Our Global Curriculum
Washington, DC Campus

Middle School

Whittle
SCHOOL & STUDIOS
Middle School

Middle School students are beginning to make critical and complex life choices and are forming the attitudes, values, and dispositions that will direct their behavior as adults. They deserve an education that will enhance their healthy growth as lifelong students, ethical and democratic citizens, and increasingly competent, self-sufficient individuals who are optimistic about the future and prepared to succeed in our ever-changing world.

Our Middle School approach is based on the pedagogy that every child:

- Has the capacity to learn, grow, and develop into a knowledgeable, reflective, caring, ethical, and contributing citizen.
- Must have access to the very best programs and practices.
- Must be engaged in learning that is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory.
- Faces significant life choices and needs support in making wise and healthy decisions.
- Thrives academically, socially, and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where trust and respect are paramount, and where family and community are actively involved.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SAMPLE SCHEDULE***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>FOCUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:20-10:05 a.m.</td>
<td>Language &amp; Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05-10:20 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20-11:20 a.m.</td>
<td>STEM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:25-12:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05-12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:50-1:35 p.m.</td>
<td>Acceleration</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:40-2:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
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*Middle School students have three hours of physical education per week

“The Middle School years are focused on unlocking human potential. Our goals are ambitious and are centered around cultivating empathy, emotional intelligence, self-motivation, global awareness, social justice, confidence, and optimism within every student.”

— MAREK BECK, PH.D.
HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
WASHINGTON, DC CAMPUS
Teachers meet each student’s needs based on readiness, interests, and learning profile.

Students are allowed to learn by doing while reflecting and refining their processes and products.

Acknowledgment that the way to prepare our students to be global citizens is to recognize, incorporate, and nurture the unique differences and similarities of our cultures.

Develops empathic thinkers who can take increased ownership over their learning.

A focus on essential content and skills, allowing for deeper mastery within and across disciplines.

Learning is more engaging, collaborative, and meaningful, allowing students to develop deep content knowledge through the investigation of real-world problems.
INTERDISCIPLINARY BLOCKS

• HUMANITIES
Identity and community are central themes in the minds of young adolescents and are central themes present in our Middle School humanities courses. Other humanities themes are inextricably linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 6th Grade-Good Health & Well-Being, 7th Grade-Reduced Inequalities, and 8th Grade-Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions. Throughout our studies, students are engaged in deep inquiry by examining history, ethics, and geography through a case-study approach of analyzing topics, themes, problems, and issues. The humanities courses are also where students receive more sophisticated reading instruction within a wide variety of genre, and strengthen their skills to be highly effective communicators in both written and oral forms.

• STEM
The STEM program seeks to cultivate and deepen each student’s innate curiosity about the natural and man-made world. To keep alive the spirit of inquiry, we design learning experiences around open-ended questions and exploration of phenomena. We believe that the purposeful integration of science disciplines, technology, engineering, and mathematics creates the conditions for deep exploration of the world, and that hands-on engagement with the skills and practices of these disciplines is essential for our students. We further believe that interrogating the world through the concepts and tools of STEM is but one mode of inquiry, and that truly authentic and meaningful learning must be interdisciplinary and foster students’ abilities to make connections across the many domains of human experience. Above all, we believe that the investigation of the world by students and teachers must be suffused with joy, rigor, critical thinking, and optimism.

TECHNOLOGY IN STEM
Today’s students must be prepared to thrive in a constantly evolving technological landscape. Academic technology at Whittle School & Studios supports our mission by providing students with the digital resources to think critically about the world as it is, and to imagine the world as it could be. Technology provides our students with a platform to pursue their innovative and creative instincts, and the means to collaborate and work together to solve local and global challenges. In addition, new digital tools allow for a more personalized and experiential education that utilizes students’ diverse learning styles and curiosities. Our school will encourage students to consider the responsibilities and obligations of the use of technology globally, and the notion of “digital citizenship.” Our students will develop a set of social, emotional, and cognitive abilities to achieve a healthy balance to the demands of digital life.

• CREATIVE ARTS & DESIGN
Our arts program emphasizes visual arts, performing arts, and media arts. Students will be able to take up to three different elective courses within the same academic year. Each student will have three hours of Creative Arts and Design Studio (CAD) per week. In addition to having full-time art teachers, we are collaborating with some of the best arts and design organizations throughout Washington, DC to further enhance our program, giving our students unique access to world-class professionals.

MASTERY BANDS

• MATH
Our mastery-based program seeks to develop sophisticated and flexible
mathematical thinkers who understand both the power and limitations of mathematics as a tool to describe and make sense of the world. True mathematical sophistication requires creative, critical, and logical thinking. Students in our program go beyond basic skill development and fluency to master computational thinking, mathematical modeling, problem seeking and solving, data analysis and visualization, reasoning and logic, financial literacy, and creative expression through mathematics. Above all, they partake of the joy and wonder of using math to create, collaborate, communicate, and think critically about the world around them.

• LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Cultural competencies are central to our mission. Our program is designed to teach children about world languages and culture, using language as a tool for gaining insight into cultural beliefs and practices as well as for communication. The goal is to enable students to actively and comfortably participate in a world language cultural environment. In addition to Spanish or Chinese, students may also take any other language of choice in coordination with our Studios offerings. Opportunities for full cultural immersion exist through our Global Rotation program that will be available for students starting in the eighth grade. Course offerings provide a range of experience and exposure to languages, from novices to heritage speakers.

ADVISORY

With the exception of X-Days, students gather in Advisory every day for 35 minutes per meeting. The emphasis of this time focuses on academic support coupled with an intentional social-emotional curriculum. Advisory time includes one-on-one meetings with the advisor, self-reflection through journaling, team-building exercises, open conversations on topics related to social and emotional development, personal interest projects, goal setting and monitoring, and coordinating best uses for our daily personalized Acceleration classes.

• ACCELERATION
With the exception of X-Days, students are in a personalized Acceleration class every day. This is dedicated time for students to work one-on-one with teachers, either to address gaps in foundational knowledge and practice core skills, or to enrich learning and pursue individualized study of topics in greater depth. This time is completely personalized to meet the needs of each student.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All Middle School students will have three 60-minute physical education classes per week. In addition, students may participate in our athletics program. A diverse range of athletic offerings will be available to students. Based on interest and enrollment, we will offer the following: soccer, fencing, rock climbing, badminton, cross country, squash, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, basketball, track and field, personal fitness training and more.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Beginning in the 8th grade, students are eligible to take advantage of our residential life program. Our five- and seven-day boarding options give students the opportunity to immerse themselves fully within the culture of the school. They will have opportunities to develop deep relationships with their peers and the residential faculty through social activities during the evenings and weekends.