# INSPIRING COURAGEOUS CURIOSITY

**A** Catlin Gabel



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## READY FOR THE FUTURE

An education should go deeper than just knowledge. It should foster courage, confidence, and curiosity. It should harness joy through connection and community. It should develop lifelong learners and leaders who are ready to meet whatever challenges the future may bring.

This is the bedrock of a Catlin Gabel education.



## CONNECTIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY

#### A learning environment unlike any other.

What sets us apart? It's the abundance of trees, open meadows, and established gardens; it's our sports fields, playgrounds, and grassy hillsides; and it's our classrooms, laboratories, studios, and theater spaces across our 67-acre campus that are the foundation for discovery.

But most importantly, it's our people. Our teachers and students arrive every day from across the metro area, ready to engage, connect, and learn together. It is their unique perspectives and personalities, and their energies and enthusiasm that create an environment unlike any other.

The Upper School quad and Portland's northwest hills.

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## WHERE STUDENTS ARE KNOWN

#### Teachers love their work and it shows.

Their commitment propels students forward, helping them gain the confidence and knowledge they will need to rise to the challenges of life.

They take the time to get to know their students as individuals so they can understand each student's educational strengths and needs. Their support, enthusiasm, and knowledge inspire students to dig deeper into questions, to take risks that help them grow, and to keep trying when their first attempt falls short. They help students discover their unlimited potential by empowering them every step of the way.

Faculty do not work in a vacuum. They collaborate across divisions, departments, and within grade-level teams to create integrated learning experiences, and they continue to hone their skills, developing new techniques and approaches to engage students in immersive ways.





























## LEARNING THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

#### Conversations and questions are encouraged.

Progressive education is founded on the idea that students learn best when they are actively engaged. This is why classes focus on creative thinking, hands-on experimentation, and reflective observation. They are also intentionally small in size so students learn in concert, forming ideas based on the ones that came before.

Students become critical thinkers, writers, and speakers, moving from the concrete to the abstract as they grow older. Because we are one school with three divisions, the curriculum is intentionally designed from preschool to grade 12. Division heads work together to form a cohesive plan and structure. Each year progresses with purpose, offering students a complete educational journey during these formative years.

We also know that knowledge and perspectives deepen when different backgrounds, cultures, and races are represented and included in classes and conversations, which is why we remain focused on creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for all. Employees from across the school, along with the Equity and Inclusion team, work with each other, as well as students, families, and external partners to raise awareness and build connections to represent and uplift myriad voices and experiences, benefiting every member of our community.





Emily Medress P'36, '38

"My daughter is supported by an entire community of people who genuinely care for her, hold her to high expectations, and value her for exactly who she is."



## PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Discovering the joy in finding their voice.

Our youngest students learn to speak for themselves and how to listen to others.

Teachers encourage conversation, reflection, and connection with classmates and the natural world. They welcome play and movement as a way to tap into each student's innate love for exploration and discovery. Our preschool and kindergarten students are valued for their questions and intellect, and they are taught how to ask questions, seek answers, and problem solve, while also building the skills needed to be part of a community of learners.

Each day, they engage in literacy, mathematics,

and inquiry through play and exploration as part of our commitment to educating for democracy. In addition to the homerooms in the Beehive, students create art using a range of materials in a studio space; express themselves through song, rhythm, and music; participate in physical activities in the mini-gym and on the playground; and construct projects using basic tools in the woodshop. By the end of kindergarten, students identify themselves as learners who are active participants in their educational journey.









#### **SCHOOL DAY**

- 8:20 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- PS student-teacher ratio of 20:2, plus a teaching assistant
- K student-teacher ratio of 19:1, plus a teaching assistant
- 20 students in PS and 38 students in K

#### **TEACHERS AND SPECIALISTS**

- Homeroom teachers: literacy, mathematics, inquiry
- Specialist teachers: woodshop, music, studio art, wellness, library skills
- Full-time counselor and learning specialist; literacy specialist supports K

#### LEARNING SPACES

- Three large homerooms with distinct learning areas and kitchen
- Covered outdoor space and dynamic playground
- Dedicated art studio, woodshop, music classroom, mini-gym, shared library

#### **EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM**

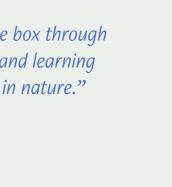
- Before-School opens at 7:20 a.m. and is included in tuition
- After-School runs from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

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Vishal Parekh P'29, '34

"Kids are encouraged to think outside the box through structured and unstructured methods, and learning happens in the classroom and outside in nature."





### GRADES 1-5

Students are inspired to ask questions and seek answers.

This type of education is possible when teachers see every student and hear every voice. Our teachers work side-by-side with their students, helping them realize the power of knowledge and of self-discovery—whether they engage in conversations in classrooms, explore the natural world on the Catlin Gabel campus, or further afield. Students in first through fifth grade are guided by homeroom teachers in the Lower School and meet regularly with a variety of specialist teachers in science, math, technology, art, language, library, and wellness

in dedicated buildings, such as the Art Barn, Music, and Woodshop. Starting in the first grade, students explore Mandarin and Spanish. They gain strategies that help them thrive as individuals and part of a group. They learn how to take ownership of their actions, such as working together on classroom agreements or practicing the steps of conflict resolution. By the end of fifth grade, students have the knowledge and skills they will need to successfully navigate Middle School.









#### **SCHOOL DAY**

- 8:10 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
- Student-teacher ratio averages 21:1 and teaching assistants support grade level instruction
- 214 students in grades 1-5

#### **TEACHERS AND SPECIALISTS**

- Homeroom teachers: literacy, mathematics, social studies
- Mandarin and Spanish teachers
- Specialist teachers: art, music, math, science, wellness, woodshop, technology, library skills
- Counselor, learning specialist, literacy specialist for grades 1-3
- Equity and Inclusion Office

#### **LEARNING SPACES**

- Two large homerooms per grade level
- Art studio, music and language classrooms, woodshop, community library
- Dynamic playground, Fir Grove, and orchard

#### **EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM**

- Before-School opens at 7:20 a.m. and is included in tuition
- After-School runs from 3:10-6:00 p.m.

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Maia González '28

"In 8th grade English and history, we study the Holocaust and take a field trip to the Oregon Holocaust Memorial. Students can learn in different ways, while creating amazing community connections."



### GRADES 6-8

Students do not walk alone no matter the path chosen.

Middle school students are challenged to push past their comfort zones and open themselves to new possibilities. This is a time when students discover who they are, how they learn, and what they are interested in. Their teachers are experts in their disciplines of study and in working with middle schoolers. They guide them through this journey so that they gain confidence in their own potential. Students also study side-by-side with classmates to broaden their understanding of the world around them. The Warren Middle School serves as the hub for community and learning, and our curriculum

prepares them for what lies ahead. They take classes in seven core areas, including one of three modern languages and a range of arts offerings—from drama, studio art, and media arts to music and woodshop. Every student receives an iPad with apps that allows them to delve into the many forms of communication. On-campus experiences can be expanded with class trips and excursions through our Outdoor and Global Education Programs. By the end of 8th grade, students have deepened their critical thinking, can apply evidence and reasoning, and take initiative to realize personal goals.









#### **SCHOOL DAY**

- 8:25 a.m.-3:25 p.m.
- Before and after school supervision or activities at no charge
- Student-teacher ratio of 15:1
- 191 students in grades 6-8

#### **ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR**

- English, humanities, math, science, modern languages (Spanish, Mandarin, French), wellness, and the arts
- Clubs, activities, and affinity groups
- After school athletics and drama programs
- Global Trips and Outdoor Education

#### **LEARNING SPACES**

- Warren Middle School: classrooms, library, common area
- Creative Arts Center,
   Woodshop studio
- Miller Swigert Gym, Murphy Athletic Complex with fields and track

#### **ADVISORY AND SUPPORT**

- Small, mixed-grade groups meet with faculty advisors
- Full-time librarian, counselor, learning specialist
- Equity and Inclusion Office

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Tyler George '25

"Ever since kindergarten, Catlin has provided genuine, committed teachers and an academically curious environment to develop me into who I am today. The tight-knit, personal education has helped me feel ready for the next step!"



#### Learning is deeper when students can engage in conversations.

Empowered by knowledgeable, supportive teachers, Upper School students find what sparks their curiosity, discover solutions to problems, and learn to take another route when the first does not succeed. There are close to 150 classes to choose from across all disciplines, including honors level. Students can also take courses from a consortium of world-wide independent schools through the Global Online Academy, providing even further academic depth and a connection to peers globally. Our facilities are designed with myriad tools and equipment for active learning.

In addition to classrooms and labs, inquiry and discovery take place in student-run clubs and activities, affinity groups, community engagement opportunities, and outdoor excursions, as well as local, national, and international trips. This is an environment that fosters critical thinking and continuous growth. In preparation for their next chapter as active participants in the world, seniors complete a month-long project at an organization of their choosing or engage in self-directed learning with a mentor.









#### **SCHOOL DAY**

- 8:25 a.m.-3:25 p.m.
- Student-teacher ratio of 15:1
- 319 students in grades 9-12

#### **ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR**

- English, social studies, math, science, modern languages (Spanish, Mandarin, French), computer science, the arts, health and PE
- Online classes via Global Online Academy
- 40+ clubs, activities, affinity groups
- Engineering and Robotics
- JV and Varsity Athletics
- Global Trips and Outdoor Education

#### **LEARNING SPACES**

- Dant House
- Creative Arts Center
- Miller Library
- Woodshop, ceramics studio, engineering and robotics labs
- Math Building, Semler Science Building
- Hillman Modern Languages Center, Vollum Humanities Center
- Miller Swigert Gym, Murphy Athletic Complex with fields and track

#### **ADVISORY AND SUPPORT**

- Small, mixed-grade groups meet with faculty advisors
- Full-time librarian, two counselors, two college counselors, learning specialist, academic dean, dean of students
- Equity and Inclusion Office

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## PREPARED FOR LIFE

#### Looking ahead to what comes next.

Our students have solved technical challenges and created artistic solutions; won state, regional, and national awards; and, most importantly, they have discovered their unique talents and know how to use them to create change.

In a typical year, 100% of Catlin Gabel graduates go on to colleges and universities across the nation and internationally. Our college counselors provide personalized support throughout the process. They offer an array of opportunities each year, including an annual school-day college fair that all Upper School students are encouraged to attend. For ninth and tenth graders, they annually preview the college process and answer students' questions. For juniors, they organize a day-long fall retreat at a local college where they discuss the search and application process, prompt students' first reflections on college preferences, introduce them to admission deans, and organize a tour of the campus. This retreat helps set the tone for the many college conversations and information sessions that occur during the next two years. The counselors work closely with juniors and seniors and their families, individually and in larger groups, including the required college application workshop. Our college counselors are here to help students identify the schools that best align with their abilities and interests and to oversee their applications to college or other post-secondary plans.







#### WHERE GRADUATES STUDY

Four or more Catlin Gabel graduates from the classes of 2021-2024 have matriculated to the following colleges:

**Boston University Bowdoin College** Carleton College Colorado College Dartmouth College Fordham University Haverford College Loyola Marymount University Macalester College New York University Northeastern University Oberlin College Occidental College Oregon State University Scripps College Stanford University Syracuse University **Tufts University** University of Chicago University of Colorado Boulder University of Michigan - Ann Arbor University of Oregon University of Pennsylvania University of Southern California University of Washington Whitman College Yale University

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### BUILDING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Myriad opportunities await students.

The Arts: Music, theater, visual arts, and woodshop are an integral part of the curriculum. Students across the grades are taught by specialist teachers and take part in informal and formal music and theater productions and share their art through exhibitions. In Upper School, students can join a choir, band, or take classes, such as ceramics, songwriting, and video.

**Engineering and Robotics:** Open to students from 8-12th grade, there is a balanced mix of participation across gender identities. The Robotics team annually builds a robot that competes against other teams and has consistently advanced to the FIRST World Championships. The Community Engineering team works with outside organizations to address needs in the community and has won more than \$60,000 in prizes.

**Affinity Groups and Clubs:** Starting in Lower School, Affinity Groups provide a space for students from underrepresented communities at Catlin Gabel to have a majority experience supported by faculty or staff. Clubs are typically for Upper School students, where they can choose from more than 40 options from social and academic interests to fun, including the Environmental Action Team, Mock Trial, and Just Dance League.





























Athletics: Our athletic teams consistently win individual and team championships across different sports at districts and state. We offer 13 different sports with JV2, JV, and Varsity teams in basketball, baseball, cross country, golf, tennis, track and field, soccer, swimming, and volleyball. We have a no-cut policy and invite everyone to participate, which is why 80% of Middle School students and 75% of Upper School students are on a team. Students in 5th grade are also invited to participate on the Middle School teams for basketball, cross country, and track. At the more competitive levels, tryouts are required and playing time is not guaranteed.

**Community Engagement:** We actively create opportunities for students to form connections and learn from each other to broaden perspectives within divisions and across grades. We have partnerships with external organizations so students can grow from service, social justice, and environmental experiences.

**Global Education:** Our global trips immerse Middle and Upper School students in different languages, cultures, histories, policies, and environments so that they can gain cross-cultural understanding. Locations are evaluated annually and have included Canada, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Nepal, Taiwan, and Turkey.

**Outdoor Education:** The natural world encourages students to push past their comfort zones. So that all children can benefit from the skills, we are developing a curriculum for grades PS-12 while also providing some trips designed for Middle and Upper School students. Past excursions have included rock climbing, snowshoeing, whitewater rafting, surfing, and backpacking within and beyond Oregon.

#### WHAT ELSE TO KNOW

Information and data reflects the 2024-25 academic year.

**MISSION AND VALUES:** Catlin Gabel fosters compassionate and curious citizens of the world by inspiring in every student a love of learning and the courage to take responsible action. Our values are: integrity, inclusion, and kindness.

**EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY:** Our curriculum is based on four principles of progressive education: Experiential Learning, Spirit of Inquiry, Teaching the Whole Child, and Educating for Democracy.

**CAMPUS SIZE AND LOCATION:** 67 wooded acres five miles west of downtown Portland. Community Arts Programs on 8.5-acre East Campus.

**ACADEMIC DIVISIONS:** Beginning and Lower School (preschool-grade 5); Middle School (grades 6-8); Upper School (grades 9-12).

**ENROLLMENT:** 782 total students; 58 in preschool and kindergarten; 214 in grades 1-5; 191 in grades 6-8; 319 in grades 9-12.

**DIVERSITY:** Families represent 28 countries of origin; 40 different languages spoken at home. Students self-identify as: 10% Asian/Asian American; 3% Black/African/African American; 1% East Asian/East Asian American; 2% Latinx/ Hispanic; 1% Middle Eastern; 30% Multiracial; 4% Southeast Asian/Indian; 47% White; 2% Not listed/Prefer not to answer.

**TUITION:** \$35,350 for Preschool and Kindergarten; \$37,900 for Lower School; \$41,250 for Middle School; \$43,800 for Upper School.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** 27% of students receive financial assistance with household incomes from \$25,970 to \$422,000; average award per student is \$28,500, ranging from \$9,000 to \$43,220; more than \$6 million is allocated in total.

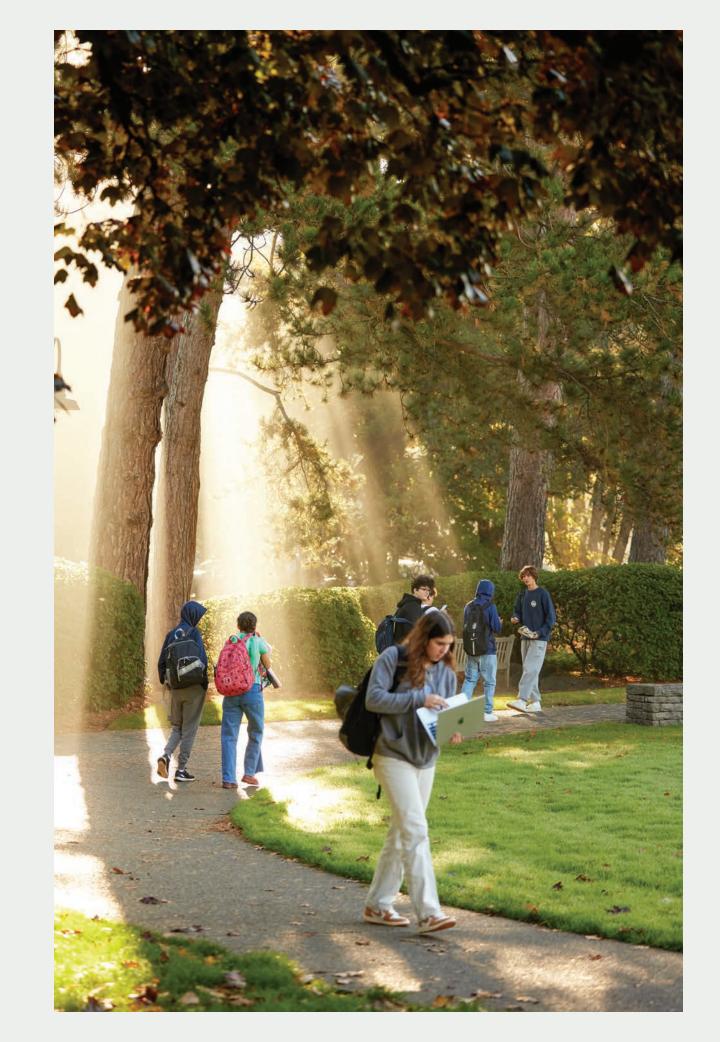
EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: Beginning and Lower School offers Before-School Care starting at 7:20 a.m. at no extra cost; After-School Care runs until 6 p.m., rates based on frequency. The Middle School offers supervision until 6 p.m. at no extra cost.

**FOOD SERVICE:** Dining Services serves healthy lunches and snacks to every grade level; locally sourced when possible; vegetarian and gluten-free options available daily.

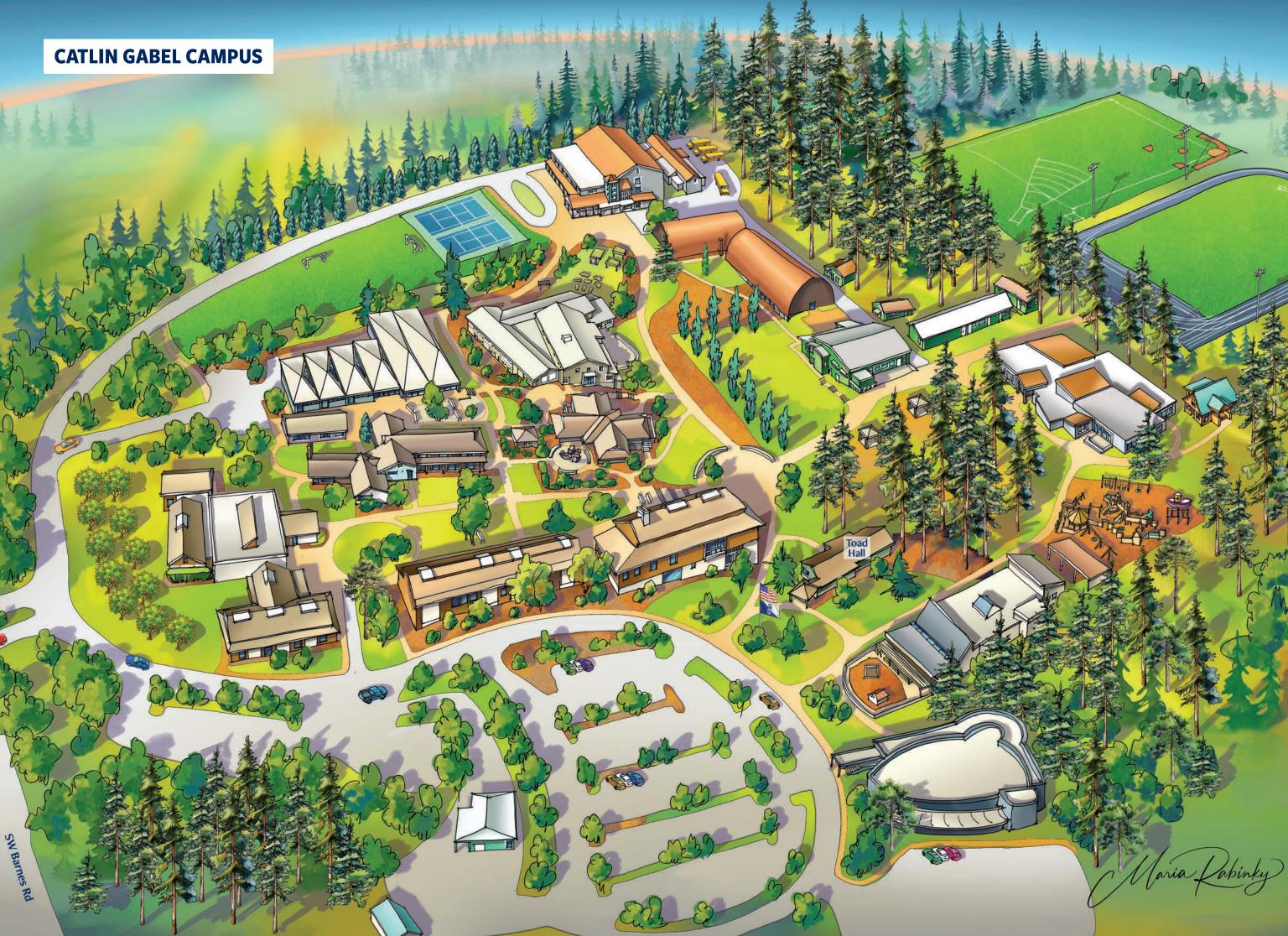
**LIBRARIES:** Each division has a dedicated library and librarians who work with students and teachers to support inquiry-based learning.

**SUPPORT PROGRAMS:** Full-time counselors and learning specialists work closely with each division.

**TRANSPORTATION:** 22% of students use CG buses, which serve five Portland metro areas. Families have access to a carpool locator via myCG parent portal. Public buses stop right outside campus; Max Light Rail is a 10-minute walk.



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#### **GET IN TOUCH WITH US**

Catlin Gabel's Enrollment Team can provide further information about our school campus and programs and can connect you with teachers, students, and parents/guardians.

#### **ENROLLMENT OFFICE:**

enrollment@catlin.edu (503) 297-1894 catlin.edu

#### **SOCIAL CHANNELS:**

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- @catlingabelschool

