



MIDDLE SCHOOL

SPRINGSIDE CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY





In Middle School, we are committed to building on our Lower School foundation and continuing a single-sex academic experience in grades 5-8. The Middle School years are transformative both academically and socially. When boys and girls step into our classrooms, they are able to shed gender expectations, find their unique voices, and develop strong senses of self.

In Middle School, we emphasize both the process and the content of learning, recognizing that the skills students build through their search for knowledge are as important as the knowledge attained. Students manage their own schedules as they move from class to class, develop an increased level of independence, and learn important lessons about organization and time management.

While Middle School is a time to solidify foundations through core studies, it is also a time for students to explore new horizons and discover budding passions. Under the skilled guidance of our Middle School faculty, students develop the confidence to branch out socially and intellectually, manage an increasingly challenging curriculum, take healthy risks, and exercise empathy and respect for others. Over the four years, students analyze literature, build solar cars, craft their own poetry, lead probability carnivals, participate in math and reading competitions, and use Sketch Up to design 3D models, among countless other learning experiences. Our 8th grade students move on to Upper School empowered to tackle increased academic expectations and take the reins of leadership.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Advisory

At the start of every school year, each student is matched with an advisor who acts as a trusted advocate and mentor and serves as a liaison between the family and school. Advisors play an integral role in the day-to-day life of their advisees and oversee the experience of the whole child—academic, social, and emotional. Students meet in their advisories three times a day in 5th grade and twice a day in 6th-8th grades. Advisors are also regularly updated about their advisees' progress through faculty grade-level meetings, which enables them to always support the growth of the whole child. The relationships between advisors and their advisees are special, and students often return to visit their advisors throughout their years at SCH, even after they have moved on to the Upper School.



Activities

Students have many opportunities to explore their passions in Middle School. Each trimester, they choose from approximately 15 different activities, ultimately participating in 12 over the course of their Middle School experience. Recent offerings included Stop-Gap Animation, Student Council, Wallyball, Cooking, Improvisational Theatre, Independent Science Experimentation, Community Service, Student Newspaper, Theatre Technicians, Chess, Hiking, Debate Club, Book Club, Service On Campus, Chinese Calligraphy and Origami, and Drawing from Nature.

Building an Inclusive Community

One of the highlights of Middle School is our unique AEIOU curriculum, which advances SCH's mission to create an inclusive community. AEIOU stands for Awareness, Empathy, Inclusion, Opportunity through Differences, and Understanding. As a community, we care deeply about celebrating diversity in all its forms and recognize how important it is in today's world to be able to consider perspectives other than our own. Students engage in regular advisory lessons that enable them to explore myriad backgrounds, values, identities, and perspectives in order to build empathy and awareness. The dialogue and personal growth that result are powerful.



Overnight Trips

One of the most memorable experiences in Middle School is the annual overnight trip. Each year, students go away with their advisors and classmates for three days and two nights. Locations range from the Poconos to Maryland to Washington, D.C., and activities range from zip lining to navigating high-ropes courses to exploring our nation's capital. However, the common thread among all our trips is a focus on team building, class spirit, and collaboration. These special trips are often among the most treasured memories of our students' SCH experience.



MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

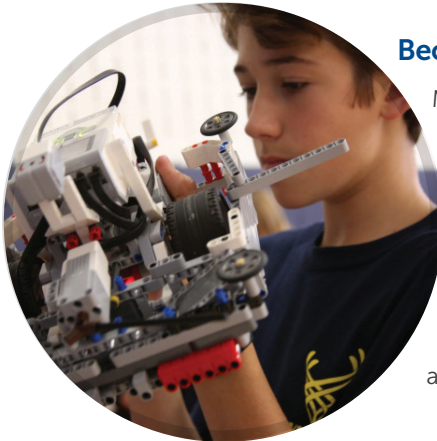


Studentship

An important part of Middle School is learning to organize one's time and materials, ask for help, plan ahead, and advocate for one's self. Faculty recognize this and integrate these skills into their class lessons. SCH believes so strongly in the development of these skills that we have built a daily "Extra Help Period" into the schedule. Every day, students report to advisory and have the opportunity to complete homework, sign-out and meet with a teacher to ask questions or review material, or spend time in our wonderful student-centered library.

Opportunities to Serve and Care

In Middle School, students continue to explore their role within the larger community and the different ways in which they can contribute through opportunities to serve. Service activities within and outside the school range from collecting recyclable trash from classrooms and offices to making sandwiches for a homeless shelter to delivering goodie bags to a local Ronald McDonald House.



Becoming Skilled Problem Solvers

Middle School students build important 21st century skills through the Sands Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL). A complement to the core Middle School curriculum, CEL classes introduce students to a wide range of applied subjects, such as coding, new media, social entrepreneurship, finance, data analysis, design, and fabrication. While gaining a foundation in these subjects, they also further strengthen their problem-solving, communication, presentation, and collaboration skills. In the 5th grade, boys and girls gain firsthand experience in entrepreneurship when they participate in KIVA, an Internet-based nonprofit that connects investors with micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries. Students raise money through the sale of products and foods they've made in order to make small loans to entrepreneurs whom they have identified and researched on KIVA's website.

Our faculty members are top-notch educators dedicated to knowing, supporting, and challenging each child. Classes are engaging, hands-on, and project based, with the student always at the center of the activity.



Meadow Pepino, Head of Middle School