

WE



OUR LEARNING



BANCROFT
SCHOOL

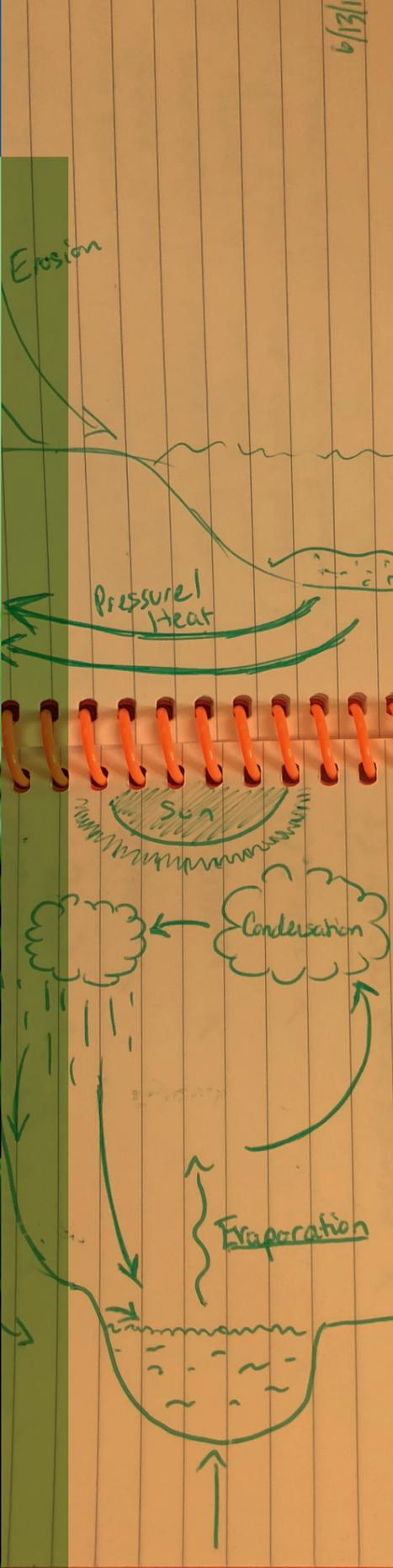
WELCOME TO

OUR LEARNING LABORATORY

Bancroft is a place where students own their learning, and faculty own their teaching.

Bancroft School is a workshop constantly in motion—an open and inclusive campus that inspires learners to engage with one another, their communities, and the world in meaningful and impactful ways.

We are a laboratory that motivates curious minds to form the insights, skills, and character they'll need to thrive far beyond their journey at Bancroft.



We are Worcester's premier PreK-12 independent day school.

~400 STUDENTS

5:1 STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

13 AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

31% STUDENTS OF COLOR

100% COLLEGE MATRICULATION

3400+ ENGAGED ALUMNI

34 ACRES OF CAMPUS

20 ATHLETIC TEAMS

40% OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

63 CITIES AND TOWNS REPRESENTED

WHAT IT MEANS TO

OWN YOUR LEARNING

WE KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS.

We're curious individuals who ask lots and lots of questions to help us form insights and find solutions.

WE TAKE IT OUTSIDE.

We go beyond the classroom—from the frog pond to the Museum of Fine Arts—in search of active learning environments.

WE USE OUR VOICES.

We empower students to speak up and make meaningful choices in how and what they learn.

WE INVITE FAMILIES ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

We encourage parents and families to be an integral part of the student's journey of exploration and discovery.

WE EMPOWER TEACHERS.

We inspire teachers to constantly explore new and better ways of teaching.

WE DON'T GO IT ALONE.

We design learning environments that allow students to collaborate, share ideas, and exchange diverse perspectives.

WE MAKE IT REAL-WORLD.

We believe that learning by doing improves our problem-solving skills and helps us apply knowledge to real-world situations.

WE MAKE IT KNOWN.

We present our work to audiences so that they may critique, validate, and find purpose in our discoveries.

WE REFLECT, REVISE, REPEAT.

As learners, we ask ourselves: Did we accomplish our goal? What could we have done better? What, if anything, should we change? And then we repeat.

OF SOUND



From choruses to ensembles, Bancroft students of all ages engage with music. In Early Learning, singing games revolve around basic topics, such as weather and nature. In Upper School, musicians explore musical theory, chord identification, and harmonic construction.



It's not just knowing how to play an instrument, it's studying the theory behind music. Upper School students delve deep into the origins of Western music—from jazz to country to rock and roll.

AND STAGE

Throughout the year, Bancroft students produce and perform in four mainstage shows in the Harrington Performing Arts Center. The budding thespians immerse themselves in a full range of theatrical study, including many weeks of rehearsals, set design and construction, lighting, costumes, makeup, acting, and singing.



All fifth graders have the opportunity to take to the stage in the annual May play. Past productions include *We Are Monsters* and *The Grunch*.

HIGH-TECH

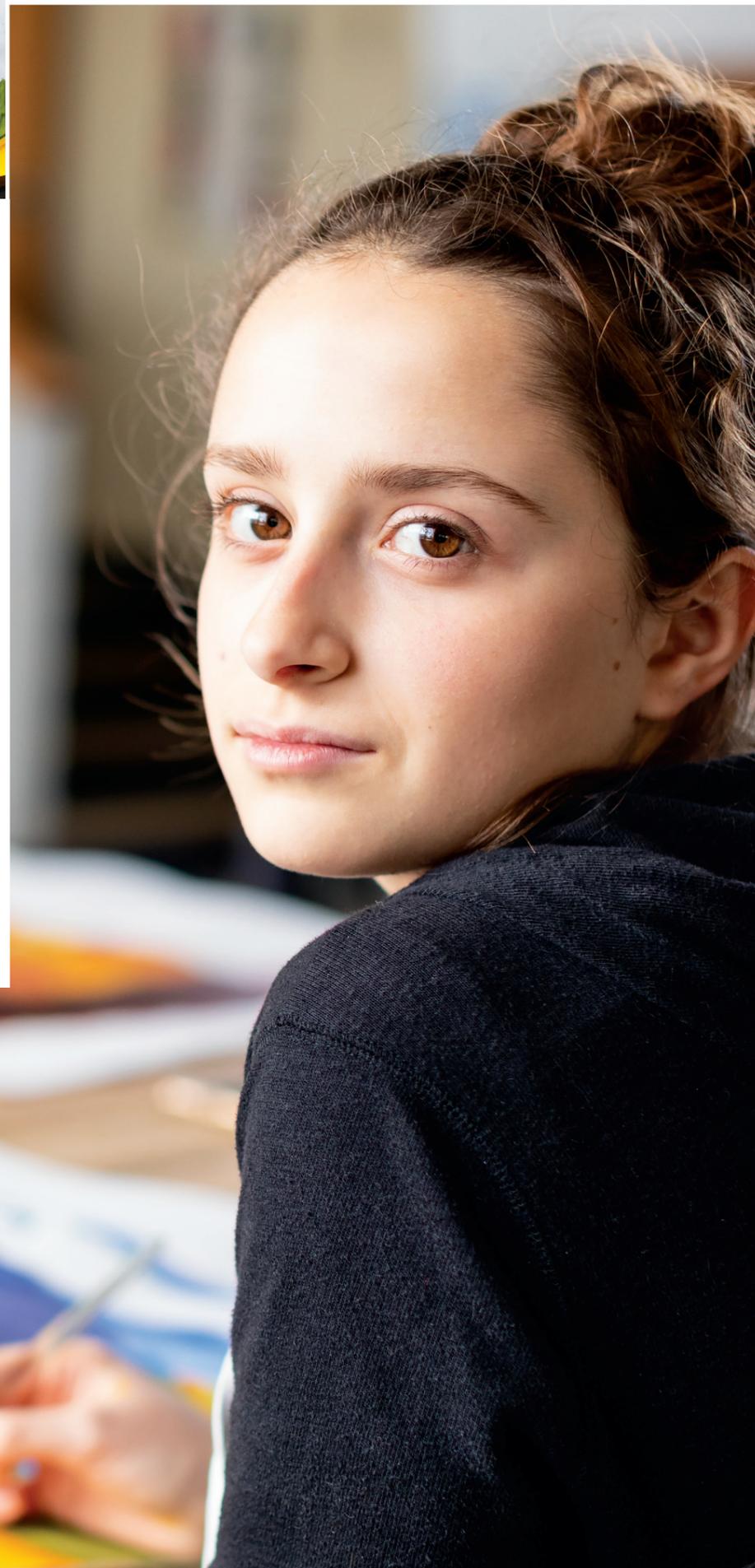


The Bancroft Robodogs are pushing the boundaries of robotics and science. “Our coach encourages us to dream big and test theories, no matter how far-out they may be,” says one student. Every year, the award-winning team of aspiring coders and builders puts their heads together to design robots—with the help of mentors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute—for competition on the national stage.

Lower School students begin learning basic computer skills as early as first grade. By fifth grade, they expand their focus to advanced programs and platforms, such as coding and animation.



Step into Bancroft’s Visual Art Center and you’re immediately greeted by a group of welcoming faces. Over the course of the semester, Upper School students master composition, color theory, and shading in the pursuit of the quintessential self-portrait. “When you stand back and take it all in, you really get a sense of the person—and the students at Bancroft,” says the department chair of Bancroft’s Visual Arts program. “Art starts a conversation, and there’s so much to be said about each subject in these works.”



SELF-PORTRAIT

ALL FOR GOOD



Bancroft students begin actively serving the community during their Middle School years. Opportunities include protecting wildlife, volunteering at local food banks, and mentoring at partner schools.

Bancroft proudly supports the mission of the Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (WRAP), a nonprofit that serves local Burmese refugees. Through community activities, such as museum trips and soccer games, our students are helping WRAP youth build confidence and acclimate to life in the United States.

COOL TRIP

In June 2018, a pack of intrepid Bancroft explorers crossed the pond to study Iceland's geology and sustainability practices. Led by a local guide, the group visited caves, glacial fields, waterfalls, and geothermal pools—all in the name of science. A year later, students applied their learning to propose new sustainability initiatives at Bancroft. "The Iceland trip inspired us to focus on new recycling and composting practices that will make a difference in our community," says one of the student explorers.



LEADERS



Our athletic program exemplifies the principles of collective learning and healthy competition. Beginning in Lower School, physical education classes teach collaboration, cooperation, and sportsmanship. Team sports begin at the Middle School level with a no-cut policy that invites everyone to participate.

Physical activity helps students achieve balance in the midst of their busy academic lives. Athletics and physical education are an integral part of the PreK-to-12 Bancroft experience.



AND TEAM PLAYERS

In Upper School, students compete in varsity sports throughout the year. In recent years, the Bulldogs have taken home trophies in baseball, basketball, tennis, and volleyball.



Our varsity student-athletes compete in the highly competitive New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) and the Eastern Independent League (EIL).

FOR ALL AGES



The Bancroft campus features three distinct divisions—Lower, Middle, and Upper—with students ranging from four to 18 years old. The exchange of ideas and perspectives transcends the boundaries of age and grade. “I learn just as much—perhaps more—from the younger students as they learn from me,” says one Upper School student after reading to a group of first graders.

Lower School students are thinking loftily with the help of our science faculty. As part of flight lab, budding engineers design and build model aircraft to test basic aeronautical principles, such as drag, thrust, lift, and payload. And the sky's the limit on materials they can use, although cardboard, duct tape, and yardsticks are widely popular. Students let out gasps of joy when they see their contraption—and ideas—take flight.



SKY HIGH



With an average class size of 13, Bancroft teachers and staff dedicate one-on-one time with students to focus on their individual strengths and needs.

WHAT SUITS YOU



Middle School students in the Armor Making Arts club roll up their sleeves to design and create helmets, shields, gauntlets, and other protective gear. "We research modern and ancient forms of armor to learn the art of metal casting, riveting, leatherworking, and other skills," says one student. The group has already engineered ceremonial and centurion helmets and now has its sights set on designing samurai headgear.

There's no debating it: Our Speech Team is the talk of the state—and the nation. During the team's long history, 14 Bancroft students have lifted the coveted state trophy, while more than 125 team members have advanced to national tournaments.



How does a spider spin its web? How were the pyramids built? Why do people immigrate to the United States? These are just some of the questions Lower School students explore in Central Subject, a year-long examination of core topics in history, literature, geography, and writing.

CORE LEARNING

WORLDS AWAY



In January 2018, Q. Karmue '01 enlisted the help of a small group of Bancroft students and teachers to review his manuscript, *Witness*, which recounts his experience as an 8-year-old growing up during the Liberian Civil War. A year later, the group traveled to Liberia with Q. to explore the culture of the small African nation.

Bancroft alum Q. Karmue '01 founded *Save More Kids*, a nonprofit organization committed to creating opportunities for Liberian children.



ACTS OF KINDNESS



We could all use a little more kindness in our lives! As part of a Lower School initiative, parents joined students to design flags illustrating acts of kindness. Some students used images, while others used words to communicate what compassion and generosity mean to them. The collage of colorful flags hangs above a doorway in the Lower School as a reminder to all about what it means to be kind.

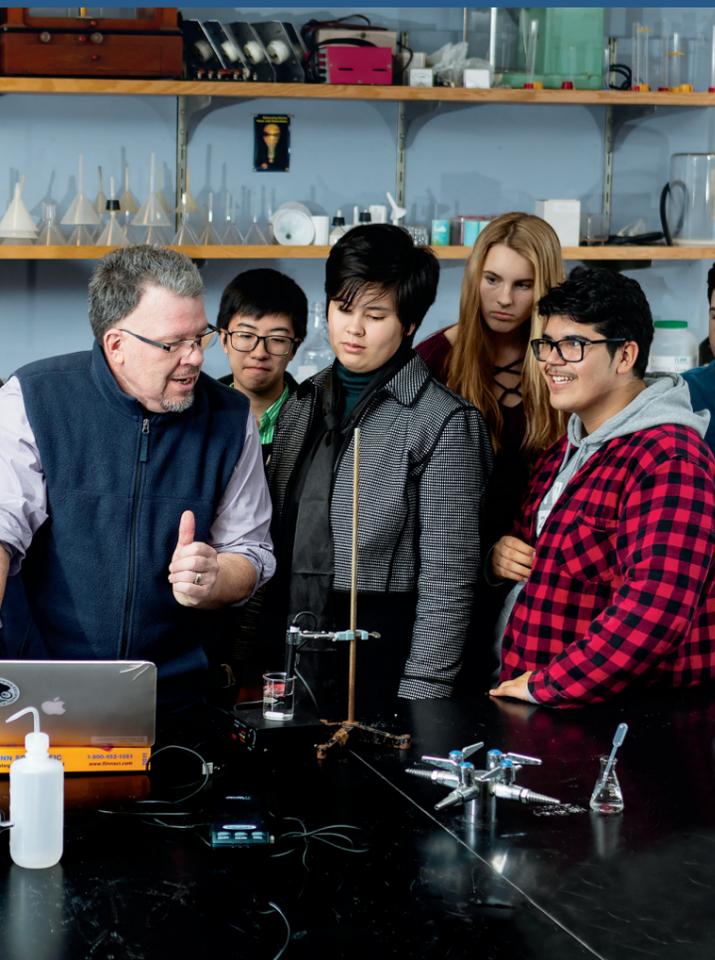
The flag project is part of the Lower School initiative to cultivate kindness. In years past, families painted kindness rocks, which were displayed along the walking paths of our campus.





WE ARE A CAMPUS

CONSTANTLY IN MOTION



FOUR AMAZING EXPERIENCES

ONE DYNAMIC CAMPUS

There's a path that runs the length of our campus—stretching from the Field House all the way to the athletic fields. On any given day, you'll find students of all ages—from PreK to Upper School on the path—coming and going to class, eating lunch, picking up a game of kickball, or talking with their teachers. We're a campus constantly in motion, always engaging.

Bancroft School sits on a 34-acre parcel of land overlooking Indian Lake on the northeast edge of Worcester. Our campus features modern facilities, including the Fuller Science Center, the Harrington Performing Arts Center, and two libraries.

Nearly half of our beautiful campus is devoted to athletics, including a regulation baseball diamond, basketball courts, and eight tennis courts. Our new Field House features state-of-the-art turf fields, which are ideal for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and other indoor sports.

EARLY LEARNING

PRE-KINDERGARTEN + KINDERGARTEN



SELF-DISCOVERY + IMAGINATION

The Early Learning years are a critical time for developing a strong foundation for curiosity and imagination. In PreK, our students do more than read *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*—they utilize the design principles they acquire from STEM classes to build a bridge strong enough to hold three goats.

CENTRAL SUBJECT

All students in Lower School, including PreK and Kindergarten, engage in Central Subject, a year-long discovery experience that delves deep into one topic. Throughout the year, PreK students examine the world by learning about themselves and their family traditions, while Kindergarteners explore topics such as the human body, nutrition, and plant and animal life.

From downward dog to locust pose, Early Learning students learn breathing and relaxation techniques through daily yoga practice.



EARLY LEARNING

PRE-KINDERGARTEN + KINDERGARTEN



Love of learning stems from a love of reading! Each week, our librarians read and discuss books to help Early Learners comprehend literary components such as character, plot, setting, and theme. In phys ed, PreK students sharpen their locomotor and literacy skills with exercises that incorporate movement with learning.

Our PreK learners are wide-eyed and eager to explore a new topic or idea every day. They're truly experiencing the love of learning.

4

Early Learners learn the basics of beat, tempo, and tone in four music classes every week.



LOWER SCHOOL

GRADES 1-5



SELF-AWARENESS + KINDNESS

How do Lower School students own their learning? They channel their creativity and curiosity through fun—and challenging—activities in science, math, arts, literature, and more. Lower School spans a critical period for learners as they expand their independence, develop problem-solving skills, and realize their full potential as responsible citizens.

CORE LEARNING

Lower School students develop analytical skills through the Singapore Math method, which inspires learners to think logically rather than rely on memorization. Students also spend at least 90 minutes every day sharpening their literacy skills while cultivating a relationship with books and literature.



Fifth graders design windmills to explore the fundamentals of mechanical engineering.

LOWER SCHOOL

GRADES 1-5



Owning your learning involves relating intention to action, and action to outcomes. We encourage zest, gratitude, bravery, forgiveness, grit, optimism, and an appreciation of beauty.

¡Que bueno!

As early as first grade, students study the nuances of the Spanish language and culture.

1:1

Beginning in second grade, every student has access to a device for individualized learning.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8



RESPECT + RESPONSIBILITY

Middle School may only span three years of the Bancroft experience, yet it marks a pivotal time in the development of curious learners. Through both individual and group projects, Middle Schoolers build essential skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, and presentation skills, while developing an understanding of their independence and a mutual respect for others.

THE ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

In Grade 6, each student is paired with a Middle School teacher who serves as an advisor. Small advisory groups meet weekly to plan a path toward each student's future. Each grade focuses on a particular topic: "Discover Middle School" (Grade 6), "Challenge Yourself" (Grade 7) and "Lead the Way" (Grade 8).

Middle School students work in Bancroft's school garden, where they learn about nutrition and growing healthy food. On warm days with clear skies, teachers will often hold classes outdoors.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8



What's better than learning a foreign language? Learning three! The Phenomenon of Language course introduces sixth graders to the grammar and cultures of Latin, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. By the end of Grade 6, students select a single language to study through the remainder of their Middle School experience.

In World Geography, eighth graders explore pressing global issues, such as climate change, income equity, equal rights, and food distribution.

10

Every Middle School student devotes at least 10 hours to community service annually.



UPPER SCHOOL

GRADES 9-12



CHOICE + CHALLENGE

Upper School prepares learners for a full range of intellectual, ethical, personal, and professional challenges. Our rigorous liberal arts curriculum—combined with countless opportunities for scholarly, athletic, artistic, social, workplace, and global engagement—gives students the broad education required to succeed in the world's top colleges and beyond.

DELVE INTO DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

Read Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Latin. Study the theory and design approach to staging a theatrical performance. Research DNA with UMass Medical School Ph.D. candidates. Upper School students have unparalleled opportunities to learn by doing, with experiences ranging from foreign exchange programs to off-campus internships with a local business, government agency, or nonprofit organization.

Students cultivate exceptional writing and public speaking skills—a hallmark of a Bancroft education.



UPPER SCHOOL

GRADES 9-12



The Senior Thesis is a semester-long project challenging twelfth graders to research a topic that holds significant personal meaning. Students have explored topics such as America's relationship with gambling, the anticipated effects of Brexit on UK's economy, and the challenges of digital privacy.

As faculty, we ask ourselves:
“Why do we teach what
we teach at this moment in
time, and how can we
tailor our instruction to the
individual student?”

140

The number of arts,
sciences, humanities,
and athletics courses
that Upper School
students can explore.



UNLOCKING BRILLIANCE

We believe that every student must have the opportunity to thrive.

Academic Support

Our talented academic support staff works closely with faculty to identify the academic strengths and challenges of each student. Academic Support Coordinators work one-on-one with students or in small groups to maximize the academic and social potential of each learner.

Each student receiving academic support services is carefully observed by a team that includes coordinators, faculty, and administrators. The team provides direction and assessment and regularly communicates with teachers and parents to detail the student's progress.

Academic Support Areas

- Executive functioning skills
- Reading comprehension
- Active reading
- Math
- Homework coaching
- Test-taking instruction
- Study and memory skills
- Time management
- Note-taking



Our individual learning strategies

When students, teachers, staff, and parents join together to design and implement an action plan tailored to the individual learner, something remarkable happens. Students discover how they learn best and communicate what they need to learn better.

No matter their age, no matter their grade, individual learning strategies help Bancroft students understand their strengths and opportunities for improvement inside—and outside—the classroom.

Hope Graham Program

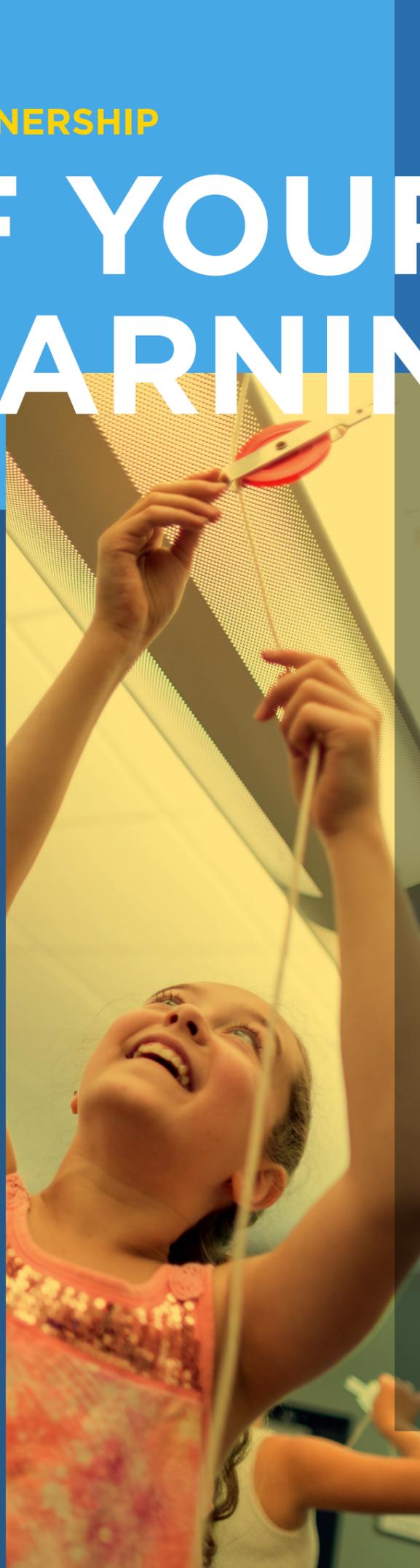
Designed for students in Grades 2 through 8 with language-based learning differences, the Hope Graham Program (HGP) features personalized instruction by expert teachers in decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, spelling, reading fluency, writing, and math. Students develop valuable skills in grade-level cohorts of eight or fewer students, which allows for instruction that targets each learner's individual needs—and strengths.

The one-of-a-kind program is integrated into the fabric of our learning, and our community. HGP students experience collaboration across all grade levels and enjoy the richness and depth of Bancroft's curriculum and co-curriculars, including music and drama programs, robotics and technology classes, after-school clubs, and athletics.

The Hope Graham Program teaches students to say, "This is how I learn best, and this is what I need to succeed."

TAKE OWNERSHIP

OF YOUR LEARNING



The best way to experience Bancroft is to tour our campus, meet our teachers, spend time with our students, and ask plenty of questions.

Schedule a visit:
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**BANCROFT
SCHOOL**

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