MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2021 – 2022
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PHILOSOPHY

The Middle School curriculum reaches for a balance academically, socially, physically, and morally and is based on the wide variety of developmental changes found in our students between Fifth and Eighth Grades. We foster an ethical framework in our students that includes both personal and community responsibility. Emphasis is placed upon critical and analytical thinking skills and individual expression in each discipline. The students look to their teachers as facilitators to guide them as they learn the value of cooperation and technology throughout the student-centered curriculum.

Students are introduced to Social Impact courses in each grade. These directly align with the four pillars of community engagement, community service, service learning, and social entrepreneurship that define the Institute for Social Impact. In the context of their curriculum, these courses emphasize real-world experiences and outcomes such as strong advocacy skills, increased community interactions, and hands-on practice in designing solutions, while exploring purpose and building empathy. The combination of the Social Impact experiences, educational tools and knowledge the students gain will develop them into lifelong learners with an intense curiosity and the self-assurance that a challenge presents an opportunity for growth. The Middle School curriculum is designed to accommodate each individual student’s unique academic journey as they develop academically, socially, and emotionally.
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

ENGLISH/WRITING

FIFTH GRADE
In the Fifth Grade, girls read novels with strong female characters and engage themes such as friendship, courage, respect, resilience, and acceptance. By analyzing character and plot and synthesizing what they read about incidents in their own lives, students gain reading competency as well as empathy. Entries in Writer’s Notebook, which are based on student readings, provide opportunities for students to develop focus, unity, and precise word choice through major writing assignments addressing personal narrative, poetry, and short stories. An independent reading program encourages students to choose texts from all literary genres to facilitate additional pleasure and confidence. Literature also provides the basis for word study, supplemented by systematic vocabulary instruction. Instruction in grammar, punctuation, and mechanics enables students to construct sentences intentionally, proofread accurately, and speak effectively.

SIXTH GRADE
Sixth Grade girls focus on the development of critical-thinking strategies. As a Social Impact course, students examine literature selections addressing the themes of tolerance, courage, friendship, and family. When students read about lives and experiences of other strong females, texts serve as a window for students to discover purpose and empowerment to put their creative ideas into action to serve their community. Students analyze characters, explain motivations, make predictions, draw conclusions, and examine points of view. Writing assignments include quick writes, Writer’s Notebook entries, creative stories, personal narratives, formal literary responses, and poetry—all of which encourage a sound understanding of the mechanics of writing and grammar. Students brainstorm ideas, use an outline or graphic organizer, write multiple drafts, and revise in class. To read with greater comprehension and clarity, students study vocabulary through the literature they read and in a separate vocabulary workbook.

SEVENTH GRADE
Seventh Grade girls explore themes such as coming of age, personal-awareness and growth, tolerance and discrimination in classic short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. By analyzing elements of literature, students gain perspective on the lives of others and connect the importance of word choice to understanding themes. Writing assignments consist of short analytical, expository, descriptive pieces of poetry, and creative stories. The writing process begins with free writing and brainstorming, followed by multiple drafts, peer support, and individual conferencing with teachers. Girls study grammar and syntax in context to appreciate more sophisticated sentence structures and to develop advanced writing skills. Literature also provides the basis for word study supplemented by systematic vocabulary instruction.

EIGHTH GRADE
Eighth Grade girls read both classic and modern short stories, novels, and poetry, and drama illustrating themes of identity, friendship, family, and community. Students write short and long analytical, descriptive, expository, and narrative pieces, creative stories, and poetry as they advance toward more complex literary analysis and depth of voice and style. Writing begins with individual free writing and brainstorming, followed by revision of multiple drafts and conferencing with teachers and peers in a cooperative classroom community. As a Social Impact course, students will explore the ways in which history and lived experiences help us navigate personal and community challenges, change, and grow, and in turn how writing allows us to process and express these changes in us and the world around us. Girls study grammar and syntax in context to develop more sophisticated writing strategies, modeling grammatical techniques used by accomplished authors to learn how to vary their writing. Literature also provides the basis for word study, supplemented by systematic vocabulary instruction.
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FINE ARTS
The goals of the Middle School Fine Arts program are to foster innovative, creative self-expression, to build skills, to expose each girl to multiple ways of making and experiencing art, and to promote the self-esteem of each student.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE OVERVIEW
Students entering the Fifth and Sixth Grades are exposed to a variety of arts courses that are taken over a two-year period. Fifth and Sixth Grade students will complete classes in Drama, Dance, Art, Storytelling through Digital Media, Fine Arts Flex, and Music. In addition to course and media-specific programming, the Hockaday Middle School Fine Arts curriculum incorporates cross-discipline subject content.

DRAMA
In the Fifth and Sixth Grade Drama classes, students study the principles of acting and begin to understand traditional theatrical conventions. Through rehearsal and informal class presentations, students begin to discover the uses of all theatrical elements. This drama course allows the student to experience working knowledge of the theater and to create an interest in dramatic art. Daily classwork consists of exercises in voice and diction, stage movement, acting, blocking, and characterization.

DANCE
During Fifth and Sixth Grades, Dance class is an overview of ballet, modern, and jazz dance styles. The curriculum builds introductory principles of dance structure and terminology through daily technique classes. Additionally, an exploration of movement and creativity will be included through improvisation and dance history components.

STUDIO ART
Fifth and Sixth Grade Studio Art provides a variety of opportunities for creative problem-solving. Using the context of art history with masterworks serving as an inspiration to explore a wide array of materials and processes, students learn and practice unifying design principles. In both grade levels, students address ideas, activities, and projects on conceptual and practical levels. Visual art assignments are designed to help the student gain an understanding of concepts and processes through visual thinking strategies and hands-on exploration. This is done in an environment that encourages the development of their imagination while challenging them to observe the world around them. Effective visual communication, discovering their personal voices and developing a spoken vocabulary to describe what is made and seen will be major focal points for each student in the studio.

STORYTELLING THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA
In the Fifth Grade Storytelling through Digital Media class, students engage in hands-on exploration. In this introductory course, students focus on Photoshop as a vehicle to create original multi-media and animated stories for the screen. In the Sixth Grade Storytelling through Digital Media class, students build on the experiences and skills acquired during fifth grade. In this foundation-level course, students expand their Photoshop skills and use video editing software to create original multi-media and animated stories for the screen.

FINE ARTS FLEX
Students will explore mindfulness practices, creative expression, and social impact and social justice projects with Fine Arts focus.

MUSIC
Fifth and Sixth Grade music empowers students to become 21st-century global citizens and leaders through the beauty, creativity, and collaboration of music-making. This course uses the nationally known Music Memory program to introduce students to traditional western music literature and composers. Essential music skills will be presented through interdisciplinary projects, interactive technology applications, and other innovative, hands-on pedagogy. Through this course, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the key music elements of the Western canon as well as hone their creativity, collaboration, and artistry.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE OVERVIEW
Students entering the Seventh and Eighth grades are exposed to a variety of art courses that are taken over a two-year period. Each student will complete seven courses from the following Fine Arts categories: Studio Art, Ceramics, Storytelling through Digital Media, Drama, Technical Theatre, Guitar, Music, and Debate.
VISUAL ARTS

STUDIO ART: PRINTMAKING
The Seventh Grade printmaking curriculum focuses on refining studio skills while working to develop higher level thinking and to sustain open creativity through the practice of varied printmaking processes. Through hands-on engagement, historical examples, and teacher-led demonstrations, students develop a personal visual narrative while working from observation, memory, and imagination. The curriculum emphasizes that the girls use studio and art-specific vocabulary to address meaning, form, and function about their own creations.

PHOTOGRAPHY
The Eighth Grade course in Photography provides a technical and design-based curriculum in which students use traditional and alternative dark room and digital processes to explore ideas of aesthetics, self-expression, socially engaged practices, creative problem solving and effective visual communication. Decision making and the development of a shared vocabulary to describe what each student is making and seeing will be integrated throughout all projects. Projects are introduced through art historical references, examples, and teacher demonstrations. Each assignment is designed to be creatively challenging while still being developmentally appropriate.

STORYTELLING THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA
The Seventh and Eighth Grade Storytelling through Digital Media class engages students in hands-on exploration. Building on the skills acquired during Fifth and Sixth Grade Storytelling Through Digital Media courses, students create original multi-media, animated, and live-action stories for the screen.
PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA
The drama class studies the principles of acting and begins to understand traditional theatrical conventions. Through rehearsal and informal class presentations, students begin to discover the uses of all theatrical elements. This drama course allows the student to experience a working knowledge of the theater and to create an interest in dramatic art. Daily classwork consists of exercises in voice and diction, stage movement, acting, blocking, and characterization.

TECHNICAL THEATER - TOY THEATER
The Seventh Grade Technical Theater class will study the principles of technical theatre, which include lights, costumes, scenery, sound, and performance. Students will be introduced to traditional theater elements through the construction and implementation of a Toy Theater production. Working on a miniature scale theater will allow the students to produce a play, design the sets and costumes, and create their own sound effects. The class will perform a play, which will be based on a folk or fairy tale of their choosing. This will give the students a chance to experience the “backstage” process from the beginning to the end of a theatrical production.

SHADOW THEATER
The Eighth Grade Shadow Theater class will study the principles of technical theatre, which include lights, costumes, scenery, sound, and performance. Students will be introduced to traditional theater elements through the construction and implementation of a Shadow Theater production. Working on a miniature scale shadow theatre production will allow the students to produce a play, design the sets and costumes, and create their own sound effects. The class will perform a play, which will be based on a folk or fairy tale of their choosing. This will give the students a chance to experience the “backstage” process from the beginning to the end of a theatrical production.

GUITAR
Seventh and Eighth Grade Guitar will focus on developing a fundamental understanding of the techniques of playing acoustic guitar, including tuning, chord structure, hand positions, and strumming patterns. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of music theory and harmonic progressions and developing an ability to read sheet-style music. The course will culminate in a performance for their peers. This class gives the students a chance to gain a deeper understanding of how music is structured in a creative and “hands-on” way.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND AUDIO STORYTELLING
The Music Technology and Audio Storytelling course equips students with basic skills to create music in Digital Audio Workstation Programs. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of music theory while examining the use of music and sound effects in film. They will use these storytelling devices to create their own audio dramas and learn the basic skills to create music in Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) programs.

MUSIC
Music continues to prepare our students as 21st-century global citizens and leaders through the beauty, creativity, and collaboration of music-making. In addition to learning about traditional western music literature and composers, students will also study the music of diverse cultures and styles from around the globe and from different periods of music history. Students will use the technology-based, innovative, and interactive composition program Breezin’ thru Composing along with software such as MuseScore to develop their music composition skills and creativity. By combining traditional music-making skills with best-in-class software programs and technology, students will not only gain a better appreciation and understanding of the musical canon but learn to create their own artistic pieces as well.

DEBATE
Through a variety of hands-on activities, Seventh and Eighth Grade students are introduced to the basics of effective communication and persuasive argumentation. Students learn about public speaking basics while improving their verbal and nonverbal presentation skills. Student will research, organize, and participate in a debate on a current meaningful issue. Each student is asked to critically analyze information while preparing her case, to defend her ideas in rebuttal, and to refute the logic of an opposing viewpoint.
HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW
Middle School Social Studies provides a background of history as students make connections with names, places and events. The students learn to appreciate the cultures of today as they explore the past which shaped them. Research skills are encouraged through reports and projects as students gather information and draw conclusions. All forms of communication — oral, written, and multimedia — are fostered as the student presents her ideas to the class.

FIFTH GRADE
Fifth Grade uses a geography-based curriculum designed to explore major world regions. Using the five themes of geography (location, place, region, movement, and interaction), students use geographic tools, ideas, and vocabulary to study continental areas. These regions allow students to discover how to use a spatial perspective to think about the world and to discover how physical settings influence people, and vice versa. As a Social Impact course, students examine the interaction of humans with the natural world, and the impact that occurs. Students learn that cultures develop independently, but people are connected through cultural exchange brought by trade and conflict. Throughout the course, students analyze human-environment interactions and develop a deeper understanding of motivations to build empathy. The intent is to foster a broader understanding of the world.

SIXTH GRADE
Sixth Grade is designed to present an early history of the United States. It emphasizes the English settlements of North America and then examines the independence of the Thirteen Colonies and the writing of the Constitution. The course continues with the study of the Westward Movement, the growth of urban centers in the North, and the agricultural economy of the South. Significant attention is given to the Civil War and Reconstruction Era culminating with an overview of the Civil Rights Movement. Students practice notetaking, reading comprehension, outlining and essay writing, and critical thinking and analysis throughout the year. Students are encouraged to see the interrelationship of cultural, political, and economic developments and their effect on the modern world.

SEVENTH GRADE
Seventh Grade studies the ancient river valley civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt, including the early empires of Assyria, Babylon and Persia concluding with the history of Judaism. Subsequently, the curriculum focuses on Ancient India and China and the importance of the Silk Road, which is examined up to the early medieval period, including work on the Mongol empire. The course concludes with a study of Early American cultures. Throughout, the overarching question of change through time pervades. Writing and presentation skills are emphasized, along with geography and chronology. Current events are integrated into the curriculum to allow students to make connections between the past and the present.

EIGHTH GRADE
How identity is formed and how order is maintained provides themes for Eighth Grade to continue studying world history. The course focuses on the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome, continues with the Byzantine and Islamic Empires, and concludes with Medieval Europe, ending in 1453. The curriculum acquaints students with famous people and events, affording the opportunity for in-depth analysis, discussion, and the practice of skills in studying critical thinking, and writing. Students examine maps and timelines and consult primary sources to construct their understanding of a past whose legacy is still current. Current events are integrated into each unit of study, most particularly into the Islamic portion, giving students insight into the challenging issues of our world today. The course encourages creativity in presentations while providing, at the same time, practice in writing skills. Sustaining an argument in an essay is a major goal.
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

MATHEMATICS

OVERVIEW
Middle School mathematics can be fundamental to a child's overall mathematical experience because it is a time to solidify computation with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, percents, and build on problem-solving skills developed in earlier grades. Because of the developmental differences inherent in the Middle School ages, the program focuses on various pedagogical approaches. The Mathematics Department is sensitive to students developing formal and logical thinking skills at different rates. The teachers set realistic goals while maintaining a challenging environment through various experiences. Emphasis is placed on logical thinking, risk-taking, and problem solving through the use of manipulatives, visual aids, calculators, computers, and cooperative learning experiences. Differentiated instruction is used each year to accommodate a wide range of academic abilities and learning styles.

FIFTH GRADE
Fifth Grade solidifies their computation skills with whole numbers and work toward mastery of fraction, mixed number, decimal, and integer operations. Key concepts include ratio, proportion, percent, measurement (metric and customary), estimation, number theory, geometry, data analysis, and probability. Applications of mathematics and the correct use of the vocabulary of mathematics are stressed. Learning through the use of manipulatives is an integral part of Fifth Grade mathematics. Big Ideas Math: A Bridge to Success Advanced I provides opportunities for daily analysis of data, perception of patterns, exploration and mathematical relationships, and communication of ideas and thinking. Students also begin to explore spreadsheets and their operations throughout the year.

SIXTH GRADE
This course is designed to foster the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking. Sixth Grade solidifies their computation skills with fractions, decimals, percents, and integers. Concepts introduced include orders of operations, ratio, proportion, probability, exponents, square roots, variables, and solving simple equations and inequalities. Geometric studies include the Pythagorean Theorem, perimeter, area, volume, and surface area. The correct use of mathematical vocabulary is stressed. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving using mental mathematics whenever possible and estimating the reasonableness of answers.

SEVENTH GRADE - INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS
This is an integrated program that incorporates content not only from algebra but also from numbers and operations, geometry, proportional reasoning, data interpretation, probability, and statistics. The goal of this course is to continue the shift from concrete thinking to the more abstract. Students will continue to explore many of the topics introduced in sixth-grade math, such as integer operations, proportion, percent, probability, and geometry. In addition, students are exposed to a wide variety of abstract topics such as more advanced work with equations and inequalities, functions, polynomials, operations involving positive and negative exponents, graphing linear equations, and simple proofs. To aid students in their understanding of these algebraic topics, the curriculum is infused with opportunities for students to use a graphing calculator (TI-84 Plus), computer applications such as spreadsheets, manipulatives, and rich group discussions.

EIGHTH GRADE - INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS
This is an integrated program that incorporates content not only from algebra but also from numbers and operations, geometry, proportional reasoning, data interpretation, probability, and statistics. The focus is on developing and strengthening algebraic thinking, conceptual understanding, and basic skills. The course will emphasize symbolic, graphing, and tabular representations of information and data. Manipulatives and calculators (TI-84 Plus) are used to support content learning. Upon completion of the course, each student will be evaluated for placement in their next math course.
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & WELLNESS

OVERVIEW
Health and fitness are major components of the curriculum in Middle School. The emphasis begins with health and wellness and individual and team sports. It shifts to fitness, and nontraditional and lifetime activities. Many new activities are introduced, providing students with opportunities to evaluate and increase fitness levels, transfer, and use skills in new and diverse ways, and enjoy greater variety. Middle School is a time when students are faced with rapid emotional change and many decision-making opportunities. Students work during health rotations to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their well-being for a lifetime.

FIFTH GRADE
In Fifth Grade, the focus is on physical activity, health, fitness and safety. Team and individual sports and activities include aquatics, basketball, cooperative games, cricket, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, table tennis, track-and-field, and volleyball. Students learn positions, rules, and refinement of manipulative skills in sports activities. Small-sided team games include Fifth Grade Olympics and Green & White Competition Field Day.

SIXTH GRADE
In Sixth Grade, the focus is on physical activity, health, fitness and safety. Team and individual sports and activities include aquatics, badminton, basketball, cooperative games, cricket, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, team handball, track-and-field, and volleyball. Students learn gameplay and refinement of sport-specific skills. Small-sided team games include Green & White Competition Field Day.

SEVENTH GRADE
In Seventh Grade, the focus is on physical activity, health, fitness and safety. Team sports, individualized activities, games and skills include aerobics, badminton, basketball, cricket, field hockey, flag football, games, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, team handball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Students learn gameplay and advanced skill development, specific game strategies and advanced rules. Full-sided team games include Green & White Competition Field Day.

SEVENTH GRADE ATHLETICS
Fall: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Volleyball
Winter: Basketball, Soccer, Swimming
Spring: Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field

EIGHTH GRADE
In Eighth Grade, the focus is on safety certifications, including First Aid, CPR, and AED, and fitness and physical activity, including an introduction to the Fitness Center equipment. Students learn individualized activities, games and skills. Small-sided team games include Green & White Competition Field Day.

EIGHTH GRADE ATHLETICS
Fall: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Volleyball
Winter: Basketball, Soccer, Swimming
Spring: Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, Track-and-Field
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SCIENCE

OVERVIEW
The science courses in Middle School engage students with learner-centered lessons that encourage them to observe nature directly and be active participants in testing their ideas through hands-on, minds-on activities. Students look at the Earth around us as being divided into four layers or spheres: the solid layer (lithosphere), the liquid layer (hydrosphere), the gaseous layer (atmosphere), and the living layers (biosphere). These “spheres of influence” are represented in the parts of the Earth developed and evolved over the course of billions of years and are still changing today. Students explore the interrelationships between these layers in the context of the Earth as a system made up of interconnected parts. The science curriculum in the Middle School prepares students for increasingly independent scientific inquiry in Upper School.

FIFTH GRADE – THE LITHOSPHERE
Fifth Grade students seek to understand better how dynamic processes within the Earth impact the form and structure of the surface of the Earth, as well as ecosystems and human activities. Through experiments focused on the concepts of density and magnetism and the investigation of minerals and rocks, students model the physical properties and chemical composition of the interior and surface of the Earth. Students learn about how energy from within the Earth drives plate tectonics and evaluate the evidence for plate tectonics. They also investigate how earthquakes and volcanoes impact flora, fauna, and human society. Scientific inquiry is a key component of this course and provides a framework from which concepts are addressed. The practice of laboratory skills is incorporated into all units, and other STEM skills, including engineering design and coding, are purposefully integrated throughout the curriculum.

SIXTH GRADE – THE HYDROSphere
Sixth Grade students study water in its various forms on the surface of the Earth. They learn about the abundance of water on Earth and the scarcity of freshwater, and how it impacts human society. They will investigate factors that make water move in predictable ways through Earth systems. Through models, observations, and student-designed investigations, students discover the polar nature of the water molecule. Using water as the context, students explore foundational concepts in chemistry and biology. Scientific inquiry is a key component of this course and provides a framework from which concepts are addressed. The practice of laboratory skills is incorporated into all units, and other STEM skills, including engineering design and coding, are purposefully integrated throughout the curriculum.

SEVENTH GRADE – THE ATMOSPHERE
Seventh Grade students study the physical and chemical properties of the atmosphere through observations and experiments. They discover that air has weight, exerts pressure, and that energy from the sun causes winds and leads to different weather phenomena. To further explore energy in the atmosphere, students design, build, and test the efficiency of small working wind turbines. Foundational chemistry concepts and skills are covered as students learn about the chemistry of gases. Systems thinking is introduced, and students explore the integration of Earth’s systems by building enclosed terrariums and observing changes that occur over time. The impact of human activities on Earth systems is considered as students learn about electrical power sources, design an electrical grid, and investigate climate change mitigation strategies. As a Social Impact course, students are empowered to think beyond the classroom and discover how we, as scientists, can use our knowledge of atmospheric systems to design hands-on solutions to real world problems that have a direct impact for local and global communities. Scientific inquiry is a key component of this course and provides a framework from which concepts are addressed. The practice of laboratory skills is incorporated into all units, and other STEM skills, including engineering design and coding, are purposefully integrated throughout the curriculum.

EIGHTH GRADE – THE BIOSPHERE
Eighth Grade students use observation and experimentation to discover the essential characteristics of living things and develop models of how fundamental pieces of matter come together to make up life and living systems. They study the complex function and structure of animal and plant cells as well as the mechanisms by which individual cells replicate. Students engage in the study of biophysics as they study human anatomy and relate that to important physical science concepts. As part of their systems studies, students connect organisms to the larger systems of communities and ecosystems by investigating the natural systems on the school campus. At the end of the year, they venture out of Earth’s systems and into space, mapping the solar system and exploring the possibility of life in space. Scientific inquiry is a key component of this course and provides a framework from which concepts are addressed. The practice of laboratory skills is incorporated into all units, and other STEM skills, including engineering design and coding, are purposefully integrated into the curriculum.
TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW
Middle School technology is designed to develop the basic skills necessary for becoming an independent user of computers and computer software, to help recognize the importance of technology in today’s world, and to teach valuable computer applications, in the pursuit of learning in all disciplines. Computer instruction is integrated into all subject areas. Teachers often team-teach with Hockaday’s technology instructors to help their students create technology-based presentations.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES
As students enter Middle School, they become familiar with laptop management, OnCampus (online management program) email privileges and etiquette, file management and cloud learning (Office 365). In addition, girls are exposed to various programs, including Microsoft Office, Tinker Cad, OneNote, WeVideo, Scratch (coding program) and Excel. Other topics include Internet research techniques, computer ethics, digital citizenship, acceptable-use policies, and media literacy. Students continue to work on improving their keyboarding skills for accuracy and speed. Examples of integrated projects are included below.

Fifth Grade uses WeVideo in geography to give a presentation on Southeast Asia, which includes culture, history, and physical geography. They also participated in the Hour of Code.

Sixth Grade uses WeVideo to create, edit and upload finished movies for history class projects. In music class, the students create personalized music with Muse Score, a notation software.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES
Seventh and Eighth Grade students continue to refine their word-processing, file-management and cloud-learning skills. In mathematics and science classes, students learn data and numeric analysis and graphing by using spreadsheets. Girls become more skilled at manipulating various forms of media such as scanners, 3-D printing, and cameras. Students continue to engage in multimedia projects, video editing, and web apps. Examples of integrated projects are included below.

Seventh Grade students use OneNote to record and organize notes, collaborate in the classroom with WeVideo, and apply interactive tools. In science, students use 3-D software and printers to design and produce snowflakes and other constructs. Additionally, the girls use Scratch coding to write a program about air pressure.

Eighth Grade students integrate technology using PowerPoint and Flipgrid to illustrate poetry with great images, narration, and sound. In Spanish, the girls use the video lab to act, edit, and create video skits while speaking in Spanish.
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

WORLD LANGUAGES

OVERVIEW
The Middle School world language program uses a proficiency-oriented, integrated approach to teaching the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, anchored in the study of diverse world cultures.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE FRENCH AND SPANISH
In the Fifth and Sixth Grade French and Spanish programs, tailored instruction meets the needs of students who have had previous foreign language experience a those who are beginning their language studies. Whether expanding existing conversational skills or laying the foundation for a second language, online programs, age-appropriate songs, dialogues, skits, interactive language games, and student-generated projects establish meaningful communication in the language. Vocabulary is introduced through practical, real-life situations, such as ordering in a restaurant, asking for directions, or introducing a friend. This eliminates dependency on complicated grammar explanations. Selected structures such as subject-verb and noun-adjective agreement are explored in situational context to strengthen writing skills. Students begin to develop a more informed worldview through exposure to the culture and traditions of various French- and Spanish-speaking countries, students begin to develop a more-informed world view.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE FRENCH AND SPANISH
In the Level I French and Spanish courses, students develop a basic proficiency in and self-confidence with the language in both its oral and written forms. They also continue to develop a more in-depth understanding of grammar and begin using the language creatively and intuitively. Activities are designed to promote active student participation in simulated real-life situations. The use of an online interactive text program helps students reinforce and internalize pronunciation, structures, and vocabulary learned from classroom instruction. Videos and online cultural materials help them understand and appreciate the cultures of the French- or Spanish-speaking worlds and gain a better general understanding of the world beyond the confines of the classroom.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE LATIN
In this Level I Latin course, students establish an understanding of the basic grammatical principles of a highly inflected language. Students learn to read with understanding and translate simple Latin texts while developing a background in the basic structures of the Latin language, such as cases, declensions, verb tenses, and conjugations. Classroom activities are expanded through the use of interactive software. In the seventh grade, the main focus is Roman daily life; the eighth-grade focus shifts to understanding the global impact of Roman society. Understanding English vocabulary and usage through an intense study of derivatives is emphasized throughout the course. Students benefit from enrichment activities that explore the enormous impact of Roman civilization on the modern Western world.

New Eighth Grade students who have been studying French, Latin, or Spanish may continue with that language and will be assessed for placement in our language program. Those who have not already begun studying a foreign language may select an Upper School Mandarin Chinese I, Latin I, French I, or Spanish I course as a foreign language option.
Believing in the limitless potential of girls, Hockaday develops resilient, confident women who are educated and inspired to lead lives of purpose and impact.