

## **Seniors from The Winston School, a College Preparatory Program for Students with Learning Differences, Accepted to 15 Colleges**

### ***Headmaster and Graduates Credit Success to Teachers' Individualized Approach and Ability to Keep Students Engaged***

Del Mar, Calif. (July 15, 2010) -- Seniors at [The Winston School](#) in Del Mar, a college preparatory program for students with learning differences in grades 4 through 12, have been accepted at 15 different colleges for the Fall 2010 semester. Each senior who applied at a two or four-year-school received at least one college acceptance.

According to the school's headmaster Mike Peterson, The Winston School teachers' unique, specialized focus on educating students with learning differences, as well as its diverse college prep curriculum and low student - teacher ratio of 8:1, has proven very successful. "Our teachers bring out the best in our kids. Through small classes, multi-sensory teaching and individual attention, we identify and develop natural gifts and nurture self-esteem."

One of the school's success stories is graduating senior Matthew Maichen. He began attending The Winston School his sophomore year after struggling in his previous school and seeking an environment where teachers believed in him and *expected* him to believe in himself. "I needed to be pushed. Even when I am pushed, I push myself. I have a strong drive to succeed and I credit the Winston School for not giving up on its students." He added, "The other school didn't expect anything from us but Winston is entirely different – they won't settle for anyone not succeeding, they want everyone to succeed."

He credits much of his success to the school's individualized approach of teaching each student in ways each can learn instead of through some systemized process. "It takes a lot for information to get into my head and the teachers helped me with this by using gestures, writing on the board, and covering all the bases. Sometimes I got confused and the teachers took time to assess my problems with learning the material. They asked how they could make this easier to understand and they tried to teach it in a way I would understand."

When fellow graduating senior Jasmine Smith first visited the school at the end of seventh grade, she didn't realize she could even like school, let alone love it. Struggling with Asperger's and shunned by fellow students in her middle school, she never envisioned having friends, working on school plays, or going to the prom. Five years later, she's graduating from Winston and heading to college having experienced all of these simple life pleasures -- including the love of learning.

"After my bad experiences in middle school, I hated any type of school, any social gatherings. I was afraid of rejection and backstabbing." She said that all changed when she started at Winston. "It's a smaller community and it took me a little bit to get used to it --- there were more teachers that were inclined to help individuals. They let me see that I can actually do some of the stuff I never thought I could."

When graduate Bo Bockman enters the California College of the Arts (CCA) this fall, it will only be the third school he has ever attended. After starting at The Winston School in kindergarten, Bo tested a couple of other schools before returning to Winston in the seventh grade. He credits the school with preparing him for life, fueling his love for art, and prompting him to pursue a career in industrial design.

CCA awarded the 18-year-old with a merit scholarship based on creative achievement with an emphasis on academics. He'll be joining several other previous Winston graduates who now attend CCA – a reflection of how The Winston School "doesn't generate anyone who doesn't think creatively."

He said he feels The Winston School has been a good fit for him and other students with learning differences because of its individualized approach to education. "The school is good at promoting teacher / student communication and in keeping kids engaged in what they are doing. It's all about taking a different approach from the norm and seeing if you can make it work."

Seniors have been accepted at Arizona State University; California College of the Arts; California State University, Channel Islands; Humboldt State University; Long Beach State University; California State University, Monterey; California State University, Northridge; Sonoma State University; Grossmont College; Mills College; Miracosta College; Miramar College; Palomar College; Pennsylvania State University; and Rochester Institute of Technology.

## ABOUT THE WINSTON SCHOOL

[The Winston School](#) is a college preparatory program which offers hope and success for children with learning differences in grades 4 through 12. A group of pediatricians and parents in San Diego founded the school in 1988 for bright children whose needs were not being met in traditional school settings. The school is the only college preparatory school in San Diego County that provides education to an equal mix of privately enrolled and publicly funded students placed by the school district. Students such as those struggling with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADD, ADHD, specific learning disabilities or learning disorders, nonverbal learning disorders and slow maturation find what they need in the school's small, safe and caring environment. By incorporating small classes, multi-sensory teaching methods and individual attention, the school's faculty works together to help students fulfill their academic, physical, artistic, social and emotional potential. Since opening in 1988, The Winston School has educated nearly a thousand students, preparing them for college and for the working world. Scholarships are available. The Winston School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school is located at 215 Ninth St., Del Mar, Calif., 92014. Those interested in receiving information can email [jenniferf@thewinstonschool.com](mailto:jenniferf@thewinstonschool.com) or call the school at 858-259-8155.

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