the school. We do not allow teachers to use their personal cell phones to communicate with parents or students.

School-Wide Communication

Once a student registers at Tilden, parents are added to a mailing list and receive occasional email updates from the administration. We may send out emails with general announcements, policy changes, scheduling information, billing alerts, etc. Important announcements are also posted on the progress reporting system login page. (tildenprep.com/calendar)

Communication with the Heads of School

If you would like to discuss specific aspects of your student's program, please contact us via email/phone to schedule an in-person appointment, video call, or phone call with a Head of School. Please note that our response time to email is one to two business days. If you would like to include your student's teachers, you will be billed for their time.

Surveys

We are always working to enhance our program and strive to meet the needs of our students and families successfully. To facilitate this process, we ask our full-time students to complete a **Student Entry Survey** about their learning styles and preferences when they begin taking classes and a **Student Exit Survey** near the end of the school year.

We also ask all students to fill out a **Course Exit Survey** regarding their experience within each semester course. Toward the end of each academic year, we provide a **Parent Survey** regarding observations of your student's experience. In addition to these surveys, we welcome your comments and suggestions at any time.

Absences

All student absences are billed at the full session rate. **We are not able to make courses inactive to accommodate vacations.** If a family chooses to schedule a vacation when a student is actively enrolled in a course, students are welcome to attend classes remotely.

To notify us of student absences, parents are required to email the student's teacher(s) and campus administration prior to the start of a scheduled class.

Students may not report their own absences. Email-only (not a phone call) from a parent is required. You must include your student's teacher as well as the campus administration in the communication. Contact administration at the following email addresses:

Albany Campus	Walnut Creek Campus
StudentAbsencesAlbany@tildenprep.com	StudentAbsencesWC@tildenprep.com

We do not offer "rescheduling" or "make-up" classes. We can offer additional one-time appointments at the regular hourly rate. Please refer to our **Policies and Fees** documents for additional details regarding our absence policy.

No Shows

If a parent fails to notify administration of an absence before the start of class, this is deemed a "No Show." **A No Show is logged as a regularly scheduled session and will be billed in full.**

Tilden Class Schedule

Class	Break	Designation
8:00-8:50am	8:50-9:00am	10 minute break
9:00-9:50am	9:50-10:00am	10 minute break
10:00-10:50am	10:50-11:10am	20 minute break
11:10-12:00pm		
12:00-12:45pm		LUNCH BREAK
12:45-1:35pm	1:35-1:45pm	10 minute break
1:45-2:35pm	2:35-2:45pm	10 minute break
2:45-3:35pm	3:35-3:55pm	20 minute break
3:55-4:45pm		
4:55-5:45pm	4:45-4:55pm	10 minute break

COURSES

Registration

Tilden creates your student's course schedule based on the information you provide us. If your student will attend full-time, it is your responsibility to provide us with a current official transcript which will be reviewed by our registrar. If your student has a documented learning difference, a 504 plan, or an IEP, please provide this information and a copy so we can make appropriate accommodations. Schedules are sent for your approval within one week of receiving a completed registration form and scheduling deposit.

Please review schedules carefully and notify the administration of any discrepancies or changes prior to your student's first day of classes.

Scheduling

School Year Scheduling

At Tilden, courses are offered year-round. All scheduling is done through the Heads of School; they should be contacted directly by emailing SchedulingAlbany@tildenprep.com or SchedulingWC@tildenprep.com.

If your student has not completed one or more courses by the end of the school year, they can continue in the summer until the courses are completed. We cannot guarantee that your student will continue their class with the same instructor.

Note: a new registration form is required for the Summer Session and students transition to a five-day schedule (M-F) with one or two sessions per day.

Summer Scheduling

If your student has not completed their summer courses by the end of our summer session, they have the option to continue into the following school year until the courses are completed. In such cases, students will transition to our regular school year schedule and cannot be guaranteed the same instructor or schedule. **A new registration form will need to be submitted for the fall session.**

Course Length

Estimated Course Length

The chart below provides a number estimate of class sessions expected per semester. The listed courses require two semesters for completion unless otherwise indicated. Tilden is a mastery learning program, therefore, we estimate course length but are not able to guarantee how long any individual student will take to reach the level of mastery. Please be advised that students can complete a course in fewer or more sessions than indicated.

Factors that may affect the rate of completion include coming to class on time, homework completion, pace of understanding course concepts, and strength of memory for learned content/concepts. Our teachers are trained to maximize your student's success in these areas and will do everything possible to help them succeed within the estimated time.

For students who move quickly through their courses, we require a minimum of 15 teacher-student sessions per semester for regular courses and 22 teacher-student sessions for AP courses. If your student has mastered the material in our curriculum prior to completing this many sessions, the teacher will go into more depth with the material to increase the student's mastery of the subject.

Estimated Time to Completion for Specific Courses (Per Semester)

English, History,	30 sessions
Economics and Government (one semester courses)	30 sessions
Languages	33 sessions
Algebra 1 and Geometry	30 sessions
Algebra 2	35 sessions
Pre-Calculus (Depends on math knowledge and comprehension)	35 sessions
Physics (with strong math background)	35 sessions
Physics (without strong math background)	40 sessions
Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science	35 sessions
AP Courses (depending on course)	45 sessions
Honors Courses (depending on course)	35 sessions
Honors Science Courses	40 sessions

Small Group Classes

Though our instruction is primarily one-to-one, we offer parents the option of coordinating their own small group classes of up to three students per group. When arranging a group class, please account for the following factors:

- **Learning Pace/Style of all students in the group**

Students should have similar learning styles and paces in order to progress through the material effectively. Tilden reserves the right to split up students if the instructor feels they are not working well together or if one student is struggling to keep pace with another.

- **Schedule Availability of all students in the group**

All students must be on the same class schedule and must coordinate any planned absences or vacations in advance to coincide with each other.

Support Classes

Tilden offers several options for students who need additional support, either with content or developing skills. Below are descriptions of the areas where we can offer support and what to expect from an appointment in that area.

Executive Functioning Skills Development

For most students that have learning differences such as ADHD, Dyslexia, and other learning disabilities, executive functioning challenges are commonplace and can be challenging. Such students often need to build their toolbox to gain study skills during middle and high school years when the adolescent brain is still rapidly developing. In the scope of the Executive Functioning Skill Development class, students will work one-on-one with an instructor to learn skills related to planning, organization, working memory, flexible problem-solving, mindful decision-making, and adaptability.

Tutoring

Students may need additional support in a subject scheduled at their primary school. To schedule tutoring appointments, it must be a specified subject that Tilden offers. From there, we can assign an appropriate teacher to assist the student with questions about content or assignments from their primary school course.

Study Support

Study support is a structured time when students work one-on-one with an instructor on targeted homework assignments and test-taking skills. Study support is appropriate for students who struggle with work completion at home and are billed at a regular class rate.

Mentoring Class

For many teens who are navigating difficult experiences related to school and social life, a mentor figure can be pivotal and paramount to healthy social and emotional development. Through Tilden's mentoring sessions, students gain the chance to casually work on homework while also engaging in supportive conversations about their life experiences with a teacher/mentor figure.

Grading Policies

Our “no failure” grading policy is based on **mastery learning**. Students are given credit for completed work as long as the quality demonstrates sufficient subject mastery at a level of **80% or better**. Students are re-taught any material that they do not master, and can retake tests until they achieve a level of 80% or higher. Most students successfully complete our courses with an 80% or higher level of mastery.

If working to 80% poses too much difficulty, students can arrange the option to work to a 70% (C) level of mastery. This must be agreed to by the student, parents, teacher, and Heads of School.

Homework

Students are expected to complete approximately one hour of homework per class session unless otherwise arranged by the parents, student, and teacher. There will be variations depending on a student’s work pace and the complexity of course content. Students who want to move through the material more quickly and accelerate their course completion rate are encouraged to complete more work outside of class. Homework completion is recorded in the progress reporting system.

Important Homework Note: Due to our mastery learning program, incomplete homework must be completed in class but homework and participation will not negatively impact final grades. However, not completing homework outside of class will impact the time required to complete the course.

Assessments/Exams

Students take exams **outside of class time** unless a parent requests that exams be taken in class with teacher assistance. Exams may be taken at a student’s convenience during campus office hours. Primary and backup tests are available for all courses.

Important Testing Note: Students must take tests **within one week** of their assignment, or they will be required to test during class time. Additionally, if a student has two or more tests in one course, we require that they take the tests during their class before moving on to new material.

Academic Integrity Policy

At Tilden, students have the opportunity to learn how and at what pace they learn best in order to succeed in their classes. Cheating of any kind interferes with this process and we strongly encourage and support students to have academic integrity.

You are acting with academic integrity when you:

- Take full credit for your work and give full credit to others who have helped you, or whose work you have incorporated into your own.
- Represent your work honestly and accurately.
- Do your own homework, essays, and projects in your own words, rather than taking them directly from another source. This includes the use of solution generators and AI platforms.
- Provide accurate source documentation for essays and research projects.
- Avoid using aids such as cell phones, cheat sheets, Spark Notes, etc. unless you have permission from your teacher to do so.
- Avoid sharing answers on tests.
- Do not submit the same work for more than one class unless you have permission from your teacher(s) to do so.
- Let your teacher or a Head of School know when another student is not acting with academic integrity.

Consequences

If a teacher or administrator believes a student is not acting with academic integrity, this will be discussed with the student and parent(s). Due to our mastery learning program, we will assign appropriate consequences without penalizing the grade. These will be determined based on the circumstances and may include any or all of the following:

- Discarding the entire work in which plagiarized work is discovered.
- Requiring the student to do additional work beyond redoing the current assignment.
- Requiring the student to take additional tests or complete other work such as essays and lab reports in their class(es).
- Requiring in-person proctored testing.

We reserve the option to choose additional consequences, if needed, to address the issue.

CREDITS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Graduation Requirements

TPS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (FULL-TIME STUDENTS)

210 credits total + 15 hours of Community Service per year:

40 credits English	10 credits Foreign Language or Arts
20 credits Mathematics	5 credits Government
10 credits World History	5 credits Economics
10 credits U.S. History	5 credits Social Science Elective
10 credits Biology	65 credits Electives
10 credits Physical Science	20 credits (240 hours) Physical Education

Typical Program for Four-Year College-Bound Student

9th Grade		10th Grade		11th Grade		12th grade	
English 9	10	English 10	10	English 11	10	English 12	10
Alg1/Geometry	10	Geometry/Alg2	10	Alg2/Precalc	10	Precalc/Calculus	10
		World History	10	US History	10	US Gov & Econ	10
Biology	10			Chemistry	10	Science Elective	10
Foreign Language	10	Foreign Language	10	Foreign Language	10		
PE	10	PE	10	Art	10	Social Sci. Elective	10
Total Credits: 50		Total Credits: 50		Total Credits: 50		Total Credits: 50	

Electives

Elective courses can be completed during any year and in a number of ways. Tilden offers UC-approved electives that students can take to fulfill this requirement. If students are involved in outside learning experiences (lessons, sports, etc.), these can be used for non-UC-approved elective course credit (60 hours of class and homework combined equal 5 credit units). The Non-UC Approved Elective Course form is available on page 28.

Community Service

To graduate, students are required to complete 15 hours of community service per year of full-time enrollment at Tilden. The Community Service log is available on page 27.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Full-time students are required to complete 20 credits (240 hours total) of physical activity prior to graduation. Five credits will be granted for every 60 hours logged. Physical activity may be completed independently or in a group setting. The P.E. log is available on page 26.

University and College Requirements

University of California Admission Requirements

Freshmen students who want to enter the UC system must satisfy these requirements:

1. **Complete a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses** ("a-g" courses), with at least 11 finished prior to the start of senior year.

Area	Subject	Years
a)	History and Social Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">World History, Cultures or Historical GeographyU.S. History or one-half year U.S. Hist & one-half year Civics/American Gov	2
b)	English <ul style="list-style-type: none">4 years of college preparatory English	4
c)	Math (3 years, 4 years recommended) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Algebra 1Algebra 2Geometry	3-4
d)	Laboratory Science (2 years, 3 years recommended) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Biological SciencePhysical Science	2
e)	Language other than English (2 years, 3 years recommended) <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 years of the same language	2-3
f)	Visual and Performing Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dance, Drama/Theater, Music, or Visual Art	1
g)	College-Preparatory Elective <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chosen from the University of California "A-G" list	1

2. Earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better (3.4 if you're a nonresident) in these courses with no grade lower than a C.

3. Meet the examination requirement by taking the ACT Plus Writing or the SAT with Essay by December of your senior year. SAT subject tests are not required, but certain programs on some campuses recommend them, and subject tests may be used to satisfy the "a-g" requirements listed above.

[UC admissions Information](#) & [Tilden Preparatory School's UC Certified Course List](#)

California State University Subject Requirements

The CSU requires a minimum 15-unit pattern of courses for admission as a first-time freshman. Each unit is equal to a year of study in a subject area. A grade of C or higher is required for each course used to meet any subject requirement.

Area	Subject	Years
a)	History and Social Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. History • Social Science 	2
b)	English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years of college preparatory English composition and literature 	4
c)	Math (3 years, 4 years recommended) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1 • Algebra 2 • Geometry • or higher mathematics 	3-4
d)	Laboratory Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Science • Physical Science 	2
e)	Language Other than English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years of the same language 	2
f)	Visual and Performing Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance, Drama or Theater, Music, or Visual Art 	1
g)	College Preparatory Elective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chosen from the University of California "A-G" list 	1

For CSU Admissions information: http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/subjects.asp

Private College Requirements

Private colleges do not usually publish a firm list of required courses. However, the list of courses required by the University of California gives you a guideline for the high school courses that should be taken to qualify for private college admission. Many students take advantage of Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered at Tilden, as these courses are well-respected by private colleges. Many Tilden graduates attend private colleges each year, with campus choices ranging from large, well-known universities to smaller institutions with highly focused curricular offerings.

Transcripts

Viewing Transcripts

Your student's transcript can be viewed within the progress reporting system (see **Accessing Your Account Online**). When students complete a semester course, their teacher posts a final grade and transcripts are automatically updated.

If your student has transferred as a full-time student from another high school, please provide us with a current transcript from their previous school so that we can include any completed coursework on their Tilden transcript. If you see any identifying information or completed courses that are missing or inaccurate, please email your campus administration to correct any errors.

Transcript Requests

When your student applies for college or transfers to another school, you will need to contact our registrars.

Request a transcript from Albany: TranscriptsAlbany@tildenprep.com

Request a transcript from Walnut Creek: TranscriptsWC@tildenprep.com

For graduating full-time 8th and 12th graders, Tilden will provide five courtesy transcripts. Part-time students and other full-time students will be provided one courtesy copy to be sent to the school of record. All additional requests will be billed at \$10/transcript. We will require you to approve your student's transcript (in person or by email) before it is sent. Please allow up to two business days after your request is received for a transcript to be prepared.

For college applications, we recommend sending official transcripts electronically through an online service called Parchment. We also can supply sealed transcripts for pick up that you can mail to colleges. Please specify how many you need. For students transferring to another school, a transcript request will suffice.

Transferring Credit to Your School of Record

If Tilden is not your student's school of record, we advise you to obtain a written agreement from their high school guidance counselor before instruction begins. Especially for any course that fulfills credits toward high school graduation. The agreement should indicate how credits will transfer and include a statement about listing the course on their transcript. **It is at the discretion of your primary school to accept credits and to list courses taken at Tilden on their transcript.**

It is your responsibility to verify that you are tracking graduation requirements. Tilden Preparatory School makes no guarantees, either explicit or implied, about acceptance of credits by other schools. Some schools have concurrent enrollment forms available; if they do not, we provide a concurrent enrollment form on our website which may be taken to your student's school of record to be signed by a school official.

PROGRESS REPORTING SYSTEM

Parent Access

Teachers update your student's progress reports after each class session on our online progress reporting system. You may view a brief instructional video on navigating this system at the following URL: www.tinyurl.com/tildenparents. To access your student's information:

Logging in:

1. Go to www.tildenprep.com/calendar.
2. Choose "Albany" or "Walnut Creek" from the "School" dropdown list.
3. Username: first name, space, and last name, as written on your student's registration form.
4. Password: The default password is "welcome." You will be prompted to change this password after logging in for the first time.
5. Click "Go." This will take you to your **Parent Home Page**.

From the Parent Home Page:

1. **Edit:** review/edit your contact information and change your password.
2. **View Register:** list of all payments and charges since January 2019.
3. **Community Service Form:** link to view our Student Community Service form. Full-time students are required to complete 15 hours of community service per year to graduate.
4. **Calendar:** to view your student's course schedule, teachers, and weekly calendar.

From the Calendar Page:

1. **Homework** (in red): see all recent assignments listed by course and date.
2. **Progress:** see teacher progress reports, attendance records, homework assignments, and objectives completed (material covered/assessment mastered).
3. **Email:** obtain a teacher's email address. You will need this contact information to email teachers directly if your student will be absent.

Top Menu Bar:

1. **Home** (top menu bar): return to the initial page displayed after logging in, which includes the option to view the register and make payments.
2. **My Hours:** view how many sessions your student's teachers have logged with your student for each class within a certain time frame. This shows class sessions (Single) as well as absences and total sessions. You may edit the dates for the time frame you'd like to view at "Display Hours."
3. **My Settings:** edit contact information and change your password.
4. **Archives:** see a list of courses your student has previously completed. This table includes the teacher, start date, end date, class sessions logged, the final grade, and (if available) progress reports for each course.
5. **My Transcript:** see an unofficial copy of your student's transcript. For full-time students, grades and courses from previous schools may be included. Grades from other schools are generally not listed for part-time students. The transcript includes a "Graduation Summary" table, with updated information about which requirements have been completed and which remain for graduation.
6. **FAQs:** view a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.
7. **Logout:** log yourself out of our database.

Student Access

Logging in:

1. Go to www.tildenprep.com/calendar.
2. Choose "Albany" or "Walnut Creek" from the "School" dropdown list.
3. Type in your user name: your first name, a space, and your last name, as written on your registration form.
4. Type in your password: the default password is your last name, all lowercase. You will be prompted to change this password after logging in for the first time.
5. Click "Go." This will take you to your Student Home Page.

From the Student Home Page:

1. You will see your class schedule and teachers' names.
2. Click on "Homework" (in red) to see all recent assignments listed by course for each date.
3. Click on "Progress" to see a teacher's progress reports, attendance records, homework assignments, and objectives completed (material covered/assessment mastered).
4. Click on "email" to obtain a teacher's email address.

Top menu bar:

1. **My Hours:** see how many sessions you've spent in class within a certain time frame. This shows absences as well as class sessions (Single).
2. **My Settings:** edit contact information and change your password.
3. **Archives:** see a list of courses you've previously completed with records of the teacher, start date, end date, number of class sessions and absences logged, the final grade, and (if available) progress reports for each course.
4. **My Transcript:** to see an unofficial copy of your transcript from Tilden. For full-time students, grades and courses from previous schools may be included. Grades from other schools are generally not listed for part-time students. The transcript includes a "Graduation Summary" table, with updated information about which requirements have been completed and which remain for graduation.
5. **FAQs:** view a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.
6. **Logout:** log yourself out of the database.

CAMPUS POLICIES

Academic Calendar

Tilden's academic calendar and holiday schedule are accessible on our website under "Academics".

Open Campus

Students are supervised during class. Unless parents request otherwise, students are not directly supervised before and after classes, during the ten -- or twenty -- minute passing periods between classes, or during the 45-minute lunch break.

Arrivals and Departures

Students are scheduled to be at school during classes in which they are enrolled. We use classrooms all day for instruction and so we ask that part-time students arrive at the beginning of their class and leave when they are finished, unless otherwise arranged by their parents with the Heads of School.

Starting Class on Time

Passing periods are for students to get their books and prepare for their next class. Students are welcome to bring food from home or buy food off campus during their lunch break. We ask that students be respectful of their teachers and other students by being on time for class after breaks and lunch.

Late Arrivals

Teachers will call parents if a student is more than 5 minutes late and will begin the session immediately upon the arrival of the student. You will be billed for the full session, even if the student never arrives.

Lunch

Lunch is scheduled from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. daily. Students may bring lunch from home or purchase food at nearby restaurants. Club meetings for full-time students occur during the lunch period. Please contact your campus administration for a club schedule.

Parking

Albany Campus

Street parking is available for 90 minutes on Solano Ave. Street parking is not allowed on either Evelyn or Talbot, the two cross streets nearest the school, or on Solano Avenue directly in front of the school. If your student drives to school, we ask that you inform us of the make, model, and license plate number for up to two vehicles they may be using.

Walnut Creek Campus

There are several paid and free parking options available for students.

Preparing for Class

Study Skills

We emphasize study skills, time management, and organization in all coursework. Students are asked to keep track of assignments and due dates and to build a body of completed work. Students and parents may also view assigned homework, class progress, completed objectives, and grades within the progress reporting system. For students who need support, we offer an Executive Functioning Skills Development course.

Class Materials

Please have your student bring the following to school:

- Notebooks and/or binders with lined paper
- Pen/Pencils/Highlighter
- Compass and Protractor (for Geometry)
- Index cards for flashcards
- Water bottle
- Student planner/date book (optional)

Textbooks and Paperback Books

Tilden will supply your student with the book(s) they need for their course(s) included in the registration fee. Due to limited on-campus quantities, we urge students to bring their books to school each day.

Personal Items

We encourage students to keep their belongings with them at all times. If a student is suspected of stealing, their backpack and pockets will be searched and, if the stolen item is found, they will be immediately suspended. Heads of School will determine the length of suspension and criteria for return on a case-by-case basis.

Lockers are not provided. Therefore, students should keep careful track of their personal belongings. Bicycles are not allowed in the building; bike racks are provided outside of the building for student use.

Cell Phone Usage

Tilden has a strict policy regarding cell phone use in school. Students may not use or take a cell phone out during class, and cell phones must remain in backpacks or with admin while students are taking tests. If these rules are not followed, the student's cell phone will be taken for the remainder of the day and a parent will be notified. On a third occurrence, a meeting will occur with the student and parents to determine the next steps.

In Study Hall, students are required to hand their cell phones to admin at the beginning of study hall and may only retrieve their phone at the end of the period. Students may listen to music on their phones but only if they have pre-set a playlist and are using bluetooth earbuds or headphones.

Computer Usage

Students are encouraged to use school laptops as a reference tool for preparing research papers, reports, or for other educational purposes. Computers are only available for students in Study Hall and are not available for accessing social networking sites, gaming, or recreational web surfing. Students may bring personal computers and connect to Tilden WiFi. Should the computer become a significant distraction during class or Study Hall, the student may be asked to put the computer away for the duration of the class period.

Google Accounts

We recommended that students create a Gmail Account in the event that they need to take classes remotely. Tilden only uses Google Meets for remote classes, which requires a Gmail login. Should there be technical difficulties on either end, the default expectation is to have an in-person class, or the missed class will be considered an absence or no show depending on the time of notification.

Students also frequently use Google Drive (GD) for writing assignments, projects, and presentations. When a student creates anything in GD for class, they must share it with their teacher for the duration of the course. Teachers may use GD to send documents, share materials, or edit work. Once the course is completed and hard copies have been printed of all assessments, students can remove teacher access.

Dress Code

Tilden students are expected to be appropriately dressed at all times. All students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming. School staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.

1. Clothes must be sufficient to conceal undergarments; pants that reveal undergarments may not be worn on campus.
2. Clothing should adequately provide coverage of your body including tops must meet bottoms and tops cannot be backless or have revealing holes or tears.
3. Clothes must not feature pictures, slogans, or graphics that demean any individual or group of people.
4. Clothing must not promote illegal practices, such as the use of illegal substances, including the consumption of alcohol.

If any student's dress or grooming is judged to be disruptive or inappropriate to the school's educational mission and program, they will be asked to speak to the Head of School. After three incidents of inappropriate dress, the student will be sent home for the day. Tilden will also institute a probationary period of one month, in which any further incident will result in the student being sent home for the day. Following completion of the probationary period, students will return to the three-warning system prior to being sent home.

Health and Safety

For the health and safety of our whole community, it is necessary to take proper precautions against the spread of illness. Students and teachers work in such close physical proximity and so it is imperative that students only attend school in person when they are well and free of any illness symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, or fever.

If a student does come to campus exhibiting illness or symptoms, they may be asked to leave campus and connect remotely; missed class time will be considered an absence or no show and charged appropriately. Additionally, promoting the safety of our school community may require the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE); all students are expected to comply with directives to be on campus.

If students are ill or exhibiting symptoms but can attend classes remotely, **please email the teacher and admin** before the start of class. Students will be sent a Google Meet link from their teacher as soon as possible.

Behavior Policies

All teaching and classroom activities are conducted with the utmost respect for all concerned. Teachers and staff are instructed to encourage behaviors that are conducive to learning and to build academic self-confidence among students. Safety is a must for all students and staff, both during and between classes. If the administration determines that a student is acting in a manner that places others at risk, they will take action to resolve the issue to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Due to Tilden's smaller student body, behavior problems outside of school can have a negative impact on student learning during school hours. These problems are rare but if such a circumstance arises, the first step is to talk with the student and parents and to develop a behavior contract outlining the needed changes. If a student's behavior, at or outside of school, continues to have an excessively disruptive impact on students during school hours, the student causing the disruption may be asked to complete their classes away from school.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Weapons

Tilden seeks to have campuses free from the influence and effects of chemical substances, including alcohol, illegal drugs, and abuse of controlled substances. The presence of any weapon on campus is a threat to school safety and is unacceptable. Therefore, consistent with the goal of providing a safe environment that best promotes learning:

1. Possessing, distributing, using, or otherwise facilitating the use of drugs, alcohol, or weapon(s) on campus or at a school event will lead to immediate suspension with the possibility of expulsion. This includes possession or use of medicine that is not prescribed to the student and/or distributing prescription medication to others.
2. Typically with the first offense, Tilden will suspend the student and require them to undergo a professional drug assessment or psychological review as a condition of remaining at Tilden. The family must sign a release permitting the Heads of School to exchange information with the professional performing the assessment and to receive results of the assessment and updates on treatment compliance.
3. Additional offenses will lead to one or more of the following: reassessment, increased

intervention, a longer period of suspension, or expulsion.

4. In addition to the above interventions, if the school has reason to believe or suspect that a student has been using drugs or alcohol or is in possession of a weapon at school, the school may search the student's person, backpack, or car. Tilden will cooperate with law enforcement in all investigations and will report to law enforcement any illegal activities on campus.

Tobacco and Vaping

Tilden Preparatory School has a strict no smoking/vaping policy. Students are not allowed to smoke or vape within a half mile of the school and are not allowed to smoke during school hours.

Cigarettes, vapes, e-cigarettes, and drug paraphernalia are not allowed on campus, even if the student is 18 years or older. If a student smells like smoke or e-cigarette vapor, we will check their backpack. Albany and Walnut Creek both have city ordinances against smoking in any public areas.

If a vape, e-cigarette, or cigarettes are found, or if the student is seen smoking in prohibited areas, we will give one warning. If there is a second offense, they will be placed in our **On-Campus Supervision** program and will be required to stay on campus during school hours for at least 30 days. After the third offense, students will be placed in our **Complete Supervision** program.

Social Media

Students and teachers may not connect on any social media platforms until the student has graduated from high school (Tilden or another school) and turned 18. If a student has connected with a teacher via any social media platform, they will immediately be required to disconnect (by unfollowing, unfriending, etc.) themselves from the teacher's social media account.

Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

We place a high priority on maintaining a kind and inclusive community. Therefore, we take a strong stance against bullying and harassment of any form.

Prohibition Against Bullying and Harassment

No student or group of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyber-bully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any Tilden student or school personnel on or off campus. This policy applies to educators, staff, students, parents, and volunteers.

Definition of Bullying and Harassment:

Can be written, verbal, or physical conduct that affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from school educational programs or activities by placing the student(s) in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm and/or because the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive.

These include conduct that is based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, or any other distinguishing characteristics or traits that may be included by the school. This also includes association with a person or group with one or more of the abovementioned characteristics, whether actual or perceived.

Reporting

All allegations (whether by students, staff or parents) of bullying or harassment shall be reported to the Head of School or member of the administration. School administration will be responsible for investigating the allegation in a timely manner and determining appropriate disciplinary action.

False Reports: Students who file false reports of bullying or harassment will be subject to disciplinary action.

Retaliation

Retaliation or threats of retaliation meant to intimidate the victim of bullying, harassment, or cyber-bullying or toward those investigating the incident will not be tolerated.

Discipline and Remediation

If a circumstance involving alleged bullying, harassment, or cyberbullying arises, the first step is to talk with the student and parents and to develop a behavior contract outlining the needed changes. Disciplinary actions for bullying and harassment may include but are not limited to, warnings, loss of opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities such as clubs, on-campus supervision, complete supervision, classes taken off campus, suspension, or expulsion, among others. Safety is a must for all students and staff, both during and between classes. If the administration determines that a student is acting in a manner that places others at risk, the administration will take action to resolve the problem to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Supervision Programs

On-Campus Supervision Program

Our On-Campus Supervision program is implemented when a student is having difficulty controlling behavior that has a negative impact on the school community. The program is generally implemented after a warning has been given, but can be implemented without a warning for serious infractions. It requires that the student stay on campus from the time their first class begins until the end of their last class. They may not leave campus for 30 days. If they do, they will be automatically switched to the Complete Supervision Program.

Complete Supervision Program

Though rarely needed, Complete Supervision provides a safe and successful educational experience for both the student and the school community. A parent will deliver the student directly to their first teacher of the day and pick them up in the same manner from their last teacher. Each teacher will stay with the student for a full 60 minutes and then deliver them directly to the next teacher. This plan ensures the student has the support necessary to maintain behavior consistent with school policies. At any point, administration may determine that the student and community will be better served by having the student take classes at home.

Complete Supervision will typically remain in effect for up to 30 days or until the administration believes the student can be removed from the program. If additional infractions occur after a student is released from Complete Supervision, it will be left to the administration to determine the next step.

Students enrolled in Complete Supervision will be charged an additional fee of \$25/session of instruction. If your student's schedule includes a lunch break and you elect not to pick up your student, you will be charged for supervision during lunch at the increased rate.

Program Fit

We find that almost all students who enroll at Tilden discover that they excel academically, socially and enjoy learning again. It is important to disclose all relevant factors during admissions to determine fit and best support your student. On rare occasions, the Tilden administration will express that our program is not the best fit for a particular student or family. If we feel this is the case, we will schedule a meeting and engage in a collaborative process. As part of the collaborative process, we will propose interventions that we think will make Tilden a better fit. If it is still determined that Tilden is not the best fit, we will provide the option of dis-enrolling your student and providing partial credit. We will also assist in placement to a different and more suitable program.

We look forward to helping your student enjoy learning and gain academic confidence and skills at Tilden.

