



PROVIDENCE DAY  
SCHOOL

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Forming a **strong** sense  
of **identity** and **purpose**

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Grades 6–8



Confidence. Leadership. Engagement. Throughout Middle School at Providence Day, students experience developmentally appropriate opportunities to cultivate their passion for learning and appreciation for the arts, athletics, and the world around them.



#### OUR MISSION

Providence Day School exists to inspire in its students a passion for learning, a commitment to personal integrity, and a sense of social responsibility.

## Leadership



**Dr. Glyn Cowlshaw**  
Head of School



**Lisa Knight**  
Director of Admissions & Enrollment Management



**Lee Tappy '94**  
Interim Head of Middle School



**Bobby Thompson**  
Middle School Dean of Students

## Fast Facts

**45** Middle School faculty members

**3** public school partnerships

**29%** students of color

**72** student countries of origin

**11** Capstone community partners

**455** students in grades 6-8

**218** faculty members across all divisions

**110** faculty members with advanced degrees



## Global Curriculum

As a school with a global emphasis, our curriculum is infused with a global perspective across disciplines. Students may take advantage of opportunities for world travel including a Middle School conference with Round Square International. Adding to the Mandarin Chinese, French, and Spanish introduced in Lower School, students may also choose from Latin and German as they continue their studies in Middle School.

## Equity & Inclusion

Providence Day School understands that valuing diversity is the key to global citizenship. We believe in developing within our students an ability to appreciate and value the differences among people in our school community, as well as those in the larger world around us.

The Office of Equity and Inclusion supports and fosters a school community that reflects the increasing diversity in our nation and the world, with an appreciation for the rich variety of cultures, religions, races, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, countries of origin, languages, and other cultural identifiers that add to the strength of our community. We are committed to actively cultivating an inclusive environment that champions difference while highlighting our similarities through dialogue and curriculum.



# PD PASSPORT

THE TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 12 CURRICULAR FRAMEWORK

## CHARACTER DISPOSITIONS

Empathy · Open-mindedness · Humility · Confidence  
Courage · Patience · Selflessness · Self-motivation  
Respect for self and others · Perseverance  
Conscientiousness · Integrity

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Creativity · Innovation · Critical Thinking  
Problem Solving · Communication · Collaboration  
Information Literacy · Media Literacy  
Information and Communication Technology Literacy

## NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE

- World historical eras and trends, forces of historical change
- The impact of geography on the understanding of local, regional, and global issues
- Ideological paradigms
- Economic systems and globalization
- Political systems and political change
- Social structures and social change
- Cultural expressions through art, literature, and music
- Major religious orientations
- Contemporary norms and values of major cultures: U.S., China, India, Russia, Iran, South Africa, Nigeria, Israel, Turkey, Germany, Brazil, Mexico, or other important country/cultures
- Global ecosystems and environmental impact
- Proficiency in a world language





## Social Responsibility

Social responsibility is woven throughout the curriculum at Providence Day. We emphasize cultivating a sense of connection to our community and the world, and taking action to improve the lives of others. In Middle School, students experience partnerships with three Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools:

- **6th Grade: Movement School Kindergarten buddies**
- **7th Grade: Winterfield Elementary First Grade buddies**
- **8th Grade: Wilson STEM Academy partnership**

## Honor Code

All students are evaluated on the basis of their own accomplishments, and they must trust that all other students are evaluated likewise. To assure such knowledge and trust, an Honor Code has been established with the primary purpose being the creation of an atmosphere of optimum learning and trust, not one of suspicion. The honor pledge states: "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this work."

## Curriculum

Student-teacher relationships are at the heart of the Providence Day experience and build connections that last a lifetime. Students round out a strong core curriculum of English, Science, Math, History, and Physical Education with electives in topics ranging from Global Issues and Creative Writing to STEM courses and study of the visual or performing arts.

### ARTS

Band; Chorus; Orchestra; Theatre;  
Tech Theatre; Visual Arts

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Applications;  
Web Design; Computer  
Programming; Robotics

### ENGLISH

English and Creative  
Writing – 6, 7, and 8

### HISTORY

Ancient History; U.S. History;  
Global History; Global  
Perspectives elective

### MATH

Multiple tracks including:  
Math 6, 7, 8; pre-Algebra;  
Algebra 1; Advanced Algebra  
1; Personal Finance elective

### SCIENCE

Science 6, 7, 8; Introduction  
to Engineering 6; Engineering  
the Future 7-8; Global  
Environmental Issues 7-8

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

Full year (6,7) and  
semester (8) classes

### WORLD LANGUAGE

Mandarin Chinese; French;  
Spanish; German; Latin





## Capstone

### 6TH GRADE:

The 6th grade capstone is a collaborative, problem-solving experience in which students are engaged in the design of real-world solutions based around the theme of “building community.”

Sixth graders take part in various activities designed with “community-building” in mind. Sixth graders are introduced to six sub-themes on our campus: building relationships, healthy living, environmental responsibility, digital citizenship, traditions, and equity and inclusion. Sorted by students’ choices, teams of approximately ten students are created. The goal for each team is to design a product, policy, or experience that positively impacts the PD community. Some of these designs have become a part of our middle school culture.

### 7TH GRADE:

The 7th grade class continues to experience empathetic design as an end-of-year capstone project. Students work in teams with a faculty facilitator to address the overall theme of inclusion. Ultimately, students will be challenged to design or create an action, product, or experience that makes our city or state more inclusive.

To jump-start the capstone, we invite eleven Community Partners to be a part of this experience with students. Our Community Partners represent a wide range of experiences and perspectives centered around the theme of inclusion. Students choose a Community Partner and will work collaboratively in a small group to design a possible community solution for them.

### 8TH GRADE:

Eighth grade students take part in a capstone project during the winter exam period. The 8th grade capstone connects to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>). Students rank topics that are inspiring to them, and groups are made from those rankings.

First, they research and define a problem they want to solve related to their UN topic, then evaluate an existing solution to this problem. Then, they design an experience for younger students that helps them understand the complexity of this issue. Not only do we want to give students a chance to think more deeply about world issues, we also want to use this opportunity to help students develop their collaboration and communication skills.



## Technology

Students in all Middle School grades are provided with a school-issued iPad to help with schoolwork, research, and many other resources as they continue to become digital citizens. Faculty use the technology in different ways to enhance the curriculum and instruction.



## Innovation

At Providence Day, innovation goes far beyond the use of technology, and is woven into every aspect of teaching and learning. In Middle School, students might find themselves in the Makerspace, learning 3D printing, laser cutting, or other hands-on ways to solve problems.

PD is home to The Center for the Art and Science of Teaching, Learning, and Entrepreneurship, led by a three-member team consisting of the Director of Digital Integration and Innovation; a Design Strategist; and a Community Strategist. The team is deployed by faculty and administrators across the organization whenever requested, to address challenges and encourage development of new concepts. The Center has been recognized nationally as a center for innovation by organizations including the National Association of Independent Schools.



“ Providence Day has kind of raised me.... I think that it's been really impactful for me as a person. I've grown up here. It's seen me through everything.

Lizzie Campbell, Class of 2019



## Clubs & Activities

Middle School offers a wide variety of clubs that promote leadership and collaboration while allowing students to explore their talents and interests beyond the classroom.

From Model U.N. to Battle of the Books to Art Club to the Middle School play or musical to extracurricular STEM clubs and Student Council, we place an emphasis on allowing students the room to uncover new passions, strengths, and leadership skills.

Seventh and eighth graders may participate in a variety of sports. Service learning is also emphasized, and the great majority of our students participate in service activities.

## Arts

We are committed to nurturing creativity and confidence at all levels of learning. Comprehensive exposure to visual arts, music, and theatre is essential to the complete educational experience for each student. TK-12th grade students are encouraged to find and pursue their passions. Middle School students may take visual arts, band, chorus, strings, theatre, or technical theatre electives, and each year they have the opportunity to audition for a musical theatre production.



## Athletics



Participation in the Providence Day athletic program provides student-athletes with the opportunity to pursue excellence, build long-lasting relationships, and grow both physically and emotionally. Seventh and eighth graders may participate in a variety of team sports.

***Go Chargers!***

# Alumni Opportunities

Providence Day School cultivates its vibrant network of more than 4,000 alumni who keep in touch via social and networking opportunities, and assist Upper School students in their college selection process. Alumni parents remain a part of the school family. Once a Charger, Always a Charger!



# Parent Opportunities

All Providence Day parents are members of the Parents' Association, whose mission is to work with the school to foster an engaged community through volunteer activities, fellowship opportunities, and fundraising events that support families, faculty, and staff. Additionally, parents are encouraged to join the Charger Club, which strengthens the athletic experience through fundraising and volunteerism; and Friends of the Arts, supporting visual and performing arts.



“ My wife always says to ‘bloom where you’re planted,’ and PD is a very fertile place. Not only are the parents very supportive of each other, but I have found our kids’ friends within the PD community are wonderful people, and are developing into wonderful young adults.

**John Olin**, father of students in the classes of 2020, 2022, and 2023



To explore the application process, visit  
[www.providenceday.org/admissions](http://www.providenceday.org/admissions).

Follow Providence Day:



**PROVIDENCE DAY**  
SCHOOL

*We exist to inspire.*

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Providence Day School  
5800 Sardis Road  
Charlotte, NC 28270  
704.887.6000  
[pds.admissions@providenceday.org](mailto:pds.admissions@providenceday.org)