

She is soaring with

confidence

Infectious energy. That's what anyone who walks the middle school halls can feel.

It's the joyous buzz of girls ready to take on an exciting and transformative time of cognitive and social growth. In the Middle School at Agnes Irwin, we value the importance of social and emotional growth as much as academic progress, and work to provide our girls with stimulating, engaging activities where they are able to get to know and interact with their classmates and community in a deep, meaningful way.

Middle School Experiences

5th Grade

Overnight Field Trip to
The Outdoor School
Cradles to Crayons
Math Night
5th Grade Performance

6th Grade

Overnight Field Trip to
Camp Mason
Medieval Night
Food Pantry & Can Drive
Begin Team Sports

5th & 8th Grade
Big & Little
Sister Program

All Grades

Embedded Leadership
Curriculum
Stars and Stripes Day
Science Symposium
Parliament
MS Assemblies

8th Grade

Two-Night Overnight to
New York City
Semi-Formal with
Haverford School
Biome Projects
St. Ignatius Partnership

7th Grade

Overnight Field Trip to
Washington, D.C.
Culture Elevation
Kiva Microloans

7th & 8th Grade
Musical
Student Council



What to expect in Middle School

SAMPLE MIDDLE SCHOOL DAY

Students begin to arrive at 7:30 a.m.

Our Owl Cafe is open with breakfast options.

Parliament begins at 8:05 a.m. During the week, each student participates in MS Assembly, a grade level class meeting, a values-based lesson, and other activities.

Mid-morning break. Research shows girls learn best when they can have a snack at this time of day. This break also allows time to meet with teachers.

Lunchtime. After lunch, middle schoolers head to study hall or chorus rehearsal.

School day ends at 3:35 p.m. Students who play sports will have practices or games that extend beyond the school day.

4 O'Clock Study. For families who need to pick up their daughters after 4 p.m., 5th, 6th, and 7th graders who are still on campus attend "4 O'Clock Study," an after-school study hall monitored by a member of our staff until 6 p.m. Girls in 8th grade may stay on campus, and have the freedom to choose between 4 O'Clock Study and the 8th grade lounge.



PARLIAMENT

Did you know a group of owls is called a Parliament? Led by a faculty member called a "ParliaMentor," small groups of our Middle School students meet every morning to check in and organize themselves for the day ahead. In Parliament, we intentionally teach the core values of our school and explore Middle School themes such as positive relationships, kindness, and intellectual curiosity.

DIGITAL OWNERSHIP

Living in an increasingly technology-based society, we work to prepare our students to be safe, thoughtful navigators of the digital world. Through personal responsibility and classroom work, we help our students develop the skills to work confidently with various forms of technology. Some examples include:

- Chromebooks for all students
- Digital Literacy lessons
- Computer Science Discoveries, a coding class in 8th grade
- Use of Google Classroom by teachers for all students

ATHLETICS IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

All 7th and 8th graders are expected to participate in three seasons of a school sport.

Fall: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball

Winter: Basketball, Squash, Swimming

Spring: Lacrosse, Learn to Row (8th grade only), Softball



AS BY THE NUMBERS*

18

years average
faculty tenure

95

faculty members hold master's
degrees, 5 earned Doctorates,
and 5 hold J.D.s

6:1

student to faculty ratio
in the Middle School

12-16

average class size
in Middle School

*As of the 2019-2020 school year



The Middle School is rooted in *skill development*

In all subjects, girls are given daily opportunities to build basic skills, such as problem-solving, reading for understanding, and expressing themselves — orally, in writing, graphically, numerically, and artistically. Layered on top of skill development, content also broadens over four years, and girls look beyond the school community to the world. The Middle School curriculum provides plenty of opportunities for creativity, verbalization, critical thinking, social interaction, and collaboration — ways that research shows girls learn especially well. Furthermore, because girls thrive on the interdisciplinary approach to learning, a wealth of connections among the arts, humanities, sciences, and math are integral to the design of the curriculum.

COURAGE TO BE ME CURRICULUM

Courage To Be Me is a part of our life skills and character education program. Designed to ease the transition to middle school for our 5th graders, the class is taught by our Middle School counselor. Through activity-based learning, our girls develop their emotional and social intelligence, including empathy, which is strongly related to success in life.

INSIDE OUTSIDE CURRICULUM

A self-discovery program specifically designed for the middle school years, the Inside Outside curriculum teaches girls what it means to be resilient, how to increase self-esteem and self-awareness, and promotes emotional health and positive peer relationships. The program enhances the internal resources needed as part of a healthy adolescent development.

7TH & 8TH GRADE WELLNESS CURRICULUM

Wellness classes cover a wide variety of topics centered on the healthy physical and emotional development of girls and young women. Each year, topics covered include relationship skills, personal health practices, individual well-being, self-advocacy, and good decision-making.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English	Plot and Characters	Role of Setting	Themes, Figurative Language	Tone, Irony, Dialect, Allusion
History	Ancient History	Medieval History	World History 1300-1600	U.S. History
Math	Numbers, Expressions, and Equations <i>Grade Level and Accelerated</i>	Basic Geometry, Units of Measure, Ratios, Rates and Proportions, Analyzing Data <i>Grade Level and Accelerated</i>	Pre-Algebra, Algebra I Part 1, Algebra I	Algebra IA, Algebra I Part 2, Geometry Honors
Science	Physical Science, Engineering	Human Biology	Human Biology, Chemistry, and Chemical Engineering	Earth Systems (Geology, Astronomy) and Natural Resources
Languages	Half-year French, Half-year Spanish	French or Spanish	French or Spanish and Latin	French I, French 8, French 8 Honors, Spanish I, Spanish 8, Spanish 8 Honors, Latin I, Latin 8
Visual and Performing Arts	Art, Music, and Theater**, Chorus (<i>optional</i>)	Art, Music, and Theater**, Chorus (<i>optional</i>)	Art, Music, and Public Speaking**, Chorus (<i>optional</i>)	Art, Music, and Theater**, Chorus (<i>optional</i>)
Physical Education	PE/Wellness 4x/week	PE/Wellness 4x/week, can try out for school teams	Expected to participate in three seasons of school teams or fitness	Expected to participate in three seasons of school teams or fitness
Interdisciplinary Programming	Fifth Grade Performance	Medieval Night	Culture Elevation Washington, D.C. trip	New York City Immigration Trip

**These classes happen in a rotation across the school year.

Meet the Director

of the Middle School



Middle School Director Cintra Horn

began her career as an English language teacher at École Polyvalente du Plateau in La Malbaie, Québec, then transitioned to The Pembina Trails School Division, where, during her tenure, she served as a middle school teacher, vice principal, and principal. In 2010, she moved to the United States to serve as principal of The Little School at Savannah Country Day School, and Head of Lower School at The Awty International School in Houston, TX. She received both her Bachelor of Education in History and French and her Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Education for School Leadership from the University of Manitoba, and her Master of Education in Counseling Psychology from the University of Toronto at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.



Our Core Values

We accomplish our mission of empowering girls to learn, to lead, and to live a legacy by embodying these four core values of The Agnes Irwin School:

Excellence



We **provide** an exceptional education that develops each girl's highest potential and produces passionate, resilient, and empowered learners and leaders.

Character



We **expect** honesty, kindness, and personal integrity in all that we do and say.

Community



We **foster** an inclusive environment where individuals are valued, contributions are celebrated, deep connections are formed, and traditions are cherished.

Respect



We **treat** all with dignity and understanding, welcoming differences in backgrounds, perspectives, and cultures.

THE AGNES IRWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY embraces respect, honesty, dedication, and understanding. We build positive relationships, develop intellectual curiosity, and encourage creative expressions so that we may thrive in and contribute to a diverse world.

The Agnes Irwin School

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