

Middle School Overview



The Middle School, which consists of grades six, seven, and eight, is marked by milestone years when young people enter their adolescence, assume more responsibility, and acquire various skills that will prepare them for high school. At Millwood School, middle school students are encouraged to grow both academically and socially in a supportive environment. As the students' minds and bodies develop, they are challenged intellectually through a well-designed curriculum that reaches out to pupils with various learning styles. Students follow Millwood's BIG TEN Code of Conduct which fosters good moral values. Visitors walking the halls of the middle school are impressed by the sheer energy, spirit, and good manners

exhibited by the middle schoolers. The Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Round Square IDEALS, clubs, field trips, and various sports teams further enhance the curriculum. In addition, each student belongs to an Advisory class which meets to engage in activities designed to develop and enrich the whole individual. The middle school is truly a community of students, parents, and teachers who are dedicated to the growth of each student.



Language Arts

The language arts teachers at Millwood share a common goal: to ensure that students are fluent readers, strong writers, competent speakers, discerning researchers, and critical thinkers. Students will read and analyze a variety of genres, including novels, plays, nonfiction, poetry, and nonprint media. In addition to studying the narrative structure, students will increase their understanding of figurative language and themes while supporting their inferences with textual evidence. Students will continue to 1) expand on prior vocabulary skills and continuously develop vocabulary through a study of figurative language, connotations, and an ongoing study of roots, affixes, and cognates, 2) refine written composition skills, with special attention to word choice, organization, style, structure, and grammar, and 3) develop oral communication skills as they become more knowledgeable of the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in oral communication. Students become more independent, self-sufficient, and analytical, leading to a solid understanding of writing and reading techniques to serve as a foundation for upper school.



Physical Education

The middle school physical education program focuses more on large group activities and sports. Students will learn to manipulate objects with accuracy and speed, work cooperatively to achieve common goals, meet challenges, make effective decisions, and work as a team to create strategies and solve problems.

Mathematics

The middle school mathematics curriculum is a comprehensive one that further strengthens those essential foundational skills acquired in previous years, while concurrently introducing the student to those concepts required to be successful in higher-level math classes. Presented material includes initial and higher-level algebraic and geometric reasoning concepts and the ongoing inclusion of real-world examples to help students gain a comprehensive understanding of where math lessons fit into their daily lives. Integration of STEAM concepts (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) is a regular part of this curriculum. The mathematics program offers the following courses: Math 6, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Geometry.

Social Studies

The middle school social studies program focuses on global studies. Grade 6 focuses on geography, history, and cultures of Europe and Australia. Grade 7 concentrates on geography, history, and cultures of Central and South America. Grade 8 studies the geography, history, and cultures of Asia and Africa. Students engage in a variety of activities and projects designed to strengthen critical thinking skills and foster increased awareness of world events, both past and present.

Science

The middle school science curriculum uses an integrated approach. Life sciences, physical sciences, and earth sciences are interwoven through the curriculum in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. By doing so, students are exposed to the interconnectedness of the science disciplines and are better able to connect what they learn in class to how they interact with the world around them. An emphasis is placed on hands-on, experiential activities in order to instill a sense of excitement and wonder for science. Learning is enhanced through the middle school interdisciplinary topics, field trips, and class projects. Additionally, emphasis is placed on the IB Learner Profile and MYP Approaches to Learning and how these are connected to science learning. The middle school science department consists of two well-equipped science labs.



At Millwood School, we don't simply provide knowledge. We inspire it. We are a Junior Kindergarten - Grade 12, college preparatory, co-ed independent day school.

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Middle School Overview

Technology & STEAM

Millwood School strives to provide relevant and challenging instruction in design and technology. Technology plays a vital role in our lives and encompasses many skills that we use every day and into the future. Our students arrive with a basic understanding of computers and technology, and in sixth grade, we enhance that understanding through an in-depth analysis of the design process and exposure to basic engineering concepts in MYP Design. Seventh-grade students will be challenged with an introduction to computer-aided design and how these tools are used to design everything from footbridges to skyscrapers. Eighth-grade students have the option to focus on digital design through coding with Computer Science Discoveries or a more engineering-focused curriculum through our partnership with Project Lead The Way (PLTW) where students will study Green Architecture, the Science of Technology, and Magic of Electrons.

Art

At the middle school level, an appreciation for art and art history is combined with the basic principles of creating art. Students learn to express their developing creativity through fundamental artistic experiences and structured lessons. Through critiques and classroom discussions, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while exploring various media and artistic techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and three-dimensional work. Art is also integrated whenever possible into other content areas to further enhance their learning.

Fine Arts: Students also have the option to take chorus and/or drama.

World Language

The world language program offers instruction in Latin, Spanish and French. Grade 6 students complete an exploratory year in world languages to broaden their understanding of language. This exploratory year also helps them decide which language they would like to focus on in the following years. Grade 8 students choose either French or Spanish. After taking their chosen language in grade 8, students receive upper school credit for that target language. The goal of the program is to provide an enriched environment where each student develops a basic level of competence in the target language. Cultural appreciation enhances the instruction. Students expand their cultural perspective of the rich diversity of the Hispanic and Francophone peoples through integration with other disciplines and creative projects.



Grade Level Highlights

6th Grade

FIRST Robotics
Coding
European Cafe Day
French Crepes Cooking Class
Original Greek Tragedy Performances
Day of the Dead Traditions

7th Grade

FIRST Robotics
Bridge Building
Kings Dominion Coaster Competition
Greek Gods and Goddesses Day
Persuasive Essay Project
Day of the Dead Traditions
Wilderness Adventure

8th Grade

FIRST Robotics
Engineering Project and Competition
Kings Dominion Engineering Days
Green Architecture
European Cafe Day
Conference Abroad with Round Square
Worldstrides Trip Abroad
Day of the Dead Traditions
Wallops Island Field Trip

Community Events

Advisory and Enrichment
STEAM Day
International Day
Pi Day
National French and Spanish Exams
House Games
Service Days
Earth Day

James River Ecology School
Career Day
Socials
Team Sports
Movie Nights
Holiday Celebrations
Monday Morning Meeting Presentations
Round Square Global Collaborations

Weekly Clubs
Buddies Program
Art Field Trip
Artsonia

Millwood
— School —

Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.