



# STELLA SCHOLA

("Star School")



<http://ssms.lwsd.org>



*Knowledge has to be improved, challenged and increased constantly or it vanishes.*

*-Peter Drucker*



**PRINCIPAL:**

**Mr. Joe Gorder**

**OFFICE MANAGER:**

**Mrs. Susan Jensen**

**INSTR. ASSISTANT:**

**Mrs. Brandi Comstock**

**EDUCATORS:**

**Ms. Hattie Midboe, Sixth Grade &  
Lead Teacher**

**Ms. Gwen Gossler, Seventh Grade**

**Ms. Judy Harris, Eighth Grade**



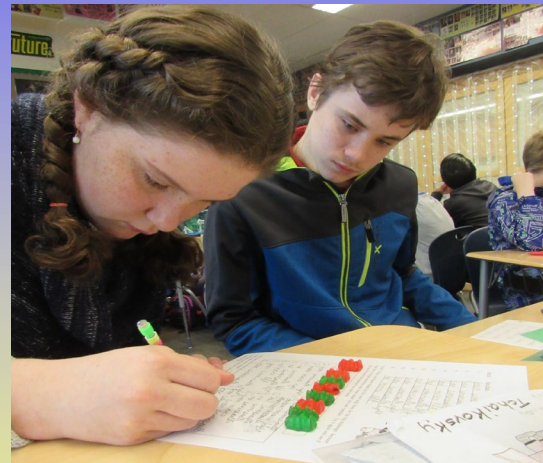
# MISSION



Stella Schola offers sixth, seventh, and eighth graders a comprehensive, consistent, classical curriculum delivered in an environment with high academic and behavioral standards and solid teacher support.

“Middle level teachers can create positive learning environments that help all students feel safe, included and respected by providing engaging instruction that increases all students’ academic and social achievement.”

- Schools in the Middle





# WHAT IS IT?

## STELLA SCHOLA...

- ...is a middle school for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades**
- ... has curricula based on chronological historical themes supported with literature, science, math, latin & art**
- ...offers a comprehensive and consistent, classical learning environment (humanities-based) where most subjects are integrated**
- ...groups thirty students of each grade level with the same teacher for 5 out of the 6 hours in the day**
- ...promotes high academic standards and provides solid, personalized teacher support for its students**





# CURRENT REPORT



- **Stella Schola has 90 students in our own wing on the Rose Hill campus in Redmond**
- **Students remain with the same teacher for English (L.A.), History (Social Studies), Mathematics, Science, and Latin I and II (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>)**



- **Students choose either Fitness, Band or Orchestra for their elective class**
- **Students may participate in after school *sports* at their home middle school**
- **Students may participate in Stella Schola clubs (dependent upon availability)**
- **Stella Schola has access to the campus library**
- **Each student has a district laptop for the year**

• **Field Trip highlights include Start Up Challenge, Canoeing , Rock Climbing, Nutcracker Ballet, Fencing Lessons, SCT/ACT plays, Sailing Adventure, Whale Watch, Marine Research, Orienteering ...**



• **Hands-on activities reinforce learning in all subjects, including STEM skills (e.g. science experiments & dissections, art activities, dance, crafts, chess)**





# Thematic Flow

**Basic History Core for Sixth Grade: Early Man, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Egypt, Judaism, Phoenicia, Ancient Greece**

**Basic History Core for Seventh Grade: Ancient Rome, Christianity, Medieval Europe, Medieval Asia, Islam, Renaissance Intro, Intro to Explorers**

**Basic History Core for Eighth Grade: Explorers, American Revolution & Constitution, French Revolution, Civil War, American Government Washington State History**



# Sixth Grade Sampler

April/May/June Quest: It's All Greek to Me, Does It Have To Be?

**History Core:** Phoenicia, Ancient Greece, Persian Empire, Current Events

**Literature:** Iliad & Odyssey, Greek Mythology, Labors of Hercules, Greek Cinderella

**Language Arts:** Simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, report writing, essay writing, asking questions so you will understand (then it won't be Greek to you!), Greek roots, book reports

**Science:** Topography (tie-in to Mount Olympus), landforms, cartography  
Puget Sound Studies

**Mathematics:** Measurement, Decimals, Golden Rectangle, Golden Triangle (Greek tie-in), Problem solving, Volume

**Fine Arts:** Greek Pottery Excavation, Watercolor, Gefilte Fisch

**Field Experiences:** Marine Excursion

*We use computers, but we also write in cursive*





**SMART SELECTIONS**

- 1. Finish homework or catch up on late assignments
- 2. Study, asking history or science
- 3. Read a book
- 4. Work on a smart selection, challenge

**Amis Fortune**

You should complete Reading

**Secret of the Shards**

You should complete Reading

**Homework My Best Friend**

You should complete Reading

**OCEAN ISLAND**

**DANGER**

**LOUD PROUD**



**ECOLO**

**AMERICAN**

**PINK PINK**

# Seventh Grade Sampler

## September/October/November Quest: Carpe Diem

**History Core:** Ancient Rome, Geography, Christianity, Current Events

**Literature:** Phantom Tollbooth, Macbeth, The Raven, Julius Caesar

**Language Arts:** Narrative point of view, editing, voice, procedural writing, notes, sentence diagramming, essay writing, metaphor, MCA

**Latin:** Verb conjugation, vocabulary building, Pledge of Allegiance, America the Beautiful

**Science:** Scientific process, electricity review, plant introduction, venation, astronomy (Latin tie-in), Roman coins

**Mathematics/Pre-Algebra:** decimal review, order of operations, algebra (isolating the variable, combining like terms), geometry (terms, angle measurement, congruency, corresponding parts, area, perimeter)

**Art:** Value, beginning perspective drawing

**Field Experiences:** Planetarium, Rock Climbing





# Eighth Grade Sampler

## November/December/January Quest: Liberty or Death, Which Would You Choose?

**History Core:** American Revolution, Democracy, French Revolution, Westward Expansion

**Literature:** Sons of Liberty, Mr. Revere & I, Johnny Tremain, Tale of Two Cities, Scarlet Pimpernel, Ride of Paul Revere

**Language Arts:** irony, debate, public speaking, political humor, colloquialisms (Poor Richard), newspaper articles (pen is mightier than the sword tie in), poetry persuasive essay, allusion, MCA

**Latin:** Translations (Homer), Saturnalia Celebration, oratory, Latin songs ...

**Science:** Cartography, ecology & ecosystems, animal classification (reptiles), periodic table of elements, atomic structure, science journaling, physics

**Mathematics/Algebra:** Integers, rational numbers, algebraic function, analyzing data, problem solving, sine & cosine, design a playground, quilting

**Field Experiences:** Community Service, Orienteering





*Practical projects*

# STEM SKILLS

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH

- ★ integrated in a seamless fashion
- ★ all grade levels
- ★ professionals in field as guests in classroom (career options)
- ★ here are a few 'pull outs' so you can see how our students become 'STEM READY'



**SCIENCE:** Microbiology, biology, zoology, neuroscience, chemistry, ecology, cycles, intro physics, earth science, life science,...

**TECHNOLOGY:** Research skills, PowerSchool Learning, discussion boards, beginning web construction and animation, video tech ...

**ENGINEERING:** Early structures, architecture, construction of Stonehenge, Roman aqueduct, bridge building, modern playground, cell construction, ...

**MATHEMATICS:** Basic operations, pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, challenge math problems (MRE), ...





# HIGH SCHOOL MATH PATHWAYS

## Stella Pathway

8<sup>th</sup> grade  
math

8<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup>  
Algebra I

9<sup>th</sup>

10<sup>th</sup>  
Geometry I

10<sup>th</sup>

11<sup>th</sup>  
Advanced  
Algebra

11<sup>th</sup>

12<sup>th</sup>  
Math  
Analysis

12<sup>th</sup>

AP  
Calculus  
AB

AP  
Calculus  
CD

AP  
Statistics





# Grading Standard



A = 90% or higher



B = 80 - 89%



C = 70 - 79%



D = 60 - 69%



N = 59% and below



# ★ STUDENT ASSESSMENT ★



- standardized state tests
- essay tests
- project based analysis
- peer evaluations
- basic skills testing
- oral presentations
- individual daily work
- in-class teacher observations/analysis
- parent/teacher/student conferences
- report cards at quarter as well as at semester





# SBA SCORES

Sixth Grade, Spring 2019

<u>Subject</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Stella Schola</u>
Reading/Writing	56.9	81.7	<b>96.5</b>
Mathematics	46.8	79.1	<b>93</b>



# SBA SCORES

Seventh Grade, Spring 2019



<u>Subject</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Stella Schola</u>
Reading/Writing	60.8	84.6	<b>100</b>
Mathematics	48.7	81.3	<b>100</b>

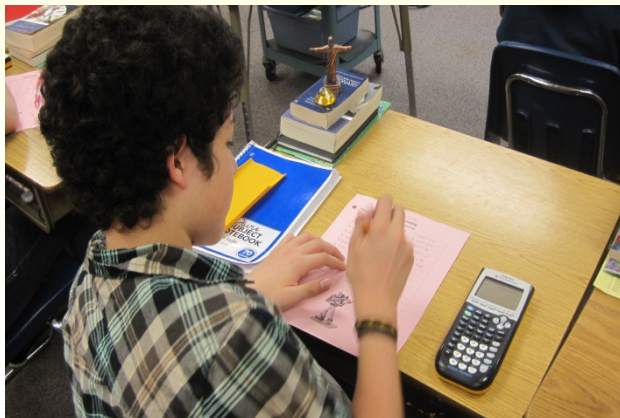


# SBA SCORES

**Eighth Grade, Spring 2019**



<u>Subject</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Stella Schola</u>
Reading/Writing	58	80.9	<b>100</b>
Mathematics	45.8	75.5	<b>100</b>
Science (MSP)	51.6	77.6	<b>100</b>



# STUDENT TO STUDENT MENTORING



- Between sixth and eighth graders
- Once every month



6th graders say: “It feels good to have a friend who will look out for you on campus” ,  
“My mentor is like a big sister to me and she gives me compliments and helps me when I  
need it”, “Mentor days are fun because we can learn new things together”



8th graders say: “I don’t have any brothers or sisters, so it’s nice to  
have someone else depend on you and look forward to being with you”,  
“I have learned a lot about myself as I have worked with my mentee”,  
“I love the welcoming looks on their faces when we come into their  
classroom! It makes me feel special.”

# Student Profile

IS IT FOR YOU?



- **Open to learning and willing to develop a strong work ethic**
- **Follows through with daily homework(responsible)**
- **Understands the importance of writing**
- **Works well in a structured setting & appreciates organization**
- **Enjoys academic challenge & rigor**
- **Demonstrates perseverance**
- **Engages in intellectual curiosity & play**
- **Has positive parental support**







- ★ Our time is flexible, so we can really get deeply into a subject
- ★ The hands-on projects help us learn (and they are exciting!)
- ★ We love all of our field trips because they are fun, and they are about what we are learning in class
- ★ We remember things better because the teachers show us how all the subjects actually go together



# Transitioning into high school...

- Academic transition is smooth, students are well prepared for high school no matter where they go.
- Honors/AP classes are appropriate for most Stella Schola students
- Essential study skills & habits come in handy!
- Making friends is pretty easy because we worked to build a family feel at Stella and now are using those skills in high school
- Many Stella students keep in touch with each other even though they are no longer at the same schools.



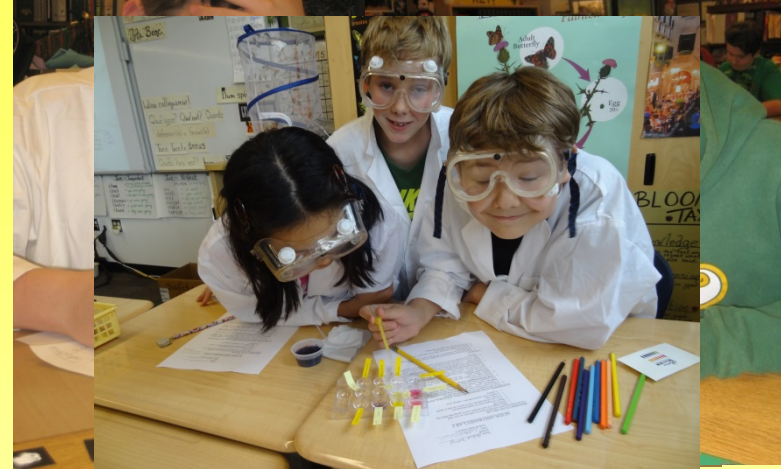


**“The key to success is a willingness to work hard. It’s true in every aspect of life: in marriage, in parenthood, in friendships, and on the job. It’s crucial for success in school, too. Effort matters. There is a direct relationship between the amount of work that goes into studies and the amount that children learn.”**

**- The Educated Child**

# PARENT COMMENTS

## ★ BENEFITS FOR OUR CHILDREN



### 1. Students grouped by grade level with the same teacher (5 periods)

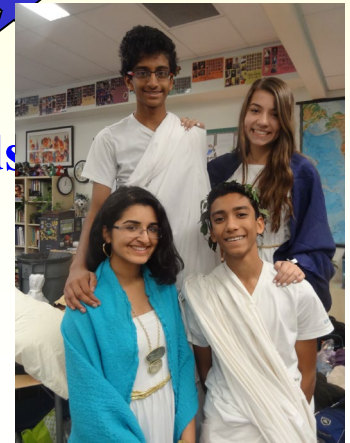
- For academic, emotional, & social stability
- Teacher serves as student advisor & mentor (for whole family!)
- Integration of subjects increases retention

### 2. Continuous flow of curriculum over 3 years provides a depth of knowledge

- Chronological historical themes provide a large knowledge base for students to build on in many areas (like practical projects)
- An education which focuses on the classics gives students a challenging & well-rounded background for future learning

### 3. We also really like...

- Focus on high & consistent academic/behavioral standards
- Relevant homework, not busy work
- Focus on organizational skills (planner & Friday papers)
- Basically only one teacher to contact

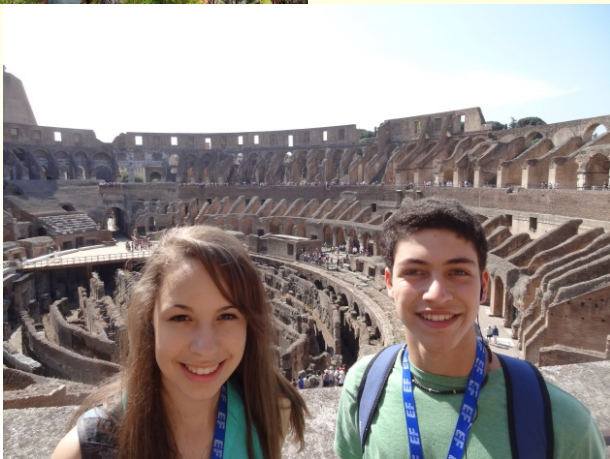


# PARENT COMMITMENT

Stella Schola has support from current parents, from alumni, and from community members who have never had a child at Stella



- In lieu of fundraising Make an annual non-refundable tax-deductible contribution of \$200.00 to the PTO for enrichment materials & lab supplies (financial assistance is available)
- Pay for field trip fees (additional costs- scholarships available)
- Attend bi-yearly parent/teacher conferences (November & March)
- Parents need to support homework time on a consistent, daily basis  
60 min. = 6<sup>th</sup> gr; 70 min. = 7<sup>th</sup> gr; 80- 90 min. = 8<sup>th</sup> gr



➤ Volunteer 20 hours of service for Stella Schola

➤ Volunteer opportunities include: PTO, Wednesday Enrichment supervision, field trip driver, Stella Dances, Ski Club, Chess Club, Coding Club, various Stella Schola classroom and/or grounds assistance, and communication liaisons to the community

➤ Provide own transportation if out of RHMS attendance area and on Wednesdays at 12:45pm; *shuttle available from east side of district (lottery in June)*

➤ Help your child get summer packet finished so he/she is ready for September



# QUICK FACTS

- ★ ***School operating hours are: 8:00am (7:45) – 2:30pm, & on Wednesdays from 8:00am (7:45) – 1:00pm***
- ★ ***Yes, we write in cursive during class (brush up!)***
- ★ ***Yes, we have laptops and use the computer for some work***
- ★ ***Yes, there is an orientation for accepted applicants and parents in June***
- ★ ***Yes, your children will be a year ahead in math – ready for Geometry I – when they enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade***
- ★ ***Yes, it's a three-year specialized curriculum***
- ★ ***Yes, we mean it when we say homework is 6<sup>th</sup> = 60 minutes; 7<sup>th</sup> = 70 minutes; 8<sup>th</sup> = 80-90 minutes***
- ★ ***Students who do best are those who are allowed to choose this path themselves as they will be the ones carrying out the work***



<http://ssms.lwsd.org>

# APPLICATION PROCESS

- The district common application is online on November 6th
- Due by December 11, 2020 by 4:00pm
- Qualifies student for the lottery
- Lottery held on January 8th, 2020







- ★ Registration packets will be handed out
- ★ All applicants must confirm acceptance by completing the registration packet by 4p on January 26, 2021 (no fax or email copied accepted).
- ★ Wait list is maintained through all three years
- ★ You are removed off list if you have accepted at another choice school or accepted at Quest.



➤ *Prize drawing*



**STELLA SCHOLA**  
**Where Every Student Shines!**

